



Now that you understand how Inventory Planner uses 'Forecast Models' and 'Service Levels' to determine customized Order Points, you need to know how to properly setup this product on your system.

In this course, you will be provided with documentation that identifies the Eagle Options and Security Bits that need to be reviewed.

We will define the idea of 'Lead Time' create a 'Forecast Model' and add that to a defined 'Best Fit Group'.

Within the Course Materials section for this class you will find the document titled, 'Inventory Planner Setup Options and Security'.

All relative Options Configuration ID numbers and Security Bits are identified and explained.

Make sure to review this document thoroughly before proceeding to the next course in the Inventory Planner Agenda.

When reviewing the Options and Security document you will see reference to some based on the concept of 'Lead Time'.

Lead time is defined as the number of days from when the Purchase Order is transmitted or sent to your vendor up to the time the P.O. is submitted for receiving in your Eagle system.

How you manage your Receiving Process can have an effect on Lead Time and consequently on Order Point calculations.

Some retailers do not Finalize Purchase Orders until all the stock is arranged on the shelves and available for sale.

Others will allow 'Packing Slip' posting or other methods to receive the P.O. immediately.

When receiving large stock orders or drop shipped merchandise this could add a full day or more to the Lead Time used in the calculations.



If the Lead Time feature has never been enabled on your system, you will not have any existing Lead Time data for Inventory Planner to use.

This is OK because Inventory Planner automatically recognizes when there is not enough data present and uses the default 'Safety Stock' you enter instead.

You should also be aware that if you do not want Lead Times to be used at all, you can eliminate them from the calculation when you execute the plan.

We discuss how to do this in the next Course in the Inventory Planner Training on Demand Agenda.

Once you have configured all of your Options and Security settings you can move forward with the creation of 'Forecast Models'.

As you learned in the Inventory Planner Overview class, a Forecast Model is a definition of which Sales History periods to use and the level of importance that is placed on each selected period.

Inventory Planner comes pre-loaded with 18 Forecast Models.

To add or change Forecast Models, you will launch the 'Maintain Forecast Models' application from the Inventory Planner 'Start Page'.

Notice that all of the Forecast Models available on the system appear at the left.

To add a new Model, click the green 'Plus' icon underneath the list.

Enter a 'Name' and a 'Description' for this model.

In the 'Select Periods' section you will choose the type of Sales History to use in the eventual Order Point Calculation.

Your options here are 'Calendar Month' or 'Weeks'.



If you choose 'Calendar Month', you can opt for any or all of the available 'Yearly' choices. You can also select all or some of the periods listed under the 'Monthly' heading.

Inventory Planner will use the selected Monthly Sales History buckets from Inventory Maintenance for calculating Sales Demand.

Since these are already summarized by the Eagle system, this is the most efficient way to determine Demand.

Your system generally keeps 2 years of Sales History on every item in your Inventory.

Choosing the 'Weeks' option requires Inventory Planner to go line by line through the Transaction Detail stored in Quick Recall and summarize it by week.

While this is certainly possible, the resulting process will take longer to complete.

If this is your first Epicor application utilizing the Technology Foundation Pack, you should consult your Epicor Implementation Specialist regarding the initial availability of weekly sales data for Inventory Planner.

Dependent on certain settings, you may not have a full year of Sales History available for use with Weekly buckets.

For our example, we will choose 'Calendar Month'.

As you mark the check box for each Period, a slider representing that Period appears in the 'Define Weightings' box below.

Each period is initially assigned a relative weight of 1.

This means that each selected Period is counted once in the analysis.

If any given periods should be Weighted more heavily, simply move the slider up to the value needed.



For example, if a given period should get twice the amount of weighting as the others, move its slider to the number 2.

Once you've selected all of the relevant periods and set their relative weighting, click 'Save' at the bottom of the screen.

On Software Release 25 and higher, Forecast models can be organized into 'Best Fit Groups'.

Click the 'Best Fit Groups' tab to add one and determine which Forecast Models will be included.

Use the green 'Plus' key located here, to add a new Best Fit Group.

Edit the 'Group Name' to clearly describe what types of Forecast Models will be included or perhaps to identify this groups function.

Highlight any 'Available Forecast Model' and press the 'Add' button to move it to the 'Selected Forecast Models' section.

Repeat this step as needed.

If you Add one in error, simply highlight it and press the 'Remove' button.

Press 'Save' to retain your updates.

As you can see, there are several options to consider when setting up Inventory Planner.

Thinking about how your Business needs calculations to be performed relative to your Options Configuration choices, is an essential planning step.

Be sure to identify your Lead Time factors and the overall organization of your Forecast Models into respective Best Fit Groups.

With a small amount of planning you will be ready to move on the next step and Create an Inventory Plan.