

## Appendix A

### GLOSSARY

<b>ANSI</b>	American National Standards Institute. The organization that oversees the X12 EDI standard in the United States.
<b>APPLICATION INTERFACE</b>	The computer program that enables an application such as invoicing to interact with an EDI system.
<b>ASCII</b>	American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A technical standard for encoding data for computer use.
<b>ASYNC</b>	Asynchronous transmission. A very common means for transmitting files over telephone facilities. It is relatively slow and generally used for low volume transmission requirements.
<b>BISYNC</b>	Bisynchronous transmission. A somewhat more sophisticated way to send EDI documents than Async. It uses a protocol (q.v.) to handle the communication between sender and receiver computers. It also handles larger volumes of data more easily than Async.
<b>COMMON CARRIER</b>	Generally used to indicate the telephone company that handles the actual movement of data from point A to point B.
<b>DELIMITERS</b>	Special characters used in an EDI standard document that indicate when one field or record of a document ends and the next begins.
<b>EDIFACT</b>	EDI For Administration, Commerce and Transport. As with ANSI X12, EDIFACT is a set of agreed to standard and guidelines for the electronic interchange of structured data among independent computerized information systems. Its development is sponsored by the UN and many other interested parties internationally. It is primarily used in Europe but has spread to North America and its use is growing.
<b>INTER-CONNECT</b>	The connection of one VAN to another VAN for the purpose of sending documents to subscribers not using the same VAN.
<b>LINE SPEED</b>	The speed with which data is sent along a communication (telephone) line. It is measured in bits per second. Low volume PC-based line speed is often 300 to 2400 bps. Larger computers may use 9600, 14400, or 19200 bps speeds or even much higher to send larger volumes rapidly.
<b>MAILBOX</b>	Each VAN stores EDI documents it receives in its computer system. The software it uses is called a "mailbox". It operates in a fashion analogous