

Oracle® Retail Allocation Cloud Service

What If Allocations User Guide



Release 23.1.401.0

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The Oracle logo, consisting of a solid red square with the word "ORACLE" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font centered within it.

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Oracle Retail Allocation Cloud Service/Allocation What If Allocations User Guide, Release 23.1.401.0

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Preface

This document describes the Oracle Retail Allocation user interface. It provides step-by-step instructions to complete most tasks that can be performed through the user interface.

Audience

This document is for users and administrators of Oracle Retail Allocation. This includes merchandisers, buyers, business analysts, and administrative personnel.

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Oracle Retail Documentation on the Oracle Help Center (docs.oracle.com)

Oracle Retail product documentation is available on the following web site:

<https://docs.oracle.com/en/industries/retail/index.html>

(Data Model documents are not available through Oracle Help Center. You can obtain these documents through My Oracle Support.)

Conventions

The following text conventions are used in this document:

Convention	Meaning
boldface	Boldface type indicates graphical user interface elements associated with an action, or terms defined in text or the glossary.
<i>italic</i>	Italic type indicates book titles, emphasis, or placeholder variables for which you supply particular values.
monospace	Monospace type indicates commands within a paragraph, URLs, code in examples, text that appears on the screen, or text that you enter.

1

What If Allocation Overview

These allocations are similar to the standard ones with the exception that it is assumed that these have an infinite amount of product available to allocate. This allows a customer to determine the true need for the locations being allocated to, and they can choose to create a purchase order based on the allocation to fulfill the need. The user can also enter a finite available quantity during the creation of a 'what if' allocation, in which case this value gets treated as an upper cutoff.

2

Create What If Allocation

Oracle Retail Allocation allows you to create simulated allocation scenarios prior to generating an actual allocation. For operational efficiencies, allocation results from a What If allocation can be used to generate various types of Merchandising Purchase Orders. This chapter describes the different steps involved in creating a What If allocation. To create a What If allocation, select and review the items, add locations, and assign policies.

The What If Summary window displays the results of a What If allocation. From the What If Summary window you can create a purchase order, making the hypothetical allocation a reality.

Create a Worksheet

The Worksheet window allows you to view items that are selected for allocation, the quantity available, the item type, and source information. You can add or delete items from the worksheet. You can review the items selected for the allocation in the Worksheet window. To create a worksheet:

1. From the **Tasks** menu, select **Create What If Allocation**. The Create What If Allocation window appears.
2. Search for the items that you want to add to the worksheet.
3. Select the required items from the search results. The **Create Worksheet** button is activated.
4. Click **Create Worksheet**. The What If - Worksheet window appears with the selected items listed.

Select Items

You can search for items to allocate using the Create What If Allocation window. The Create What If Allocation window allows you to:

- **Search for items** – After the sources are selected, you can search for items to allocate using Basic or Advanced search options or by applying a Saved Search.
- **View search results** – After searching for items, you can view the search results in this section and select the items the you want to allocate.
- **Create Worksheet** – You can create a Worksheet with the selected items for further processing of allocations.

Search for Items

To search for items to allocate:

1. From the **Tasks** menu, select **Create What If Allocation**. The Create What If Allocation window appears.
2. To use a saved search, select the search template in the **Saved Search** field.

- Optionally, click **Advanced** to see the advanced search options.

