Retek® Merchandising System 10.0

Release Notes

Retek Merchandising System
Retek Sales Audit
Retek Invoice Match
Retek Trade Management

Retek

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Corporate Headquarters:

Retek Inc.
Retek on the Mall
950 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403

888.61.RETEK (toll free US)
+1 612 587 5000

European Headquarters:

Retek
110 Wigmore Street
London
W1U 3RW
United Kingdom

Switchboard:
+44 (0)20 7563 4600

Sales Enquiries:
+44 (0)20 7563 46 46
Fax: +44 (0)20 7563 46 10

Printed in the United States of America.

Customer Support

Customer Support hours:

8AM to 5PM Central Standard Time (GMT-6), Monday through Friday, excluding Retek company holidays (in 2002: Jan. 1, May 27, July 4, July 5, Sept. 2, Nov. 28, Nov. 29, and Dec. 25).

Customer Support emergency hours:

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Contact Method	Contact Information
Phone	US & Canada: 1-800-61-RETEK (1-800-617-3835) World: +1 612-587-5000
Fax	(+1) 612-587-5100
E-mail	support@retek.com
Internet	www.retek.com/support Retek's secure client Web site to update and view issues
Mail	Retek Customer Support Retek on the Mall 950 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55403

When contacting Customer Support, please provide:

- Product version and program/module name.
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- Screen shots of each step you take.

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Retek Merchandising System

Functional enhancements

RMS 10.0 includes enhancements that are consistent with Retek's new usability standards across products, giving our applications a consistent look.

A new integration infrastructure, the Retek Integration Bus (RIB) has been defined for the Retek 10.0 suite of products. The RIB influences the way that RMS 10.0 integrates with the other Retek products and legacy systems. A defined set of messages allows improved communication of common foundation data needed by many systems, as well as, near real-time communication on all inventory transactions and important documents such as, purchase orders, allocations and transfers. The RIB is the communication point for many of the Retek products for the 10.0 release and replaces the current flat file integration communication.

- Item foundation
- Competitive pricing
- Investment buying
- Deals management
- Scaling, Supplier pooling and Truckload splitting
- Market based replenishment
- Buyer worksheet
- Replenishment and purchasing
- Bracket costing and Backhaul allowances
- Regionality
- Multi-channel support
- Location up-charge

Item foundation

Increased functionality for all retail verticals was achieved in RMS 10.0 by combining fashion and staple items into one highly flexible item structure that can be molded to fit all types of items. The result is a new multi-level item structure that allows you to set-up one, two or three levels for an item, with the tracking of inventory defined at set-up. This also enables you to mirror your existing item structure. You can gain efficiency by defaulting information from a higher-level item to all the lower level items.

In addition, the Options menu has been re-created and displayed on the primary item window so you have easy access to all of the menu options during item creation. A customized workflow- tracking feature has been added to the item process to enhance the usability of the item module.

The following are the functional enhancements for areas within the item dialog:

Suppliers

The supplier lead-time can default to the Item/Supplier/Country level from the supplier level for ease of item set-up. RMS 10.0 will also support the supplier inbound Ti-Hi, the pallet configuration of that particular supplier, when sending to your warehouse. Ti-Hi can also be set-up to communicate to your warehouse system when sending product to a store.

Dimensions can also be specified for an each, inner, case and pallet. This allows item dimensions to be used for the interface with a space management system or for rounding within RMS. Tare Type and Tare Weight have been added to allow separating out the packaging weight from the product weight. Statistical Cube, also know as Stat Case or Cube Adjusted Weight Factor, is also available.

Cost information has been moved down to the lower level of Item/Supp/Country/Location for the instances where the unit and/or case cost can vary by a location. This new feature includes the option of still managing the cost at the Item/Supplier/Country level.

Retail by zone

Market Basket Codes and link codes have been added for use in the pricing module. Reference the Pricing section for further details.

Locations

Some of the existing functionality in the item dialog now allows the option of differing by item location. Below are the attributes that have been added to this level:

- The option to specify a primary supplier and primary country for a location and define the related item cost for that location.
- Two additional item description fields have been added to specify a different long or short description by location.
- Location Ti-Hi will also be available at the Item/Location level to specify pallet configuration changes for warehouse to store shipping.
- Selling Unit of Measure (UOM) has been added to enable different locations to sell an item at a different UOM than how that item is managed, purchased and inventoried.
- Pricing information interfaced to a store labeling system can vary by store for instances where a store may sell products in different UOM, or when you sell in multiple countries.

- Primary variant can be assigned and can be used as a PLU.
- A daily wastage percent was added at the Item/Location level to calculate daily wastage.
- Item Location Traits can be set-up at the Item/Location level and can be interfaced to the POS or store system.
- The Store Order Multiple attribute has been brought to the Item/Location level.

Simple pack set-up

Simple pack set-up has been added to RMS 10.0 as an item option to set-up a Case UPC. A Case UPC is the UPC that appears on the outside of the shipping container and can be used in ordering, receiving and shipping. Once received at the stores, this pack is held as individual eaches. This allows you to set-up different pack configurations for the same sku.

Attributes

Additional attributes have been added to RMS 10.0 that will be used primarily as a new item is being introduced. These include test market and test dates, introduction date, and a planogram-required indicator.

