



Infor LN Warehousing User Guide for Shipping Material Accounting

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Table of Contents

About this document

Chapter 1 Introduction.....	7
Shipping material accounting.....	7
Chapter 2 Setup.....	9
Setting up shipping material accounting.....	9
Implementing packaging item registration.....	9
Defining shipping material accounts.....	9
Chapter 3 Shipping Material Accounts and Accounting Schemes.....	11
Shipping material accounts and accounting schemes.....	11
Linking a shipping material account (SMA) to packaging item transactions.....	12
Chapter 4 Packaging Item Registration.....	13
Packaging item registration.....	13
Excluding packaging items from accounting.....	14
Excluding packaging items from accounting for specific business partners.....	15
Chapter 5 Balances and Transactions.....	17
Packaging item balances and transactions.....	17
Circulating quantity.....	17
Manual registration of packaging item transactions.....	17
Automatic registration of packaging item transactions.....	18
Chapter 6 Scenarios.....	19
Scenarios for shipping material accounts and accounting schemes.....	19
Scenario 1: All packaging items linked to one SMA.....	19
Scenario 2: Packaging items linked to one SMA, specific items excluded from accounting.....	19
Scenario 3: Linking a specified subset of the packaging items to an SMA.....	20
Scenario 4: Most packaging items linked to one account, some linked to other account.....	21

Scenario 5: Searching the SMA for a site.....	22
Chapter 7 Externally Owned Packaging Materials.....	25
SMA for PSP-owned packaging materials.....	25
Defining an SMA for a dedicated PSP.....	25
Chapter 8 Reconciliation of Internal and External Transactions.....	27
Reconciling internal and external packaging item transactions.....	27
Reconciliation data - example.....	28
Internal packaging item transactions in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session.....	30
External packaging item transactions in the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session.....	30
Resulting reconciliation data in the Reconciliation Data of Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1117m000) session.....	31
Appendix A Glossary.....	35
Index	

About this document

Objectives

The objectives of this book are to describe the concept of shipping material accounting and the use of shipping material accounts.

References

Use this guide as the primary reference for shipping material accounting. Use the current editions of these documents for information that is not covered in this guide:

- *User Guide for Warehouses*
- *User Guide for the Inbound Goods Flow (U9788 US)*
- *User Guide for the Outbound and Shipments Goods Flows (U9794 US)*

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Shipping material accounting

Organizations that use reusable packaging materials to ship goods to their customers often outsource ownership, management, handling, and distribution of those materials to third parties.

The owners of the packaging materials can be your own organization or a third party, such as a Packaging Service Provider (PSP). The owners of packaging materials can charge a fee from their business partners for the use of the packaging materials.

For example, if you are a supplier, a customer or a PSP can be the owner of the packaging materials and be responsible for their maintenance and timely supply.

To communicate with your business partners about quantities of packaging items, and payments, you must keep track of the inbound and outbound transactions of the packaging materials for each business partner.

For this purpose, you must implement packaging item registration to record inbound and outbound packaging item transactions and define shipping material accounts to link the transactions to a business partner or group of business partners.

You can view and maintain packaging item transactions in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session. Shipping material accounts are maintained in the Shipping Material Accounts (whwmd4170m000) session.

Balances of packaging items present in your own warehouse and at the business partners are recorded, based on the issue and receipt transactions of packaging materials for each shipping material account.

Optionally, you can maintain the circulating quantity of packaging items. This is the aggregated quantity present at the business partner and your own warehouse.

You can view and maintain the packaging item balances in the Packaging Item Balances by Shipping Material Account (whwmd4175m000) session.

If an external business partner such as a PSP owns the packaging materials, you can create a dedicated shipping material account for this business partner. In this account, you can specify that both the packaging material transactions between your organization and the PSP and those between your organization and your customers or suppliers are recorded.

Also, you can view the PSP's packing materials transaction records and, if required, reconcile them with your own. You can view and maintain the PSP's transaction records in the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session. The external business partner's transaction records are communicated through the external application Automotive Exchange Export Manager (EXM).

Setting up shipping material accounting

To keep track of packaging materials and to communicate with your business partners about payment, you must set up packaging item registration and define shipping material accounts.

