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# **Global Available-to-Promise with SAP**<sup>°</sup>

Functionality and Configuration





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# Preface

Companies face constant challenges in their order-fulfillment cycle to meet customer order delivery dates. The goal of any company is to increase the reliability of delivery and also ensure the correct product availability to an exclusive customer base. With the introduction of the global available-to-promise (which we will refer to as global ATP) functionality in SAP, companies are moving forward from a traditional manufacturing push-based supply chain to a market demand pull-based principle. Global ATP introduces many innovative concepts for order-management processes to fulfill market demand on time, increase delivery reliability, and keep inventory levels low at the warehouse.

The objective of this book is to explain how the global ATP functionality within the SAP Supply Chain Management (SAP SCM) suite can be configured and implemented to meet a company's order-fulfillment cycle. This book serves as a functional and technical guide in explaining how global ATP from SAP can be integrated into supply chain business process improvement initiatives.

#### **Target Audience**

The target audience for this book is the supply chain practitioners who are considering or are already involved in the implementation of global ATP—whether as a project manager, a project member, or a consultant. The book assumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of the order-to-cash (OTC) business process and an understanding of the logistics process in supply chain management.

#### What Will I Learn?

The book provides comprehensive guidelines not only for implementing the ATP solution within the order fulfillment business process, but also to maintain the production environment. The book is based on functionalities available in SAP ERP (ECC 6.0) and SAP SCM 7.0 versions. Each chapter explains global ATP functionality, configuration, master data, and testing steps to fulfill customer business

requirements while integrating a specific business case. Most of the business examples you will see are based on the authors' project experiences.

The book starts with an introduction to the order-to-cash (OTC) business process and explains how available-to-promise (ATP) fits in the overall process (**Chapter 1**). Then the global ATP functionality and its core features are introduced in **Chapter 2**. The next couple of chapters focus on global ATP technology (**Chapter 3**) and basic configuration, along with master data requirements for global ATP (**Chapter 4**).

After this preliminary introduction, the book dives into the core capabilities functionality within global ATP. Starting with transportation shipment and scheduling to derive a correct availability date, based on logistics lead time (**Chapter 5**), the book next introduces the rule-based mechanism for the ATP check. The rule-based functionality (**Chapter 6**) allows a company to formulate its business rules to be based on product and/or location substitution during the ATP check. Setting up business priorities during order processing and proper product allocation (**Chapter 7**) is critical for a company to make a profit from sales. Due to constant changes in the supply chain situation, the backorder processing (BOP) (**Chapter 8**) provides the latest ATP corrections.

For some of the manufacturing scenario (make-to-order) variants, global ATP directly integrates with production (**Chapters 9** and **10**) to calculate the capacity and critical component checks necessary to derive the material availability check, against which the ATP check needs to be performed. The integration with supply chain planning (**Chapter 11**) and SAP Customer Relationship Management (SAP CRM) (**Chapter 12**) provides a foundation for global ATP to improve the current business processes in OTC and planning function areas.

The closing section of the book provides an overview for how the global ATP business process can be mapped in the service-oriented architecture (SOA) environment (**Chapter 13**). Last, we explain in **Chapter 14** how a good housekeeping of the global ATP system is imperative for monitoring and maintenance in the production environment.

The Appendix section contains some valuable information about the minor and major technical enhancement possibilities in global ATP, and also lists some of important SAP OSS developer notes.

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The global available-to-promise functions are used with order promising and fulfillment checking across the entire supply chain. This chapter explains the SAP SCM global available-to-promise capabilities for use with order fulfillment and checking methods in the order-commitment process.

# 2 Introduction to Global Available-to-Promise

The need to provide commitment back to customers is called the available-to-promise (ATP) capability, which is offered by a supply chain operations team to a sales team. A strong ATP functionality is important to any manufacturing or distribution company's credibility with its customers. The truth is that often manufacturing and distribution companies make promises to customers without knowing if they can actually meet the demand.

This chapter introduces the global available-to-promise (global ATP) functionality and its core capabilities that you can use to solve the complexities that arise during the order-promising process. Besides explaining the basic differences of performing ATP in SAP ERP versus that of global ATP, the chapter highlights the basic and advanced ATP check methods. We also outline a recommendation for a global ATP implementation approach.

# 2.1 Global Available-to-Promise Overview

The aim of available-to-promise (ATP) is to determine if an incoming order can be promised for a specified customer request date. ATP enhances the response time for order promising and reliability of order fulfillment. It directly links the available resources, including both material and capacity, to customer orders and enhances the supply chain performance. The process helps by improving on-time delivery performance, allocating sufficient inventory to buffer inventories, and planning system integration. With SAP global available-to-promise (global ATP), an application within the SAP Supply Chain Management (SAP SCM) suite, global ATP not only provides basic ATP checks, but also enhanced and extended flexible user decision-support features to model different supply chain order-fulfillment business scenarios.

Global ATP, one of the core functionalities within SAP Advance Planning & Optimization (SAP APO), provides an integrated planning and execution system. Figure 2.1 illustrates the five different functionalities within the SAP APO suite. The first three functionalities in the figure (Demand Planning, Supply Network Planning, and Production Planning/Detailed Scheduling) focus on aligning demand and supply planning, whereas the other two (global ATP and Transportation Planning/Vehicle Scheduling) are involved with order execution and fulfillment.