Figure 2-1 Create What If Allocation Window

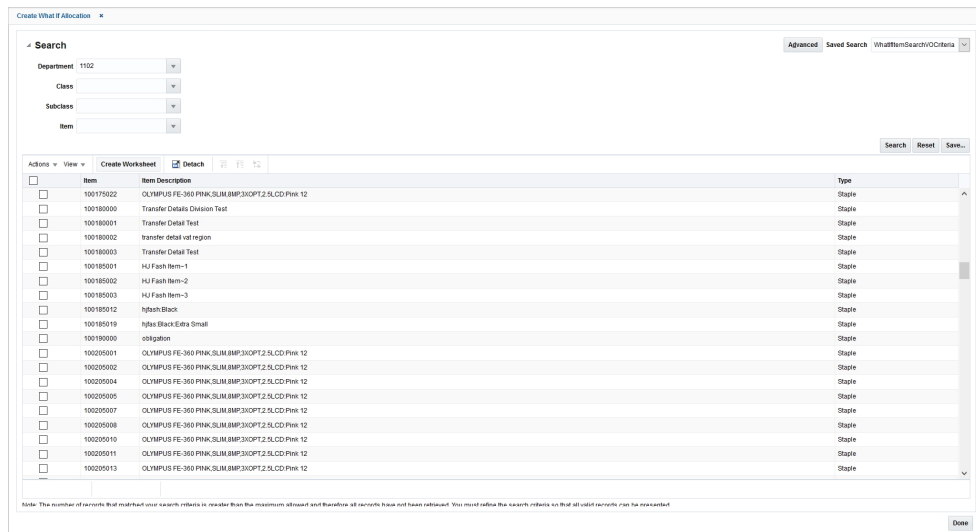
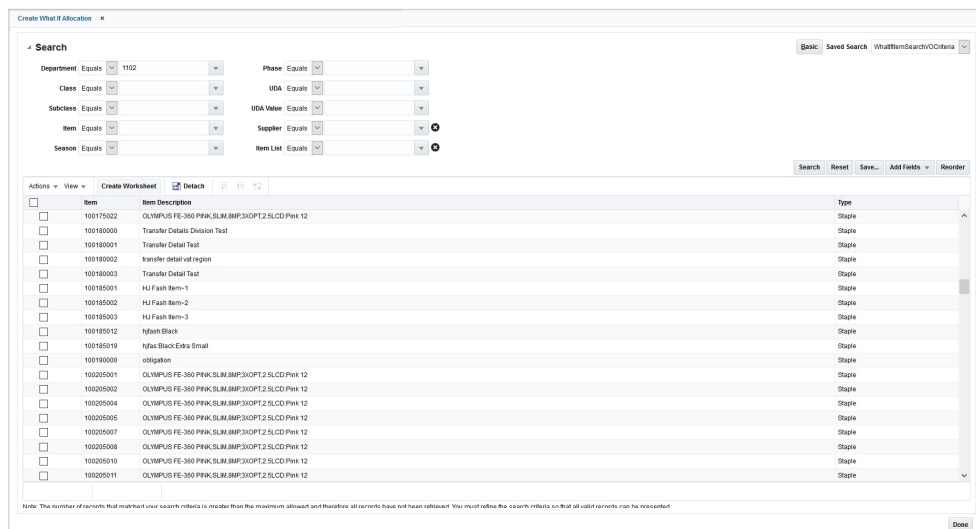


Figure 2-2 Create What If Allocation Window - Advanced Search



- Refine your search by entering information in the available fields. The fields available for search are:
 - Department
 - Class
 - Subclass
 - Item
- Click **Search** to view items that match the criteria.

Add Items to the Worksheet

To add items to the worksheet:

1. On the What If - Worksheet window, select **Quick Item Add** from the **Actions** menu. The item search fields are displayed in a pop-up window.
2. Search and retrieve the items that you want to add.
3. Select the items and click **Add Worksheet**. The items are added to the current worksheet.

Delete Items from the Worksheet

To delete items from the worksheet:

1. On the What If - Worksheet window, select the items you want to delete.
2. Click the delete icon. The item is removed from the worksheet.

3

Create an Allocation from a Worksheet

To create an allocation from the Worksheet window:

1. On the Worksheet window, select the items that you want to allocate. The Create Allocation button is enabled.

Note:

- If you want to expand a parent to see the parent/diff's under it, select '>' to the left of the parent ID in the parent row. You can select individual items from the expanded list.
- You can expand a pack to see its individual components by selecting '>' to the left of the pack ID. You cannot select individual components of a pack.
- If you select a parent/diff you cannot select staple items for the same allocation.
- You can select all items of a particular type using either one of the following options: **Select All Style/Color**, **Select All SKU**, **Select All FPG**, or **Select All Fashion Packs**.

2. Click **Create Allocation**. The Allocation Maintenance window appears. You can proceed to select locations and policies for the allocation.

Review Item Information

The Review section of the Allocation Maintenance window allows you to view items that were selected for allocation, the quantity available, the calculation multiple, and source information.

To review item information:

1. On the What-If Worksheet window, click **Create Allocation**. The Allocation Maintenance window appears.

Figure 3-1 Allocation Maintenance Window

The screenshot shows the 'Allocation Maintenance' window for 'Item/Source'. It is divided into three main sections: Summary, Locations, and Policies.