Implementing packaging item registration

To implement and to set up packaging material accounts for your business partners, complete these steps:

1. Select the **Extended Packaging Item Registration** check box in the Warehouse Master Data Parameters (whwmd0100s000) session.
2. Define packaging items in the Packaging Items (whwmd4505m000) session.
3. Select the **Accountable** check box in the Packaging Items (whwmd4505m000) session. This enables the registration of packaging item transactions in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session.
4. Define the time span of the reconciliation period in the **Packaging Item Reconciliation Based on** field in the Inventory Reporting Parameters (whinr0100s000) session. This is the period within which packaging-item transactions are aggregated to reconcile the packaging item transactions of your own and the external business partner's organization.

Defining shipping material accounts

1. Define a shipping material account in the Shipping Material Accounts (whwmd4170m000) session by specifying an ID and a description.
Optionally, specify an external business partner in the **External Business Partner** field to dedicate the account to a third party, such as a PSP.

2. Double-click the newly defined account to start the Shipping Material Account (whwmd4670m000) session.
3. On the Accounting Scheme tab of the Shipping Material Account (whwmd4670m000) session, define a shipping material accounting scheme by specifying one or more business partners and optionally, a packaging item and an effective date.

For each new packaging item specified on the Accounting Scheme tab, an empty line is created on the Balances tab.

The business partner and site, item, and effective date combinations of the shipping material accounting scheme serve as criteria to link packaging item transactions to business partners. See *Shipping material accounts and accounting schemes* (p. 11).

Note

- You can copy all items from one business partner to another business partner within the same shipping material account.
- Instead of defining a shipping material accounting scheme in the Shipping Material Account (whwmd4670m000) session, you can define shipping material accounting schemes in the Shipping Material Accounting Scheme (whwmd4171m000) session.
- Various options are available to exclude specific packaging items from accounting. See *Excluding packaging items from accounting* (p. 14).
- To view and compare the packaging materials records from third parties, BOD publishing must be implemented and LN must be integrated with the external application Automotive Exchange Export Manager (EXM).

Chapter 3

Shipping Material Accounts and Accounting Schemes

3

Shipping material accounts and accounting schemes

A shipping material account is used to group packaging item transactions by one or more business partners and, optionally, by sites, packaging items, or effective dates.

You can print overviews of packaging item transaction by business partner to communicate with your business partners about quantities and payments of packaging items.

A shipping material account consists of an ID code, a description, and a shipping material accounting scheme. Optionally, you can specify an external business partner for the shipping material account to indicate that the external business partner is the owner of the packaging materials.

A shipping material accounting scheme consists of these criteria, which are used to link packaging material transactions to a shipping material account:

- Business partner
- Site
- Packaging item
- Effective date

Of these criteria, the business partner is mandatory.

If you do not specify an item, the shipping material account is linked to a business partner for all packaging items. If you do not specify a shipping material account, the item is not accountable.

Shipping material accounts and shipping material accounting schemes are defined in the Shipping Material Accounts (whwmd4170m000) and Shipping Material Accounting Scheme (whwmd4171m000) sessions. See *Setting up shipping material accounting* (p. 9).

Linking a shipping material account (SMA) to packaging item transactions

When LN records a shipping material transaction, LN performs these searches to link the transaction to a shipping material account:

1. Look for a shipping material account (SMA) that has a combination of business partner, site, packaging item, and transaction date of the transaction.
2. Look for a shipping material account (SMA) that has a combination of business partner, packaging item, and transaction date of the transaction.
3. Look for a shipping material account (SMA) that has a combination of business partner, site and transaction date of the transaction.

If an SMA is found in steps 1,2, or 3, the search is completed, else step 4 is performed.

Steps 1,2, or 3 can result in an empty SMA, that is, a shipping material accounting scheme in which the **Shipping Material Account** field in the Shipping Material Accounting Scheme (whwmd4171m000) session is left blank. This means that the item is excluded from accounting for the specific business partner.