Several attributes have also been added that specifically apply to a food retailer. These include package size, retail label type, handling sensitivity and wastage type and information.

External data verification

This feature allows a link for an item with an external data source (For example, Nielsen data).

Sales and inventory views

In RMS 10.0 you will have access to sales and inventory information from the Retek Start Menu, as well as, the Item/Location level.

Approval errors

RMS 10.0 introduces the concept of an item status during item set-up. Before an item can be used outside of the item dialogue (That is, in ordering, transfers, etc.) the item must reach approved status. Supplier and retail pricing information are system required before an item can be approved, but you have the option of making any of the other menu options “required” before an item can be approved. If an item cannot be approved, a new form explains why.

EDI for item

The EDI new item dialog is enhanced to support the increased number of attributes and dimensions added for RMS 10.0. The dialog provides the user with the ability to add on to a new EDI item using the item functionality and automatically creates a simple pack to represent the case for an item if the supplier has provided identification for the case. These two features along with the ability to create an EDI item like an existing item make new item set-up more efficient particularly if you have thousands of new item introductions each year.

Competitive pricing

The competitive pricing dialog in RMS 10.0 has been enhanced to include details that will make the analysis of the competition and its pricing strategy more meaningful and the entry of competitive shop results more time efficient. The enhancements that increase your competitive analysis capabilities include:

- Target competitor indicator
- Estimated yearly sales of the competitor
- Rank your competitor stores
- Distance in miles/kilometers from your stores

Usability enhancements include a quick entry method and default capabilities during the data entry process of competitive shopping results. Additionally, RMS 10.0 competitive pricing now allows you to track the multi-unit retail of your competition. This adds to the existing functionality that allows you to indicate if the competitor was utilizing a multi-unit pricing strategy. An upload file was added to facilitate the receipt of third party competitive shop data for those clients who have a shopping service capture the competitive retails and want to upload them into the competitive price tables.

Investment buying

RMS 10.0 was enhanced to support the Investment Buying process by providing an automated tool to recommend purchases beyond the normal replenishment recommendation when warranted by the return on investment. Using parameters set by you, as well as existing system information, the investment buy algorithm calculates the optimal quantities to purchase. The algorithm leverages deal expirations or cost increases, while weighing the benefits of the lower inventory costs against the costs to acquire, store and handle the additional inventory. This functionality helps you to increase your margins through the purchase of inventory at a lower cost and therefore maintain an extended higher ROI.

The following are functional enhancements for areas within investment buying:

Investment buy parameters

You have the ability to set several parameters to impact the results of the investment buy calculation thereby ensuring the recommendation is based on your individual warehousing, financing and ordering situation.

Investment buy eligibility

With RMS 10.0 you have the ability to designate investment buy eligibility by supplier, supplier/department, supplier/department/location or supplier/location. By allowing this parameter to be set at varying levels, RMS facilitates maintenance while also providing significant flexibility. For example, you could easily set a supplier as investment buy eligible with the exception of that supplier's dairy department which could be set as ineligible.

Timeframe for investment buy assessment

For investment buy eligible items, the system monitors deal expirations and cost changes occurring within the timeframe set by you and includes these opportunities in the investment buy calculation. The timeframe is set at the system level; however, for item/locations on replenishment, the supplier review timing will override this parameter when it is longer. This ensures investment buy opportunities are evaluated in the same cycle as replenishment orders, allowing you to combine them when placing supplier orders.

Ordering parameters

You have the ability to set parameters that limit the recommended order quantities generated by the investment buy calculation. These ordering parameters include your target return on investment (ROI) and the maximum weeks of supply to be considered. Both of these parameters can be set at the system level with the option to override at the warehouse or warehouse/department level.

Shelf life and replenishment deactivate date, existing RMS parameters set at the item/location level, are also used in the investment buy calculation to limit the order quantities. Additionally, a new parameter, investment buy shelf life, also definable at the item/location level, allows you to even further limit the recommended quantities when a conservative investment buy approach is desired.

Carrying costs

The cost to carry additional inventory is captured via several new parameters key to the investment buy calculation. These parameters include the cost of warehouse storage, the cost of outside storage and the cost of money. Each of these parameters can be set at the system level with the option to override at the warehouse/department level, providing flexibility, ease of maintenance and accuracy in the calculation. As examples, the system allows for a higher cost of storage for frozen goods than for dry grocery and/or the cost of money can be assigned as a higher percentage for warehouses in the United States than for warehouses in Mexico.

The values entered for the cost of warehouse storage and the cost of outside storage should include any applicable expenses for the storage of inventory, including in-and-out charges, taxes, labor, insurance and additional pallet handling. These costs are displayed in the currency of the system or warehouse, depending upon the level at which they are assigned. The selection of which storage type to use can also be made at the system, warehouse or warehouse/department level.

The cost of money is defined as the annualized percentage to borrow capital for investing. It represents the cost to you of tying up money in inventory rather than using it for other purposes.

Investment buy calculation

Investment buy opportunities are calculated each evening following the replenishment batch run. In calculating the recommended order quantities, the system weighs the benefit of the deal or cost increase against the costs to carry the additional inventory. The recommendation may be impacted by the parameters defined above as well as existing RMS data, including any future cost changes or deals, forecasts and the current inventory position.

