New York Electronic Data Interchange

Glossary of Terms

November 1, 2001 *v1.0*

This glossary provides definitions to terms used in the business and technical documents created and maintained by the New York EDI Collaborative group.

Aggregated Daily Delivery Quantity (ADDQ)
Refers to gas city gate delivery requirements amounting to the sum of the DDQs for all customers in a Marketer's aggregation group. The minimum quantity that the Utility will require an Aggregator to deliver in any Gas Day to meet the Aggregation Group's Forecast Daily Requirement.

Aggregation Group
A group of Customers who have contracted with a specific Marketer who combines the Customers' loads for purposes of nominations, scheduling, reconciliation of monthly imbalances and billing (Equivalent to a Marketer Pool).

Aggregator (or Supplier)
Any party (Marketer) that is approved by the Utility to deliver gas supplies to an Aggregation Group.

ASCII
Computer coded data in accordance to the American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

Authentication
The process of determining whether someone or something is, in fact, who or what it is declared to be. Authentication can occur by exchange of shared information, such as passwords, exchange of a token or certificate, or by verifying location, such as a secured terminal.

ANSI
American National Standards Institute

Billing Agency
An arrangement in which the customer will authorize the ESCO/Marketer to act as its Billing Agent.

Bill Ready
The company sending the bill receives calculated results from the other Party for the other Party's charges and prints them on a consolidated bill.

Certification
In New York, this generally refers to the Phase I certification of all market participants, by the Public Service Commission Staff, that each can produce syntactically correct EDI X12 transactions.

Certification, in a more technical sense, refers to a credential that is tamper-proof and forgery-proof enough to be used for authentication. A certifying authority issues certificates to individuals, servers, and processes that need to identify themselves.

CommerceNet
A global non-profit membership organization addressing the evolving needs of companies doing electronic commerce.

Consolidated Billing
A customer enrolled in Retail Choice receives one bill that includes charges from both the Utility and the ESCO/Marketer. The *Billing Agency* arrangement is a type of *consolidated billing*.

Consumption Algorithm
A mathematical formula used to calculate a Customer's daily consumption based on a Customer's historical base load and heat use per effective degree-day factors.

Customer Account Number
The Utility specific unique identifier associated with a Utility customer.

Daily Delivery Quantity (DDQ)
Refers to an amount of gas (or quantity of throughput of gas) which is needed to supply a customer. The estimated daily consumption of a Customer Account Number as calculated by the Consumption Algorithm and forecast effective degree-days.

Data Dictionary
A list detailing every data element included in a business transaction. For each data element listed, this document contains a description of the data element and conditions and comments describing when and how the element is used. Also included are EDI specifications of the elements, which correspond to the Implementation Guide and include EDI segment codes, related EDI qualifiers, data types, and uses.

Data Type
Indicates whether data is Alphanumeric (X) or Numeric (9).

Digital Signature
Extra data appended to a message that identifies and authenticates the sender and message data using public-key encryption.

Dual Billing
A customer enrolled in Retail Choice receives two separate bills as follows: one bill from the Utility and one bill from the ESCO/Marketer.

DTM
Data Transfer Mechanism

EDI
Electronic Data Interchange

EDI-INT
Abbreviation/acronym used to identify reference to the EDI over the Internet standards set promoted by the IETF and CommerceNet.

EDI-INT AS1
Abbreviation/acronym used to identify reference to the specific EDI over the Internet standard promoted by the IETF and CommerceNet based on SMTP**.**

EDI-INT AS2
Abbreviation/acronym used to identify reference to the specific EDI over the Internet standard promoted by the IETF and CommerceNet based on HTTP.

EDI Segment
The EDI transaction is broken down into different information segments. Within these overall segments, related data elements are defined. For example, the DTM EDI segment will contain all dates and times related to that EDI transaction.

EDI Use
Indicates the implementation of the data element and specifically, whether the data element is Mandatory, Conditional, Optional, or Business Conditional.

Encryption
An algorithm based process that turns a message (plain text) into a scrambled string (cipher text), that is intelligible only to someone/process with an encryption key.

Exchange Failure
An **exchange failure** is when a sending party's server has had continual protocol failures over a two-hour period. Each party is required to try at least 3 times over the two-hour period before flagging an exchange failure.

FTP
File Transfer Protocol. One of several communications protocols used in Internet based communications. Method of transferring files where the receiving party gives sending party some level of physical control over its computer.

Forecast Daily Requirement
The estimated daily consumption of an Aggregation Group as calculated by the Consumption Algorithm and forecast effective degree-days.

Frames
A frame generally represents activities, within a testing scenario, that must be completed by trading partners. Each frame typically ends with a set of transactions being sent to the other trading partner.

Gas Day
A period of twenty-four consecutive hours beginning at 10:00 a.m. EST, and ending at 10:00 a.m. EST, the next calendar day.

Gas Week
Usually the last full week each month when all parties (Utilities, marketers, shippers, etc.) firm up and finalize their required gas purchases and upstream/downstream transportation for the coming month.

GISB
Gas Industry Standards Board.

GISB EDM
Gas Industry Standards Board's Electronic Data Mechanism.

Heating Factors
Heat related load due to degree-day.

