

Oracle® Retail Merchandising System

Release Notes

Release 13.0.1

August 2008

This document describes Oracle Retail Merchandising System Release 13.0.1. RMS Release 13.0.1 is a full product release that replaces RMS 13.0.

Product Overview

Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) is used to execute core merchandising activities, including merchandise management, inventory replenishment, purchasing, vendor management, and financial tracking.

Oracle Retail Sales Audit (ReSA) provides the tools to evaluate point-of-sale data to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information exported to downstream systems used in optimization processes, financial reporting, and analysis.

Oracle Retail Trade Management (RTM) is used to manage the import process, including automating the steps necessary to import goods, managing file exchanges with trading partners, and providing a central database of critical import order information.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail applications software compatibility

Functional Enhancements

The following functional enhancements are included in RMS 13.0.1.

Wholesale/Franchise Functionality

For retailers who also operate a wholesale business, substantial functionality has been added to RMS to support the merchandising function for wholesale operations. This functionality is activated or deactivated based on system option settings.

Foundation and Item Data

- Stores can be designated as wholesale stores, which will trigger special treatment and functionality.
- Wholesale customers and customer groups are supported data concepts.
- Items can be designated as valid for sale to wholesale stores using the standard RMS item ranging process.

Costing and Pricing

- Distinct wholesale costing and pricing processes and rules are used for items sold to wholesale customers.
- Landed cost components can be included in wholesale pricing calculations.
- The percent of applicable off-invoice deal savings passed through to wholesale customers can be controlled.
- Margin and upcharge templates can be created and used to manage pricing for wholesale customers.
- An item catalog report or file can be published to communicate available items and prices to wholesale customers.
- There is direct integration with Oracle Retail Price Management (RPM), so that RPM pricing functionality can be used for wholesale customers.

Ordering

- There is a user interface for entering orders and returns. Features include:
 - Ability to include multiple locations for a wholesale customer on an order.
 - Ability to request and reserve inventory.
 - Ability to use substitute items when an item is out of stock.
 - Leveraging market base replenishment when inventory is not available at the warehouse.
 - Cost templates to compute customer cost. The dialog also allows the calculated cost to be overwritten with a fixed cost on individual orders.
- There is direct integration with the Oracle Retail Warehouse Management System (RWMS) to pick and ship products.
- Orders can be uploaded electronically.

Financials

- A wholesale sale is recorded when the shipment is sent from the retailer's warehouse to the wholesale or franchise location.
- Inventory at the retailer's warehouse is decreased when a shipment is sent.
- A return transaction is recorded for the retailer's warehouse on wholesale or franchise returns.

Special Item Types for Wholesale and Franchise

The wholesale/franchise functionality in RMS handles the following special item types:

- Buyer packs
- Deposit items
 - Container (indirect)
 - Crate
 - Contents
- Catch weight items (sellable)
 - Purchase in fixed weight simple packs: Sell by variable weights
 - Purchase in variable weight simple packs: Sell by variable weights
 - Purchase in fixed weight simple packs containing a fixed number of eaches: Sell by variable weight eaches
 - Purchase in variable weight simple packs containing a fixed number of eaches: Sell by variable weight eaches
- Transformable (break-to-sell) items
 - Transform sellable

Online Shipping and Receiving in RMS

Substantial functionality has been added within RMS for clients who want to use RMS for shipping and receiving. This functionality is activated or deactivated based on system options settings. The shipping and receiving functionality includes the following features:

- Record incoming purchase orders as shipped and in transit

A Purchase Order Shipment window has been added to record the shipment of merchandise from a purchase order as shipped and in transit to a store or warehouse.
- Record shipments of outgoing transfers

Functionality has been added to the Transfer Maintenance window to record the shipment of transfer merchandise out of a warehouse or store into a different warehouse or store.
- Record shipments for multiple outgoing transfers and allocations

A Worksheet BOL Shipment window has been added to create a shipment made up of merchandise from multiple outgoing transfers and allocations.
- Record shipment of outgoing returns to vendor (RTV)

Functionality has been added to the RMS RTV Maintenance Window to record the shipments of merchandise out of a warehouse or store for return to vendor transactions.
- Record receipt of merchandise from a purchase order, transfer, or allocation

The Carton Receiving and Item Receiving windows have been added to record the receipt of merchandise from a purchase order, transfer, or allocation into a warehouse or store.