- Summary:** Includes fields for Allocation Status (Worksheet), Status (Not Calculated), Allocation Name (OLYMPUS FE-360), Release Date, Context, and Comments.
- Locations:** Includes Group Type (All Stores), Group Value, Use Default Sourcing Location Only (checked), Update Groups (checked), Valid Locations (152), and Exclusions (Show).
- Policies:** Includes Apply Template (Select One), Demand Source (History), and Merchandise Level (Item).

Below these sections is the 'Review' section, which contains a table with the following columns:

Source Warehouse	Item	Item Description	Source ID	Source Type	Available Quantity	Backorder Quantity	Release Date	Target Stock Ratio	Calculation Multiple Value	Gross Need	Net Need	Final Allocated Quantity	Cumulative Quantity	Calculation Amount	Calculation Multiple
	100205004	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK.SLI...		WHF	∞	0	19/20		1.0						Each
	100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK.SLI...		WHF	∞	0	19/20		1.0						Each
	100205007	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK.SLI...		WHF	∞	0	19/20		1.0						Each

At the bottom right of the window are buttons for Calculate, Save, and Cancel.

2. In the **Context** field, select a reason why the allocation is being created (optional).
3. If you select **Promotion** in the **Context** field, select a promotion in the **Promotion** field.
4. In the **Comments** field, enter comments or notes as necessary.

Understand the Item Window

You can view the item details by clicking the Item ID link in the Worksheet or the Allocation Maintenance window. It has the following tabs:

- **Header** – This provides the complete item description along with the Merchandise Hierarchy, Differentiators, and Supplier details
- **Pricing** – The Current Retail and Future Retail (based on the Release Date) values are displayed here at the unit level as well as the total number of allocated units
- **UDAs** – This displays any user defined attributes linked with the item in Merchandising
- **Config** – Packaging details linked with the item such as the inner, case and pallet values are displayed here.

This pop up also displays an image of the item retrieved from the ITEM_IMAGE table in Merchandising.

View the Item Retail Pricing

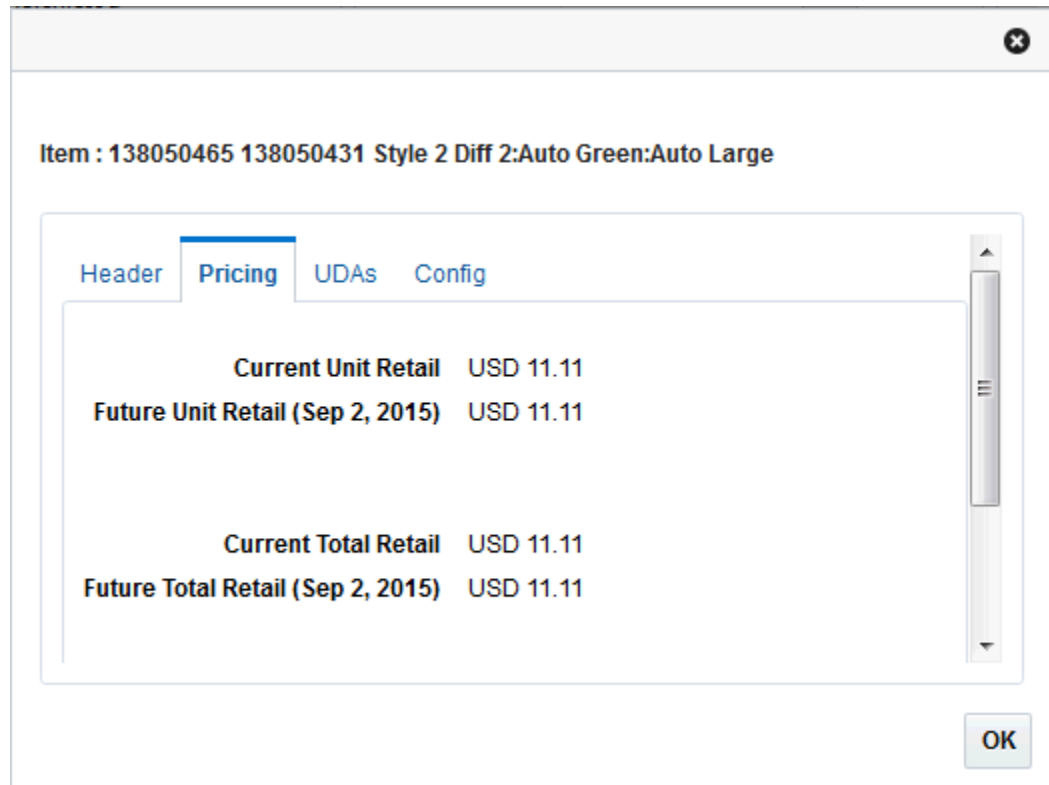
In the **Item ID** column click the item ID for which you want to view the item details. The Item window appears. Select the **Pricing** tab to view the item retail information.