Investment buy recommendation

Recommended investment buy quantities can either be viewed and processed on a buyer worksheet or automatically added to purchase orders. This designation is made at the supplier, supplier/department, supplier/location or supplier/department/location level, providing the retailer control and flexibility over the management of investment buys.

The buyer worksheet is a new feature in RMS that has been designed to facilitate your review of both investment buy and replenishment quantities. From this worksheet, you have the ability to:

- Filter and sort items to view
- Review items recommended for investment buy
- Accept, reject or change the investment buy order quantities
- Use statistics to manually build trucks
- Create purchase orders
- Add quantities to existing orders in worksheet status
- Manually combine investment buy and replenishment product on the same order

When the automated option is selected, investment buy recommended quantities are placed on purchase orders without prior user review. The investment buy quantities will either be added to existing replenishment purchase orders or placed on separate purchase orders on the last day possible to capitalize on a deal expiration or cost increase.

Deals management

Location level and retroactive deals

The enhancements to the deals dialog in RMS 10.0 include the ability to specify off-invoice deals by location and the power to retroactive date a deal. Location specific off-invoice deals provide you with ‘store opening’ deals or special incentives by location. This enhancement now means that all deal types can be at the location level while maintaining the option to specify deals across all locations. The ability to retroact the date on a deal increases the savings on an order and allows you to apply the deal to previously placed orders that have not been received. RMS 10.0 allows the option of setting up deals at the case level.

Rebate enhancements

In RMS 10.0, specific Growth Rebate dates can now be entered. The ability to specify the start and end dates of the comparison period and compare them to the start and end dates of the current period allow you to account for calendar shifts and more accurately gather the data needed to take advantage of the savings that can be achieved from the rebate.

Suppliers will frequently offer deals with the stipulation that you promote the item in an agreed upon manner. This is called proof of performance and is offered in RMS 10.0. At the deal, deal component or deal/item/location level you can indicate that there is a requirement to provide proof of performance in order to receive the savings. The fulfillment of this performance can be entered after a promotion has been planned or sales or receipts have been tabulated.

Deals in ordering

Additional visibility and access to deals will be provided in the ordering dialog. The process of applying deals to a purchase order will now be real time and allow you to see the deals that apply to an order while building the order and view those savings down to the location level. The system will now always apply deals unless you select not to apply them. Deals can also be received via EDI in RMS 10.0. The EDI 889, which supports deal communication, is the format recognized.

Scaling, truckload splitting, and supplier pooling

Scaling

Scaling functionality was enhanced in RMS 10.0 to include “stat case” as an option in both the supplier scaling constraints and in the supplier minimum constraints. Stat case will be an option in addition to the current constraints of amount, weight, volume, pallets, cases and eaches. “Stat case” or statistical case is the statistical combination of weight and cube as compared to a base factor. This value is also known as “stat cube” or “cube adjusted weight factor” and is used by several major grocery, convenience and discount store suppliers, including Proctor and Gamble. Including this factor in RMS will allow you to effectively scale trucks and to reduce logistical and ordering costs for these suppliers.

Truckload splitting

New to RMS 10.0 is the ability to split purchase orders when a truckload is exceeded. This feature was designed to support the U.S. grocery industry, where supporting systems and procedures dictate that purchase orders should not apply to more than one truck. The functionality allows users to designate at the supplier, supplier/department, supplier/location or supplier/department/location level whether truck splitting should apply. This flexibility is critical for hypermarkets and other retailers where truck splitting is required for only part of the retailer’s product line or geographic area.

Truck splitting constraints

To determine when a truck has reached capacity and should be split, you have the option to default the scaling constraints and thresholds for use as the truck splitting constraints and thresholds and/or set the truck splitting constraints and thresholds independently. All of the scaling constraints will be available for truck splitting, with the exception of amount, since using currencies to determine truck capacity would not be valid. When pallets are used as truck splitting constraints, the system will calculate fractional pallets based on each item’s size and total accordingly, resulting in a more accurate split when there are multiple items on a truck. When more than one constraint is specified for truck splitting for example, weight and volume, the system will trigger a split when either constraint is exceeded.

Truck splitting methods

RMS 10.0 includes two options for assigning items to the split trucks, the item sequence method and the balanced assortment method. In the item sequence method, the system first builds as many full truckloads as possible for each item, and then adds the remaining quantities to the trucks in item sequence order. This method minimizes the number of trucks each item is loaded on, thus facilitating slotting and handling in the warehouse. In the balanced assortment method, the system will attempt to assign some quantity of each item to each truck, based on the initial item allocation. You would most likely use this method for fast moving, cross-docked or promotional orders. The truck splitting method is definable at the supplier, supplier/department, supplier/location or supplier/department/location level with the option to override at the order level.

Truck splitting order control options

Orders may be split unless they are vendor generated, contracts, contain an allocation, apply to more than one location or include buyer packs. Applicable orders created in automatic status will be split automatically during the replenishment batch cycle. Full truckloads generated by this process will continue through automatic approval, while you will have the option to automatically approve less than truckload (LTL) orders, providing vendor minimums have been achieved, or to create them in worksheet status for user review. The option to auto-approve less than truckload orders is available at the supplier, supplier/department, supplier/location or supplier/department/location level.

