

A-line Atlantic Inc.

Corner Brook, NLBrantford, ONBlainville, QCPort Huron, MITel: (800) 790-1280Fax: (800) 771-7633web: www.alinegreetings.com

Red Apple Training & Merchandising Manual



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A-Line Greeting Cards is Canada's largest distributor of value priced greeting cards. With over twenty five years of experience in the greeting card industry we have designed a unique system of plan-o-grams and displays. A-Line Greeting Cards operates nationally in all Canadian provinces and offers the retailer the largest variety of greeting card designs, in \$1, \$2 and \$3 lines.

We offer custom display units that can be expanded from a single unit to one suitable to meet the need of even the largest store. A-Line Greeting Cards is the only value priced card supplier in the industry to offer a full line of continuous displays that can be configured together to accommodate any store lay out.

Our commitment is to ensure that all customers receive quality product and the excellent service that they want and deserve. Offering superior products and an extensive sales and merchandising team makes this possible. Our goal is to provide our customers with value priced programs that will produce the highest sales and highest profits.

We strive to develop long term relationships with our customers by ensuring that all aspects of your greeting card and ancillary programs are managed to your full satisfaction.



- All new hires are required to submit one of the forms below. The form on the left is for Full Time personnel and the form on the right is used for Part Time personnel
- The form has to be submitted to the office along with a <u>void cheque</u> or a <u>direct deposit slip</u> from your bank, copies of 2 ID's, one of which needs to be a photo ID. Please note that if the void check or direct deposit info is covering any information on the new hire form when submitted, we will not be able to accept it.
 - Please note you cannot be set up for payroll until the appropriate forms have been submitted.

GREETING CARDS	Phone: 1-800-790-1280 Fax: 1-709-634-1976	
	PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name:	Telephone #	
Address:	Cell Phone #	
	E-Mail	
	Social Insurance #	
Date of Birth:	Fax #	
Date Hired:	Service Area:	
Contract Rate/Salary Bank Information –A Void Chequ	e or Direct Deposit Slip from your bank will also need to be attached which should be photo ID.	
Contract Rate/Salary Bank Information – A Void Chequ along with copies of 2 D's one of Bank # (3 digits) Transit # (5 Digits)	te or Direct Deposit Slip from your bank will also need to be attached which should be photo ID. Bank Name: Bank Address:	
Contract Rate/Salary Bank Information _A Void Chequ along with copies of 2 ID's one of Bank # (3 digits) Transit # (5 Digits) Account # I confirm that I will never discuss or Line Atlantic Inc.'s business dealing competing greeting card supplier or Inc. A Certificate of Good Conduct will	te or Direct Deposit Slip from your bank will also need to be attached which should be photo ID. Bank Name: Bank Address:	
Contract Rate/Salary Bank Information _A Void Chequ along with copies of 2 ID's one of Bank # (3 digits) Transit # (5 Digits) Account # I confirm that I will never discuss or Line Atlantic Inc.'s business dealing competing greeting card supplier or Inc. A Certificate of Good Conduct will cost of obtaining the Certificate.	te or Direct Deposit Slip from your bank will also need to be attached which should be photo ID. Bank Name: Bank Address: Bank Address: r divulge any information which may become available to me regarding A- gs with customers and I also agree that I will not provide service to any their customers while also servicing accounts on behalf of A-Line Atlantic be provided to A-Line within 30 days of hiring. A-line will reimburse the	
Contract Rate/Salary Bank Information _A Void Chequ along with copies of 2 ID's one of Bank # (3 digits) Transit # (5 Digits) Account # I confirm that I will never discuss or Line Atlantic Inc.'s business dealing competing greeting card supplier or Inc. A Certificate of Good Conduct will	te or Direct Deposit Slip from your bank will also need to be attached which should be photo ID. Bank Name: Bank Address: r divulge any information which may become available to me regarding A- gs with customers and I also agree that I will not provide service to any their customers while also servicing accounts on behalf of A-Line Atlantic be provided to A-Line within 30 days of hiring. A-line will reimburse the	

