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Handling and movement instruction transactions

The Handling and Movement Instruction is an EDIFACT message that enables organizations to issue standardized movement and handling instructions to their supply chain partners. These instructions are sent to warehouses, distribution centers, or third-party logistics providers (3PLs).

Supply chain stakeholders including manufacturers, brand owners, and logistics providers use the Handling and Movement Instruction message to standardize inventory handling instructions across warehouses, internal distribution centers, and third-party logistics partners (3PLs). The receiving party is typically the warehouse system that performs the physical movement of goods. The Handling and Movement Instruction message enables organizations to perform a range of inventory actions by providing standardized, system-readable instructions. These actions include transferring stock between locations or facilities, blocking or unblocking inventory for quality-related purposes, scrapping expired or unusable items, and releasing pallets for production use or downstream shipment. Each action is communicated through structured message segments that ensure consistent interpretation and execution across systems and trading partners.

The Handling and Movement Instruction message is typically sent when a supply chain system or process triggers a change in inventory status or movement such

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as a production order requiring pallet release, or a quality process requiring inventory to be blocked. The timing can be near real-time or aligned with batch operations depending on system configuration. For example, once the instructed handling action is completed, the warehouse sends an Inventory Report (INVRPT) message to confirm that the task has been executed. This response establishes a closed-loop process that maintains inventory accuracy, ensures adherence to quality standards, and supports full traceability from the original instruction through to completion.

Standardizing handling instructions through the Handling and Movement Instruction message helps minimize manual processes, ensure consistent execution of inventory actions, and maintain compliance across all locations. It also supports traceability and audit readiness by providing a clear, documented record of inventory movements. By using Handling and Movement Instruction across sites, organizations can enhance operational efficiency and meet regulatory requirements within a tightly controlled supply chain environment.

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