- Record information for direct store deliveries

A DSD Order Entry window has been added to record information for direct store deliveries. This window can be used to:

- Create a purchase order based on a direct store delivery
- Indicate whether applicable deals should be applied to the order
- Record the merchandise as received
- Capture invoice information

Multiple Sets of Books

The stock ledger functionality has been enhanced to support multiple sets of books in a single installation of RMS. The following changes have been made in RMS to support multiple sets of books functionality:

- Three new system options have been added:
 - Multiple Sets of Books
 - Inter-company Transfer Basis
 - Supplier Sites
- There is a facility to associate a set of books ID and an organizational unit with a transfer entity.
- An organizational unit association with a location is enforced when the multiple sets of books functionality is enabled or when the Financial_AP indicator is set to 'O'.
- A new validation has been added to ensure that the location currency code is the same as the currency code of the associated set of books, when the multiple sets of books functionality is enabled.
- The supplier functionality has been extended to support multiple supplier sites within one origin country.
- The vendor subscription interface has been extended to support a supplier, supplier sites, and organizational unit structure.
- The general ledger chart of accounts subscription interface has been extended to support a set of books data element.
- Association of items with supplier sites is enforced when supplier sites functionality is enabled.
- When items are ranged to locations, functionality has been added to help the user to ensure that the set of books ID of the supplier or supplier site is the same as the set of books ID of the location ranged.
- Supplier site selection is enforced when purchase orders are created, when supplier sites functionality is enabled.
- When supplier site functionality is enabled, deal maintenance continues to be at the supplier level.
- A validation has been added to ensure the organizational unit of an order is the same as the supplier or supplier site organizational unit. This validation has been enforced in two forms: the purchase order header and the order distribution worksheet.

- Intercompany transfer validation is determined by the system option parameter Inter-company Transfer Basis.
- The consolidating stock ledger tables and related batch programs have been extended to include the set of books ID.
- The RMS general ledger cross-reference functionality has been extended to include the set of books ID.
- ReIM and ReSA general ledger cross-reference functionality has been extended to include the sets of books ID.
- The general ledger interface batch programs (FIFGLDN1, FIFGLDN2, FIFGLDN3, SAEXPGL) have been modified to handle the set of books ID.
- The user security level has been extended to organizational unit level. This option is available when the multiple sets of books functionality is enabled.
- The replenishment attribute form has been extended to support supplier sites.
- A validation has been added in the replenishment attribute form to ensure that the location (store or warehouse) and supplier or supplier site belong to same organizational unit.
- The stock ledger view and stock ledger search forms have been extended to support supplier sites.
- The supplier publication messages hold supplier site information when the supplier sites functionality is enabled.
- A facility has been provided to associate an organizational unit with an external finisher.
- Validations have added for two-legged transfers to check that the locations in the transfer belong to the same organization ID as the external finisher.

Replenishment

The replenishment setup process was enhanced to allow replenishment attributes to be created at merchandise levels other than item.

Functionality was added to allow allocation size curves to be used for setting up replenishment quantities for merchandise groupings above the transaction level. Optionally, updates made to the replenishment attributes can be tracked.

Here are the key changes to the replenishment setup process:

- The Replenishment Maintenance window was modified to allow users to set up replenishment attributes at the department, class, subclass, or item parent–diff aggregate levels, in addition to item and item list levels.
- Optionally, size profiles can be applied to item groupings above the transaction level, such as item parent and subclass. When size profiles are applied, the values entered on the quantity fields are distributed to the child items.
- Size profiles can be applied to the min/max, terminal, and presentation stock quantities.
- Optionally, size profiles or size curves can be replicated from the Allocations application to be used to distribute the quantities entered to the items, if the replenishment is set up at levels above the transaction level.