Figure 2.1 SAP Advanced Planning & Optimization Suite

Global ATP leverages an SAP APO technology of SAP liveCache, which is a robust tool that processes a large volume of transactional data and enables data sharing across several applications. The technology offers fast planning, simulation, and what-if analysis. The SAP APO objective is to synchronize supply with demand in the global supply chain by balancing demand and supply with management of demand, distribution, and manufacturing planning. The SAP APO modules shown in the figure are described here:

- **Demand planning (DP):** Improves the forecast quality and planning accuracy.
- Supply Network Planning (SNP): Improves visibility across the supply chain and lowers inventory.
- Production planning and detailed scheduling (PP/DS): Supports the creation of optimized production plans.
- Global ATP: Offers capabilities that support responding to customer order requests.

- ► **Transportation planning and vehicle scheduling (TP/VS):** Optimizes transportation loads and minimizes transportation costs.
- ► Alert Monitor: Powerful exception management tool integrated with all SAP APO functionalities.

A company's ability to provide an accurate delivery commitment on a customer order is important for maintaining a strong relationship with its customer. Giving reliable and accurate information concerning when customer orders will be delivered increases customer satisfaction and creates repeat business. SAP SCM provides technology in the form of global ATP to meet the challenge of providing product availability information across a company's local and global supply chain.

# 2.2 Global ATP Capabilities

Global ATP provides a set of capabilities that support a company's ability to respond to customer order requests on a real-time basis. Global ATP offers the following key features in its portfolio:

- Seamless integration with other SAP ERP applications and components Global ATP can be integrated with SAP ERP 6.0 or SAP CRM where the orderprocessing business process takes place. It can also be integrated with other SAP APO functionalities (DP, SNP, PP/DS) for providing inputs to supply planning. This offers seamless integration of business processes.
- ► Availability checks on various SAP ERP documents with defined scope Global ATP can be used for various documents (sales order, delivery, stock transfers, component check for production order, goods issue check). However, the main use of global ATP lies more in the sales and distribution area than in the manufacturing process. The ATP check can also be performed for replenishment stock transport orders.

Rule-based ATP for product or location substitution strategies In a branched supply chain network, rules-based ATP allows manufacturing and distribution companies to take advantage of shipping goods from alternative sites. It also offers the flexibility of shipping substituted products as required to successfully satisfy customer demands.

Product allocation to control commitment to key customers
 This feature allows distribution companies to distribute and sell their products

that are in short supply. Allocations for distribution can be defined on various criteria such as distribution channels, geographic region, customer groups, or key customers.

#### ▶ Backorder processing (BOP) to manage the order portfolio

As a critical step in order confirmation to customer orders, this feature allows distribution companies to prioritize their order fulfillment to align with business goals. BOP also helps in performing re-ATP checks on customer orders, based on current inventory situation.

Multilevel ATP to trigger bill of materials (BOM) explosion and perform component checks

This feature is helpful for business scenarios that require products to be configured for individual customers. It is commonly used in the make-to-order business scenario.

#### Capable-to-promise (CTP)

Enables the business to call SAP APO production planning to produce the remaining quantity from an ATP check or procure the item externally. This is commonly used in the make-to-order scenario where the sales orders is pegged with the production order for order fulfillment.

#### Transportation and shipment scheduling

Involves backward scheduling to determine the requested material availability date based on the customer-requested delivery date and then forward scheduling to determine the committed delivery date based on the committed material availability date. This feature helps business determine reliable loading and delivery dates for the customer orders.

All of these global ATP functionalities offer the following key benefits to customers:

- Less time to give reliable availability check results on the current supply chain situation
- Prevention of over-commitment to customer orders
- Ability to search supply in multiple locations to reduce overall supply chain costs
- Effective management of backlog to process all the sales orders
- Opportunity to prioritize customers and realign order commitments during constraint supply chain situations

Now that we have seen the capabilities of global ATP, let's see how it compares with the ATP functionality available in SAP ERP.

# 2.3 ATP in SAP ERP versus Global ATP

The concept of ATP is not new in SAP ERP because the functionality is available in Sales & Distribution (SD) and Production Planning (PP). The ATP check capabilities in SAP ERP deliver great results for basic business scenarios, but they have some functionality limitations in complex business scenarios when compared to global ATP. The main functionality comparisons between the standard ATP in SAP ERP and global ATP are highlighted in Table 2.1.

Business Process Requirement	ATP in SAP ERP	Global ATP
Availability check across supply chain network locations.	The ATP check is done on a single plant/product combination.	With rules-based ATP, global ATP offers the functionality to perform availability checks across multiple locations to minimize supply chain cost and maintain customer-service levels. Global ATP can also create stock transfer orders between the two locations during the substitution process.
Product substitution in case of product shortage situations.	Only manual product substitution is possible.	With rules-based ATP, the requirement can be modeled for a defined list of product substitutions during the online availability checks.
During production capacity constraint or product launch, the business needs to allocate supply based on various criteria.	The feature is available in SAP ERP with the use of a standard or self-defined info structure in the flexible planning module.	With product allocation, different characteristics combinations can be defined for the allocation of constraint supply.