A	INF			A-Line Atlantic Inc. Tel: 1-800-790-1280 1-709-634-1976
(REETING CARD	S		Website: www.alinegreetings.com
		PERSON.	AL INFORMATIO	DN
Name:				
	First Name	Las	t Name	Middle Initials
Address:	Street Addres			
	Street Addres	S		Apartment/Unit #
	City	Pro	vince	Postal Code
Home Phone	: <u></u>		Cell Phone:	
E-Mail:			Fax:	
Social Insura	nce # :		Date of Birth:	
Date Hired:			Vehicle/Expension	se Allowance:
	Hourly Rate	Vacation Pay	Vacation %	Total*
informati deposit slip	te that in order on sheet the fol from your ban	lowing will also ha k, copies of 2 piece	tered for our payr ve to be provided: s of ID, one of wh	y* voll, along with this personal a void cheque or a direct ich should be a photo ID.** unay become available to me
	Line Atlantic In	c.'s business dealin ting greeting card s	gs with customers a	and I also agree that I will not tomers while also servicing
regarding A- provide servi	behalf of A-Line	Ananuc inc.		
regarding A- provide servi accounts on b	behalf of A-Line	e Atlantic Inc.	Date:	
regarding A- provide servi accounts on b	behalf of A-Line		Date:	Internal Use Only:



4 CLASSIFICATIONS OF FIELD PERSONNEL

Territory Mangers

Account Managers

Part Time

In store Merchandiser

The classification in which you are hired will determine any other forms that you have to submit to the office. This will be outlined as you continue to read through your manual.

Upon the New Hire forms being submitted to the Field Operations Department, you will be set up in our merchandiser database; once this is accomplished the accounts that you will be responsible for servicing will be linked to your name.

You will then receive an email from our Field Operations Department with a login and password for our web application. This will allow you to print your **routing sheets** and view all your customer information online. *Routing sheets* are the list of the stores that are due to be serviced in a given week.

ACCESSING THE WEB APPLICATION

- * First go to <u>www.alinegreetings.com</u>
- * On the left hand side of the screen you will see **Staff Access.**

Your login and password must be entered exactly as shown in the email that you receive, all passwords are case sensitive. If after 3 attempts you cannot log in successfully, the web application will lock your staff access account.

To unlock your account, please advise the Field Operations department, Ext 7 or *Fieldoperations@alinegreetings.com*.



Additional Notes:

- After receiving your login and password, a merchandising package including store scanner will be sent to you unless you have already received supplies from your Territory Manager.
- In most instances, store scanners will not be sent to Field Personnel servicing only 1 account.
- A tracking number will be emailed to your personal email address for the package that is sent directly to you.
- Staff receiving scanners are required to scan all card and ancillary products to complete their order. Paper orders should only be written in rare circumstances, when the order cannot be scanned. For this reason, please make sure to keep a small supply of order forms on hand with you as you service each account.

HOLIDAYS

PART TIME

Part Time personnel are required to send an email to their Territory Manager advising of vacation. There is no limit to entitlement however time would still have to be approved through your TM to ensure that he/she can make arrangements to have your stores covered if need be. Once the TM approves your vacation time, he/she will forward the email onto fieldoperations@alinegreetings.com. The vacation form is not required for contract workers.

All vacations for Field Staff need to be reported to the office. In turn we notify our office staff when people are on vacation so they are not contacting them. It also needs to be noted in our payroll office for future reference.



DATE :		то:		A-line Atlanti	c	
NAME:		43 Maple Valley RD.				
			Mall			
			Corner	Brook, NL. A	2H 6T3	
	Ema	Fax# 1-800 ail: fieldope		alinegreetings	s.com	
DATE SERVICED	CUST#	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TOTAL HRS	HRY RATE	PAYABLE

In store Merchandisers are field staff who service only 1-2 accounts.

