

Electronic Warehouse Reporting – Update Shipping Order Feature

Memphis-based EWR, Inc. is introducing an enhancement of its electronic warehouse receipt process with the aim of promoting a more streamlined, accurate and cost effective process for establishing bale shipping order load dates.

This addition of an electronic process is in response to a National Cotton Council initiative to improve cotton flow.

Currently, a shipper initiates the movement of cotton bales from a warehouse by sending an electronic “Shipping Order (EWR Batch 21 type)” or “Early Shipping Order (EWR Batch 31 type)” file to a warehouse. By utilizing the new “Update Shipping Order (EWR Batch 23 type)” file, the merchant also can electronically request an actual load/schedule date for each submitted shipping order.

The National Cotton Council urges merchants to utilize this electronic warehouse receipt provider capability to serve as a portal/clearinghouse for information related to the scheduling and confirmation of shipment dates.

How it works:

Via EWR – shipper sends shipping order to warehouse with requested date including a “window.”

What’s a window? A “window” is the number of days before OR after the requested date that is acceptable to the shipper.

For example: Requested date = June 23.

Window Days = 3 day either side of the Requested date.

Scheduled days acceptable to the shipper = June 20 thru June 26.

Warehouseman will look at requested date and window days to determine if the request can be honored.

Warehouse sends shipment update file via EWR to shipper accepting the requested schedule date in the original batch 23 file or offers a new requested load date (“window” days from the warehouse are not applicable).

Shipper receives file via EWR.

Shipper may accept the schedule date sent by warehouse eliminating the need for further file exchanges OR if shipper finds the schedule date unacceptable shipper submits a new shipment update file.

Like the original shipment update file, the revised shipment update file will contain a new requested date plus “window” days.

Benefits:

- Streamline process – no more phone tag, improve communication, reduce bottlenecks and increase efficiency.
- Provide a verifiable process to capture requested and scheduled load dates.
- With a few mouse clicks via the provider’s electronic data transmission system:
 - Shippers can request and monitor load dates.
 - Warehouses can confirm a scheduled date or counter with an alternate date.
 - Shippers can send new or updated requested load dates to warehouse.

Considerations:

- EWR does NOT “validate” the dates in any way.
- EWR’s eCotton warehouse software WILL handle the shipment update transaction.
- Information software vendors NEED to re-program software in order to generate/accept an Update Shipping Order (Batch Type 23) request is posted on the EWR website.
- All dates moved thru EWR using the Update Shipping Order feature will be stored in an audit log.
- There is no charge to use this transaction.
- Shipment update files can only be transferred if a shipping order or an early shipping order already exists.

The Update Shipping Order Feature is OPTIONAL: warehouses, shippers or other receipt holders must contact EWR to activate the Batch 23 feature.

For additional information contact: EWR, Inc. (ewrinc.com) or The National Cotton Council (www.cotton.org).