 Table 2.1
 ATP Functionality Comparison between SAP ERP and Global ATP

Business Process Requirement	ATP in SAP ERP	Global ATP
Reallocation of supply and sales orders are required to better align with current inventory situations.	SAP ERP offers BOP on fixed criteria.	Global ATP offers more flexibility when filtering, sorting, and scheduling the sales document using the BOP feature.
Integrate production and ATP check functionality.	Not available.	Available in capable-to-promise (CTP) functionality.
Check the availability of lower- level components during the ATP check.	Not available.	Available in multilevel ATP functionality.
Consideration of reverse logistics in the availability check.	Not available.	Global ATP supports reverse logistics by considering customer returns as planned receipts, increasing the ATP quantity.
Continuous flow output consideration in process industries where the products are available in different stages with long-running manufacturing process orders.	Not available.	Global ATP offers the feature to consider material availability by taking account of the continuous flow of production output with proportional distribution of ATP quantity in different time buckets.
Product availability simulation.	SAP ERP offers a simple simulation feature.	Global ATP simulation extends to both product availability checks based on the method designed and also on the back-order processing.

 Table 2.1
 ATP Functionality Comparison between SAP ERP and Global ATP (Cont.)

Business Process Requirement	ATP in SAP ERP	Global ATP
Integration with transportation during the product availability check.	SAP ERP offers delivery and transportation scheduling feature.	Global ATP can be integrated with the transportation planning and vehicle scheduling (TP/VS) module to consider the transportation constraints so that the system checks on product availability and delivery route simultaneously.
Scope of check (receipts, requirements, stocks) elements during the ATP check.	Available for defined material requirements planning (MRP) elements.	More granular than SAP ERP and allows the business to choose more firm and reliable ATP categories.

Table 2.1 ATP Functionality Comparison between SAP ERP and Global ATP (Cont.)

SAP ERP does offer basic business requirements in performing ATP checks, but lacks the ability to model complex business variants and rules. If the company has a simple distribution network, the ATP functionality should suffice. The next section explains the basic method in global ATP, which offers more flexibility than standard ATP features in SAP ERP.

# 2.4 Global ATP Basic Methods

The basic methods for ATP generate good results if the ATP quantity is available on the requested date. If the ATP quantity is not available, global ATP will propose a new delayed delivery date. As shown in Figure 2.2, after the sales orders are created, the ATP check is performed for product availability, which proposes partial or full delivery proposals based on the receipt element's availability. If the quantity cannot be confirmed fully in the same date, separate partial confirmations will be proposed on different dates. The communication between SAP ERP and global ATP is managed by the Core Interface (CIF) (you can find a detailed explanation of this in Chapter 3).



Figure 2.2 Flow Between Order Processing in SAP ERP and ATP Check in Global ATP

The ATP check performed on customer orders can be using basic and/or advanced ATP methods. We will look at the basic ATP method in this section. The following three different basic ATP methods are explained in the following sections:

- Product availability check
- Product allocation
- Forecast

### 2.4.1 Product Availability Check

This availability check is one of the time-phased simplest checks in global ATP and partially behaves in a similar manner to the SAP ERP availability check. This method can be used in any industry using the make-to-order (MTO) scenario. The ATP result is a simple calculation of the following:

#### Stock + Total receipts – Confirmed requirements elements

The scope of check can be defined for the business event and ATP group combination (explained later in Chapter 3) by following the menu path IMG • ADVANCED PLANNING AND OPTIMIZATION • GLOBAL AVAILABLE-TO-PROMISE • GENERAL SETTINGS • PRODUCT AVAILABILITY CHECK • MAINTAIN CHECK CONTROL, or by using Transaction /SAPAPO/AC03 (see Figure 2.3). The scope of check not only defines which elements or categories are considered in the availability check, but also a company's degree of risk conservativeness toward the customer order confirmation. The scope of check defines the requirements, receipts, and stock categories to be used in ATP quantity determination.

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ATP C	Group			02 Individua	I reqmt	
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Busir	ness E	Event		A SD order	r	
No	Subl	oc. Chec	sk		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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Cons	ider C	ж		No Checking	Horizon	Ĩ
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Figure 2.3 Scope of Check

The ATP result in SAP ERP can be adapted to customers' different business requirements with the help of enhancement (user exits), which are called before or after the ATP functionality to better reflect the results. Similarly, global ATP uses SAP liveCache and time series to give better results. SAP APO time series enables you to combine characteristics during the availability check. A good example is in the steel or pharmaceutical industries, where the products are configured with characteristicsbased planning. For these products, the product properties are stored at the batch level where the ATP check can be performed.

Global ATP also supports transportation and shipment scheduling to determine material availability date (backward and forward, see Figure 2.4) based on which ATP check is performed for the customer orders. This functionality allows for proper

determination of the requested material availability date (MAD) using transportation and loading lead times. The ATP check is then performed on this MAD to commit a confirmed delivery date to customer orders.



