Section H
File Formats and Supported Transactions

Supported Transactions

The NHDOL accepts transactions in the Release 3 flat file format, which is the current IAIABC standard. Since the IAIABC no longer supports the Release 2 format, NHDOL does not accept Release 2 transactions. It is important that NHDOL trading partners begin development on Release 3.

Understanding ANSI and Flat Files

The IAIABC has approved two file formats for the electronic submission of Release 3 transactions: ANSI X12 formats – based on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) X12 EDI standard – and proprietary IAIABC "flat file" formats.

First Reports	ANSI X12 Release 3 (Version 3041)
	IAIABC Flat File Release 3
	IAIABC Flat File Release 1

ANSI X12 is the primary EDI standard for electronic commerce in a wide variety of applications. Data elements are strung together continuously, with special data element identifiers and separator characters delineating individual data elements and records. ANSI X12 is extremely flexible but also somewhat complex, so most X12 users purchase translation software that handles the X12 formatting. Because X12 protocols are used for many types of business communications, X12 translation software is commercially available. Some claim administrators may already be using X12 translation software for purchasing, financial transactions, or other business purposes.

The IAIABC's proprietary flat file formats were designed specifically for transferring workers' compensation data via EDI. Data elements are placed in assigned character positions within each record. Different records are presented on separate lines of the file. Flat files have the disadvantage of being inflexible and not easily modified. The Release 1 version of the flat files is fairly straightforward to implement without translation software. NHDOL will only support Release 3 Flat Files.

New Hampshire will only support the IAIABC Flat File format. We will support the IAIABC Release 3 format.