They are required to complete and fill in an invoice only (see form on left), we do not require a completed routing sheet each week. Your pay MUST be submitted at least **once per month** to keep the records in our database current.

All information must be included in order for your invoice to be accepted for payroll. Please make sure that all your dates, customer number, time in and time out are included.

Please do not write orders or supply requests on your invoice as these requests will not be accommodated.

Please ensure that your hourly rate from your personal information sheet is used on your invoice not the Total including vacation pay. The vacation pay is automatically added when the payroll office completes the payroll.



		INVOICE				
DATE:						
NAME:		A-LINE G	REETING CARDS			
			e Valley Road			
	Timco Industrial Mall					
		Corner B	rook, NL A2H 6T	3		
WEEK #:		Fi	ax #: 1-800-771-7633 C)R email to		
			Idoperations@alinegre			
STORE HOURS	# OF MINUTES	# OF HOURS	HOURLY RATE	PAYABLE		
(only include						
time spent in store)						
O OBTAIN # OF HO	OURS DIVIDE # OF M	INUTES BY 60	TOTAL HOURS			
EXPENSES	TYPE OF EXPENSE	# (I.E:# OF KMS/MILES)	RATE	PAYABLE		
KMS/MILES, OTHER						
(if applicable)						
ms should be entered	as 1 total, not broken ou	t by day, town etc.	TOTAL EXPENSES			
			Grand Total Payable			
This invoice mus	t be submitted along v	vith a copy of a comple	ted routing sheet for	pavroll		
	-	ning hours,(We conside		-		
first week oj	f work)which can be si	ubmitted by invoice onl	ly.			
LEASE NOTE: THIS IS	A SUMMARY SHEET C	NLY, DO NOT LIST ALL	CALLS ON INVOICE			
DDITIONAL NOTES:		-				

Part Time Merchandisers are field staff who service 3 or more accounts.

They are required to print a routing sheet from the web application each week to submit with the invoice to the left.

In order for your routing sheets to be entered for payroll, dates, start and stop times have to be included. If this information is not included, we will not be able to enter your information for payroll purposes. The number of units does not need to be filled in on your routing sheet.

When your routing sheets are approved and entered in the system, each visit will show up under the corresponding customer. This is valuable information for the office staff as we use this information if your stores call in or if the Territory Managers require info regarding your route.

Hints:

• An invoice and routing sheet are required to be submitted to our office at the end of each week.

• You cannot write supply requests or orders on invoice or routing sheet as your requests will not be accommodated.

• Any information received late in the day on Monday or received on Tuesday of pay week will not meet our deadline for entry.

• Please ensure that your hourly rate from your personal information sheet is used on your invoice not the Total including vacation pay. The vacation pay is automatically added when the payroll office completes the payroll.

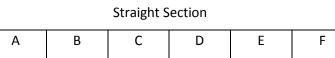
~ 8 ~



• Standard fixtures are 4ft wide and can be joined to make various size displays. Each section of a display has a different letter which allows you to identify it when reordering. The fixtures consist of 12 to 16 tiers (rows). Each tier (or row) is divided into pockets by plastic dividers and each pocket is numbered accordingly to the size of the fixture. Below are a few examples of display set ups...