Figure 2.4 Date Scheduling Logic in Global ATP



Figure 2.5 Technical Architecture for Global Consolidation of SAP ERP and Global ATP Systems

On the technical architecture capability side, it's possible to have one global ATP communicating with consolidation of multiple SAP ERP environments. An example of technical architecture is shown in Figure 2.5, where two SAP ERP systems are connected with a single instance of global ATP. While the requirement and receipts

elements reside in a different SAP ERP system, these elements can be consolidated in the global ATP environment for performing the availability check. This form of technical architecture is commonly adapted for global consolidation and minimizes the cost implication on hardware and maintenance.

#### 2.4.2 Product Allocation

Product allocation is the second basic method, which is widely used by firms to make decisions on how to distribute and sell products that are in supply shortage. Distribution decisions are made based on distribution channels, geographic regions, customer groups, or strategic customers. This method is widely used in high-tech, steel manufacturing, chemical, automotive, oil and gas, and pharmaceutical sectors. The strategy has gained business acceptance in environments where high-volume items, high-value items, or products with long manufacturing lead times need to be distributed on a consistent basis.

When a product is in short supply, distribution companies want to make sure that each customer receives a proportional allocation of inventory and that the ATP check isn't reserving the entire inventory for one customer with a large order. This situation is usually encountered during material or capacity constraint, seasonal sales, good promotions, price changes, or new product launches where the supply chain may encounter supply shortages. Product allocation planning addresses these business situations by restricting the first in, first out (FIFO) method of order confirmation in SD. Allocation planning addresses the problem by restricting the allocation to specific customers or other criteria such as customer groups or regions. The restriction criteria are flexible to your company's needs.

Global ATP integrates with SAP DP to deliver the allocation capabilities based on characteristics combinations replicating marketing hierarchies for allocating the supply. The availability check with product allocations primarily follows two steps:

- 1. Perform the availability check.
- 2. Perform the product allocation check.

The lesser of the ATP and available allocation will be confirmed in the sales order item. Table 2.2 provides an example of how the confirmed quantity is placed for this business scenario.

Order Quantity	ATP Quantity	Allocation Quantity	Confirmed Quantity	Comments
100	150	120	100	Totally confirmed
100	60	120	60	Partially confirmed (due to ATP quantity)
100	150	80	80	Partially confirmed (due to allocation quantity)
100	80	60	60	Partially confirmed (due to ATP + allocation quantity)
100	60	80	60	Partially confirmed (due to ATP + allocation quantity)

 Table 2.2
 Combination of Product Availability with Product Allocation

The allocation quantity for the preceding table is derived from the allocation object (see Figure 2.6) in global ATP, which defines the quota allocation per the hierarchy. The characteristic combinations are populated to define the hierarchy allocations and serve as master data for the quota allocation maintenance. The sales order is checked against the characteristic combination criteria for an existing product allocation quantity. The quota allocation is entered in the SAP APO DP book (Transaction /SAPAPOAPO/SDP94) based on the characteristics combination master data.



Figure 2.6 Allocation Object in the Global ATP Product Allocation Functionality

Another important feature is the allocation sequence that allows the system to check for alternate allocation procedures when the first one cannot fully confirm the quantity. This feature is part of the product allocation in the global ATP.

#### 2.4.3 Forecast

The third check method is important for the MTO industries (e.g., a computer manufacturer) where no physical inventory is available to confirm the customers' orders. For a typical industry such as a PC manufacturing company, which is market-pull driven, the primary production commences after the sales order is received from the customer. During the initial ATP check, the quantity confirmation is performed against the forecast or planned independent requirements. Similar to product allocation, this check method can be integrated with SAP DP for getting the consensus forecast, or SAP Demand Management for getting the planned independent requirements.

# 2.5 Global ATP Advanced Methods

The global ATP basic methods form the baseline for the product availability check. Building on these basic methods, we can introduce additional advanced ATP checks to model supply chain constraints. For example, you can perform ATP checks across multiple locations for fulfilling customer orders. The advanced availability check methods include the following:

#### Combination of basic methods

To distribute its products proportionately in the market, the company wants to perform product allocation first, and then an availability check on its products. The check sequence of either method is done via the check instruction configuration. The product allocation first determines the resulting confirmed quantity, which is checked against the relevant ATP quantity from the product availability check, or vice versa.

Rules-based ATP check

Establish rules to determine what, where, and when to deliver products using location substitutions, product substitution, production process model (PPM) substitution, and characteristics substitution.

#### Production capable-to-promise (CTP)

Integrates manufacturing and ATP check functionality. During sales order

processing, CTP triggers product planning at the manufacturing plant and determines the delivery date based on the schedule of production capacity.

#### Production multilevel ATP

Checks the availability of components and proposes substitutions. It is based on the BOM explosion at the end item level to check ATP for each component.

#### Availability check for kits

Kits are BOMs that are always shipped in complete and assembled form (e.g., palletized products). This process corresponds to the production process but without any production resource to combine the components as a complete kit.

#### Third-party order processing

This method is helpful when the goods are shipped directly from the supplier to the customer. The company takes the sales order and ships the products directly from the external partner or supplier to the customer warehouse. Using the source determination and product allocation method, this check enables the company to ensure the requirements can be confirmed without having to take into account backorders or cancellations.

