

Standard Automation Interface (SAI)

The Standard Automated Interface (SAI) is used to automate transactions in **ContainerTRACKER**[®] from external sources like barcode, RFID, GPS and other software systems. **ContainerTRACKER**[®] uses transactions, (movement of containers/assets) to automatically calculate and update inventories of assets. Often external systems have the information necessary to create a complete transaction. The SAI creates an interface for external systems to provide transactions for **ContainerTRACKER**[®]. Common sources of external transactions include bar code scanners, RFID systems, MRP system files, and EDI files or any other source that can be programmed or manipulated to produce a properly formatted file.

The SAI also allows programming independence. The manipulation of available data to produce the required input file can be performed by your associates, contracted to third party programmers or contracted to International ISO Group, Inc. **ContainerTRACKER**[®] supports aliasing of field contents to convert information from legacy systems files, bar codes or RFID devices to the names of items and destinations used to configure **ContainerTRACKER**[®] software. The aliasing feature frees the programmer from converting field contents to the names used within Container TRACKER[™]. It also allows the use of several names to describe a single item. The SAI supports all transaction functions available to the manual user.

ContainerTRACKER[®] is hierarchically, organized into related elements. This hierarchy often represents physical locations buildings, docks, warehouse areas and the like. The hierarchy can also represent categories, classifications, conditions or units of time or any combination of these or others you imagine. This flexibility also makes the terminology confusing. 'Locations' equate to all of the following terms 'source', 'destination', 'category', 'time interval', and 'classification'. When these classifications are defined within **ContainerTRACKER**[®] they are identified by a number for internal processing. This number uniquely identifies the hierarchy of customers, regions or locations within **ContainerTRACKER**[®]. This allows the SAI to *Alias* names used by external systems (for example, part #s) to identify items or locations uniquely. This greatly reduces the interface programming required to interface **ContainerTRACKER**[®] with external systems.

Operating Modes

The SAI operates by default in batch mode. The SAI program reads a file in a predefine location and processes its contents. If any of the records fail because of structure or because they violate **ContainerTRACKER**[®]'s movement rules they are written to an external file along with a description of the problem that occurred. This allows correction and resubmission of incorrect records.

The SAI can also work with real-time systems but when it does, it requires an interface with the real-time system for rule checking. This interface is custom for each system and often is required at the hardware input portion of the system (barcode gun, RFID reader).