Note:

The Pricing tab is not available for Non Sellable items.

Figure 3-2 Item Window



Specify the Calculation Multiple

Select the calculation multiple from the **Calculation Multiple** column. Click **Set All** to apply the multiple to all items in the allocation. The options available are:

- Each
- Inner
- Case
- Pallet



Note:

The Inner option is not advised if you are creating a What If allocation as Inner is not a valid order rounding multiple within Merchandising. If you choose this option, you have to do the rounding manually before creating the order.

To specify the calculation multiple of individual items, select the multiple from the **Calculation Multiple** field next to the item.

Select Locations

The Add Locations window allows you to search and select stores and warehouses for the allocation. You can add locations or groups of locations to an allocation. Various types of groups such as, Merchandising Location Lists & Traits and Allocation Groups can be used as a mechanism to select multiple locations. You can create the following complex groups:

- A union, which includes all locations in the groups selected.
- An intersection, which includes all locations that are duplicated in the groups selected.
- An exclude, which excludes the locations in the groups selected.
- An exclude intersection, which includes all locations that are not duplicated in the groups selected.

Templates are created to apply the same location combination for multiple allocations.

Add Locations

You can add locations using the **Group Type** field on the Allocation Maintenance window which is used for quick Add location, or if you want to select multiple groups or create a complex group then you can click the **Edit Location** button to access the Add Locations window.

Note:

You can select franchise locations to create an allocation for franchise stores. Allocations can be for only franchise stores or for a combination of franchise and company stores. When an allocation created for one or more franchise stores is approved, a franchise order is created.

To use quick add locations:

1. On the Allocation Maintenance window, from the Locations section, select the type of group in the **Group Type** field. Locations brought in from the selected group are listed in the Group Value list.
2. Select the group in the **Group Value** field.
3. The **Use Default Sourcing Location Only** check box is checked and disabled in a What if allocation.
4. Select the **Update Group** option to specify that location groups in this allocation should be updated when the Merchandising location groups (or the Allocation Group) change.
5. Click **Show** next to the Exclusions field to view the item location exceptions. The Item Location Exceptions window appears listing the invalid item-location combinations.

To add locations using the Add Location window:


1. On the Allocation Maintenance window, click **Edit** in the Locations section. The Add Locations window appears.

Figure 3-3 Add Locations Window

2. Select the location group using the following lists:

- Location List
- Location Trait
- Allocation Group
- Store Grade List
- Single Store
- Single Warehouse

You can also select the **All Stores** and **All Warehouses** option.

3. Click the  icon. The location groups matching the search criteria are displayed in the **Group View** tab.
4. If you want to delete any stores or warehouses before creating the location group, do the following:
 - a. Select the **Location View** tab. The stores and warehouses available in the selected location groups are displayed.
 - b. Select the locations you want to delete.
 - c. Click the delete icon.
5. Select the groups you want to combine to form a new location group.
6. Click the **Union**, **Intersection**, **Exclude**, or **Exclude Intersection** button to form the desired combination.
7. Optionally, enter a name in the **Group Name** field and click **Save As** to save the new location group.
8. Click **Apply**. The new location group is applied to the Allocation. You can review the selected locations in the Review section of the Allocation Maintenance window.

Select Policies

An allocation determines need by using a policy. You determine how the policy gathers information by selecting Level, Calculation Type, Date Range, and Sales History Type. You can customize the level a policy is applied to by using the User Selection window. Use the window to set the percentage of policies to apply to hierarchies and the time periods to constrain the policies.

To select a policy:

1. From the What If - Worksheet, select the items to allocate.
2. Click **Create Allocation**. The Allocation Maintenance window appears.