In the following subsections, we will discuss three of the commonly used advanced check methods in depth: rules-based ATP, CTP, and multilevel ATP checks.

#### 2.5.1 Rules-Based ATP Check

The rules-based ATP check method was primarily designed for the consumer goods industry and distributors, which have a complex distribution supply chain. The business scenario supported by this feature allows the goods to be shipped to a customer from different sources or with alternative product options. The rule maintenance master data drives the predetermined sequence for alternative locations and alternative products. The substitution rules are the iterative availability check process based on business rules. The check can be processed in several business dimensions: product, location, batch characteristics, or production process model for manufacturing.

A typical example for location substitution (see Figure 2.7) is the replenishment of inventory for satellite warehouses from a regional hub warehouse based on market demand. The business process steps include a sales order coming into distribution center A, whereby the global ATP check confirms the order based on available stock at warehouse A and balance ATP replenishment from warehouse B. Global

ATP also creates a stock transport order for shipping the products between the two locations. You can also use location substitution to always replenish a customer from a specific warehouse.



Figure 2.7 Location Substitution Scenario Modeled in Global ATP Rules-Based ATP

The basis of the rules-based ATP check is formed by multiple rules that are executed sequentially. The condition technique, which is commonly used in SD in pricing determination, can be used to define business rules. A typical use of the condition

technique in a business scenario is to define different order fulfillment locations for different customers. A rule maintenance is a master data created in global ATP that primarily consists of below four elements:

- Product Substitution List/procedure: Defines the sequential list of substitution products and the validity period.
- Location Substitution List/procedure: Defines the sequential list of substitution locations and the validity period.
- Product/Location rule control parameter: Defines whether to use location or product or a combination of both procedures.
- Calculation profile: User setting to define how the system should confirm the order when the desired delivery date is not met. Defines allowed delay or early confirmation days.

Figure 2.8 shows a Rule Maintenance screen (accessed via Transaction /SAPAPO/ RBA04), where we define the business rule for the sequence of the product locations where the ATP check needs to be performed. The figure shows that the same product is checked across multiple locations first and then substituted by a different product if the ATP check is still not successful.

Rule Maintenance												
Menu 4 Save Back Exit Ca	cel System   Prot	file & narameter Rule	89									
Overview Details												
	Rule 🔗 Evaluate	Rule										
Rec	uested location product	Standard value	es /				Rule control					
	P-103	2400 P10	3 Inclus 🖹 N	lo. Substitutn	s 0		Mo No	Restriction			1	
Rule Description	2400	The P2					No	No Restriction				
1288 R1083 PL Dresden/Product R-1003			Work forward	i from input. c	velic 🗈	2nd Acces	Comb.	gualified pro	duct w. locs	then	1	
1288_R1884 PL Dresden/Product R-1004	Start evaluation	2400	Work forward	from input	velie 🗈		Union	4				
2010_CTP 2010 CTP check (3200)	199 Otart Ovaluation		Trontionar	r norm mpor, c	,jono 🖾		onion					
2010_R1004 DC London/Product R-1004												
2010_R4-10 DC London/Product R-1004-10 Re	ults table:Ordered list o	of all substitute location	products							_		
2010_R4-20 DC London/Product R-1004-20 Seq.	Product	Location	StartProduction	Productio	Sub	From Date	Time Frm	To Date	Time to	Rea		
2010_R4-30 DC London/Product R-1004-30	P-103	2400	8	0	0	31.12.1999	22:00:00	30.12.2010	22:00:00		A I	
2010_R4-40 DC London/Product R-1004-40 2	P-103	2500	0	0	0	31.12.1999	22:00:00	30.12.2010	22:00:00			
2400_P102 DC Milano/Product P-102	P-103	2300	1	0	0	31.12.1999	22:00:00	30.12.2010	22:00:00	0000		
2400_P103 DC Milano/Product P-103	P-104	2400	0	0	0	31.12.1999	22.00.00	30.12.2010	22.00.00	0000		
2400_P104 DC Milano/Product P-104	P-104	2000	1	0	0	31.12.1999	22.00.00	30.12.2010	22.00.00	0000		
2400_R1003 DC Milano/Product R-1003	P-104	2400	0	0	0	21 12 1000	22.00.00	20 12 2010	22.00.00	0000		
2488_R1084 DC Milano/Product R-1004	P-102	2500	0	0	0	31 12 1000	22:00:00	30.12.2010	22:00:00	0000		
2500_P102 DC Rotterdam/Product P-102	P-182	2388	1	0	- 0	31 12 1000	22:00:00	30.12.2010	22:00:00	0000	F	
2588_P183 DC Rotterdam/Product P-103		2000		·	_	01112110000		00.16.6010				
2588_P184 DC Rotterdam/Product P-104												
2588_R1883 DC Rotterdam/Product R-1883											-	
2000_R1004_DC Rotterdam/Product R-1004										Þ	۲.	
3359->3789 replace Location 3350 by Locat												

Figure 2.8 Rule Maintenance for Location and Product Substitution

#### 2.5.2 Multi-Item Single Delivery

Multi-Item Single Delivery (MISL), also known as complete delivery, provides the functionality of shipping all the items in sales orders from a single location. This is useful when a company wants to consolidate its products for to reduce costs (e.g., transportation costs). During the sales order processing, global ATP uses the MISL functionality (built via rules-based ATP) to determine whether all the items requested in the sales orders are available in a single location. If the single location is not found, the items remain partially confirmed or unconfirmed. During the global ATP MISL process as seen in Figure 2.9 (accessed via Transaction /SAPAPO/ACO4), the multiple items are not confirmed in the primary location, but are confirmed in a secondary location. The system automatically updates the location in the sales order by creating an additional item that shows where the order is confirmed.