4. Look for an SMA that has a combination of business partner and transaction date of the transaction.

In the previous steps, LN searches for an entry in the shipping material accounting scheme that has an effective date which is the closest to the transaction date. Expiry dates for the shipping material account are not defined. The expiry date of an existing entry in the shipping material account is determined by the effective date of a new entry in the accounting scheme.

Various options are available to exclude specific packaging items from accounting. See *Excluding packaging items from accounting* (p. 14).

Chapter 4

Packaging Item Registration

4

Packaging item registration

Packaging items can be linked to a handling unit, receipt line, shipment, or container. LN records the received and issued quantities of packaging items by date. LN updates the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session during the receipt and shipping process for transactions that include a packaging item.

The Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session is updated even if no shipping material account is used for packaging items.

You can also enter the packaging item transactions manually.

Note

These rules apply to the registration of packaging items:

- Only receipts and shipments that are related to a business partner are updated in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session. Also, the sessions that record related packaging item balances are updated only for business partner-related transactions. Consequently, warehouse transfer orders and inventory adjustments are not taken into account. For more information, refer to Logistic service providers (LSP) - packaging item registration.
- Container related shipments for sales transfer orders are not logged, because no unique link can be determined between a container and the sales order.

For sales orders of type **Transfer**, an exception is made to support a VMI scenario where goods flow through a *VMI warehouse*. The transfer sales orders are used for VMI scenarios that deliver the goods from your own warehouse to a VMI warehouse, after which the issue to the customer is carried out.

The business partner is determined at the original sales order. You can select the stage in the supply process at which the packaging item related transactions are updated by LN in the **Update Shipping Material Account during** field of Warehouses (whwmd2500m000) session. This applies to a logistical service provider (LSP) scenario. The field is enabled only for VMI warehouses in which warehouse management is not carried out by your own company.

The packaging item related transactions can be updated by LN at these points in the supply process:

- **Shipment to VMI Warehouse**
The shipping material account (SMA) must be updated during shipment of packaging items from the normal warehouse to the VMI warehouse.
- **Consumption by Customer**
The shipping material account must be updated during shipment of (packaging) items from the VMI warehouse (Logistical Service Provider (LSP) warehouse) to the customer/OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer).
- **Not Applicable**
LN assigns this value for warehouses in which your own company performs inventory management. To record the packaging item transactions, you must select the **Extended Packaging Item Registration** check box in the Warehouse Master Data Parameters (whwmd0100s000) session.

Limitations

- Only logistic data is stored in the session. No financial data is stored. Therefore, invoicing is a manual action.
- The logging of packaging item transactions at the moment of consumption by the customer is not based on consumed stock point information from the VMI / LSP warehouse. Packaging material transactions must be logged separately from the regular item consumptions and are processed during the processing of (sales) consumptions.

Excluding packaging items from accounting

Packaging items can be generally excluded from accounting, or excluded from accounting for specific business partners.

These options are available to exclude specific packaging items from accounting:

- Mark the item as not accountable. You must clear the **Accountable** check box for an item in the Packaging Items (whwmd4505m000) session. Consequently, the item is unavailable for shipping material accounting.
- Define a dummy shipping material account (SMA) and create entries for this dummy account in the shipping material accounting scheme.
- Exclude from accounting for a specific business partner.

Excluding packaging items from accounting for specific business partners

1. Start the Shipping Material Accounting Scheme (whwmd4171m000) session.
2. Define a shipping material accounting scheme by clicking New.
3. Specify the relevant business partner and packaging item.
4. Leave the **Shipping Material Account** field blank.

Packaging item balances and transactions

In the Packaging Item Balances by Shipping Material Account (whwmd4175m000) session, you can view and maintain the total quantities of packaging items for each shipping material account (SMA).

You can view and maintain packaging item transactions in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session.

For each received packaging item transaction, the warehouse quantity is updated in the packaging item balance. For each issue transaction, the quantity at the business partner is updated.

Circulating quantity

The circulating quantity of a packaging item is the total quantity of the items present in the warehouse and at the business partner. You can manually adjust the circulating quantity of a packaging item. The circulating quantity affects the quantity at the business partner in this way:

`Quantity at business partner = circulating quantity - quantity in warehouse.`

For example, your PSP has just built 20000 pallets of type ABC. These are stacked at the PSP's depot, ready to be sent to your warehouse so you can use them to transport your products to your customers. To reflect this, you must set the circulating quantity to 20000. Consequently, the quantity at the business partner, the PSP, is set to 20000, because the pallets are still to be transported to your warehouse.

