

## MULTIPLE ISA AND IEA SEGMENTS IN A SINGLE FILE

### REQUEST:

I am a software vendor that provides 835 processing capability to our clients. One client, when they write 835 files out for download by the client is APPENDING multiple 835 files together so that the end result is a file with multiple ISA, IEA segments.

Can a single file contain multiple ISA and IEA segments. Is this sort of looping allowed in a single 835 file?

### REFERENCED X12 STANDARDS

A "Request for Interpretation" applies to a specific version of the X12 Standards. The author failed to provide a specific version of the standard in the request. We have chosen to base this response on Version 5 Release 1 of the X12 Standard. As the areas of the X12 Standards applicable to this interpretation have been relatively stable over time, it is likely that the same interpretation would be provided for earlier versions of the X12 Standards.

A search of the X12 standards finds no definition or reference to a 'file' construct.

### FORMAL INTERPRETATION

The X12 standards provide no definition or instruction regarding the assemblage of X12 interchanges into "file" units for transmission and storage. The question raised: "Can a single file contain multiple ISA and IEA segments" is not addressed in the X12 standards. Thus it is not a violation of the X12 standards to assemble multiple interchanges in a file.

### FURTHER DISCUSSION:

The X12C Communication and Control Subcommittee responsible for preparing this interpretation note as advice to the submitter of this Request for Interpretation the following observations:

- It is common practice to group multiple interchanges into a file for transmission
- It is common practice to adopt measures which limit the size of files assembled for transmission, to reduce both transmission time and recovery time for failed transmissions. Such practices can significantly improve performance when, for example, multiple transmission channels are used to transport data.

Industry group implementation guides, trading partner agreements, and communication standards external to X12 may constrain the number of interchanges assembled for transmission.