

INTERPRETATION OF X12.20 FUNCTIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT TRANSACTION SET (997)

REQUEST

DM 059-189 requests an interpretation of the Functional Acknowledgment Transaction Set.

ISSUES

In X12.20-1986, page 10, par. 3.3.3 the statement is made, "There is one acknowledgment for each transaction set." This could be interpreted to mean that each transaction set within a functional group must be acknowledged rather than the more effective approach, when using the AK2 and AK5 segments, to note only those transactions within a functional group that have errors.

On page 12, par. 4.1.4 states that "the AK2 segment is optional." A clarification statement is needed to explain that when the AK2 segment is used, it is only required to identify individual transactions found to have errors and is shown in the same order as the transaction sets were received. The number of such transactions included in carried in Data Element 97-No. of Included Sets (AK902).

An option is to functionally acknowledge all transactions including syntactically correct transaction sets. In this case, AK902 and AK903 (No. of Received Transaction Sets) would be the same.

This interpretation is requested on the intended use of the AK2 loop so that software users and providers can more clearly understand how the AK2 and AK5 segments are applied.

INTERPRETATION

A Functional Acknowledgment Transaction Set reports on only one functional group. There are two aspects related to the partial acceptance of a functional group as reported by the Functional Acknowledgment Transaction Set: (1) reporting on the individual transaction sets and (2) the counts in the AK9 segment. These are covered individually below.

For a partial acceptance of a functional group, at least one transaction set was rejected, but only the rejected transaction sets need be identified in the functional acknowledgment. In the functional group which is being acknowledged with a partial acceptance, any transaction set which is not rejected shall be considered accepted by the receiver of the functional acknowledgment.

It is acceptable to report on the rejection or acceptance of all of the transaction sets in the functional group. The rejected transaction sets shall be identified in the AK2 loop.

There are three data elements in the AK9 Functional Group Response Trailer segment related to counts. These data elements are explained below.

AK902, DE 97-No of Included Sets. This is the number of transaction sets as originally reported in the GE-Functional Group Trailer segment which is being acknowledged by this functional acknowledgment.

AK903, DE 123-No. of Received Transaction Sets. This is the number of transaction sets counted by the receiver of the functional group which is being acknowledged by this functional acknowledgment. If there were no discrepancies between reported and received, this number shall match the value in AK902.

AK904, DE 2-No. of Accepted Transaction Sets. This is the number of transaction sets accepted by the receiver of the functional group which is being acknowledged by this functional acknowledgment. If there were any rejected transaction sets, this number would be different than the values in AK902 and AK903.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CLARIFY THE STANDARD

Specific changes to the 997 transaction set resulted from this request for interpretation were handled as DM 499389, which was approved as part of this interpretation and applied to the standard published in Release 003020 of the X12 standards.