Manual registration of packaging item transactions

Empty packaging materials supplied by your PSP or returned by your customers are not registered as packaging item transactions, because these are not based on receipts or shipments defined in Warehousing.

Therefore, you must manually specify movements of empty packaging materials.

For example, when your PSP sends 1000 ABC pallets to your warehouse, you must manually specify a packaging item transaction of type **Receipt** or **Inventory Adjustment** for 1000 ABC pallets in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session. Consequently, in the balance, the warehouse quantity is increased by 1000 and the quantity at the business partner is decreased by 1000.

Note

For manually entered packaging item transactions to be reflected in the balance, you must set the transaction to **Confirmed**.

Automatic registration of packaging item transactions

When you send a shipment to a customer that includes, for example, 30 pallets ABC, a packaging item transaction of type **Issue** for 30 pallets is automatically registered in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session. Consequently, in the balance, the warehouse quantity is decreased by 30 pallets and the business partner quantity is increased by 30 pallets.

If you are a customer and own the packaging materials used by your suppliers, the packaging items used to pack your ordered goods are automatically registered as packaging item transactions of type **Receipt** in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session.

Note

If you are a supplier, and a PSP is the owner of the packaging materials, packaging item returns from the customers to the PSP are the PSP's responsibility. Therefore, you are not required to keep track of this part of the packaging item flow.

Scenarios for shipping material accounts and accounting schemes

Multiple business partners can be linked to the same shipping material account (SMA).

These scenarios are in place:

Scenario 1: All packaging items linked to one SMA

In this scenario, the business partners are specified, but the items are not specified in the shipping material accounting scheme.

Business Partner	Item	Effective Date	SMA
VW1			SMA_VW_ GLOBAL
VW2			SMA_VW_ GLOBAL

Scenario 2: Packaging items linked to one SMA, specific items excluded from accounting

In this scenario, all packaging items are linked to one shipping material account (SMA), except for some items that are excluded from accounting.

For this scenario, specify these entries in the shipping material accounting scheme:

1. The business partner and the shipping material account, but leave out the packaging item.
Consequently, all packaging items related to the business partner are linked to the shipping material account.
2. The business partner and the packaging item, but leave out the shipping material account.
Consequently, the packaging item related to the business partner is excluded from accounting.

Business Partner	Item	Effective Date	SMA
VW1			SMA_VW_ GLOBAL
VW1	Foil		
VW2			SMA_VW_ GLOBAL
VW2	Foil		

Scenario 3: Linking a specified subset of the packaging items to an SMA

In this scenario, specific items are linked to the SMA. This is done by defining a set of entries in the shipping material accounting scheme in which both the business partner and item are specified, with one entry for every item.

Business Partner	Item	Effective Date	SMA
VW1	KLT345		SMA_VW_ SPEC
VW1	KLT521		SMA_VW_ SPEC
VW1	KLT978		SMA_VW_ SPEC
VW2	KLT345		SMA_VW_ SPEC
VW2	KLT521		SMA_VW_ SPEC
VW2	KLT978		SMA_VW_ SPEC

Scenario 4: Most packaging items linked to one account, some linked to other account

In this scenario, the majority of the packaging items are linked to one shipping material account (SMA), and a small subset of the packaging items are linked to a different account.

This is done by setting up two accounts. In the shipping material accounting scheme one entry is created in which the business partner is specified but the item is not specified. Other entries are created in which both the item and the business partner are specified.

Business Partner	Item	Effective Date	SMA
VW1			SMA_VW_GLOBAL
VW1	KLT345		SMA_VW_SPEC
VW1	KLT521		SMA_VW_SPEC
VW1	KLT978		SMA_VW_SPEC
VW2			SMA_VW_GLOBAL
VW2	KLT345		SMA_VW_SPEC
VW2	KLT521		SMA_VW_SPEC
VW2	KLT978		SMA_VW_SPEC

Scenario 5: Searching the SMA for a site

In this scenario, the business partner is specified, but the item is not specified in the shipping material accounting scheme.