GIFT WRAP SPINNER





Back to Back Island Display

			C
			Spinner





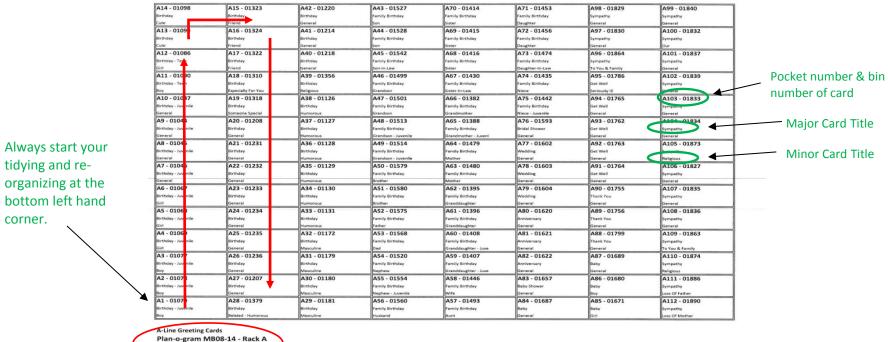


18 pkt Handmade Rack

18 pkt Value Pack



Each size card display has its own plan-o-gram. Your merchandiser handbook contains the plan-o-grams you will require to properly maintain any size display. Below is a sample of a plan-o-gram for a standard 4' 14 tier display of wrapped cards. If you do not have a planogram to match your card display in store, contact the office at 1-800-790-1280 Ext 1 or by email at <u>customerservice@alinegreetings.com</u>.



A-Line Greeting Cards Plan-o-gram MB08-14 - Ra Mill Brook 4' 14 Tier Revised on 05/12/2009

Printed on 05/28/2009

Planogram name and description





Aline carries two main types of greeting card product: **Wrapped** and **Unwrapped**. When purchasing Wrapped product each card is individually wrapped inside the outer case pack of 6. The majority of the \$1 retail product is wrapped.

Please note the code for each card line will be in brackets next to the style. You may notice the codes on the planogram labels for store scanning in your stores.

1. \$1.00 Retail

Mill Brook Studio English (MBW) is unique to A-line and features 893 skus. We also carry a **Mill Brook Studio French** (MBF) line that features 678 skus. The Mill Brook Studio counter card line has quickly become the best-selling \$1.00 brand in Canada; with an offering of everyday cards and extensive seasonal selection including both major and minor holidays. All \$1 Retail card product are in a pack size of 6, so when 1 pack is ordered 6 identical cards are received.

Furry Friends (FF) is a 56 design assortment of humorous pet inspired cards. Pass along some joy to someone else's life by sharing the images of the pets that bring joy to our own lives. This is the purr-fect combination.

Funny Bone (FB) is a 70 design assortment of humorous cards. This line offers a wide variety of laughs and will keep the laughs coming as you find the perfect card for that perfect someone.

Blank (BB) – is a 64 design assortment. This line allows you the opportunity to write a personalized note to that special someone and is offered in a wide variety of images which can be used for all occasions.

Mill Brook Studio English (MBU) – This is an 802 sku line of **unwrapped** Mill Brook cards. This line is available if the customer prefers to have their cards unwrapped.





COLLECTION





Rosedale Everyday (RD) is a 532 design assortment of greeting cards supported by a full line of seasonal product, with the exception of St. Patrick's Day cards. Rosedale has fresh innovative designs and embellishments that will surely plant a smile on the face of the lucky person who receives it. This line is proving to be the biggest \$2 retail line in Canada. Seasonal in Rosedale Product is now in packs of 3 instead of packs of 6 like the Rosedale Everyday cards and Themed cards below.

Humor Me (HM) is a 96 design assortment Rosedale Theme with funny, edgy and witty humor guaranteed to titillate everyone's Funny Bones. It will SHOW YOU THE FUNNY with a blend of art styles and photography for today's consumer.

Rosedale Ages (RAG) is an 84 design assortment Theme with ages ranging from 1-100. This line will help celebrate many of the milestones throughout the lives of our family and friends through the years.

Just Fur You (JFY) is a 64 sku Rosedale Theme and continues to be one of the most popular themes among consumers. Just Fur You combines both pet cards and humor cards into a very attractive and unique line of greeting cards.

Rosedale Blank (RBL) is a 32 design assortment Theme which allows you a chance to personalize your message on contemporary and traditional designs for any occasion.

Handmade Greeting Cards (MH) is a 56 design assortment of handcrafted and embellished everyday all occasion greeting cards.