HTML
Hypertext Markup Language. A computer programming language to used to create Internet Web pages.

HTTP
Hypertext Transfer Protocol. One of several communications protocols used in Internet based communications.

Implementation Guide
A description of how to use the EDI transaction which lays out the EDI transaction in terms of information segments and the data elements within them and provides specifications relating to data codes, field length, etc.

IETF
The Internet Engineering Task Force, an international non-profit voluntary group who set standards for the Internet.

Maximum Daily Delivery Quantity (MDDQ)
Refers to the maximum amount of gas that a shipper/marketer can deliver to the Utility's city gate on a daily basis.

MDN
Message Disposition Notification. Process used in e-mail (SMTP) based processes to notify sending party that message was received at destination.

Message Digest
A large single number, usually 128 to 256 bits in length, created from a string of text. Even a slight change in the text results in a different number being generated. These values ensure that a message isn't changed en route from the sender to the recipient.

Non-repudiation
Term meaning that a party to a transaction can not reasonably deny its participation in the transaction.

Payload
A payload is typically considered to be the essential data that is being carried within a packet or other transmission unit. However, in more general usage, the payload is the bits that get delivered to the end user at the destination.

PKI
Private Key Infrastructure. Used to manage the creation, revocation, and management of public keys used in encrypted applications.

Pool
Pools are groups of [gas] customers supplied by one Marketer.

Protocol Failure
A **protocol failure** occurs any time a sending party's web server cannot connect to the receiving party's web server. For example, if a server fails to connect, or tries to post a file and fails, this is a protocol failure

Public and Private Keys
An encryption scheme, introduced by Diffie and Hellman in 1976, where each person gets a pair of keys, called the public key and the private key. Each person's public key is published while the private key is kept secret. Messages are encrypted using the intended recipient's public key and can only be decrypted using his private key. The need for sender and receiver to share secret information (keys) via some secure channel is eliminated: all communications involve only public keys, and no private key is ever transmitted or shared.

Rate Ready
The company sending the bill knows the rates of the other Party, calculates the other Party's charges, and prints them on a consolidated bill.

Related EDI Qualifier
Used to further identify another EDI data segment and how it is involved in the transaction. For example, if the EDI qualifier in N101 were 8R, then the name shown in N102 would be the customer's name.

Secure Web site
A web site (or portions of a web site) that typically requires user authentication to access.

Single Retailer Model
The *Single Retailer Model* is one of the varieties of Retail Access programs that exist in New York. In this model, when the customer enrolls in Retail Access, they become the customer of the E/M and have no further relationship with the Utility. All requests for service such as turn-on of service are handled by the E/M. All Utility charges for the end use customer are billed by the Utility to the E/M and are the responsibility of the E/M.

SMTP
Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. One of several communications protocols used in Internet based communications. The basis for e-mail systems.

Synchronization/Batches
The Utility has the option to test Suppliers in 'batches', synchronizing all Suppliers' movement through frames All Suppliers move from/to the next frame together according to the schedule established by the Utility. See Batch/Synchronization.

TCP/IP
Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The de facto standard developed for internetworking heterogeneous computer systems. It encompasses both network layer and transport layer protocols. While TCP and IP specify two protocols at specific protocol layers, TCP/IP is often used to refer to the entire protocol suite.

TS810 - Invoice
EDI transaction set generally used to communicate billing parameters and data between trading partners (not yet developed in New York).

TS814 - General Request Response or Confirmation
EDI transaction set generally used for general requests and responses such as customer enrollments, drops, and requests for historical usage information.

TS 820 – Payment Order/Remittance Advice
EDI transaction set generally used for payments and remittances (not yet developed in New York).

TS 824 – Application advice
EDI transaction generally used for responses to certain transactions under certain conditions. An instance of its use in New York is for an E/M to provide a negative response to a Utility 867 historical or monthly usage transaction.

TS867 - Product Transfer and Resale Report
EDI transaction set generally used for the exchange of customer information such as historical or monthly usage data.

TS997 - Functional Acknowledgement
The functional acknowledgement provides for verification of receipt of data and reports to the extent to which the syntax complies with the standards. This, in addition to the archiving of all EDI transmissions, provides the audit trail necessary to verify receipt of all EDI transmissions by the E/M and Utility. This information may be utilized to resolve customer, Utility, or E/M inquiries or disputes.

UIG
Utility Industry Group

Unsecured Web site
A web site (or portions of a web site) that does not require user authentication to access and hence is typically accessible by any person who has Internet access.

VAN
Value Added Network. A privately owned network that provides specific services for a fee and which typically offer services or information that is not readily available on public networks. In New York, an Internet-based mechanism has been proscribed for the exchange of EDI transactions, and VANs, if used, are required to use these proscribed protocols.

X12
An abbreviation/acronym used to refer to the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12, Electronic Data Interchange or its published standards. The Accredited Standards Committee X12 is a chartered committee of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) responsible for developing uniform standards for electronic interchange of business transactions.

XML
Extensible Markup Language. A subset of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (e.g., HTML). A generalized markup language that is flexible and computer platform-independent and which can be used to specify presentation of a document (font size, indentation, etc.) or to specify structure of the document (paragraph, section, chapter, etc).