APO Availability Check - Result Overview												
🎒 🗓 🕼 AyAlert monitor												
Product/Location	Material Availability	Rqmt	Confirm	Cum	U   I	P D		Rule	Co M			
▼ PROD1_A_CL@QV5002/PL0001@QV5002/Item : 00									001 0			
▼ Schedule Line: 0001	10.06.2009	150 🔷	0	0	ST	۶		82				
<ul> <li>Product/Location Substitution</li> </ul>								>>>				
<ul> <li>PROD1_A_CL@QV5002 / PL0001@QV5002</li> </ul>	10.06.2009	150 🔘	0	0	ST	∆ 🦅						
<ul> <li>PROD1_B_CL@QV5002/PL0001@QV5002</li> </ul>	10.06.2009	100 💓	0	0	ST	∆ 🦅						
· PROD1_C_CL@QV5002/PL0001@QV5002	10.06.2009	40 🏾	0	0	ST	△ 🦅						
<ul> <li>Product/Location Substitution</li> </ul>								82				
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✓ Schedule Line: 0001	10.06.2009	150 🛇	0	0	ST	V		>>>				
<ul> <li>Product/Location Substitution</li> </ul>								>>				
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PROD2_B_CL@QV5002 / PL0002@QV5002	10.06.2009	50 🗖	50	50	ST	0 9	$\checkmark$					

Figure 2.9 Multi-Item Single Delivery Using Rules-Based ATP

#### 2.5.3 Production Capable-to-Promise

Working in conjunction with the SAP APO PP/DS functionality, this check method integrates the ATP check and production functionality. This global ATP solution is ideal for industries with configured products (steel, paper) or companies with constrained production due to bottlenecks (chemical).

During the sales order processing, if the existing supply cannot cover the demand, the PP/DS functionality is called in real time as a part of the ATP check to determine the manufacturing plant capacity (see Figure 2.10). It then creates a simulation production plan to find the best possible date for delivering the goods while considering the capacity of the manufacturing resources. If the plan is accepted, global ATP generates supply elements that can stock the transport order for nonmanufacturing sites or the production plan for manufacturing sites.



Figure 2.10 Manufacturing Capacity-Based Order Fulfillment

#### 2.5.4 Production Multilevel ATP Check

The multilevel ATP check method is designed for discrete industries that engage in multilevel assembly for configured products (e.g., PCs). This method is useful in industries where the assembly items are stocked and only when a customer sales order is received, the assembly items are assembled for the final product. The method checks the availability of the components (via BOM explosion of the primary product) before committing to the delivery date of the order. The differences between CTP and multilevel ATP are shown in Table 2.3.

Business Process Requirement	Multilevel ATP	СТР
Availability check on component level	Checks on component product availability as defined in the scope of check; supports rules- based ATP	Uses the PP/DS pegging functionality and primarily checks the end item product availability
Characteristics-dependent planning	Does not support	Supports characteristics planning
Scheduling of finished goods	Cumulated in daily bucket	Plans until lowest level of time (seconds)
Result	ATP tree structure	PP/DS planned orders
Display of check results	ATP result overview	Provides planning log
Performance	Better	Needs close monitoring
Capacity restrictions	Daily production rate	Finite scheduling on resource
Scheduling of components	Lead-time scheduling	Detailed scheduling as the production order
Lot size	Lot-for-lot	Fixed/min/max
Block planning	Does not support	Supports

 Table 2.3
 Differences between Multilevel ATP and CTP

One major difference between CTP and Multilevel ATP is the use of the ATP tree. The ATP tree structure is a new object created during multilevel ATP, which prevents the online creation of the receipt generated by global ATP for system-performance reasons. The conversion to receipt elements for the confirmed orders can be done later as a background job.

An example of multilevel ATP is shown in Figure 2.11 and Figure 2.12, where the order confirmation is done in two dates. The first date is based on the stock availability, while the balance quantity is based on the planned orders availability date, taking into account component lead time and resource capacity.