3. \$3.00 Retail – (all \$3 retail product is unwrapped)

Rosedale Gold (RG) is a 256 design assortment of greeting cards supported by major season product (Valentine, Easter, Grad, Mother's Day, Father's Day, wedding/anniversary and Christmas). Highly embellished cards; including die cuts, foil stamping, encapsulated glitter, handmade attachments and flocking are sure to attract card shop customers with their unique designs and verses. Unlike our other lines, Rosedale Gold has only 3 cards per pack and is our most highly embellished card product available.

All Greeting Cards are designed on site in our Brantford location.





In 2010, Aline added a full selection of Everyday and Seasonal ancillary products to our lineup. This has catapulted Aline to be Canada's leader in the discounted social expressions category with the widest range of products and the most innovative designs.

We have the ideal combination of items in our Everyday Ancillary line to get you through your day to day celebrations with friends and family. We can meet all your party needs from bags to bows, from tissue to ribbon, and regular items like magnetic memo pads and gift wrap.

Our Seasonal ancillary selection carries product to decorate that special gift or to hold a gift card for the "hard-to-buy-for" person on your list. From items to celebrate Christmas, Easter, Valentines, St.Patrick's Day and Graduation this line offers all the necessities for your gifting needs.

In a sometimes busy lifestyle it's great to know that Aline can be your choice for one stop shopping to alleviate the stressful times. The ancillary line has so much to offer for that special occasion that will enhance the atmosphere for that special day and make the memories last forever.





Use FORM 1 and FORM 2 when ordering 1.00 cards (Mill Brook Unwrapped or Wrapped)

Use FORM 3 and FORM 4 when ordering \$2.00 cards (Rosedale)

*****ALL INFORMATION MUST BE FILLED OUT ON EACH ORDER FORM*****

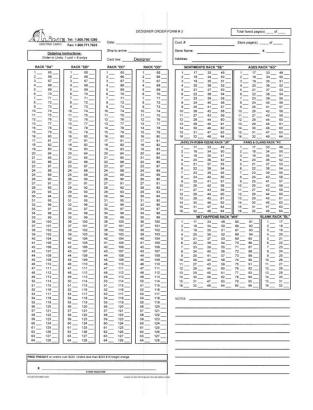
MAKE SURE ALL ORDERS FAXED IN MEET OUR MIN REQUIREMENT OF \$250.00

APPROX:

