Billing

ASSIST4

AEB

Many companies take on global trade and logistics services – exports and imports, shipment processing, transport – on behalf of their customers and partners or other internal units. But calculating the prices and billing these services is often a challenge. ASSIST4 Billing supports the entire billing process, from automated price and cost calculation to invoicing and internal cost allocation.

How should a company price global trade and logistics services – such as customs or shipment processing – for its internal and external customers? A look around reveals that many businesses today still turn to large, complex Excel spreadsheets for each department to share data with those responsible for financial and managerial accounting.

Price calculations made easy
And yet price calculation, with its tendency toward fixed rules, lends itself so well to automation. ASSIST4 Billing calculates prices for you in an automated, transparent process. ASSIST4 Billing does this by retrieving all the necessary information from your operational systems through a standard Web service interface and calculating the prices based on defined price components with price scales and rules. This process can be illustrated using a sample settlement of shipping services.

Sample shipment processing
Suppose you are packing and shipping goods for customers or other departments and wish to bill the recipients for the services rendered. Your logistics software (WMS, TMS, shipping software, etc.) provides all the details needed to calculate the price of the services you have provided for each shipment: number of packages, package types, weight, country of consignee, additional services, and permits obtained. ASSIST4 Billing uses this information to calculate one or more prices for each shipment based on the price scales and rules you have defined.

Clear & transparent
The system automatically factors in surcharges for special services such as managing hazardous goods or issuing letters of credit. Customs processing for international shipments can also be billed – based on export items, for example. You can even automatically calculate and add expenses for additional services such as obtaining permits or creating export documents. The result is a transparent shipping price that can be broken down into one settlement item per price component, so you can retrace each individual step of the calculation and understand how the composite price was determined.

Benefits at a glance:

- Automated processes thanks to full integration into your existing IT environment: data is retrieved from the front-end operational system, prices are calculated, invoices are generated, and billing data is transferred to the financial accounting system.
- Automated billing process for services: from price calculation to invoicing of internal or external customers.
- Flexible pricing options: You can build calculation models using any data you like and configure them to model whatever you wish, including recurring fees such as monthly charges.
- The price calculator makes it easy to get ad hoc price information whenever you want.
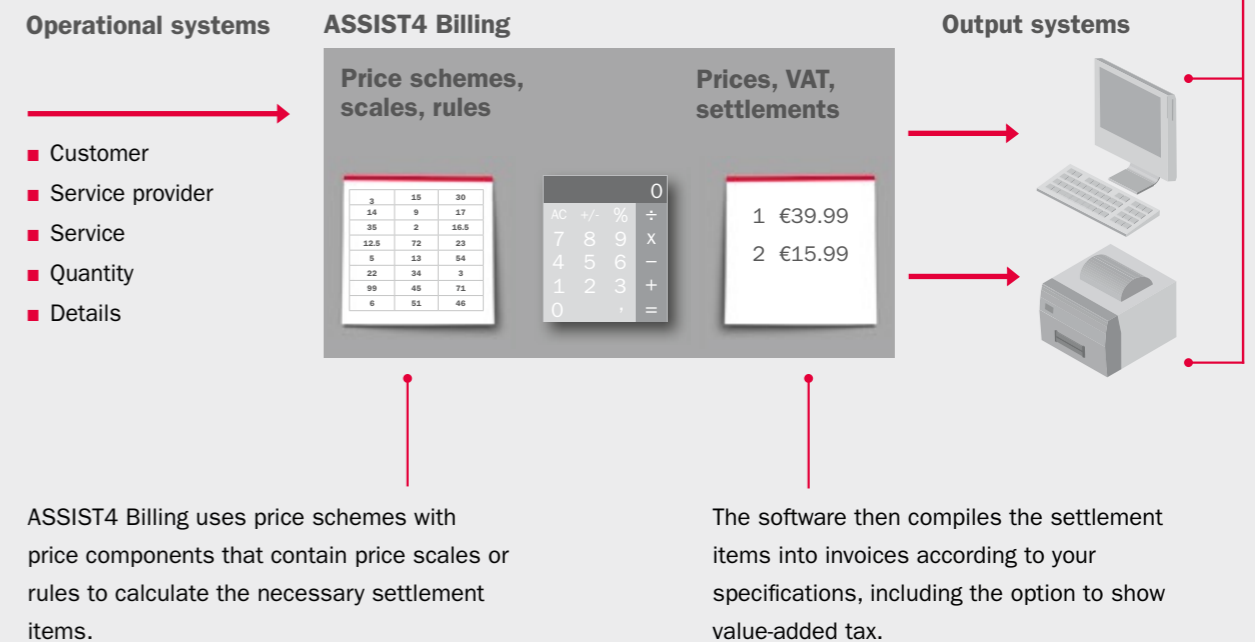- A business intelligence component for reports lets you crunch high-density billing data.

