

CASE STUDY

Woolworths Group takes EDI certification to the next level

Retail giant teams up with GS1 Australia, MessageXchange and Colladium on a state-of-the-art EDI Self Certification system



Background

Woolworths Group is a leading retailer in Australia and New Zealand, with over 1,400 stores that serve more than 22 million customers every week. Onboarding suppliers and getting their products onto shelves at the right time is paramount.

Woolworths has a set of message implementation guidelines (MIGs) that define how suppliers should trade electronically with them via EDI (electronic data interchange). These guidelines outline the document or message types to use, for example purchase orders, purchase order responses, purchase order changes, advanced shipping notices and invoices, as well as when to use them i.e., only use if supplying direct to store or if supplying to a DC, along with the structure and business rules of each message.

With more and more suppliers choosing EDI to trade with Woolworths electronically, onboarding suppliers to EDI with the existing resources and ensuring suppliers' EDI documents are built as per the MIGs presented a challenge to Woolworths' eBusiness team.

Derong Yu, eBusiness Lead at Woolworths said, "To support our suppliers, we would raise test purchase orders and send them to the suppliers. The suppliers would need to send back messages, like a purchase order response or an invoice for validation. If the messages failed, we would check the message and provide specific feedback to the suppliers. The suppliers would then need to make changes on their end and retest it again – it involved a lot of back-and-forth and could take weeks or even months to complete the end-to-end EDI accreditation testing".

Solution

GS1 Australia is a long-time partner of Woolworths Group and works closely with the Woolworths eBusiness Team. GS1 Australia partnered with MessageXchange and Colladium to develop an electronic EDI certification and self-testing service (EDI Certify). Woolworths was keen to adopt this. "We trust GS1 and we know they would partner with the right provider to get this solution delivered", Yu said. "We saw this as a way to enhance our suppliers' EDI onboarding experience and bring real efficiencies to our EDI accreditation process."

The teams from each organisation worked together to determine a streamlined process for suppliers and design the EDI Certify solution accordingly.

This was based on the current EDI documents exchanged and business requirements working with Woolworths including numerous scenarios such as accepting, rejecting or changing orders, fully or partially shipping orders, invoicing and checking logistics labels.

The MessageXchange and Colladium teams configured the EDI Certify system to guide suppliers through the Woolworths EDI self-certification process. Enabling suppliers to generate an order with supplier-specific details such as vendor number and products, as well as validate suppliers' outgoing messages for Woolworths' required scenarios with real time feedback is a key feature. Most importantly, the processes simulated real-life scenarios. Woolworths also added in other documentation, including labelling guidelines, so that suppliers have all the information they require, in context, and at the time that they need it.

Results

With the EDI Certify service, suppliers are now able to generate EDI purchase orders based on the information they input, self-test their messages to Woolworths anytime to get all issues identified upfront. Once the issues are fixed, they can retest messages without relying on Woolworths eBusiness team. "The EDI self-certification gives us the confidence that the suppliers are ready when it comes time for the end-to-end EDI accreditation testing and onboarding to our live systems", said Yu. "We've seen the quality of EDI messages during the end-to-end testing is now much better and the EDI accreditation testing process is smooth."

Woolworths has seen huge efficiencies in their end-to-end testing process – what sometimes took weeks or months, now takes days.

About us



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Colladium is a business network for collaboration and trade. Businesses can join Colladium to manage their entire source-to-pay process. And best of all, it's free to use.

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GS1 Australia is the leading provider of standards and solutions for over 20 industry sectors. We introduced barcoding to Australia in 1979 and today we enable more than 22,000 member companies, of all sizes, to become more efficient by implementing the GS1 system.

[gs1au.org](https://www.gs1au.org)

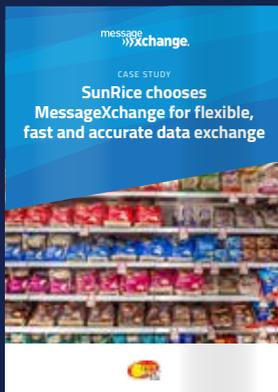
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An introduction to electronic data interchange (EDI)

If you're new to EDI, it's important to know the basics before you start applying it to your business. This whitepaper explains, in layman's terms, what EDI is and how it used. We've removed the jargon so that you can start your EDI journey on the right foot. If you've just started out on your organisation's EDI journey, or recently inherited the responsibility of EDI in your company, this document is for you.

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