-										7									
APO Avai	lability	Check: 🛙	)elive	ery proposal (	Sales	order)													
0ne-time	delivery F	ull Delivery	Deliverv	proposal & Check	instructi	ons Ge Sc	Pro	duct	P-103	3	Pump PRE	CISION 10	13						
				1.11.11.11.10 · · · · · ·			Loc	ation	1000		Werk Ham	burg							
Order Item	10		Sc	chedule Line	1		Acc	t Assignment	05.										
Product	P-103				P	ump PRECIS	Day	/s' sup. [D]	254	. 38- 🕰	Ropt days [D] 25	54,38- <u>4</u>	L.						
Production Plant	1000		VV	erk Hamburg				-											
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Fixed date and	d qty		M	ax. Partial Delivery	9			"P. Group	82				5	Baar	ainta			549	
Sched. Line	Overview					Lem		r oloup	02					Rece	sipis mto			990	
SL Date	SchLinTime	Mt/AvaiIDt	MatA	Confirmed Quantity	ONEF	ULL 🖾 Co		Cki leaReami	-				22	Cont	f Reamts	_		548	
20.05.2009	12.00.00	20.05.2009	12:10	108	8	₽v.			17151	36 Ge SI	one of Ck	ets		0011	. regino		11	0.00	
20.03.2003	00:00:00	20.03.2008	88:88	342		65	1	Product avail	ability over	view for P-10	3 in 1000								
	00:00:00		00:00				1E	Avail/Romt	Avail/Re	Category	Receipt/Ramt, Elemt,	Rec/Reg	Confir	Qt	Request	Cumul.	ATP Qu U	Destination /	Campai
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								25.04.2009	12:00:00	Plord.	283890/000000	8	0		8	0	PC	/1000	
			-			_	1 E	25.04.2009	12:00:00	Plord.	283891/000000	8	0		8	θ	PC	/1000	
								25.04.2009	12:00:00	Plord.	283893/000000	8	0		8	0	PC	/1000	
							IL	25.04.2009	12:00:00	Plord.	283894/000000	8	0		8	0	PC	/1000	_
								28.05.2009	12:00:00	Plord.	2839237000000	342	0	4	342	0	PC	1000	
								28.05.2009	(a):00:00	SalesUrder	788881878881	342-	342		342-	0	PU FO DO		
								07 04 2009	09.11:09 12:00:00	Dolix	2001E17E/000010	Б	69	Ð	69	59	59 PC	0000001000/	
								15 84 2889	12:00:00	Deliv	800151757000010	5-	5		5.	59	PC	0000001000	
								10.04.2005		00117.	000101001000010		5		5-	55	10	00000010000	

Figure 2.11 Order Confirmation Based on the Production Availability Date

Figure 2.12 shows how the BOM is exploded for the parent item, and the component's availability is checked before the final confirmation of the order.

APO Availability Check: Confirmation (Sales order)										
🖌 🖽 & Check instructions & Scope of check & & ATP 🔓 Missing Parts										
Product F010L00V5002 Finished Product 1 CL										
Production Plant PL000100V5002 eCATT P	lant									
Requested Date 02.07.2009 12:00 Open Qu	antity 1	50	ST							
Sched, Line Overview										
MA Date MA Ti Confirmed Quantity One Full Confirmed Qty Prop										
12.07.2009 12:00: 150	<b>段</b> /	150 🛒		÷						
				*						
				4 1						
FE BE	🔍 Result		🔍 Valid /Orig	. 🔳						
X IVA B										
Product/Location	Material Availability	Rqmt Quantity	Confirmed Qu	Cumulated Confirme	Unit		Product Availability	Prod	Delivery	M
▼ F01CL@QV5002/PL0001@QV5002										
<ul> <li>Schedule Line 0001</li> </ul>	02.07.2009 🔃	150 🔳	0	150	ST	0	150	<b>1</b>	S)	톱
<ul> <li>Components of F01CL@QV5002</li> </ul>	12.07.2009	150		150	ST					
<ul> <li>C01CL@QV5002/PL0001@QV5002</li> </ul>	12.07.2009	150 🖿	150	150	ST	0	150		60	
<ul> <li>C02CL@QV5002/PL0001@QV5002</li> </ul>	12.07.2009	150 🔳	150	150	ST	0	150		"I	)

Figure 2.12 Bill of Materials Explosion in a Multilevel ATP Check

#### 2.6 Global ATP Extended Functions

Besides the basic and advanced methods, there are two extended features that are invariably implemented with any global ATP check methods and across all industries. The first method is backorder processing (BOP), which is used primarily for resolving backorder conflicts and re-ATP of the sales orders to reconfirm the delivery dates based on the latest inventory after the MRP run. The second method is the scheduling function, which is used for determining the correct material availability date (MAD) for shipping the goods.

#### 2.6.1 Backorder Processing

BOP is a critical step in sales order confirmations. It aligns the confirmation process with business goals by prioritizing the sales orders to determine which orders to ship first. BOP is also critical when the supply is constrained and you must decide which sales orders to prioritize for shipping. As a reallocation process, BOP aligns the supply plan and the open sales orders.

The BOP process consists of defining the order processing scope through master data, and executing the BOP in the following four steps:

- 1. Identify the business criteria important for prioritization. For example, this could be the document creation date or material availability date.
- 2. Filter the scope of BOP by selecting the orders that will be included in the processing.
- 3. The user defines the sort profile for defining the sequence to allocate the available stocks to the customer orders.
- 4. Execute the BOP either interactively (manually reconfirming the sales documents) or as a background job. The *BOP monitor* provides the tool to analyze the changes and result of BOP.

