

A Telecommunications Industry Forum

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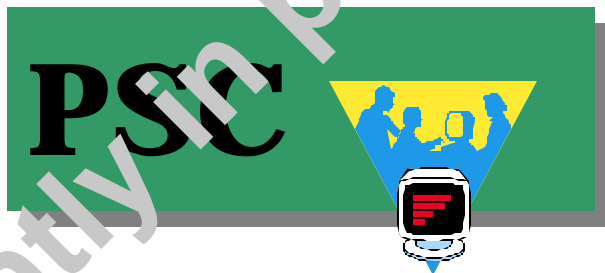


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Implementation Guideline for Electronic Data Interchange

# General Procurement Guidelines Issue 9

ASC X12 004010



**TCIF-99-019**

**December 1999**

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Sponsored by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions

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# TCIF

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Implementation Guideline for

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# EDI

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Electronic Data Interchange

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Section

1

Introduction

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Telecommunications Industry Forum (TCIF)

The Telecommunications Industry Forum is a guideline setting organization serving the telecommunications industry. One of its goals is to facilitate the continued well being of the telecommunications industry by addressing the application of standards and the use of technology.

As a committee of the Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), the TCIF represents exchange and interexchange carriers, manufacturers and suppliers, and other organizations having an interest in the forum's activities.

Comments or questions concerning this guideline should be directed to the TCIF EDI Committee at the following address:

**Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions**  
TCIF Secretariat  
1200 G Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 434-8844

## 1.2 Purpose of Guideline

The purpose of this guideline is to enhance by means of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) the capability to communicate by computer between trading partners. This document is provided as a tool to help companies get started in EDI. The information provided may help you to formulate your own EDI implementation while avoiding some of the common pitfalls often encountered.

## 1.3 Scope and Applicability

TCIF provides means for members of the telecommunications industry to coordinate the use of existing voluntary standards, such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 standards for EDI. TCIF acts to ensure that the standards address business needs within this industry. It supplies a link between the use of bar codes and other industry-related service, equipment, and product codes to be used in EDI, and helps to reduce coding redundancy while improving communications and information flow.

Because of the wide range of user industries, the ASC X12 Standards were created to be as broad as possible and to accommodate all business needs. The generic result, although usable, has much more information than is of interest to any particular group. In a practical sense, in order for the standards to be used in an efficient and effective manner, the scope needs to be defined in more selective terms.

This guideline was prepared for use by the telecommunications industry and is intended to serve as a general guide to achieve consistency in applications within the telecommunications industry for the processing of ASC X12 transaction sets.

It is anticipated companies involved in implementing EDI will use this guideline in developing their own strategy to meet their specific needs.