



Standardized specs save thousands of hours of labor

Standard Motor Products (SMP), a top supplier to auto parts stores across the country, receives hundreds of electronic (EDI) orders each day from many different customers. Many of these customers have their own specifications, meaning they send and receive their Electronic Commerce data in a variety of different formats. This requires that SMP set up each customer separately to process this data. These unique set-ups are expensive and time-consuming to build and maintain.



The Super Spec is a specification for electronic business documents that allows thousands of business partners to connect with a single format. When customers choose to use the Super Spec, each customer sends and receives their data in a consistent, predictable format, which means SMP can create one set of EDI maps and process all orders from all of these customers more efficiently.

Previously, the manual process of setting up one electronic document (Purchase Order, for example) from one customer took, on average, forty hours of work. With the Super Spec, this same process has to be done only once. Then, all additional customers moving to e-commerce with SMP and using the Super Spec, require only a small addition to the process already in place. “It takes on average one hour of work to set up a new customer using the Super Spec process”, said Ray Nicholas, VP of IT for Standard.

This same theory applies to the outbound documents—the Advance Ship Notice (ASN) and the electronic invoice (810)—the work is done once with the Super Spec and additional customers just need to be added to the process.

“We now have between 60-70 customers in production with the Super Spec, so you can see the labor hours we saved amount to many man-months. And the faster we get connected with our customers electronically, the faster the process savings can begin”, says Laura Ragsdale, Technical Support Project Lead for SMP.

# of Customers	1	2	3	98	99	100
One to One Mapping (Internal Resource Cost)	40 hours	40 hours	40 hours	40 hours	40 hours	40 hours
Use of Super Spec (Internal Resource Cost)	40 hours	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
Time Savings	0 hours	39 hours	78 hours	3,783 hours	3,822 hours	3,861 hours

About Super Spec

Super Spec is developed and maintained by GCommerce, Inc., a leading provider of e-commerce and document exchange services. In close cooperation with the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA) Super Spec has been contributed as an industry best practice and open specification available to any party at no cost. For more information, go to www.aftermarket.org/technology/super-spec.