



Glossary

Documentation Date: 9 June 2013



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Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in "Notices" on page 7.

This edition applies to the 25 September 2011 release of Sterling Supply Chain Visibility and Sterling Supplier Portal and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

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Glossary

This glossary includes terms and definitions for Sterling Supply Chain Visibility and Sterling Supplier Portal.

The following cross-references are used in this glossary:

- See refers you from a term to a preferred synonym, or from an acronym or abbreviation to the defined full form.
- See also refers you to a related or contrasting term.

To view glossaries for other IBM products, go to www.ibm.com/software/globalization/terminology (opens in new window).

A

acknowledgment

A response that confirms the receipt of something, such as an order.

advanced ship notice (ASN)

The notification of a shipment that contains all of the information related to the shipment, including purchase orders (PO) fulfilled, actual ship date, and expected delivery date.

alert A message or other indication that signals an event or an impending event that meets a set of specified criteria.

allowable discrepancy

The variance in dates that is permitted between the requested ship date and the actual ship date.

ASN See advanced ship notice.

attribute

A characteristic or trait of an entity that describes the entity; for example, the telephone number of an employee is one of the employee attributes.

average percentage

The percentage shown on a KPI chart that indicates the number of occurrences that met the criteria reported versus all the events that were measured.

B

bar code

A pattern of bars of various widths containing data to be interpreted by a scanning device.

BI See business intelligence.

business calendar

A working calendar, configured by either the buyer or the seller organization, that specifies nonworking days, such as holidays and special events.

business intelligence (BI)

The consolidation and analysis of data collected in the day-to-day operation of a business, which is then used as a basis for better business decisions and competitive advantage.

buyer An organization that purchases products from an enterprise or other seller organizations.

buyer administrator

A buyer user with administrative privileges.

buyer organization

An organization that places purchase orders (PO) to vendors.

C

carrier A transportation service provider that provides delivery and shipping services between buyers, sellers, and customers.

change order

An update to a purchase order that is already approved or printed and that changes information such as quantity or vendor.

chargeback

A financial penalty that is assigned to a vendor for violations to compliance rules and other criteria.

choreography

An agreed upon sequence of business events that is allowed by a seller for each transaction.

committed date

A date on which the supplier agrees to send the shipment to the buyer after a purchase order (PO) is placed.

community

A web trading group that enables buyers and sellers to conduct business. Partners receive invitations from the sponsor to join their community. See also partner.

compliance rule

A rule that is set and enforced by a buyer for a supplier to follow.

container

A worldwide dimensional standard for a reusable transportation vessel that can be hauled like a trailer, loaded onto a container ship, or loaded onto a freight train for transportation. The container can be loaded with cartons and sealed at the shipping dock for protection during transport.

custom event

An event that is customized by a buyer or a seller to monitor the lifecycle events of a purchase order that is not preconfigured in the solution.

D**data type**

An attribute that is used for defining data as either numeric or character or both.

document

In ANSI, a business document, such as a purchase order or invoice, that

can be represented in any supported format. For example, an XML purchase order and an EDI purchase order are both documents, but each uses a different format.

E

enterprise

An organization that brokers business. Each enterprise can consist of multiple organizations that are assigned various roles.

event A specific occurrence in the business process, often a status change or generated exception. Releasing an order and cancelling an order are both examples of events. When an event occurs in a transaction, an action is triggered.

expected date

The anticipated date of a delivery or shipment that is based on the requested and committed dates, and can be updated by the shipment and intransit notices.

F

first shipment fill rate

The average percentage of the purchase order (PO) line quantities of an order that is fulfilled by the first shipment.

freight terms

The terms and conditions of calculated transportation costs.

H

hub A sponsor that supports that enterprise, buyer, seller, and administration roles.

I

invoice

The bill for services or products provided to a customer. The invoice includes all agreed to charges that are associated with the services or products provided.

item A product that has at least one characteristic that is different from all other products and which requires a unique identifier such as a stock keeping unit (SKU) or part number. The basic product of the catalog that can be used in categorization and product associations. An item is the most basic part of the catalog hierarchy.

K

key performance indicator (KPI)

A metric that is computed from performance data that indicates a level of compliance against expectations. For example, the acknowledgment response time to an order, an order fill rate, or an on time shipment rate.

KPI See key performance indicator.

KPI value

A numeric value that ranges from 0-100 and indicates key performance

indicator reliability. Performance is considered reliable if the value is less than or equal to the configured performance tolerance. If the actual performance is always within tolerance, then the KPI value is 100. Otherwise, the KPI value is 0. Many KPI values are calculated over time to give an average rating.

L

load A collection of line items from orders that are organized in a way to maximize shipping or picking efficiency.

M

mediation period

A process to achieve a resolution within a predefined time period after a noncompliance event occurs.

milestone

A significant event in the supply chain that indicates a point in the order lifecycle.

O

order A request for goods or services such as a purchase order, sales order, work order, and so on.

organization

A business entity with a specific role or roles that interacts with other organizations in a supply chain to conduct business. An organization represents any unit of a business whether it is a company, legal entity, a business group, sales organization, purchasing organization or warehouse.

P

partner

An organization that supplies products to sponsors. See also community.

payment term

The payment conditions of a sale, such as the time period that a buyer has to pay the amount that is due, or the interest rate that is applied to outstanding balances.

PO See purchase order.

purchase order (PO)

An authorized order to an external vendor or internal supplier.

R

requested commitment date

The deadline by which suppliers send purchase order (PO) commitments, and are expected to commit the quantity within the requested date range.

requested time

The date, that is specified by the buyer, by which the supplier must ship or deliver the order.

role The part played by an organization that is understood by all of the other organizations that are associated with that particular hub.

route plan

A plan for shipment that is set in place by the sponsor.

S

seller An organization that supplies products to enterprises or other buyer organizations.

seller administrator

A seller user with administrative privileges.

shipment

A group of items from one or more customer orders that uses one shipment hub and has the same ship-to address.

sponsor

See buyer.

supplier community

A configured group of selected partners based on the sponsor's business rules.

supply chain

A value chain that supports procurement and sourcing of goods.

T

tolerance limit

A configured value that specifies the variance that is allowed on a specified performance requirement. For example, the number of days that are allowed to lapse after the expected ship date or the requested ship date; if the days exceed the tolerance limit, an event is raised.

U

user definition field

An optional custom field that a customer can define for an order.

V

vendor

A person or company that supplies materials or services to another person or company.

vendor compliance

An optional module that allows buyers to set up and enforce compliance rules with suppliers.

W

warehouse

A physical location where goods are stored.

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Printed in USA