

Vendor Shipment Module program achieves milestone

By Stacy L. Umstead, DLA Distribution Public Affairs

DLA Distribution recently celebrated a Vendor Shipment Module, or VSM, milestone – 2,000 vendors enrolled.

VSM is the enterprise web-based distribution and transportation system used to process first destination shipments from vendor locations. VSM utilizes DLA's Distribution Standard System, or DSS, routing logic and addressing to provide DLA vendors with military shipping labels and transportation documents for their DLA-administered contracts.

DSS/VSM receives multi-daily updates from DLA Transaction Services for DoD Activity Address Code addressing and from Naval Operational Logistics Support Center for Navy and Marine Corps mobile units addressing. The addressing and routing are performed at point of shipment, not at point of customer order, which ensures that the most current data is utilized in determining material ship to and routing.

Currently there are 1,979 Free on Board destination and 47 Free on Board origin vendors registered in the system. Combined, there are over 109,000 shipments per month

which equates to over 1.3 million shipments annually.

VSM provides many important features to the vendor including supporting multiple vendor shipping locations, maintaining shipment histories, on-line sign up and live

training as well as system security.

The vendor is able to generate material inspection and receiving reports, packing lists, military shipping labels and container identification labels. The equipment requirements for the vendor are very basic; they need a personal computer, laser or thermal printer and internet access.

“There are significant benefits realized through vendor use of VSM besides those already mentioned,” said Sherri Troup, chief, Supply Chain Transportation Branch, DLA Distribution. “It standardizes the enterprise process, reduces customer wait time, offers data to air clearance authorities, gives the vendor immediate access to shipping addresses, reduces returned/frustrated shipments, transmits due in data to ports and trans-shipment points, improves in-transit visibility and automates routing and freight charge calculation for origin shipments.”

DLA Distribution offers VSM users access to a toll-free help desk number and VSM dedicated email address to answer any questions, provide assistance processing orders, training or to address any other concerns.

Vendors can sign up to use VSM via the DLA Distribution website at <https://dpms.ddc.dla.mil> Once signed up, vendors can receive training on the system via an online process.



The DLA Distribution Supply Chain Transportation Branch team.