Figure 3-4 Allocation Maintenance Window

Item	Item Description	Location	Location Description	Group	Group Description	Trend	Weeks of Supply	Min Gross Need	Threshold	Min Net Need	Max Net Need
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	1221	New York	ALL	All Stores						
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	1331	Minneapolis	ALL	All Stores						
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	5181	Christchurch	ALL	All Stores						
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	6200	Testing Store...	ALL	All Stores						
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	7799	GVO_STORE	ALL	All Stores						
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	12114	Boston	ALL	All Stores						
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	12115	Boston	ALL	All Stores						

3. In the Policies section, you can select a predefined policy from the **Apply Policy** list.
4. Click **Edit**. The Policies window appears.

Figure 3-5 Policies Window

The screenshot shows the 'Policies and Parameters' window for a selected policy 'YAT RPS-PD-ROHSS'. The window is divided into several sections:

- Gross Need Parameters:** Includes 'Demand Source' (set to 'Receipt Plan'), 'Sales History Type' (with checkboxes for Regular, Promotional, and Clearance), 'Merchandise Level' (with radio buttons for 'Merchandise Hierarchy' and 'Other - User Selection'), 'Date Range' (with radio buttons for 'Weeks From Today' and 'Start/End Week Ending Dates'), and date pickers for '1st Period' and '2nd Period'.
- Inventory Parameters:** Includes 'Rule Level On Hand' (with radio buttons for 'Do Not Use', 'Snap Shot', and 'Real Time'), 'Include' (with checkboxes for 'On Hand', 'On Order', 'In Transit', 'Inbound Allocation', 'Outbound Allocation (-)', 'Back Order', and 'Clearance Stock'), and 'Include Inventory Dates' (with radio buttons for 'On Order Commit Date', 'Date Range', and 'Weeks From Today').
- Calculation Parameters:** Includes 'Factors', 'Size Determination', and 'Size Profile Selection'.

Buttons for 'Change Weights', 'Apply', and 'Cancel' are visible at the bottom of the window.

Select a Policy

1. In the **Demand Source** field, select the source of demand from the list of values:

Table 3-1 Select Demand Source Options

Source	Description
History	Use the item's historical sales for the date range selected to determine the gross need of item on the allocation.
Corporate Rules	Use custom pre-defined rules to determine the gross need of the item on the allocation.
History and Plan	Use both the item's sales history and plan for the date range selected to determine the gross need of the item on the allocation.
Forecast	Use the item's forecast for the date range selected to determine the gross need of item on the allocation.
Plan	Use the item's plan for the date range selected to determine the gross need of the item on the allocation.
Receipt Plan	Use the item's receipt plan to determine the gross need of the item in the Allocation system in order to create pre-allocations.
Plan Re-project	Use to compare the item's actual sales to the plan, re-forecast the plan based on performance for the date range selected, and use the re-projected plan to determine the gross need of the item on the allocation.

2. In the Sales History Type section, select the check boxes for the type of history to include.

Select a Level

The store demand is derived from the level of product hierarchy selected. On the Policies window, you can select to allocate items using hierarchy or user selection.

Allocate by Hierarchy

To allocate using hierarchy:

1. In the Level section, select **Hierarchy**.
2. Select the hierarchy level to allocate by from the list.

Note:

Item need for an allocation is determined by calculating the need for each item on the allocation from the selected rule for the organizational hierarchy level selected.

Allocate by User Selection

To allocate using user selection:

1. In the Level section, select **Other - User Selection**.
2. Click **Edit**. The User Selection window appears.

Figure 3-6 User Selection Window

The screenshot shows the 'User Selection' window with the following components:

- Date Range Editing:** Three radio buttons for selection: 'Weight Percentage and Start and End Date', 'Weight Percentage' (selected), and 'Weight Percentage and Weeks From Today'.
- User Selection:** A grid of search fields for 'Department', 'Parent', 'Item List', 'Class', 'Parent/Diff', 'UDA', 'Subclass', 'SKU', and 'UDA Value', each with a magnifying glass icon. An 'Add Selected' button is located to the right.
- Select Merchandise Hierarchy Items:** A toolbar with 'Actions', 'View', a red 'X' icon, and 'Sellable Staple Pack Conversion'. Below is a table with a 'Merchandise Hierarchy Items' header and a 'Weight Percentage' column with a 'Set All' button. The table content is 'No data to display.'
- Buttons:** 'Apply' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom right.