Additionally, the order find functionality has been modified in RMS 10.0 to allow you to split orders created in worksheet status online, with visibility to the linked orders. This functionality will be available for both worksheet orders created by the system and those created by you through the buyer worksheet. Orders may also be created in approved status from the buyer worksheet. Because you build these orders to your exact specifications, approved orders created from the buyer worksheet are not further scaled or split.

Supplier pooling

Supplier pooling is used to combine supplier/locations or supplier/department/locations for requirements processing. The intent of Supplier Pooling is to allow you to review requirements from multiple supplier/locations or supplier/department/locations that can be combined logistically when ordering. Though separate purchase orders are created based on the replenishment rules assigned to each supplier or supplier/location, the purchase orders are linked by a file ID number allowing for queries and filtering to be performed for the pooled orders. Once the pooled orders are created, the file ID can be used by a Transportation Management System to coordinate logistics for the group of orders. This functionality enables you to maximize logistical efficiencies and obtain the best cost for goods when not ordering complete truckloads of product from individual suppliers.

For RMS 10 modifications were made to Supplier Inventory Management, allowing you to associate a Pooled Supplier to a Supplier/Location, or Supplier/Department/Location. This Pooled Supplier may be an existing Supplier or a "Miscellaneous" Supplier within the RMS system and its constraints are used to manually scale the requirements for the items of all of the linked supplier records through the Buyer Worksheet.

The Buyer Worksheet enables filtering based on the Pooled Supplier and provides visibility to the Pooled Suppliers constraints when all of the requirements selected reference the same Pooled Supplier. The worksheet provides the Pooled Supplier at the line item requirement level where applicable, so that you are alerted to the existence of the Pooled Supplier.

The Purchasing module was enhanced to support the querying of purchase orders created with reference to a Pooled Supplier, or a specific PO File ID. All applicable purchase orders are displayed, giving you the ability to efficiently manage the pooled orders.

Market based replenishment

New in RMS 10.0 is the ability to support a buying process that allows you to determine the total need for a product from either existing RMS replenishment or store orders, to specify suppliers and quantities to fulfill this need and to generate orders accordingly. This process includes a new stock category option and related transfer type, providing retailers the ability to consider the warehouse stock position prior to creating cross-docked type orders and to link transfers from warehouse inventory to these orders. Providing visibility to the total need of a product, while facilitating the ability to source this need across suppliers based on cost and availability will enhance your in-stock metrics and margin savings while maximizing purchasing efficiencies.

Store orders

RMS 10.0 was enhanced to accept externally generated store orders. Required fields in this file include store number, item number, quantity and the store's need date. This functionality is designed to support manual entry of store needs into a store system to generate replenishment.

To support this functionality, a new replenishment method, "Store Order" was added to the nine existing replenishment methods in RMS. Selection of this method triggers the system to use the store order file to generate the recommended order quantities. The new replenishment method will be available in conjunction with all of the existing stock categories, plus the new stock category of warehouse stocked/cross-docked (WH/Cross Link).

When employing the store order replenishment method, only those quantities on the store order file that are required by the store in the current order cycle, based on the primary supplier's delivery to the store, will be included in the ordering and transfer process. This functionality allows the stores to place orders for future delivery without triggering the warehouse to generate supplier orders or transfers until the product is actually required.

New stock category – warehouse stocked/cross docked (WH/Cross link)

A new stock category was created in RMS 10.0 to allow you to transfer existing inventory while creating a supplier order for the difference. This functionality was designed to support staging of warehouse inventory for combination with orders to fulfill store requirements, as is often the case with fresh product in the grocery industry.

Like the existing stock categories, the WH/Cross Link stock category is defined at the item/location level. When this option is selected, the system will accumulate the store need for the item/location, compare this need to the available warehouse inventory and recommend a warehouse order for the difference. The recommended quantities can be created as an approved or worksheet status purchase order or can be sent to the buyer worksheet for supplier designation and combination with other product prior to purchase order creation.

New transfer type – P.O. linked transfer

A new transfer type, P.O. Linked Transfer, was added in RMS 10.0 to support the WH/Cross Link stock category. The P.O. Linked Transfer will include for each item: the total quantity to be transferred to the store, the portion that can be fulfilled by the warehouse and a link to the related purchase order(s). Items that can be fulfilled entirely by the warehouse will not have a purchase order link since no related quantities will be ordered. The transfer header will include the store and the delivery date for the items on the transfer.

Creation of P.O. Linked Transfers will reserve inventory in the warehouse; however, unlike other transfers, the quantities will not be added to the store expected inventories upon creation, rather they will be added to the store net inventory position based on delivery date. Since the WH/Cross Link product is not transferred immediately, but rather held until the arrival of the related purchase order(s), this functionality increases the accuracy of inventory position at both the store and warehouse.

P.O. Linked Transfers are released to the warehousing system when each of the line items has been processed, that is, either included on a purchase order or deleted if no product can be sourced. The information provided on the P.O. Linked Transfers and their related purchase order(s) will enable the warehouse to optimize its picking, staging and store delivery plan.

Sourcing from multiple suppliers

You have the option to display recommended quantities for warehouse and direct to store orders on the buyer worksheet (reference next section for more information on the worksheet). From this worksheet, you have the ability to source the required product from one or multiple suppliers, based on cost and market availability, and to create purchase orders accordingly.