- Size profiles can assume percentages or ratios. Size profiles set up as ratios are refactored to percentages that total 100%.
- A system option was modified to allow the size profile functionality in RMS, particularly in the setup of replenishment attributes.
- A system option was modified to allow tracking of replenishment changes in RMS. A new field in System Options indicates how many weeks the history data will be kept in RMS.
- A window was added for viewing the replenishment attribute change history.
- The scheduled replenishment process was modified to handle replenishments created at levels above the transaction level.

Value-Added Tax (VAT)

In previous versions of RMS, VAT amounts were not posted separately to the stock ledger, making VAT amounts difficult to track. Modifications were done to post VAT amounts as separate tran_codes in the tran data table. The VAT amount is posted for both the purchase and sales part.

- The following new transaction codes were introduced to track VAT amounts:
 - 87—Input VAT
 - 88—Output VAT
- Input VAT amount is computed for purchase order receipts, returns to vendor, receiver unit adjustments, receiver cost adjustments, and wholesale or franchise sales and returns, and it is posted in the tran data table with tran code 87.
- Output VAT amount is computed for sales, returns, wholesale or franchisee sales, and wholesale franchisee returns, and it is posted in the tran data table with tran code 88.
- The stock ledger rollup tables have been extended with the additional columns VAT In and VAT Out.
- The consolidating stock ledger batch programs have been extended to handle the added VAT fields.
- The new VAT fields have been added to the Stock Ledger Maintenance form and the Stock Ledger View form.

RMS Reports

Reports are produced by Oracle Business Intelligence Publisher. When a report is requested, the report is displayed in the Oracle BI Publisher interface in a Web browser window.

Eight new reports have been added to the standard reports provided.

The user can now choose from among several formats (HTML, PDF, Excel, and others) for the report output.

Single Sign-On Enablement

RMS can be enabled to use Oracle Application Server Single Sign-On (SSO). SSO is a component of Oracle Identity Management. In an SSO environment, a user signs on once with user name and password during a Web browser session. The SSO server authenticates the user, and this SSO identity is propagated to each SSO-enabled application used within the same browser session.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Operations Guide*.

Oracle User Interface Standards

The “Swan” user interface is a set of user interface definitions designed by Oracle. These interface definitions create a consistent interface for Oracle products and an improved user interface for application users. The Oracle Retail Merchandising System application windows have been updated to use the standard color palette and fonts.

Technical Enhancements

The following technical enhancements are included in Oracle Retail Merchandising System Release 13.0.1.

Operating System and Database Support

RMS 13.0.1 is compatible with Oracle Database 10g and the following operating systems:

- Oracle Enterprise Linux 4 Update 5
- HP-UX Itanium 11.23
- IBM AIX 5.3
- Sun Solaris 10

Automated Installation in UNIX Environments

An installation tool is available to install RMS in UNIX environments. This tool is Java-based and automates the following:

- Creation of database objects
- Installation and compilation of Pro*C batch modules
- Installation and compilation of forms
- WebHelp setup

Complete installation instructions are in the *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Installation Guide*.

Integration Enhancements

The following are integration enhancements included in Oracle Retail Merchandising System Release 13.0.1.

Integration with Oracle E-Business Suite

Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS), Oracle Retail Sales Audit (ReSA), Oracle Retail Invoice Matching (ReIM), and Oracle Retail Integration Bus (RIB) 13.0.1 can be integrated with Oracle E-Business Suite 12.0.4.

This integration allows RMS to obtain the following data from Oracle Financials:

- General ledger accounting data
- Supplier and supplier site data
- Currency rates
- Freight terms
- Payment terms

From RMS, inventory and sales accounting information can be sent to Oracle Financials.