3. In the Date Range Editing section select an option:
 - Weight Percentage
 - Weight Percentage and Start and End Date
 - Weight Percentage and Weeks from Today
4. In the User Selection section enter an ID in the appropriate field to select a merchandise hierarchy level.
5. Click **Add**. The merchandise hierarchy is added to the Select Merchandise Hierarchy Items section.
6. Enter the weight or percentage to adjust the need calculated for the user selection in the **Weight** column.
7. Enter the start and end date in the **Start Date** and **End Date** column.

 **Note:**

- The Start Date and End Date fields appear only if you have selected **Weight Percentage and Start and End Date** option.
- You need to select two start and end dates when the demand source is **History, Forecast, or Plan**.

8. Enter a number in the **Weeks From Today** column. This value specifies the number of weeks all approved allocations, direct to store orders, and transfers as stock on hand and future fulfillment, are included at the store or warehouse in the need calculation. The value can range between 1 and 52 only.

 **Note:**

- The **Weeks From Today** columns appear only if you have selected **Weight Percentage and Weeks from Today** option.
- If no number is entered, the system includes all stock on hand at the store or warehouse and future inventory regardless of the date on the purchase orders or transfers.

Set Inventory Parameters

The inventory parameters comprise of Rule Level On Hand, Include In Inventory, and Remove Future Fulfilment.

Select Rule Level On Hand

To set Rule Level On Hand:

1. Select one of the following options available in the **Rule Level On Hand** section:
 - Do Not Use
 - Snap Shot

- Real Time

 **Note:**

- When Rule Level On Hand is used with User Selection, the on-hands is based on the rule level of the like merchandise hierarchy selected.
- For performance purposes, the Rule Level On Hand Snap Shot is stored in a database table which can be refreshed through a batch program to be run at your discretion.

Select Include in Inventory

Currently, when allocating the net need using either Stock on Hand (SOH) or Rule Level On Hand (RLOH), the values for on-hand is derived from using the summation of four Merchandising Inventory buckets. You can select to include or exclude one or more of these buckets.

To include inventory details:

1. Select from the following options in the **Include** section:
 - On Hand
 - On Order
 - In Transit
 - Inbound Allocation
 - Outbound Allocation
2. Select the **Clearance Stock** option to include clearance stock in the need calculation.

Include Inventory Dates

In the Include Inventory Dates section, when you enter a date in the On Order Commit Date field, all approved allocations, direct to store orders, and transfers dated on or before the date are included in the calculation of on-hand quantity.

When you enter the number of weeks, it is used to determine how many weeks into the future should be used to pull approved allocations, direct to store orders, and transfers into the calculation for on-hand quantity.

Select a Date Range

On the Policies window, you can select the date range.

Start/End Week Ending Dates

1. Enter the start date in the **1st Period Start** field.
2. Enter the end date in the **1st Period End** field.

 **Note:**

You may select a second time period by entering dates in the **2nd period Start** and **End** fields.

Weeks From Today

Enter the number of weeks to search back or forward, depending on the rule type selected. The system starts searching with the last completed week.

Change Weights

1. Click **Change Weights**. The Change Weights window appears.

 **Note:**

The date displayed is the end of the week selected as defined in the allocation configuration files.

2. Enter the new weights as appropriate.
3. Click **OK** to save changes.

Select Factors

1. The Type section **Need Is** field is defaulted to Exact and it is not editable for an allocation with infinite availability.
2. In the **Mode** field, select the type of algorithm calculation. The mode available is Simple.

 **Note:**

Simple mode is applicable for both staple and fashion items.

3. In the **Allocate To** field, select the need type for calculation, values available are **Net Need** and **Gross Need**.

Set Quantity Limits

The quantity limits section allows you to set parameters for the allocation at the item/store level. The section allows you to set the parameters for different stages of the allocation.

To set quantity limits:

1. On the Allocation Maintenance window, select the **Quantity Limits** tab from the Review section. The Quantity Limits window appears.

Figure 3-7 Allocation Maintenance - Quantity Limits Window

- In the **By Location Aggregate** field, the location level is set to **Store** for Simple mode.
2. Select **Include Inventory Minimum** or **Include Inventory Maximum** to include stock on hand of the item at the location to calculate the net need.

Note:

The **Include Inventory Minimum** and **Include Inventory Maximum** check boxes are selected by default.

3. Enter the quantity limits at the appropriate intersection for item/location and limiter.

Work with Group View

You can work at the group level using the Group view.