In a business scenario, BOP is essential in the following situations:

- ► Unexpected goods receipts (creates more ATP quantity as a result). This will help a business confirm customer orders that were not confirmed when orders were first received.
- ► Unexpected goods issues (creates less [negative] ATP quantity as a result). This helps businesses prioritize orders during supply shortage.
- High-priority order (to fulfill the demand, the confirmation of some low-priority orders must be cancelled). This will help businesses increase the profit margin by serving important customer sales orders.

The functionality of BOP is enhanced with the event-driven quantity assignment (EDQA) feature (see Figure 2.13) where BOP occurs automatically if sales orders/ stock inventory is changed. As you can see, when a goods receipt is performed in the warehouse, global ATP automatically confirms the orders from the order due list.



Figure 2.13 Event-Driven Quantity Assignment in Backorder Processing

#### 2.6.2 Time and Scheduling Functions

Transportation and shipment scheduling is an integral part of global ATP and serves as a scheduling tool for proposing a material availability date, loading date, and delivery date during the sales order processing. The scheduling (see Figure 2.14) works backward from the requested date to arrive at the MAD. MAD is the date for checking product availability. Master data will be required in SAP APO in the form of lead times between plants/vendors and transportation zones (ship-to party, state).



Figure 2.14 Transportation and Shipment Scheduling Lead Time in Global ATP

The feature helps customers with the following functions:

- ► Schedule the correct ETA for supply availability
- Properly calculate the lead time between supplier and customer points
- ► Increase the customer-service level and sales based on supply availability at the committed date

Global ATP also provides configurable process scheduling (CPS) as an enhanced scheduling feature to map the logistics function of the company. CPS uses business processes that have activities, and these activities have a start date and end date. CPS should be used in scenarios where transportation and shipment scheduling cannot be achieved using the condition technique. The only difference is that CPS is a lot more flexible where instead of fixed activities for shipment scheduling (e.g., pick, tran), you can add more activities (hold). In addition to duration determination, CPS can also do calendar determination, time zone determination, and location determination using the condition technique.

### 2.6.3 Global ATP Exception Management Alerts

The exception management process identifies issues (*exceptions*) that will lead to changes/adjustments in the operational demand and supply plans and improvements in the order-fulfillment process in general. Global ATP provides the SAP APO Alert Monitor alert management tool (shown in Figure 2.15), which can be used to model ATP alerts. Custom alerts can also be defined per business requirements (e.g., product allocation alerts can be triggered via custom macros defined in SAP APO DP).



Figure 2.15 Global ATP Alert Profile for Configuring Alerts

#### 2.6.4 Global ATP Implementation Approach

A clear implementation methodology is recommended for successful deployment of the global ATP functionality. The methodology can be divided into five areas, leading toward the production of global ATP functionality.

#### 1. Implementation scenarios

The implementation of global ATP can be combined either with other modules of SAP APO or implemented as a standalone with SAP ERP integration. The viable combinations are listed here:

- ► *DP* + *global ATP*: Combining the forecasting process and allocation process with ATP.
- ► *DP* + *SNP* + *global ATP*: Integrating demand and supply planning with order fulfillment.
- *PP/DS* + *global ATP*: Integrating manufacturing directly with the order-fulfillment process.
- Global ATP: Leveraging on advanced check methods capabilities for complex business scenarios.

#### 2. Big-bang versus phased approach

The majority of global ATP implementations primarily start with a proof of concept (POC) and develop into a project following business acceptance. The project implementation times are usually short—spanning three to five months—and the phased approach is best suited to minimize any business risk and better understand the global ATP behavior in the productive environment. To mitigate the business impact of the ATP check running in two environments—legacy and global ATP—it is recommended to roll out the global ATP solution by customer and distribution center. This also requires activating the CIF model by distribution centers.

#### 3. Global ATP check methods selection

It is imperative to map global ATP functionalities according to business-specific needs to solve order-fulfillment issues. The advantage of global ATP is that you do not need a single global approach, and each global ATP functionality can be implemented separately to solve the business problem. The basic and advanced methods can also be combined to deliver two-step ATP checks on customer orders.

#### 4. Business value versus implementation effort

A matrix (see Figure 2.16) that shows the global ATP functionality ease of implementation versus business value can accelerate the change management and business readiness process.



Figure 2.16 Business Value Potential versus Ease of Implementation

#### 5. Performance testing

Global ATP can be technically challenging due to the volume of transaction processing. It is always advisable to perform scalability/stress testing before going to production up to a scale of 120% sales-order volume. The stress testing should focus on the Remote Function Call (RFC) communication between SAP ERP and global ATP to fine-tune SAP Basis settings with parallel processing, and also look at options for a disaster recovery plan if the global ATP system is down.

### 2.7 Summary

This chapter provided an overview of the global ATP capabilities and how different check methods can solve complex business scenarios related to order promising. A comparison between the traditional ATP in SAP ERP and global ATP shows the advantages a company can harvest by implementing the advanced feature to model its supply chain constraints during the ATP check. Global ATP offers seamless integration with other SAP ERP modules to support the order-to-cash (OTC) end-to-end business process. We also discussed the key global ATP functionalities.

The next chapter introduces the global ATP technical architecture, the integration between the execution system (SAP ERP) and the ATP system (global ATP) using the Core Interface, and the basic configurations to make it work.

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