

## Section Five - Shipping Documents

### Page 1 - Section Objectives

In this fifth section, we'll look at what role the shipping document plays in the requisitioning process and how a transportation control number or "TCN" is constructed. We'll also look at how to tell if the shipment is consolidated or split, and learn to identify other tracking data that might appear on the MILSTRIP document.

### Page 2 - Use of Shipping Documents

Fortunately, researching questions on shipping issues is easy enough to do - if you know how to read the transportation-related codes in the MILSTRIP shipping document. Shipment status documents should be used to update open requisition files in anticipation of receipt of material, or as a basis for subsequent tracer action when material is not received. Knowing if shipments are arriving in single or multiple consignments and what mode of conveyance the shipment will be sent by are just a few other examples of information contained in the MILSTRIP shipping document.

### Page 3 - A0\_ to AS\_ Relationship

When the supply activity is ready to ship the requisition, it prepares a shipment status document to notify the customer that the material is ready to be sent. As with the supply status documents, many of the fields on the AS\_ document match the original A0\_ requisition document fields (as the blue entries above illustrate), but other fields are used for codes only relevant to the shipment status document.

The most important of these codes are the "AS\_" document identifier in record positions 1 through 3; the actual or estimated Julian shipping date in record positions 57 through 59; and a "transportation control number", or "TCN" in positions 60 through 76. Click on each of the labeled boxes above for more information on these fields. We'll look at other transportation-related codes and the TCN in more detail on subsequent screens.

### Page 4 - More Shipping Codes

There are three other fields associated with shipping documents that you should be aware of - a "transportation hold code" in record position 51, a "mode-of-shipment code" in record position 77, and a "port of embarkation" code in record positions 78 through 80. Click on each of the labeled boxes above for more information on these fields.

### Page 5 - TCN Construction

The TCN is a 17-character data element assigned to control and manage every shipment unit throughout the transportation pipeline, from shipper to final destination. The TCN for each shipment is unique and not duplicated, it is the basic tracking, tracing, and control number. The TCN is constructed in three parts: the document number from the FMS MILSTRIP requisition, the suffix code from the status document, and a partial/split shipment code. Click on each of the parts for further explanation.

## **Page 6 - Other Tracking Information**

Take a look at the AS1 document above. Do the entries in RPs 60-75 constitute a TCN? How are you going to track this shipment? There may be times when you receive a document that has something other than a TCN in RPs 60-76. When you encounter what appears to be other than a TCN, contact the ILCO/case manager to determine what the correct TCN is or if there is a commercial carrier tracking number that can be used to track the shipment. You will need to provide the document number to the shipper in order to track the requisition to a shipping document.

## **Page 7 - Shipment Tracking**

The purchaser can then track the status of requisitions and anticipated receipt date of material based on the estimated ship date (ESD) in a status document or the shipped date in a shipping document. When material is shipped, MILSTRIP establishes timelines for distribution of shipping documents to the purchaser, generally 24 hours to three working days depending on the priority. But what happens when the purchaser doesn't receive a shipping document or an unreasonable amount of time has passed from the shipped date and no material has arrived? Click on the characters above to learn more about shipment tracking.

## **Page 8 - Review Question 1**

What is the purpose of the TCN?

## **Page 9 - Review Question 2**

The "B" in rp 74 of this TCN indicates this is a\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Page 10 - Review Question 3**

Given the following TCN, DBNA5401810210XAX, the customer receives only part of the original quantity from their freight forwarder, the rest appears to be lost. What must the customer do prior to submitting a supply discrepancy report?

## **Page 11 - Section Summary**

In this fifth section, we looked at what role the shipping document plays in the requisitioning process and how a transportation control number or "TCN" is constructed. We also looked at how to tell if the shipment is consolidated or split, and learned to identify other tracking data that might appear on the MILSTRIP document.