



Partner

TCI System for ISS45 and RPS/Supermarket

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ICL is pleased to describe a special version of TCI's Inventory Management System (IMS) for **ISS45** and RPS/Supermarket. TCI-IMS® provides RETAIL *partners* with yet another powerful weapon in your arsenal to offer the grocer a complete business solution. Since TCI is specified by many wholesalers and independent grocers, this new capability opens many additional opportunities to present and win accounts with **ISS45**.

Our open, industry-standard architecture has demonstrated that the power of retailer information technology can easily extend to thousands of applications written by experts in their fields of expertise. **ISS45's** adherence to these standards also permits a seamless integration of applications, permitting you to offer, through your own professional services, a completely integrated business solution.

The TCI-IMS product compliments and enhances the rich feature sets already found in **ISS45** and RPS/Supermarket by providing the following function modules:

- Host Communications Processing
- Store-to-Store Communications
- Labels and Bar Coded Worksheets
- Local Automatic Receiver Processing
- Remote Receiver Processing
- Direct Store Delivery System
- POS In Store Hosting
- Price Verification

Host Communications Processing provides the wholesaler or head office with the ability to evaluate and refine pricing and discount structures, while auditing the inventory flow from the receiving dock to the front end. This greatly improves management of store Accounts Payable. Razor thin margins demand careful management for success.

The TCI Host Communications Processing module uses industry-standard ASCII formats for file exchanges. This providing efficient communications that can be accomplished with user-definable file formats that permit the use of variable record lengths. This eliminates sending empty blocks that waste communications time.

With TCI, **ISS45** and RPS/Supermarket give the host package full access to all its files while providing data integrity. All store level changes are recorded in a time stamped audit file, complete with personnel identifying information. Receiver information is available in detail or summary form and can be transferred into the retailer's Accounts Payable system for easy and accurate processing. ICL POS with TCI thus provides a total business solution to the grocer. The automation of the A/P process increases data security while reducing processing costs and clerical errors.

Store-to-Store Communications is vital in today's fast-paced competitive market. The trouble-free transfer of company data between all corporate facilities is critical. TCI's Store-to-Store communications package with **ISS45** or RPS/Supermarket provides a

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complete solution. Sync-Link[®] uses direct-connect and auto-dial telephone lines to transmit and receive data at predetermined times. Any item file data, such as price changes stored either at the host or stores, may be transferred using this communications tool. They can be effectively communicated, ensuring accurate pricing to maximize profits and shopper confidence.

Store payroll may also be communicated electronically, directly from a time-in-attendance or labor management application. The automation of this time-consuming process will also be realized at the bottom line through the elimination of errors and reduction of store management time devoted to payroll preparation and analysis.

A fail-safe update system checks every store in the chain to ensure data consistency. If the host detects a difference, the delinquent database is updated immediately.

Labels And Bar-Coded Worksheets are provided as a module in the TCI-IMS product. The system coordinates a retailer's shelf labels with the latest pricing information. The labels then make use of the data to automatically print customized shelf labels. The system also provides for *regular price* and *sale* labels by specific department, category or item, automating another time-consuming store function. The savings from reduced labor and pricing discrepancies goes a long way in improving financial performance and decreasing customer disputes.

Grocers can now generate these bar-coded worksheets, simplifying inventory management, even for fresh items such as meat and produce. Bar-coded worksheets permit the use of hand-held terminals for ordering and receiving, reducing keystrokes and increasing accuracy.

Retailers can produce enhanced shelf labels that coincide with batch price changes and reflect on/off sales, and new items, increasing pricing integrity throughout the store while reducing labor. Unit prices are automatically calculated, eliminating manual price book referencing. The grocer can design customized formats using UPC, EAN, and Plessey codes for smaller drug or spice items, or larger formats for soft drinks or unusually shaped items such as deli chickens. This flexibility provides appropriately sized labels with a uniform appearance, enhancing shoppers' experience by easily and clearly marking items without obstructing them.

Local Automatic Receiver Processing is included to assist the retailer in simplifying one of the most complex and critical tasks in retail management. The store receiver collects a number of incoming orders on the hand-held terminal, connects the terminal to the TCI PC and logs in. The information is then uploaded from the hand-held device, and the receiving documents are printed either immediately or later in the day. This system greatly increases the integrity of the receiving operation while simultaneously reducing labor and bookkeeping errors.

Remote Receiver Processing System expands upon the local automatic receiver processing described above. On-line capability is added since the receiver's hand-held device and printer can be located in the receiving area and directly linked to the remote PC. Data entry and printing of receiving information is therefore handled on-line. So, store security is enhanced by the receiver remaining in the work area at all times. Labor reductions and increased security are achieved by eliminating the need for receivers to walk to the store's PC to finish the task.

Direct Store Delivery System module offers the store receiver with complete vendor information, providing the ability to manage DSD with profit analysis by department, category, vendor and line item. Receiving can be done with a hand-held terminal equipped with a wand scanner. Bar-coded worksheets or the items themselves may be scanned into the receiving system. The captured data is then transmitted to the PC where Accounts Payable information is logged for future payment. This complete automation of the entire process eliminates clerical errors.

Either the local or the remote receiving package can be used along with TCI's DEX/UCS software, which permits the direct connection between the store's system and the hand-held devices used by vendors, further automating DSD management. Up to 25% of a store's

inventory is sourced through Direct Store Delivery vendors in a typical independent supermarket: with effective management, profits on DSD items can be increased 2 to 3%.

POS In-Store Host System provides an additional software management tool for the purpose of tracking pricing discrepancies between the POS, shelf and back office data base. Such disparities will hurt the store's financial performance, not to mention customer relations. This module permits easy tracking of the data throughout the entire Inventory Management System and provides facilities to correct errors when they are detected.

Price Verification System completes this comprehensive package. This function can use either FM or batch hand-held devices, both providing the ability to verify shelf pricing against the POS item file. The reduction of errors with a labor-saving device provides reduced costs, increased profits and increased shopper loyalty through the elimination of conflicts.

The TCI-IMS package for **ISS45** and RPS/Supermarket is available either complete or by individual modules. Contact:

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The TCI-IMS interface¹ once again demonstrates ICL's commitment to providing integrated interfaces with popular supermarket application software. Using the **ISS45/RPS** Application Programmer's Interface the two systems function as a single seamless solution, providing the grocer with a total retail information system. Unlike competing systems, the ease of data transfer and the grocer's clean interface with our integrated menus never requires an exit to DOS. Moreover, ICL's data managed the TCI system is automatically replicated — for example, a price change made with the FM module will affect the connected Controller Service or Workstation, the Alternate File Services and all the terminals immediately and automatically.

ICL's commitment to open, industry-standard architecture, and powerful tools for real-time data access have made this and other recently announced product consolidations smooth and swift. Just as TCI and other applications have been integrated, *RETAILpartners* can use these same tools to weld custom application software to **ISS45**. The power of these customization tools and the swiftly growing list of integrated best-of-breed applications is one of your strongest competitive advantages with ICL POS solutions.

To your success,

Tony

Tony van Seventer
Director: Supermarket Systems

¹ Be aware there are **two** interfaces available to TCI. Besides the interface marketed by TCI, an additional interface which also employs the ICL API is available from Cash Register Services which is said to offer enhanced access to **ISS45** and RPS/Supermarket features. Call Len Fuller at (806) 792-2885 for information.