You can achieve this scenario by defining an entry in the accounting scheme in which you specify the business partner and the site.

Business Part- ner	Site	Item	Effective Date	Shipping Materi- al
BP1	AMS		mm-dd-yyyy	SMA_AMS

You can achieve this scenario by defining an entry in the accounting scheme in which:

- You specify the business partner.
- You do not specify the site.

Business Part- ner	Site	Item	Effective Date	Shipping Materi- al
BP1		Item1	mm-dd-yyyy	SMA_ITEM1

Chapter 7

Externally Owned Packaging Materials

7

SMA for PSP-owned packaging materials

If an external business partner such as a PSP owns the packaging materials and you must pay for their use, you can model this in LN by creating a dedicated shipping material account (SMA) for the business partner.

In this account, you can record both the packaging material transactions between your organization and the PSP, and those between your organization and your customers or suppliers.

Also, you can view the PSP's packing materials transaction records and, if required, reconcile them with your own.

You can view and maintain the external business partner's transaction records in the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session. The external business partner's records are communicated through the external application Automotive Exchange Export Manager (EXM).

Defining an SMA for a dedicated PSP

1. Define an SMA as described in steps 4, 5, and 6 in *Setting up shipping material accounting* (p. 9).
Specify the PSP in the **External Business Partner** field (step 4 in *Setting up shipping material accounting* (p. 9)). This is to indicate that the SMA is dedicated to the PSP and facilitates uploading the PSP's packaging item transactions to LN.
2. On the Accounting Scheme tab, specify the PSP, the other business partners, and the packaging items for whom packaging item transactions must be included in the SMA.

These supplies of packaging materials cannot be recorded as packaging item transactions:

- Packaging materials sent to you by the PSP or other external business partner. These materials are to be used in shipments to your customers.
- Empty packaging materials sent back by customers.

This is because these empty materials are not based on receipts or shipments defined in Warehousing. Therefore, you must manually enter these transactions in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session.

Chapter 8

Reconciliation of Internal and External Transactions

8

Reconciling internal and external packaging item transactions

If you specify a business partner for a shipping material account (SMA) in the **External Business Partner** field of the Shipping Material Accounts (whwmd4170m000) session, you can compare and reconcile your packaging item transactions for this SMA with the external business partner's packaging item transactions related to the SMA.

The external business partner's packaging item transaction records are uploaded to LN through the external application Automotive Exchange Export Manager (EXM). These records are displayed in the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session.

Your own packaging item transaction records are displayed in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session.

You can reconcile your own transactions with status **Confirmed** with the external business partner's transactions that have the **New** status.

Step 1: Generate reconciliation data

Before you can reconcile your own packaging item transaction records with the external business partner's records, you must generate reconciliation data in the Generate Reconciliation Data of Packaging Items (whinr1217m000) session.

In this session the reconciliation data is generated from the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session and the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session.

To start the Generate Reconciliation Data of Packaging Items (whinr1217m000) session, select the **Reconcile with External Transactions** option in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session or on the Transactions tab of the Shipping Material Account (whwmd4670m000) session.

In the Generate Reconciliation Data of Packaging Items (whinr1217m000) session, select the ranges of SMAs, packaging items, and reconciliation periods for which to generate reconciliation data and click **Continue**.

If you selected one or more lines in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session, the reconciliation period in which these lines fall is taken as the default reconciliation period in the Generate Reconciliation Data of Packaging Items (whinr1217m000) session.

Step 2: Compare and reconcile packaging item transactions

The generated reconciliation data is displayed in the Reconciliation Data of Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1117m000) session.

In this session, the data is grouped by SMA, packaging item, and reconciliation period.

1. Navigate to the relevant correction line.
2. Click on the correction line.
3. From the appropriate menu, select from these options:
 - Accept Business Partner Quantity to update your own packaging item transaction records for the selected reconciliation group with the quantities of the external business partner's transaction records.
 - Ignore Business Partner Quantity option to retain the quantities of your own organization.
 - Manually correct the balance in the **Reconciliation Quantity** field.