To use the group view:

1. On the Quantity Limits window, click the **Group View** link. The Group view window appears.

Figure 3-8 Group View Window

Group View

Actions View Detach Set All to Copy Spread

Item	Item Description	Group	Group Description	Trend	Weeks of Supply	Min Gross Need	Threshold	Min Net Need	Max Net Need
100205001	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	ALL	All Stores	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
100205004	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	ALL	All Stores	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
100205007	OLYMPUS FE-360 PINK...	ALL	All Stores	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Apply Cancel

- Select an option in the **Set All to** field. The options available are:
 - Copy:** Use this option to copy the entered quantity to all the stores in the group.
 - Spread:** Use this option to spread the entered quantity equally to all the stores in the group.

Calculate Allocation

After you allocate items, add locations, and assign policies, you can calculate the allocation. To calculate an allocation:

- On the Allocation Maintenance window, click **Calculate**. The calculation of the Allocation starts. The Allocation Maintenance window is closed.
- The calculation will process in the calculation queue. Once complete you are notified through the notifications icon. When the calculation is complete, the notification icon on the Allocation task bar increments in number.

Note:

Notifications is an optional for the application. See "[Notifications](#)" in the *Oracle Retail Allocation Do the Basics User Guide* for more information.

- Click the notification icon to display the recent notifications list.
- Click the link for the allocation you want to view. The calculation results are displayed.

Figure 3-9 Results Window

The screenshot shows the 'Results' section of the Allocation Maintenance window. It contains a table with the following columns: Item, Item Type, Location, Location Type, Store Type, Location Description, Location Group Name, Warehouse, Gross Need, On Hand, Rule Level On Hand, Net Need, Variance, Backorder Quantity, Location Group, and Final. The table lists six rows of data for item 100205001 across various locations (121183, 121184, 121185, 121186, 121187, 121188) with a warehouse of 'All Stores'. The 'Final' column shows a value of 0 and a 'Freeze' checkbox.

Generate Purchase Orders

To generate a purchase order:

1. Click **What If Summary**. The What If Summary window appears.

Figure 3-10 What if Summary Window

The screenshot shows the 'What If Summary' window. It has a 'Create PO' radio button selected and an 'Order Type' dropdown set to 'Warehouse'. Under 'Item Information', there is a table with columns: Item, Item Description, Final Allocated Quantity, Stock On Hand, Future Fulfillment, Order Quantity, Freeze, Supplier, Origin Country, Multiple, Type, and Order No. Two items are listed: 100485001 (TestItem) and 111050010 (TestItem). Both have a 'Freeze' checkbox checked. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Apply', 'Save', and 'Preview Purchase Order'.

2. Select the check box next to the items you wish to place on the purchase order.
3. In the **PO type** field, select the type of PO you want to generate.
 - **Bulk:** A purchase order is generated to a redistribution warehouse and no allocation is attached to the PO. This type of PO is created during the initial planning phase when there is no information about the different warehouses which are required to receive the items. You can then have the letter of credit ready and approved before the actual order is sent.

- **Cross Dock:** A purchase order is generated with a line item for each warehouse. The goods are directed from the supplier to a warehouse where it is immediately shipped out to the proper store.

 **Note:**

In a typical Cross dock scenario, if the default warehouse for a store is also present as a destination warehouse on the What If allocation, the user will receive a pop-up while trying to raise the PO that the same warehouse cannot be specified as a source and a destination warehouse in the same allocation and hence such a cross dock Allocation cannot be created. The PO creation will be carried out. The user will then need to manually create an allocation using this PO as its source.

 **Note:**

The purchase order must be approved within the merchandising system before accessing the allocation.

- **Warehouse:** One purchase order is generated with multiple warehouses and quantities and no allocation is attached to the PO. The items are shipped to the warehouses which are the default sourcing locations of the destination stores in the allocation.
- **Direct to Location:** A purchase order is generated created directly against the destination store or warehouse present in the What-if allocation.

 **Note:**

Allocation produces a suggested purchase order quantity, once sent to Merchandising for approval, Merchandising item/supplier constraints are applied to determine the actual PO quantity.

4. Click **Apply**.
5. Click **Preview Purchase Order**. The Purchase Order Preview window appears.
6. Click **Create PO**. The item information is sent to the merchandising system, and the PO is generated in the Worksheet status.

 **Note:**

As the order approval takes place in Merchandising, credit check is not required here even if the allocation contains franchise stores.