

A stage spotlight is shown in the top left corner, casting a wide, conical beam of light across a dark background. The beam transitions from a deep purple at the edges to a bright white center. The text "IN THE SPOTLIGHT" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, positioned within the illuminated area on the right side.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# INTRODUCTION

- *In the Spotlight* materials are initially presented at an X12 corporate meeting,
- Subsequently, they are posted in the Info Center
- Each presentation covers one topic
- These “quick hits” highlight new features and functions or remind the audience of things they may have forgotten over time
- X12 welcomes suggestions for *Spotlight* topics, use X12’s online feedback form to tell us what you want to hear more about



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# RFI BACKGROUND

- X12 maintains many standards and related products that are available to the public
- Implementers and other users of X12 products occasionally have questions related to the proper use of the EDI Standard, implementation guides, reference models, or clarification papers
- These users may ask X12 for clarification by submitting a *Request for Interpretation*, generally referenced as an RFI
- Sometimes an RFI is referenced more simply as a question or a request



X12



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# RFI BACKGROUND

- In response to these requests, X12 publishes interpretations explaining how its products are to be implemented and used
- Interpretations may also result in increased consistency between trading partners
- Each interpretation is a response to one or more questions posed in an RFI
- Sometimes the interpretation is referenced more simply as an answer or response

X12



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# RELATED GOVERNANCE

- The *ASC Request for Interpretation (RFI) Processing Manual (ASC04)* describes the ASC's policies and processes related to RFI's and the associated responses

X12



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# INTERPRETATIONS

- An interpretation does not directly result in a revision to an X12 product
- If the final interpretation illuminates a need to revise an X12 product, the responding subcommittee may submit a corresponding suggestion via X12's maintenance request form
- Regardless of whether the subcommittee submits a maintenance request, the RFI submitter or any materially impacted party may choose to submit a corresponding maintenance request

X12



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# INTERPRETATIONS

- There are two types of interpretations, formal and informal
- Formal interpretations represent the official position of the X12 organization
- Formal interpretations are developed by a subcommittee and approved at several organizational levels before they are final
- A formal interpretation generally takes more time to finalize than an informal interpretation

X12



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# INTERPRETATIONS

- Informal interpretations represent the most materially impacted subcommittee's position on the matter
- Informal interpretations are developed and approved by one subcommittee
- An informal interpretation is generally published in less time than a formal interpretation





IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# MODIFYING AN INTERPRETATION

- Over the course of time, X12 may need to revise (change) or retract (invalidate) a published interpretation
- X12 has a process for when such a modification is warranted

X12



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# SUMMARY

→ Supporting RFIs

Provides implementers and other materially impacted parties the opportunity to better understand the intentions of X12's subject matter experts

Provides X12's subject matter experts with perspectives they might not otherwise understand

→ Interpretations are an important tool in X12's arsenal



# FEEDBACK IDEAS QUESTIONS?

WE WANT TO HEAR IT  
[X12.ORG/FEEDBACK](https://x12.org/feedback)

X12



# STAY CONNECTED

→ Learn more about X12 at [X12.org](https://X12.org)

→ Stay informed by following X12



*@x12standards on X (twitter)*



*#X12 on LinkedIn*

