

Understanding the Inventory Give-Back Loop

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This guide explains the inventory give-back loop within the COGS process. It is intended for advanced users.

The “inventory give-back loop” is the part of the aACE COGS engine that accounts for returns and reuse of your line item codes (LICs). Note: To understand this guide, you should be familiar with aACE functionality for [inventory lot, usage, and transaction records](#)

(<https://aace6.knowledgeowl.com/help/understanding-the-relationship-among-inventory-lots-usage-and-transactions>).

As an example of a return, suppose we receive ten units of boxes. aACE creates an inventory lot record to track that product. Then we ship ten units to a customer. But the customer returns two. The COGS engine will “give back” two units to that inventory lot. This makes two units available for another order.

This example would be reflected in the system as:

- 10 units received from supplier — Inventory Lot created — Lot: 10 units
- 10 units shipped to customer — Inventory Usage created (+10 units) — Lot: 0 units
- 2 units received back from customer — Inventory Usage created (-2 units) — Lot: 2 units

Give-Back Limits for Inventory Lots

An inventory lot's Used balance of Current Inventory is the largest number of units that can be given back to that lot. In this screenshot, we could receive up to 30 units back into this inventory lot:

However, a product return might include more units than can be associated with a single inventory lot. In these situations, aACE handles the units in one of two ways:

- If other inventory lots for that LIC are available, aACE uses those lots for the additional inventory usage quantity.

Note: For returns, additional inventory lots are *always* selected using LIFO logic, even if your accounting preferences specify FIFO. This is because FIFO logic for returns would mean that the cost of the first inventory lot would be used in perpetuity, even though those costs would be increasingly irrelevant over time. Read more about [selecting the inventory management method](#)

(<https://aace6.knowledgeowl.com/help/setting-up-inventory-tracking#InventoryManagementMethod>).

- If no other inventory lots for that LIC are available, then the inventory give-back loop iterates. aACE first allocates as much negative usage as possible to the lot. Then it allocates a corresponding amount of positive usage. Then it repeats.

Example of the Inventory Give-Back Loop

The give-back loop is used to [resolve unallocated inventory usage](https://aace6.knowledgeowl.com/help/using-inventory-adjustments-to-resolve-unallocated-inventory-usage) (<https://aace6.knowledgeowl.com/help/using-inventory-adjustments-to-resolve-unallocated-inventory-usage>), as shown in this example:

For LIC TBLT-STYG, a shipment of 50 units was sent to a customer, followed by a return shipment of 50. Both shipments generated inventory usage entries:

TBLT-STYG only has one inventory lot in the system, which has a Lot Quantity of ten. All ten units have been allocated to previous inventory usage records from previous shipments. So the inventory lot is currently Closed. Because the Lot Quantity is ten and the Current Quantity is zero, this lot's current give-back limit is ten (i.e. the lot's quantity Used).

Before the COGS reconciliation process begins, the lot's inventory balance is at zero: 0 current inventory (inventory lot) + 50 unallocated quantity (positive usage) - 50 unallocated quantity (negative usage) = 0.

First Allocation Loop

When the COGS Reconciliation process runs, aACE recognizes that there are no lots with available inventory. So the unallocated positive usage (i.e. the shipment to the customer) remains at 50; however, the negative usage (i.e. the product return) can give back 10 units to that lot, reducing the negative unallocated quantity to -40.

Usage	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Order	Ref #(s)	Quantity	~ COGS	Unallocated	Accrued COGS	Status
> 50045	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50030	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	50	19,999.50	50	19,999.50	OPEN
> 50046	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50031	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	-50	-19,999.50	-40	-15,999.60	OPEN
List Totals							0	0.00	10	3,999.90	

At this point, the inventory lot is open again and 'contains' 10 units.

Lot	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Ref #(s)	Lot Qty	Lot Value	Curr Qty	~Curr Value	Accr Value	Status
Tech-003a Electronic Whiteboard Screen											
> 50018	> Tech-003a	> PO-50016	06/06/19	AI		10	3,999.90	10	3,999.90	0.00	OPEN
Tech-003a Electronic Whiteboard Screen						10	3,999.90	10	3,999.90	0.00	
List Totals						10	3,999.90	10	3,999.90	0.00	

Second Allocation Loop

Because there was a change in the usage quantities, aACE loops through the allocation process again.

The COGS engine can allocate 10 units of positive usage to the inventory lot, decreasing the unallocated positive usage to 40. This also reduces the inventory lot to zero again, preparing the way for 10 more negative usage records to be allocated, leaving -30.

Usage	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Order	Ref #(s)	Quantity	~ COGS	Unallocated	Accrued COGS	Status
> 50045	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50030	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	50	19,999.50	40	15,999.60	OPEN
> 50046	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50031	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	-50	-19,999.50	-30	-11,999.70	OPEN
List Totals							0	0.00	10	3,999.90	

This leaves the inventory lot with 10 units again, identical to the screenshot shown previously.