When integrated with Oracle E-Business Suite, ReIM exports data to accounts payable staging tables or to financial tables, depending on the specific types of transactions.

Integration Accelerator Patch

For integration with Oracle E-Business Suite, an Oracle Retail integration accelerator patch is available for download. This patch enables the integration between Oracle E-Business Suite and some Oracle Retail applications.

The hot fix downloads associated with the following defect numbers are required to implement this integration patch:

- Master defect: 7330263
- RMS defect: 7291971
- E-Business Suite/BPEL defect: 7330290
- ReIM defect: 7331912

Also see the Oracle Retail Integration Bus Release Notes for RIB Release 13.0.1.1 (documentation-only release).

For support in implementing this patch, contact Oracle Customer Support and follow all typical Oracle Retail processes.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail 13.0.1 - Oracle E-Business Suite 12.0.4 Integration Accelerator Patch Installation Guide*, which is only included with the integration accelerator patch download.

The integration accelerator patch provides the following functional enhancements for integration:

- Oracle Retail applications support multiple sets of books. For data downloaded from Oracle E-Business Suite, the multiple sets of books in RMS can be mapped to the corresponding ledger IDs in Oracle E-Business Suite.

- Oracle Retail applications support supplier and supplier site associations. Key control parameters for a supplier, such as freight and payment terms, are maintained at the supplier site level.
- A supplier created in Oracle E-Business Suite is transferred to RMS as a supplier, but there is no supplier parent information for this record. When a supplier site is created in Oracle E-Business Suite, it is passed to RMS as another supplier, but this record has a Supplier Parent field that contains the ID of the supplier with which this supplier site is associated.

Solution Details

Oracle E-Business Suite to Oracle Retail:

1. A BPEL process extracts data from the Oracle E-Business Suite database.
2. BPEL processes publish XML files on the specific Java Messaging Service (JMS) topics on the Oracle Retail Integration Bus (RIB).
3. RIB is used to perform the data load into RMS.
4. The XML payload is verified. If any error is encountered, RIB rejects the message and sends it to the RIB hospital.
5. The XML payloads with validated data should be subscribed to by the specific RMS APIs and loaded to the RMS tables.

Oracle Retail to Oracle E-Business Suite:

1. A BPEL process extracts the data from the Oracle Retail (ReIM, RMS, ReSA) database.
2. BPEL processes publish XML files in the specific Oracle E-Business Suite staging tables.

Integration with Advanced Inventory Planning (AIP)

RMS supports integration with the Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning application.

Integration with Strategic Store Solutions

RMS supports integration with the Oracle Retail Strategic Store Solutions suite of applications.

Return to Vendor (RTV) Transactions

Changes have been made to improve handling of integrated RTV transactions:

- The stock order status process has been changed to create a transfer in RMS when initiated from RWMS or SIM.
- The RTV subscription process has been changed to create RTVs in RMS when initiated by RWMS or SIM.
- The RTV publishing process has been changed so that a message is not sent to RWMS or SIM for the RTVs initiated from those systems.

Shipping and Receiving

Online shipping and receiving functionality allows clients to set up their systems so that shipping and receiving can be done within RMS, if a separate store or warehouse application is not used. Shipments created in RMS are published as ASNOut messages to either Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management (SIM) or the Oracle Retail Warehouse Management System (RWMS) so that receiving can be performed.

In addition, when a wholesale/franchise return to warehouse is shipped, RMS publishes an ASNOut message to RWMS so that RWMS has an ASN shipment number to receive against.

Integration Using Oracle Streams Advanced Queuing

Prior versions of RMS used SeeBeyond software as the RIB integration layer. Among other changes to the RIB, the SeeBeyond software has been replaced with Oracle Streams Advanced Queuing (AQ) as the Java Messaging Service (JMS) provider.

For more information about AQ, see the Oracle Streams Advanced Queuing documentation.

For more information about the technical enhancements to RIB, see the RIB documentation.

