



Quickbooks EDI Whitepaper

Quickbooks has become one of the leading software programs sold to businesses today. What was once a very simple and basic program has evolved into a major tool for many Small Businesses. While it meets many accounting and data entry requirements, the software still needs many enhancements to properly function in the wholesale/distribution environment. One such enhancement is EDI (Electronic Data Interchange).

There are a few options on how to become EDI compliant with Quickbooks.

Option 1: EDI Software w/ Full Integration

This option will allow for all EDI orders to be received and processed into the Quickbooks system. Once EDI orders are received, they can be imported into Quickbooks and processed as any other order. Purchase order changes can be received and processed automatically. Shipments can be generated and TMS (Transportation Management Systems), UCC Shipment labels, ASN (Advanced Ship Notices) and Invoices can be generated through the EDI interface.

Pros:

For Volume EDI customers – much less data entry. All major data entry jobs are processed automatically.

EDI Software company will generally install software updates and test any new EDI trading partners that are to be added (additional fees apply)

Cons:

Needs management. Someone to receive all orders , maintain cross reference tables (Items, shipto's, warehouses and DC's..), create and print labels , generate shipments and ASN's.)

More costly to set up initially

Option 2: Outsource with No Integration

This option will allow for all EDI to be setup and received by a third party. Third party handles all EDI traffic. Orders are received and can be viewed online or received via file. Orders must be entered into Quickbooks system manually. Shipping information usually also has to be entered online or sent as a shipping document via email. Shipment information has to be entered into Quickbooks as well in order to process in-house. Labels are printed by the 3rd party and either sent to shipping location/warehouse or the 3rd party allows for a logon and print via the web. ASN's and invoices are sent out by the third party.

Pros:

- Startup costs are usually minimal
- Startup times are quick
- No software to maintain
- EDI Software company will generally install software updates and test any new EDI trading partners that are to be added (additional fees apply)

Cons:

- Double data entry on all documents – order / shipping / invoicing
- As volume grows, will become more costly than an in-house solution

Variables:

- Labels can either be printed from 3rd party and shipped to shipping location or can be printed at warehouse via online site

Option 3: Outsource with Some Integration

This option will allow for all EDI to be setup and received by a third party. Third party handles all EDI traffic. Orders are received by the third party and then a file is transmitted to you. Your system will import and process the file into Quickbooks and then it will be processed as any other order. For shipping information, a shipping file has to be produced and sent to the 3rd party so they can generate necessary outgoing documents. Labels are printed by the 3rd party and either sent to shipping location/warehouse or the 3rd party allows for a logon and print via the web. ASN's and invoices are sent out by the third party.

Pros:

- Startup costs are usually minimal
- EDI Software company will generally install software updates and test any new EDI trading partners that are to be added (additional fees apply)

For Volume EDI customers – much less data entry. All major data entry jobs are processed automatically.

Cons:

As volume grows, will become more costly than an in-house solution
Needs management. Someone to receive all orders , maintain cross reference tables (Items, shipto's, warehouses and DC's..), and generate shipment files.

Variables:

Labels can either be printed from 3rd party and shipped to shipping location or can be printed at warehouse via online site

Please contact us for further information. We are glad to be of assistance.

Hal Husney
Superior Development Center
616 416 6759 ext 28