

**NYS DMV  
IIES  
EDI  
TRANSLATION SOFTWARE  
Common Questions**

Technical Bulletin  
December 23, 1999

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The purpose of this technical bulletin is to notify all Insurers that they will be required to generate EDI transactions using a commercial, “off-the-shelf” translator or by outsourcing EDI translation to a servicing agent who uses a commercial translator for New York State Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Reporting.

**NYS DMV WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY TRANSACTION PRODUCED BY PROPRIETARY, CUSTOM-WRITTEN PROGRAMS, SUCH AS COBOL.**

**Why can't our organization use a COBOL or other custom-written program to send EDI transactions to NYS DMV?**

Because the IIES Program comprises complex, two-way transactions generated using strict EDI standards.

Commercial EDI translation software packages offer the following advantages:

1. EDI translators automatically generate a number of EDI standards required for EDI compliance, including:
  - Interchange (ISA-IEA) Control Numbers
  - Functional Group (GS-GE) Control Numbers
  - Transaction Set (ST-SE) Control Numbers
  - Hierarchical ID Numbers
  - Hierarchical Parent ID Numbers
  - Hierarchical and Segment Looping
  - Data Type verification
  - Mandatory Segment and Data Element verification
2. Commercial EDI translators will greatly facilitate an Insurer's ability to receive Mandatory Verification (MVF), Negative Verification (NVF), and Edit Error transactions, a requirement of the IIES Program.
3. EDI standards will change over time. As the ALIR is revised, New York State's Implementation Guide may also change. Commercial EDI translation packages will automatically support X12 changes with standard updates from the manufacturer.
4. One commercial EDI translator will support multiple States, using multiple maps more easily than one or multiple custom-written programs.
5. Commercial EDI translators automatically truncate all data to eliminate unneeded spaces, greatly reducing transmission costs.
6. Custom-written programs require extensive debugging and testing. NYS DMV cannot support several hundred Insurers in such an effort.

**What if our organization successfully reports to other states using COBOL or custom-written programs?**

To the best of NYS DMV's knowledge, the IIES Program is the only Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Reporting program that creates a two-way business partnership between a Department of Motor Vehicles and Insurers, whereby both Insurers and NYS DMV create self-initiated transactions to be received by and, in many cases, to be responded to by both parties.

Because of this key difference from other state programs, Insurers cannot rely on past experience with other states to successfully participate in IIES.

**Summary**

As EDI is a mature technology, the market offers many different EDI translator packages that support all platforms, from PC systems to mainframe packages to Internet web sites across the major operating system environments. Because of the abundance of packages and vendors for EDI translation software, prices are competitive and offer users several different options. Custom-written programs are not conducive to the complex nature and two-way communication needs of the IIES Program.

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