Third Allocation Loop

The process loops again, reducing both the positive and negative unallocated usage by 10 (i.e. +30/-20) as the inventory lot is depleted, then replenished again.

Usage	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Order	Ref #(s)	Quantity	~ COGS	Unallocated	Accrued COGS	Status
> 50045	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50030	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	50	19,999.50	30	11,999.70	OPEN
> 50046	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50031	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	-50	-19,999.50	-20	-7,999.80	OPEN
List Totals							0	0.00	10	3,999.90	

Fourth Allocation Loop

The process loops again, reducing unallocated usage to +20/-10 as the inventory lot is depleted and replenished.

Usage	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Order	Ref #(s)	Quantity	~ COGS	Unallocated	Accrued COGS	Status
> 50045	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50030	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	50	19,999.50	20	7,999.80	OPEN
> 50046	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50031	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	-50	-19,999.50	-10	-3,999.90	OPEN
List Totals							0	0.00	10	3,999.90	

Fifth Allocation Loop

With this loop, the unallocated usage quantities are reduced +10/0. When the inventory lot is replenished this time, the negative inventory usage quantity reaches zero. So aACE closes that usage record.

Usage	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Order	Ref #(s)	Quantity	~ COGS	Unallocated	Accrued COGS	Status
> 50045	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50030	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	50	19,999.50	10	3,999.90	OPEN
> 50046	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50031	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	-50	-19,999.50	0	0.00	CLOSED
List Totals							0	0.00	10	3,999.90	

Final Allocation

The remaining 10 units of positive unallocated usage are allocated to the lot, reducing that quantity to zero and closing that inventory usage record also.

Usage	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Order	Ref #(s)	Quantity	~ COGS	Unallocated	Accrued COGS	Status
> 50045	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50030	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	50	19,999.50	0	0.00	CLOSED
> 50046	> Tech-003a	> SHIP-50031	07/11/19	AI	> 50020	Ord #50020	-50	-19,999.50	0	0.00	CLOSED
List Totals							0	0.00	0	0.00	

This step also leaves the inventory lot record at zero units again, so it is closed.

Lot	Line Item Code	Transaction ID	Date	Office	Ref #(s)	Lot Qty	Lot Value	Curr Qty	~Curr Value	Accr Value	Status
Tech-003a Electronic Whiteboard Screen											
> 50018	> Tech-003a	> PO-50016	06/06/19	AI		10	3,999.90	0	0.00	0.00	CLOSED
Tech-003a Electronic Whiteboard Screen						10	3,999.90	0	0.00	0.00	
List Totals						10	3,999.90	0	0.00	0.00	

After the COGS reconciliation process ends, the inventory balance is again at zero: 0 current inventory (inventory lot) + 0 unallocated quantity (positive usage) - 0 unallocated quantity (negative usage) = 0.

At the inventory lot detail view, we can review the quantities that were processed. Even though the lot can only receive 10 units (i.e. its give-back limit), the Inventory COGS section shows -50/+50 for the usage quantities that were processed. This is because the give-back loop processed those 10 units ~five times.

Inventory Lots
Record: 1 of 1
New Edit Delete Print Actions

Inventory Lot: Tech-003a (50018)

CLOSED

Purchase Inventory Lot Notices Emails Docs

General Info

Serialized Track by Mfr Lot

Trans ID >	Date	Office >	Line Item Code >	Code Description	Reference #(s)
PO-50016	06/06/19	AI	Tech-003a	Electronic Whiteboard Screen	Released to general inventory

Ordered / Purchased

	Quantity	Each	Value
Ordered	10	399.99	3,999.90
Purchased	10	399.99	3,999.90
Purchased Remaining	0		0.00

Ordered / Received

	Quantity	Value
Ordered	10	3,999.90
Received	10	3,999.90
Received Remaining	0	0.00

Accrued Inventory

	Quantity	Value
Received	10	3,999.90
Purchased	10	3,999.90
Accrued Inventory	0	0.00

Current Inventory

	Quantity	Value
Received	10	3,999.90
Used	10	3,999.90
Current Inventory	0	0.00

Inventory COGS

Usage ID	Trans ID	Trans Date	Reference #(s)	Quantity	Act Unit Cost	Total Cost
> 50043	> SHIP-50010	7/11/2019	Ord #50000-1	10	399.99	3,999.90
> 50046	> SHIP-50031	7/11/2019	Ord #50020	-50	399.99	-19,999.50
> 50045	> SHIP-50030	7/11/2019	Ord #50020	50	399.99	19,999.50
				Used	10	3,999.90