Automatic billing made easy:
ASSIST4 Billing

ASSIST4 Billing retrieves the information about services rendered (packaging and customs clearance of goods, for example) directly from your operational systems. The system can base the price calculation on whatever data formats you define.

ASSIST4 Billing forwards the invoices via an interface directly to Financial Accounting and/or saves them to the system as print-ready invoices, which you can then forward directly to your customers or print out directly from the system.

Operational systems

- Customer
- Service provider
- Service
- Quantity
- Details

ASSIST4 Billing

Price schemes, scales, rules

Prices, VAT, settlements

1 €39.99
2 €15.99

Output systems

ASSIST4 Billing uses price schemes with price components that contain price scales or rules to calculate the necessary settlement items.

The software then compiles the settlement items into invoices according to your specifications, including the option to show value-added tax.

High degree of flexibility for calculating prices and VAT

One major benefit of ASSIST4 Billing is its high degree of flexibility. The price scales used in the calculations are entered in the currencies you define and can be based on any factors you wish – weight, package type, commodity code, customs item, or area. They can be fully configured to meet your individual needs.

The software is able to process any data format that contains the price-related information for a service to be settled as well as customer-specific information such as reference numbers.

ASSIST4 Billing can also calculate value-added tax if necessary. This can be individually configured as well – for example, you can define different VAT rates for different countries, services, or recipients. You can even assign VAT types, such as those helpful for correct booking in the SAP® system.

Price information is easy to get wherever you are: The price calculator lets you calculate prices ad hoc so that you can provide pricing information or check the defined price scales. After you've calculated the prices, the system displays one or more settlement items for each service corresponding to the price components. ASSIST4 Billing also creates settlement items for periodic fees such as monthly charges. You can also create settlement items manually at any time to add to or correct the items created by the system.
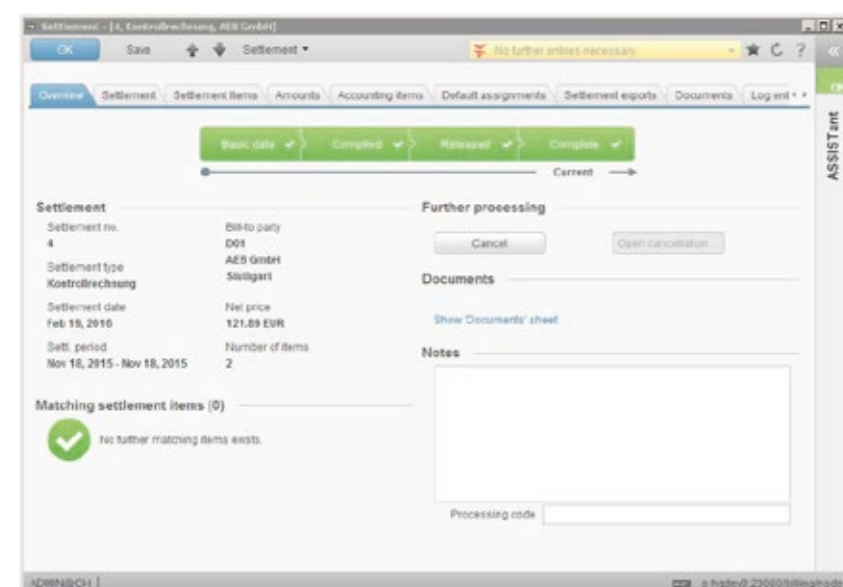
Compiling and editing invoices

The settlement items are compiled into invoices according to your specifications. You determine the settlement currency and the settlement period: monthly, weekly – even daily. You can also define additional personalized criteria to be used in automatically compiling your invoices. Such criteria might include the type of service or a reference number that you use, for example.