The recommended quantity on the worksheet will be defaulted to the primary supplier for the specific item/location. When no availability, quality or cost issues exist, this default facilitates ordering as the most likely supplier has been systematically assigned. In cases where the recommended quantity cannot be entirely fulfilled by the primary supplier, you will have the option to assign other suppliers for either all or part of the quantities required. Selection of suppliers will be limited to valid suppliers for the item. When designating suppliers, you also have visibility to the terms, lead-time and unit cost for the item being processed. In some cases, you may not be able to source the item from any supplier. In this situation, you have the ability to delete the item from the worksheet and to add a new item in its place, if applicable.

Following the review and modification of quantities, costs and suppliers on the worksheet, you will have the option to create purchase orders in either approved or worksheet status. You will also have the ability to include quantities on existing worksheet status purchase orders for the relevant supplier(s).

Buyer worksheet

The buyer worksheet is a new option in RMS 10.0 that allows you to review and change recommended order quantities generated from multiple sources, including investment buy and replenishment, and to combine these quantities into purchase orders and truckloads. This functionality streamlines the review process and allows the user to optimize logistical and ordering costs.

You have the ability to display the worksheet via a main view, used primarily to process and combine items from multiple sources, or via a specific investment buy view. There are four sections included on the buyer worksheet: filtering, scaling, detail and action. The filtering and scaling sections are identical for both views. The detail section differs slightly between views to account for view-specific fields, for example, the investment buy view includes the number of days until deal expiration or cost change, a field not relevant to replenishment orders. The action section enables the same options for both views with the exception of split supplier, which is not available for Investment Buy. To provide maximum flexibility, fields on the buyer worksheet can also be customized and saved based on your individual user requirements.

Filtering section

The filtering section of the worksheet allows you to limit the results displayed in the detail section. Filtering is available by item, category, class, subclass, buyer, supplier, pooled supplier, origin country, location and source type, which includes investment buy and replenishment. This section also allows you to specify whether to display items with zero recommended order quantities, for example when the user is attempting to fill a truck, and/or to view items that have already been processed on purchase orders.

Scaling section

The scaling section of the worksheet allows users to manually build trucks by displaying the first and second minimum and maximum scaling constraints for the supplier or pooled supplier selected, as well as actual fields corresponding to the scaling constraints. The actual fields show you the current totals for each scaling constraint based on the items and order quantities you have selected in the detail section. There is also a third constraint, definable by you, which displays totals based on the selections, for example, the total dollar amount of the items selected. Using this scaling section as a reference point, the user can add and delete items and order quantities from one or multiple sources to achieve the desired order and truckload results.

Detail section

The detail section of the worksheet allows you to review and change recommended order quantities and costs for items generated by one or multiple sources. This section contains the source (origin), item, supplier, location, terms, lead-time, recommended order quantity, actual order quantity and unit cost in the main view. You have the option to customize this view depending on your applicable requirements.

In the detail section, the actual order quantity is initially defaulted from the recommended order quantity, facilitating ordering when the recommendation is accepted. You have the ability to override both the actual order quantity and the unit cost of the item.

Each item is also preceded by a selection box, which is used to designate the items, quantities and costs to be included in the scaling section and/or to be added to purchase orders. You have the ability to select or de-select all items displayed in the current filter.

A new order control option was added to RMS 10.0 to determine which items will be included on the buyer worksheet. This order control option, like the existing options of automatic (creates approved purchase orders), semi-automatic (creates worksheet purchase orders) and manual (creates recommended order quantity line items), is definable at the item/location level, allowing you to systematically generate purchase orders for some items, while reviewing others in the buyer worksheet.

When the buyer worksheet order control is selected, recommended order quantities for item/locations with the stock categories of warehouse stocked – warehouse and WH/cross link will be displayed on the worksheet as the total recommended order for the warehouse. When the stock category is direct to store, the recommended quantity for the specific store will be displayed on the worksheet. Items/locations on cross-dock replenishment or warehouse to store replenishment are not displayed on the worksheet.

Action section

The action section of the worksheet allows you to split actual order quantities between suppliers, add items to the worksheet and view deal information related to a selected item. This section also offers the ability to create purchase orders for selected items in approved or worksheet status and the ability to add items to existing worksheet status orders for the selected supplier.

Replenishment and purchasing

Replenishment

There are a number of modifications to RMS 10.0 replenishment processes to support a lower level of parameter maintenance, simple pack and multi-channel functionality. These modifications can be grouped into two main categories: Inventory Management and Rounding.

The inventory management enhancements provide you with the flexibility to maintain various parameters at the supplier/location or supplier/department/location levels in addition to the existing levels of supplier and supplier/department. The parameters included in the modification include:

- Scaling Parameters
- Minimum and scaling constraints
- Supplier review cycle
- Due order processing attribute and order attributes
  - Store Order Multiple (moved to Item/Location level)
  - Rounding threshold percentages (moved to Item/Supplier/Country/Location level)
  - Rounding level (moved to Item/Supplier/Country/Location level)

Additional attributes being added to Supplier Inventory Management information for RMS 10.0 will also have the ability to be set-up at location level. These values include:

- Pooled supplier (see Supplier Pooling section for details)
- Purchase type
- Investment buying attributes
- Bracket costing attributes
- Truck splitting attributes

In addition to the field level changes and field additions, RMS 10.0 replenishment will introduce a number of enhancements to the rounding logic in the system. With this release, users have the flexibility to round to the additional levels of Layer, Case/Layer, Layer/Pallet and Case/Layer/Pallet. The layer quantity will be derived from the Ti information on each item's master record.