Consequently, the status of the correction line and the transaction lines related to the reconciliation group is set to **To be Reconciled** in the current session and, for the originating transaction lines, in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) and External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) sessions.

4. To finalize the reconciliation process, select **Reconcile Shipping Material Account**. Consequently, the balance of your transaction records is updated for the current SMA, packaging item, and reconciliation period. The status of the packaging item transactions is set to **Reconciled**.

The updated balance is displayed in these sessions:

- Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000)
 - External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000)
 - Packaging Item Balances by Shipping Material Account (whwmd4175m000)
- Reconciled transactions are not included in any other reconciliation runs.

Reconciliation data - example

In this example, shipping material account SMA1 is used. This SMA is dedicated to external business partner PSP1 and includes packaging item transactions from your organization to customer CUST1 and from PSP1 to your organization.

Both your organization and PSP1 register their own packaging item transactions. The internal (your own) and external (PSP1's) packaging item transaction records must be kept in sync. For this purpose, PSP1's records are uploaded to the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session. This is done through the external EXM application.

The balance of your packaging item transaction records, which is maintained in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session, can be reconciled with the external records.

For this purpose, reconciliation data that is based on the internal and the external packaging item transaction records is generated in the Generate Reconciliation Data of Packaging Items (whinr1217m000) session. The resulting reconciliation data is displayed in the Reconciliation Data of Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1117m000) session.

In the **Packaging Item Reconciliation Based on** field of the Inventory Reporting Parameters (whinr0100s000) session, the reconciliation period set to Year/Week. Consequently, to generate reconciliation data, the internal and external packaging item transactions are grouped by week.

Internal packaging item transactions in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session

Transac- tion date	Type	Item	Quantity	Balance	SMA	Business partner	Descrip- tion
yyyy-06-15	Receipt	BOX1	100	100	SMA1	PSP1	Your organi- zation re- ceives 100 empty box- es from PSP1.
yyyy-06-17	Issue	BOX1	50	50	SMA1	CUST1	Your organi- zation ships goods packed in 50 boxes to customer CUST1.
yyyy-06-25	Issue	BOX1	50	0	SMA1	CUST1	Your organi- zation ships goods packed in 50 boxes to customer CUST1.
yyyy-06-29	Receipt	BOX1	48	48	SMA1	PSP1	Your organi- zation re- ceives 48 empty box- es from PSP1.

External packaging item transactions in the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session

For PSP1, this transaction data is sent to LN through the external application Automotive Exchange Export Manager (EXM).

Transac- tion date	Type	Item	Quantity	Balance	SMA	Business partner	Descrip- tion
yyyy-06-15	Issue	BOX1	100	-100	SMA1	PSP1	PSP1 sends 100 empty boxes to your organization.
yyyy-06-17	Receipt	BOX1	50	-50		CUST1	CUST1 returns 50 boxes to PSP1. The return flow from CUST1 to PSP1 is outside SMA1.
yyyy-06-27	Receipt	BOX1	26	-24		CUST1	CUST1 returns 26 boxes to the PSP. The return flow from CUST1 to PSP1 is outside SMA1.
yyyy-06-29	Issue	BOX1	50	-74	SMA1	PSP1	PSP1 sends 50 empty boxes to your organization.

Resulting reconciliation data in the Reconciliation Data of Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1117m000) session

For SMA1, packaging item BOX1, this reconciliation data is generated:

RP	Tr dt	Origin	Corr	Type	Qty	T int	T ext	Diff	R qty
yyyy-24	yyy- 06- 15	Internal		Receipt	100	50	100	50	
yyyy-24	yyy- 06- 15	External		Receipt	100	50	100	50	
yyyy-24	yyy- 06- 17	Internal		Issue	50	50	100	50	
yyyy-24	yyy- 06- 17	Internal	X	Inventory Ad- justment	0	50	100	50	0
yyyy-25	yyy- 06- 25	Internal		Issue	50	-2	50	52	
yyyy-25	yyy- 06- 29	Internal		Receipt	48	-2	50	52	
yyyy-25	yyy- 06- 29	External		Receipt	50	-2	50	52	
yyyy-25	yyy- 06- 29	Internal	X	Inventory Ad- justment		-2	50	52	1

Legend

RP

Reconciliation period. In this example, the reconciliation quantity is Year/Week. Consequently, LN in-

serts a correction line at the end of weeks 24 and 25.

