RUSH ORDER
FLEXIBLE FULFILLMENT SOLUTIONS

6 Steps to Successful EDI Onboarding with Any Retailer

STEP 1

Congrats! You have a buyer!

The handshakes are done and the agreement is signed. Now it's time to get to work!

STEP 2

Complete Your "Homework"

The retailer will throw lots of paperwork at you, including required product information, images, promotion plans, etc. This documentation will also be specific to warehouse and EDI setup. Simply forward these latter docs to Rush Order and we'll fill them out for you. Easy!

STEP 3

EDI Testing Begins

With your documentation submitted, the retailer will reach out to Rush Order to commence EDI connection testing. We've connected with practically every retailer before, but you're still a new vendor in their system, and this connection needs to be fully tested.

STEP 4

Download the Latest Resources

Locate the retailer's latest routing guide & send it to Rush Order. Some retailers also have web portals that need to be configured (e.g. Target & Best Buy partner portals). Make sure Rush Order has access to these. Don't worry though, your Rush Order team will remind you as well.

STEP 5

EDI Testing Conducted & Completed

Rush Order will handle all testing of POs, ASNs, Invoices, acknowledgment files, inventory feeds, sell-through reporting, and every EDI file type in between. This is easy work, but we will be waiting on the retailer's EDI team to approve each file transfer & possibly our carton SSCC labels.

STEP 6

Congrats! We're Approved and in Production!

We'll start keeping an eye out for live POs to start flowing. It's time for the exciting work to begin!

Total EDI Setup Lead Time = 2 to 6 weeks

The EDI testing process can take some time, depending on how involved the testing process is for a given retailer and how quickly that retailer's EDI team gets back to us. Rush Order's promise to you is that your new customer (the retailer) won't be waiting on us for more than a few hours at a time. We live up to our name, "Rush Order", and we want to start shipping revenue-generating orders for you ASAP!

Next Up: Keep a Sharp Eye on Chargebacks

Retailers often make mistakes in issuing penalties, aka "chargebacks", to you for non-compliance with their EDI standards or shipment routing guides. Rush Order can help keep an eye out for these chargebacks and help you dispute them. Before you sign an agreement with a given retailer, we can also tell you what to expect with the severity of this retailer's chargebacks.

Ready to Start your EDI Journey?
Contact Us for a Free Consultation

Select an Appointment Time Now

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is EDI?

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is a standardized digital communication method that enables organizations to exchange business documents, such as purchase orders and invoices, electronically across different computer systems. Rush Order operates a proprietary EDI platform to quickly and easily connect its clients to their EDI trading partners (typically major retailers).

Why do retailers require EDI?

Most common in North America, major retailers require their vendors to connect electronically to transmit purchase orders (POs), shipping data, invoices, and lots of other relevant information. EDI has been around for many years and long ago became the default approach to creating these electronic and automated connections. Electronic automation reduces the need for manual work by both the retailer and vendor (you), and reduces the opportunity for human error in the course of communicating order data.

Is EDI identical across all retailers?

Yes and no. Here are the facts:
- Nearly every major retailer requires an EDI connection with each vendor (you)
- Practically every retailer requires a similar set of documents that include purchase orders (POs), advanced shipment notifications (ASNs), invoices, and individual acknowledgement files both parties send to confirm receipt of each EDI file.
- Each of the above files have common naming conventions, usually denoted by a three digit code. For example, a PO is always referred to across all EDI connections and all retailers as an 850. An invoice is an 810. An ASN is an 856 and an acknowledgement file is a 997.
- Every retailer uses these same files. However, each retailer uses different fields and layouts. For example, a PO (850) file from Target have different fields and data from a PO (850) sent by Walmart.
- Other common file types also exist. Inventory levels, store level sell-through reporting, and many others exist as well. Rush Order supports all of these file types and more.

What does it cost to setup a new EDI connection?

Rush Order (and most EDI software providers) charges setup, testing, and ongoing document transfer fees. Contact us to schedule a free consultation and learn more about Rush Order's specific charges.

What visibility do I have to my EDI data flows?

As you'd expect, Rush Order's proprietary client portal gives you, as a Rush Order client, complete visibility into the status of your EDI purchase orders, shipment information, and invoice data.

Can Rush Order support my EDI connections if I use an ERP system like Netsuite or SAP?

Yes. However, every situation is unique and your Rush Order software development team will want to speak with you to understand your current data flows, expected future needs, and then design the best data structure and flow that fits your needs. After all, Rush Order is known as the *flexible* fulfillment provider.

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