The settlement assignment feature is used to manually compile invoices and get an overview of open settlement items. Here you can configure your own criteria for compiling a specific invoice. The system then calculates the invoice amounts and displays them. At this point you can view more detailed information or generate the invoice. You can also define whether you wish to have ASSIST4 Billing transfer the invoices to Financial Accounting as soon as they are generated, or whether you would like to check them and complete them manually first. Invoices can later be canceled and manually adjusted – to accommodate customer returns, for example.

Naturally, you can also print the invoice directly from the software – including VAT information – and hand it to your customers.

Step-by-step billing process: ASSIST4 Billing always displays the current status.

Automated processes thanks to full integration

ASSIST4 Billing ensures end-to-end billing processes by integrating seamlessly into your existing system environment.

Data can be retrieved through a customizable interface from all operational systems: warehouse management systems, shipping or customs software – even the ERP system. After the prices are calculated and the invoices compiled, ASSIST4 Billing transfers the settlement data in the precise format required for booking into the financial accounting system. This process can be fully automated – but you can also integrate checks and require manual approvals.

Full transparency with added value

ASSIST4 Billing logs every step of every calculation, ensuring a high level of transparency in your billing processes. The software keeps detailed calculation logs and stores canceled invoices, so you can always provide quick answers to queries and are ideally equipped for future tax audits. ASSIST4 Billing also helps you keep an eye on all the latest settlement data and shows the total of all recently completed settlements. At the click of a mouse you see a list of all the invoices and items that need to be processed manually – if, for example, an error in the data prevented the price calculation or a manual verification step is required.

The data available in ASSIST4 Billing is also the perfect foundation for further analyses – if you want an overview of how much revenue is generated per service, per customer, or in a given period, for example. The solution offers a business intelligence component for this purpose capable of generating all the reports you need.

Excellence in supply chain execution has a name:

ASSIST4

The basis for efficient **collaboration** in the supply chain. Transparency and performance analysis. End to end.

Organization of your order processing. Overview of your **fulfillment**. Monitoring costs and workflows.

Supports all warehouse and distribution center activities and increases efficiency in your **warehouse processes**.

Streamlined processes in supply chain execution: **transport management** and **freight cost control**.
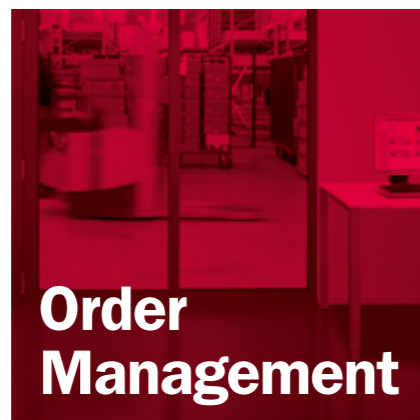
Business services for all **customs processes** in procurement and distribution. Standardized. Automated. Integrated.

Meet all **risk** and **compliance** requirements. Avoid possible violations and trade securely.

Visibility & Collaboration Platform

Integration platform
Scheduling
Monitoring
Alerting
Performance analysis, reporting & KPIs
Process & stock visibility
Time Slot Management

Order Management

Order entry
Qualification
Fulfillment planning & checking
Fulfillment monitoring & controlling
Assessment & billing

Warehouse Management

Goods-in & goods receipt
Stock placement, stock transfers, cross-docking
Stock overview & stock checking
Picking & packing
Dispatch & shipping
Goods issue
Mobile applications
Cockpit

Transport & Freight Management

Shipment consolidation
Transport preparation
Transport orders
Freight cost management
Freight cost optimization
Freight invoice auditing
Tender Management
Simulations
Carrier Integration

Customs Management

Integrated global trade management
Import
Export
Bonded warehouse, IPR, OPR
EMCS, Intrastat, transit procedures
Product classification
Origin & preferences

Compliance & Risk Management

Global Trade Integration
Restricted party screening
Export controls
EU & US regulations
License management

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Software, consultancy and services for global trade and supply chain management