Due to the inclusion of Multi-Channel functionality and inventory segregation in RMS 10.0, the rounding process will be enhanced to combine the requirements generated for each virtual warehouse and will round the entire need for an item at a physical warehouse level (see the Multi-channel section for additional details).

To support the use of Simple Packs for Case UPC, modifications to the substitution process now allow you to assign substitute items at the simple pack level. Previously Simple Pack and Substitute items could not be applied to the same component item. As well, substitute items can now be associated to the item/location level. Previously, substitute items could only be associated to the item level.

Purchasing

Purchase Order Management was enhanced in RMS 10.0 to provide you with increased support for decision-making, costing and logistics planning.

From the purchase order dialog, you now have the ability to access information regarding available deals for an item and the total quantity received for an order or item.

The purchase order was also modified to accommodate the new item/location level costing being offered with RMS 10.0.

In order to better support logistical planning, RMS 10.0 includes the additions of Pick-up Location, Pick-up Number, and Pick-up Date. This valuable information can be used by your transportation system/department to assist in the coordination of merchandise movement from a Supplier to the receiving destination.

Along with the Pick-up information, RMS 10.0 also includes the addition of five new PO Types. These types include: Delivered, FOB Plant, FOB Backhaul Plant, FOB Destination and FOB Backhaul Destination. These types are used by the system to calculate the expected backhaul allowance, where applicable.

Bracket costing and backhaul allowances

For RMS 10.0, new optional product costing functionality was added to support the Bracket Costing, Backhaul Allowance and the EDI 879 - Price Information processes, used primarily in the grocery industry. Bracket costing is used to support the flexible base cost of items, based on the total order level of all items per purchase order at the warehouse level. The backhaul allowance is a type of freight allowance offered by many suppliers to assist the retailer with transportation costs, should the purchase order be picked-up at the suppliers shipping plant rather than being delivered. The addition of the Bracket Costing and Backhaul allowance functionality promotes proper costing of purchase orders, thereby reducing errors in Invoice Match.

With RMS 10.0, if a supplier is indicated to be bracket costed, their bracket structure can be created and maintained at the supplier, supplier/location, supplier/department, or supplier/department/location level. The structure is also flexible enough to allow only those levels deemed relevant to a specific location to be maintained. Maintenance of item costs in the bracket structure is made available through the item dialog for unapproved items, and through the enhanced cost change dialog for approved items. The addition of the EDI 879 process will enable automated cost creation for new items, as well as, the ability to automate the entry of supplier cost changes to existing items. The RMS scaling process has also been enhanced to include a bracket threshold that allows you to scale orders to the next bracket level, when the requirements achieve the identified threshold percentage.

Backhaul Allowance support is provided through modifications to the current ELC process, and the creation of zone level expenses. A negative expense component for backhaul allowance types was added, and this component is triggered when an order is flagged with one of the four pick-up statuses. The total backhaul allowance expected is calculated and displayed in the purchase order header dialog. The backhaul allowance values support total order level or item specific amounts.

Regionality

New with RMS 10.0 is the ability to link users or groups of users to locations, suppliers, and/or departments. This functionality, termed Regionality, provides a base for customized retailer specific exception reporting, data warehouse reporting, and transaction data filtering.

Using existing security tables, multiple groups can be created and associated to a business role (That is, buyer, category manager, accounts payable). The group can then have users or groups of users assigned to it. Once the user and group relationship is established, the new Regionality Maintenance functionality can be used to link the Suppliers, Departments, or Supplier/Departments.

Multi-channel

RMS 10.0 has been enhanced extensively for multi-channel retailers to provide the ability to track inventory and profitability by Channel. The ability to segregate inventories is accomplished through Virtual Warehouses. These virtual warehouses function as sub-warehouses within a warehouse. Within RMS 10.0, one physical warehouse building can be subdivided into many virtual warehouses.

You make the decision to run RMS as a multi-channel environment during the initial implementation of the system. If you choose only to run as a single channel, most of the enhancements listed below will not affect the way RMS runs. There are a few exceptions and those are highlighted in the notes below.

Multi-channel retailer

To measure the profitability by channel, two requirements must be met. First, the sales and inventory need to be separated by channel and second, the ability to analyze the sales and inventory by channel must exist.

Channel types and ID's have been added to RMS 10.0 to accomplish this analysis. If you want to analyze how your web-store versus the catalog versus the brick and mortar stores are performing, you can pull sales based on the channel ID's. Another indicator that has been added to each location is a stock holding or non-stock holding location. With certain channels, the product is being fulfilled from the warehouse and not a true store location but each web store will be set as a location that is non-stock holding. The system will prevent product from being ordered or transferred to non-stock holding locations.

Non-Stock holding indicators are also an integral part of the Virtual Warehouse set-up referenced above. When you are implementing a multi-channel environment, the set-up of warehouse locations will require the set-up of at least one virtual warehouse for every physical warehouse that is set-up. You define your warehouse locations, and within each of those physical warehouse structures, at least one or more virtual warehouses will be set-up. These virtual warehouses will be associated with a channel.

