

1. Alphanumeric type fields:

- May include any character in the computer character set, but should not include unprintable characters such as Low Value, High Value, Comp 3 fields, etc., since these characters may cause problems during transmission time
- Are left justified
- Cannot contain asterisks (\*), colons (:), semicolons (;), carats (^), backslashes (\) or tildes (~).

2. Numeric type fields:

- May include digits (0-9) only
- Should not include dashes in numeric fields for items such as, phone numbers, zip codes, tax IDs, etc.)
- Are decimal implicit.
- If a numeric field is optional and an actual value is not being reported, either a space fill or a zero fill may be applicable - please refer to field notation to determine which applies.

3. "Required field" means the following:

- Fields with a specified list of values must have one of those values
- Alphanumeric fields without a specified list of values may have any value as outlined in point 1, but may not be filled with all spaces
- Numeric fields without a specified list of values must be numeric - zero or greater (there are some situations where zero fill is required for optional numeric fields)
- Fields with other requirements must follow those requirements (for example, participant number must be valid and eligible for IPS).