

Advance Shipping Notices: text messaging service

Electronic Advance Shipping Notices [eASNs] have been used outside of the construction sector for many years, and have successfully contributed to simplifying and improving the efficiency of the goods receipting process and to reducing delivery receipting costs. An eASN can be considered as an electronic Delivery Note, carrying exactly the same information and produced and transmitted by the supplier at the same time the paper Delivery Note is produced.

Overview of the COINS ASN with text messaging process

As the supplier produces the paper delivery note to accompany the delivery of the goods, an electronic version of the delivery note; the Advance Shipping Notice [eASN], is transmitted to the COINS-etc eTrading Hub. The eTrading Hub converts the eASN to an electronic Goods Received Note [eGRN] and transmits this to the contractor. At the same time the eTrading Hub also sends an ASN text message to the site manager's mobile phone.

Satisfactory deliveries: when the delivery takes place and the site manager is satisfied that the delivered goods are fit for purpose and that the delivery is exactly what was expected, the delivery note is signed, as Proof of Delivery [POD] and the original ASN text message is replied to, with the pre-determined text message 'Delivery OK'. This reply ASN text message is received by the eTrading Hub and converted into an eGRN status update message and transmitted to the contractor. All items listed on the original eASN are updated to 'Delivered', with the goods received against the PO updated.

Unsatisfactory deliveries: when the delivery takes place but there are delivery queries, or missing or damaged items, the delivery note is amended and signed. The amended details on the delivery note will need to be manually entered into the COINS GRN entry application.

Business benefit

In the vast majority of cases, goods deliveries go according to plan. What is delivered is exactly what was ordered and the delivery is entirely acceptable. Only occasionally (suggested at being around 5% of deliveries), are there delivery problems that result in delivery queries, with incorrect, missing or damaged goods being delivered.

The COINS-etc Advance Shipping Notice text messaging service is designed to simplify and automate the goods receipting process for the **CORRECT** deliveries; relying on a simple 'Delivery OK' reply to the original delivery text message previously sent to the site manager, to automatically record the GRN details in COINS. This simple process, entirely removes the need to input GRN details for all **CORRECT** deliveries, requiring only that the details of the **INCORRECT** deliveries have to be input.

Historically, better than 95% of deliveries are correct, and would therefore result in 95% of the GRN details being input and updated automatically.

Automating the GRN goods receipting process using the **COINS-etc Advance Shipping Notice text messaging service** leads to a substantial saving in time, effort and cost. The only effort required is a simple 'Delivery OK' reply to the ASN text message.

The Advanced Shipment Notice [ASN] process:

Stage	Description
S1	Delivery fulfillment: The supplier produces the paper Delivery Note to accompany the goods being delivered, and transmits the Advance Shipment Notice [ASN] to the COINS-etc eTrading Hub.
S2 a	eGRN and text message transmission: The COINS-etc eTrading Hub receives the eASN and creates and transmits an electronic Goods Received Note [eGRN] to the contractors COINS application. The delivery details are recorded on COINS as an anticipated delivery - awaiting delivery confirmation.
b	As the eASN is processed by the eTrading Hub, a text message is sent to the site manager's mobile phone. The message contains a simple message detailing the suppliers name, the delivery note number, site details etc.
S3 a	Site delivery management - correct deliveries: If the delivery is CORRECT in all respects, the site manager locates the appropriate text message on his mobile phone, and sends a ' Delivery OK ' reply text message.
b	For CORRECT deliveries, the POD is signed and returned to the driver.
S4	eGRN update: The ' Delivery OK ' reply text message is received by the COINS eTrading Hub. The eTrading Hub converts the text message to a eGRN status update message and transmits this to the contractors COINS application, where the goods receipt status is updated to ' Goods Received ' for ALL goods/materials on the eGRN.
S5 a	Site delivery management - incorrect deliveries: Where there are incorrect, missing or damaged goods being delivered, the site manager amends and then signs the delivery note. The supplier's copy is returned to the driver.
b	The sites copy of the amended delivery note [POD] has to be retained and the amended details, quantities etc., are manually entered during the contractors COINS Goods Receiving process.

The ASN message flow diagram:

