

## **INTERPRETATION FOR USE AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ISA AND GS SEGMENTS**

### **REQUEST:**

I recently became aware of some confusion on the usage and relationship between the Interchange (ISA) and Functional Group (GS) envelopes. I have been under the impression that the version of the ISA envelope is independent from the version of the Functional Group. However, recently it seems that new versions of the ISA envelope are released regularly, which coincide with the release of the transaction set standards and would appear to be causing the confusion.

In implementing EDI transactions, I have always believed that the X12 standards were designed to allow a company to exchange documents in different versions within the same Interchange or transmission. An example of this would be ABC Company sends Purchase Order Acknowledgments (855s) and invoices (810s) to 123, Inc. Using this scenario, it is entirely possible that the versions of the PO Acknowledgments would differ from the Invoice, and the ISA version could be something entirely different.

To clarify this issue, please provide an interpretation of the relationship between the Interchange Envelope and the Functional Group versions. Is it necessary for the ISA and GS version to agree, for example, if the GS version is "003040", must the ISA version be "00304"?

### **INTERPRETATION:**

The interchange control version number in the ISA identifies syntax, segments, and data elements used to specify the control structures defined in X12.5 (i.e., all segments outside the GS/GE envelope)

The version and release numbers in the GS identifies the syntax, transaction sets, segments, and data elements that are used within and inclusive of the GS/GE envelope.

The interchange control version number in the ISA is completely independent of the version and release numbers in the GS.