In the correction line, you can leave your own balance unchanged. Or, adjust your balance by accepting PSP1's total quantity or by manually specifying a reconciliation quantity.

Tr dt	Transaction date
Corr	Correction line.
Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Internal The transaction originates from your packaging item transaction records registered in the Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1115m000) session. ■ External The transaction originates from PSP1's records registered in the External Packaging Item Transactions (whinr1116m000) session.
Type	The type of transaction.
Qty	The packaging item quantity of the transaction.
T int	Total Internal Quantity
T ext	Total External Quantity
Diff	Difference Quantity
R qty	Reconciliation Quantity. For week 24, the internal balance is accepted, no reconciliation quantity is specified. For week 25, a reconciliation quantity of 1 is specified, because your organization found out they received 49 boxes instead of 48 or, as PSP1 reported, 50 boxes. Consequently, your organization updates their balance to 49 for week 25.

Appendix A

Glossary

A

appropriate menu

Commands are distributed across the **Views**, **References**, and **Actions** menus, or displayed as buttons. In previous LN and Web UI releases, these commands are located in the *Specific* menu.

business partner

A party with whom you carry out business transactions, for example, a customer or a supplier. You can also define departments within your organization that act as customers or suppliers to your own department as business partners.

The business partner definition includes:

- The organization's name and main address.
- The language and currency used.
- Taxation and legal identification data.

You address the business partner in the person of the business partner's contact. The business partner's status determines if you can carry out transactions. The transactions type (sales orders, invoices, payments, shipments) is defined by the business partner's role.

packaging item

The containers or supports that are used to hold and move goods within manufacturing, distribution processes, and, specifically, within the warehouse. For example: boxes, pallets.

receipt

The physical acceptance of an item into a warehouse. A receipt registers: received quantity, receipt date, packing-slip data, inspection data, and so on.

reconciliation period

The period within which your packaging item transactions and the external business partner's packaging item transactions are grouped to be compared and, if differences are present, reconciled.

shipment

All goods that are transported to a specific address on a specific date and time by using a specific route. An identifiable part of a load.

shipping material account (SMA)

An object used to group packaging material transactions by business partner or group of business partners. The reports of packaging material transactions by business partner can be sent to the business partner for communication and payment.

A shipping material account consists of an ID code, a description, and a shipping material accounting scheme.

Optionally, you can specify an external business partner for the shipping material account to indicate that the external business partner is the owner of the packaging materials.

shipping material accounting scheme

A part of a shipping material account (SMA) that contains the criteria used to link packaging item transactions to a shipping material account.

A shipping material accounting scheme consists of these criteria:

- Business partner
- Site
- Packaging item
- Effective date

Of these criteria, the business partner is mandatory.

Index

appropriate menu, 35

Balance

packaging item, 17

business partner, 35

packaging item, 35

Packaging item registration

shipping material account, 7, 11, 13, 19, 25

Packaging item

balance, 17

exclude from accounting, 14

reconciliation, 27, 28

registration, 13

shipping material account, 7, 11, 14, 17, 19, 25

Packaging material

registration, 13

Packaging materials

packaging item, 7, 11, 14, 17, 19, 25

Pack item

balance, 17

receipt, 35

Reconciliation

packaging item, 27, 28

shipping material account, 27, 28

reconciliation period, 35

shipment, 36

shipping material account (SMA), 36

shipping material accounting scheme, 36

Shipping material accounting scheme

packaging item, 11

Shipping material accounting

set up, 9, 14

Shipping material account

accounting scheme, 11, 19

business partner, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 25, 27, 28

packaging item registration, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 25, 27, 28

packaging service provider (PSP), 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19, 25

reconciliation, 27, 28

scenario, 19

setup, 9, 14

shipping material accounting scheme, 14

SMA

packaging, 25

PSP, 25