Integration with Oracle Retail Workspace

The Oracle Retail Merchandising System can be integrated with Oracle Retail Workspace. The integration between these applications is optional, and no data flows between the applications. Workspace provides a single point of access to the Oracle Retail applications used by your business. It also provides an integrated platform that can display operational and analytical information from multiple sources. Workspace functionality provides single sign-on, central launch, role-based security, user management, and retailer-specific customization capabilities. Workspace also provides a kit and instructions for dashboard development. For more information, see the Oracle Retail Workspace documentation, the *Oracle Retail Management System Operations Guide*, and the following:

Metalink Note 559554.1: Oracle Retail Reports Resizing Guide

Because of the space constraints of the content area in Oracle Retail Workspace, reports accessed in a dashboard may need to be resized. This guide provides a step-by-step process for resizing reports in both Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (Oracle BI) and Oracle BI Publisher.

Oracle Configuration Manager

Oracle Configuration Manager is an optional configuration data collector that provides continuous tracking of key Oracle and system configuration settings for machines on which it is installed. This tool collects configuration details for customer environments and uploads them to a repository that is viewable through the Software Configuration Manager Metalink Web site. The Oracle Configuration Manager collector is optionally installed as part of your application installation.

Using Oracle Configuration Manager can reduce a retailer's support costs by providing extra configuration information that otherwise requires a phone call or e-mail correspondence.

Note: Sensitive configuration information (such as passwords) is not included in Oracle Configuration Manager collection.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Installation Guide*.

Known Issues

The following are known issues for Oracle Retail Merchandising System Release 13.0.1:

- Pro*C build problems on AIX5L
This issue applies only to AIX5L 64-bit systems with precompiler versions 9.2.0.0 through 11.1.0.6. The Pro*C build has been observed to fail with error PC-02014 on file `/usr/include/standards.h`.
For more information about this issue, see Metalink Note 451413.1.
- Performance of the costcalc function
Retailers may experience unsatisfactory costcalc performance. A fix for this issue is in development.
- Data conversion
Data conversion tools for this release do not support multiple sets of books.
- VAT codes
RMS does not support VAT codes that contain lowercase characters. In addition, VAT codes are limited to 6 characters in length. If you are integrating RMS with Oracle E-Business Suite, note these constraints.

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Merchandising System Release 13.0.1 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Data Model*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Online Help*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Operations Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising System User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Batch Schedule*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Data Conversion Operations Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Implementation Guide*

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

(i) the software component known as **ACUMATE** developed and licensed by Lucent Technologies Inc. of Murray Hill, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server - Enterprise Engine, Oracle Retail Category Management, Oracle Retail Item Planning, Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning, Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning and Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting applications.

(ii) the **MicroStrategy** Components developed and licensed by MicroStrategy Services Corporation (MicroStrategy) of McLean, Virginia to Oracle and imbedded in the MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Data Warehouse and MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Planning & Optimization applications.

(iii) the **SeeBeyond** component developed and licensed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. (Sun) of Santa Clara, California, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Integration Bus application.

(iv) the **Wavelink** component developed and licensed by Wavelink Corporation (Wavelink) of Kirkland, Washington, to Oracle and imbedded in Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management.

(v) the software component known as **Crystal Enterprise Professional and/or Crystal Reports Professional** licensed by Business Objects Software Limited ("Business Objects") and imbedded in Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management.

(vi) the software component known as **Access Via™** licensed by Access Via of Seattle, Washington, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Signs and Oracle Retail Labels and Tags.

(vii) the software component known as **Adobe Flex™** licensed by Adobe Systems Incorporated of San Jose, California, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Promotion Planning & Optimization application.

(viii) the software component known as **Style Report™** developed and licensed by InetSoft Technology Corp. of Piscataway, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

(ix) the software component known as **WebLogic™** developed and licensed by BEA Systems, Inc. of San Jose, California, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

(x) the software component known as **DataBeacon™** developed and licensed by Cognos Incorporated of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.