IICL API

One of the key objectives of the IICL API is to reduce communication delays during the container off hire, repair, & on hire processes.

Typical Process for Damaged Containers

1. Container arrives at yard.
2. Depot sends notification to owner of arrival (Gate In).
3. Owner acknowledges arrival.
4. Depot determines damages to container and notifies owner & lessee (Estimate).
5. Owner acknowledges estimate.
6. If applicable, Lessee approvals their responsible damages (Customer Approval).
7. Owner notifies Depot to repair container (Work Order or Owner Approval).
8. Depot repairs container.
9. Depot notifies Owner of repair (Repair Complete).
10. Owner releases container to new customer.
11. Customer picks up container (Gate Out).

Existing Standards

The API is derived from existing EDI file formats (ANSI / EDIFACT). It still uses the same coding and naming schemes. It is not trying to reinvent how to communicate, but rather speed up communication.

Accelerating the Process

Each step in the above process can be delayed – either due to system-to-system communication delays, errors in the original transmission, or due to the need to seek approval from concerned parties.

The IICL API combines some of the above steps. For example, a depot receives a response for every transmission immediately. Traditional EDI files are sent offline, so a response is often communicated in batch and delayed.

Some of the shared Benefits

• Documented: https://iicl-api.github.io/depot-lifecycle-api/
• Maintained: IICL Technical Committee solicits feedback and incorporates changes for the entire industry. These further proofs the API and allows for business changes over time, while no such process exists for EDI File formats today.
• Reduced Communication delays: The API is meant to facilitate real time communication between systems.
• Cost Saving Opportunities: By reducing delays, it's possible for container estimates to be immediately approved for repair or for the depot to be made aware of the most likely repair action. The depot can use this information to reduce handlings, move units directly from estimation to the repair shop & speed up its repair process. This allows for cost savings between both the depot & lessor.

If you have questions about this document, please send an email message to technical@iicl.org for further information.