As part of set-up, a protected indicator can be set on a virtual warehouse. When any type of inventory adjustment occurs, a protected warehouse will never have stock drawn down from it. There is also a restricted indicator that will disallow system-generated stock to be placed in the virtual warehouse.

Since the products held in each of the virtual warehouses are all physically sitting in the same location in the distribution center, to move the product between the virtual warehouses on the books only, a new transfer type called Book transfer was created. This transfer type will only result in inventory being decremented from one virtual warehouse and incremented in the "to" virtual location. These book transfers can be created automatically if the indicator linking a virtual warehouse to another virtual warehouse is for inventory balancing purposes.

Additional uses of virtual warehouse functionality

The creation of virtual warehouses has allowed inventory bought for specific reasons to be held separately from replenished inventory in RMS 10.0.

A virtual warehouse can also be designated as a 'protected' warehouse if you buy and hold merchandise and do not want inventory to be relieved for automatic inventory adjustment reasons.

These virtual warehouses can be linked together for various reasons. If you have product in your investment buy warehouse, replenishment orders should be fulfilled from that product. A book transfer is automatically created for the amount needed and moves the inventory from the Investment Buy warehouse to the Replenishment warehouse before being transferred from the Replenishment warehouse to the stores. The book transfer insures that the transfers are recognized as replenishment issues and therefore included in future forecasts.

When several of these virtual warehouses are placed on an order together, a method needs to be determined for the new rounding functionality added. See Replenishment section above for more information.

Retek Customer Order Management and drop shipments

Many of the interfaces with Retek Customer Order Management (RCOM) are in place today, and RMS 10.0 was enhanced to assist in the process of drop shipment. Drop shipment refers to the process in which the supplier manages the inventory and you do not take ownership of it until the sale is made to the customer. RMS 10.0 tracks the purchase and sale of the merchandise once it is sold to the customer. RCOM will create the sales record for the appropriate location set-up in RMS and upload that sales record through Point of Sale (POS).

It should be noted that other areas were affected by the virtual warehouse functionality; Inventory Adjustments, Cycle Counts, Return to Vendor and Work orders were also updated to recognize virtual warehouse implications.

Location up-charge

RMS 10.0 supports the business practice of location up-charges. Location up-charges are defined as the ability to apply increases to the cost of an item when it is transferred from one location to another location. These up-charges are defined by determining the "transferred from" location to the 'transferred to' location. This flexibility allows you to vary these up-charges based on the distance from the warehouse to the store, or if you charge less to owned stores versus franchised stores. These charges are also defined as a percent or fixed value.

The up-charges are defined during item set-up and the results are viewable online in the transfer dialog. The up-charges will be interfaced to a general ledger account to be determined by you during system set-up. It should be noted that all location up-charges would be grouped together within the general ledger account. If the retailer needs to see the detailed breakdown of these up-charges, special reporting can be created.

Functional integration enhancements

The following functional integration enhancements have been made between RMS and Retek Customer Order Management (RCOM) and between RMS and Retek Distribution Management (RDM).

RCOM

- Support for the inventory movement for RCOM's customer order processing and back orders reserve functionality.
- Support for the inventory movement of customer return processing functionality in RCOM.
- Inventory change information is sent to the Available to Promise (ATP) module in RCOM from RMS 10.0. Inventory availability is also published.
- Subscription to customer backorder and reserve.

RDM

- Improved visibility to appointments and stock order status between RMS and RDM.

Functionality removed from RMS 10.0

- Quick Order Entry Screen – RMS back-end processing for accepting DSD orders remains unchanged with the removal of the quick order entry screen.
- Auto close transfer and auto receive transfer – RMS 10.0 added communication between RMS and Retek Distribution Management (RDM) to allow RDM to indicate that certain quantities would no longer be shipped. This communication results in quantities being cancelled from the transfer, thus freeing up reserved inventory.
- Shipment screens – back-end functionality for interface with RDM and Retek Store Systems (RSS) remains unchanged with the removal of the shipment screens.
- Quick Item Entry – the new item dialogue in RMS 10.0 provides more flexibility and usability for item entry.
- Receiving by VPN – both RDM and RSS translate the VPN to UPC, SKU, PLU, etc prior to reporting to RMS.
- Shipping of transfers on-line – RMS creates shipments through the BOL upload process from stores/warehouses thus ensuring accuracy of inventory.
- ASN download – other Retek applications can subscribe to ASN information through the RIB.
- Bill of Lading Tables – RMS 10.0 restructured the shipment table to more accurately reflect a true bill of lading thus eliminating the need for this functionality.
- On-Line Receiving – RMS 10.0 is restricted to only allow receiving to occur through the receiving API.

- Miscellaneous Reports – Reports in RMS 10.0 were streamlined down to 20.
- Layaway – Removed from RMS 10.0
- Quality Control – The RMS 10.0 receiving process was modified to allow the receiving location to receive inventory into an unavailable status and then report later through an inventory adjustment where to move the inventory. This allows store and warehouse systems to receive inventory into an unavailable status and later report what portion of the inventory should be moved to Stock onhand vs. Troubled due to QC failure.

Performance enhancements

Forms

To improve the performance of RMS, the number of calls to common functions has been reduced. The RMS start menu now creates global variables for the primary language, user language, currency code and multi-currency indicator values for the session. Each form references these values from the global variables instead of from function calls to the database. Similar modifications were made to triggers and program units in the forms and also queries written for record groups.

Additionally, each form that calls the GET_VDATE function now only calls it once in the form and stores the value in a variable in the form's INTERNAL_VARIABLES package specification.

Technical enhancements

Oracle 9i

RMS 10.0 has been upgraded to run on Oracle 9i. Oracle 9i is designed for efficient application development, superior content management, and successful application deployment on the Internet. Oracle 9i allows Retek to further exploit the unlimited opportunities the Internet provides. Oracle 9i provides the advanced tools to manage all the types of data that is found in today's most popular Web sites, and provides the performance and scalability needed to support large sites and other mission critical applications.

Oracle 9i is introducing several space management features. Included are the following:

- Oracle Managed Files that will automatically create and delete datafiles, control files and redo logs automatically on files systems other than raw.
- Tablespaces and extents can be managed automatically by Oracle.
- Resumable space allocation. Can suspend large jobs to fix issues like lack of space.
- Rollback segments replaced with 'UNDO' tablespaces, which are automatically managed by Oracle.
- Oracle 9i also added dynamic SGA memory management

Forms

Retek has also upgraded to Oracle Developer 6i. This version of Oracle Developer leverages the Internet platform to provide business solutions that automatically scale and perform with minimum development effort.

Oracle developer provides the following benefits:

- Leverages the power of a rapid application development (RAD) environment that allows for an easy transition from a client/server environment to a three-tiered Internet environment.
- Delivers scalable enterprise-class applications around the world automatically allowing companies to meet the growing demands of their business, choose the most optimal deployment architecture, and deliver multilingual applications around the globe.
- Delivers solutions in web time to easily build complex database applications that automatically scale, realize benefits of optimized deployment platform tightly integrated with a modeling and declarative suite, promote standards-based, team development with reusable components, and build rich user interfaces.
- Protects your investment to provide support for emerging technologies and extends your pre-packaged applications.
- Achieves open access to support multiple platforms and multiple databases.
- Leverages the Internet platform to exploit the power of Oracle 9i.

Batch

All batch programs have been updated to resolve an array-sizing problem. The array operations are now limited to a size not greater than MAX_ORACLE_ARRAY_SIZE.

Integration

Retek 10.0 Integration is based on the Retek Integration Bus (RIB). The RIB provides messaging (publish/subscribe), batch (point to point) and Extract/Transform/Load (ETL) integration methods to most Retek applications. The RMS utilizes messaging integration to replicate critical reference and foundation data to distributed applications. RIB also supports the near real-time exchange of inventory transactions to RMS from RDM and RCOM. Bulk data extracts are provided by RMS via the RIB for integration with RDW and RPAS applications. Reference the RIB release notes for more detail.

Integration enhancements

N/A

Known issues

- Netscape 4.7 - Logon dialog box does not appear until Developer Forms Runtime window is manually received. This is an Oracle issue and will be addressed via Oracle Bug 1031986.
- Attempting to view an image from the hard drive will cause RMS to hang. This is an issue with an Oracle built-in function that displays web pages.
- Some transactions with significantly high volumes of data may cause a performance issues. This issue will be addressed in the required 10.1 upgrade to be released June 30, 2002.

Retek Sales Audit

Functional enhancements

ReSA 10.0 includes enhancements that are consistent with Retek's new usability standards across products, giving our applications a consistent look to you, the user.

The following are the functional enhancements for ReSA 10.0:

- Enhancements have been made to the ReSA 10.0 interface with RMS for compatibility with the RMS 10.0 new item dialogue. This gives you the ability to process sales using the primary variant that you define.
- Enhancements have also been made to the Retek Customer Order Management (RCOM) interface. ReSA will now accept the new drop ship indicator from the RTLOG, store the indicator in a ReSA table, and pass the indicator to the posupld.pc process that uploads transaction data to RMS 10.0.
- ReSA 10.0 adds a Retail Price type to the Retek Data Warehouse (RDW) transaction file. With this enhancement, RDW's retail type values will match the RMS retail type values when you are reviewing the same set of data.
- ReSA 10.0 exports the item sequence number to RDW.
- ReSA 10.0 reports sales at the transaction level. In addition to the reporting of sales, ReSA forms have been enhanced to correctly identify the item levels defined by you.
- Broader searching ability has been added to the tender forms. You can search for transactions based on tender type, dollar range, credit card number, and voucher number in the Tender Summary form.
- The ability to allow entry of transactions for an integrated store that has no RTLOG has been added. This will allow you to enter manual transactions while the data status is still in "Ready for Import".
- ReSA 10.0 will handle the selling unit of measure.

Functionality removed from ReSA 10.0

Site Fuel Management integration has been removed from ReSA 10.0.

Performance enhancements

N/A

Technical enhancements

N/A

Integration enhancements

N/A

Known issues

N/A

Retek Invoice Matching

Functional enhancements

N/A

Performance enhancements

N/A

Technical enhancements

N/A

Integration enhancements

N/A

Known issues

N/A

Retek Trade Management

Functional enhancements

N/A

Performance enhancements

N/A

Technical enhancements

N/A

Integration enhancements

N/A

Known issues

N/A