62 PACKS OF \$1.00 CARDS OR

31 PACKS OF \$2.00 CARDS

GREETING CARDS	Fax: 1.800.771.7633	- Date:		Cust. #:	Store page(s): of
Ordering	nstructions; 1 unit = 6 onlys	Ship to arrive:		Store Name:	r
		Card line:		Address:	
RACK "A"	RACK "B"	RACK "C"	RACK "D"	11529	HE HUMOROUS RACK "P" 43 57 71 85 99
2 66	2 66	2 66	2 66	2 16 30	44 58 72 86 100
3 67 68	3 67 68	3 67	3 67 68	3 31 4 18 32	45 <u>59 73 87 101</u>
5 69	5 69	5 69	5 69	5 19 33	47 61 75 89 103
6 70 70 7 71	6 70 7 71	6 70 7 71	6 70 70 7 71	6 <u>20</u> 34 <u>34</u>	48 <u>62</u> 76 <u>90</u> 104 <u>49</u> 63 77 91 105
8 72	8 72	8 72	8 72	8 22 36	50 64 78 92 106
9 73	973	9 73	9 73	9 23 37	51 65 79 93 107
10 74 11 75	10 74	10 74	10 74	10 <u>24</u> 38 11 25 39	52 66 80 94 108 53 67 81 95 109
1175 1276	11 75 12 76	1175 1276	11 76 12 76	11 <u>25 39</u> 12 26 40	53 67 81 95 109 54 68 82 96 110
13 77	13 77	13 77	13 77	13 27 41	55 69 83 97 111
14 78	14 78	14 78	14 78	14 28 42	56 70 84 98 112
1579 1680	15 79 16 80	15 79 16	15 79 16 80	PET LOVE RACK "L"	TIME OF YOUR LIFE RACK "K"
1781	17 81	17 81	1781	1 17 33	49 1 17 33 49 50 2 18 34 50
18 82	18 82	18 82	18 82		50 2 18 34 50 19 51 3 19 35 51
19 83 20 84	19 83 83	19 83 9	19 83 2084	4 20 36	52 4 20 36 52
21 85	21 85	21 85	21 85	6 37	53 5 21 37 53 _
22 86	22 86	22 86	22 86		54 6 22 38 54 54 55 7 23 39 55
23 87 2488	23 <u> </u>	23 87 24 88	23 <u>87</u> 24 88	8 24 40	56 8 24 40 56
26 89	25 89	25 89	25 89		57 9 25 41 57
26 90	26 90	26 90	26 90		58 10 26 42 58 59 11 27 43 59
27 91	27 91	27 91	27 91		59 11 27 43 59 60 12 28 44 60
28 <u>92</u> <u>93</u>	28 <u>92</u> 29 93	28 <u>92</u> 29 93	28 <u>92</u> 29 93	13 29 45	61 13 29 46 61
30 94	30 94	30 94	30 94		62 <u>14</u> <u>30</u> <u>46</u> <u>62</u> 63 <u>15</u> <u>31</u> <u>47</u> <u>63</u>
31 95	31 95	31 95	31 95		63 15 31 47 63 64 16 32 48 64
32 96 97	32 96 97	32 96 97	32 96 33 97	CARDT	
34 98	34 98	34 98	34 98	1	43 57 71 85 99
35 99	35 99	35 99	35 99	2 16 30	44 58 72 86 100
36 100	36 100	36 100	36 100	3 <u>17 31</u> 4 18 32	45 59 73 87 101 46 60 74 88 102
38 102	38 102	38 102	38 102	5 19 33	47 61 75 89 103
39 103	39 103	39 103	39103	6 34	48 62 76 90 104
40 104	40 104	40 104	40 104	7 21 35 8 22 36	49 63 77 91 105 50 54 78 92 106
41 105 42 106	41 100	41 105	41 105	9 22 36	50 64 78 92 106 51 65 79 93 107
43 107	43 107	43 107	43 107	10 24 38	52 66 80 94 108
44 108	44 108	44 108	44 108	11 25 39	53 67 81 95 109
45 109 46 110	45 109 46 110	45 109 46 110	45 109 46 110	12 26 40 13 27 41	54 <u>68 82 96 110</u> 55 69 83 97 111
47 111	47 111	47 111	47 111	14 28 42	56 70 84 98 112
48 112	48112	48 112	48112	HANDMADE RACK THE	H" GIFT WRAP RACK "W"
49 113	49 113 50114	49113 50114	49 113 50114	1 17 33	49 1 17 33 49
51 115	51 115	51115	51115		50 <u>2 18 34 50</u>
52 116	52 116	52 116	52 116		51 3 19 35 51 52 4 20 36 52
53 <u>117</u> 54 118	53 117 54118	53 <u>117</u> 54 118	53 <u>117</u> 54 118	5 21 37	52 5 20 36 52 53 5 21 37 53
55 119	55 119	55 119	55 119	6 22 38	54 6 22 38 54
56 120	56 120	56 120	56 120		55 7 23 39 55 56 8 24 40 56
57 121 1	57 121 58122	57 121	57 121	9 25 41	57 9 25 41 57
59 123	59 123	59 123	59 123		58 10 26 42 58
60 124	60 124	60 124	60 124		59 11 27 43 59 60 12 28 44 60
61 125 62 126	61 125 62 126	61 <u>125</u> 62 126	61 125 62 126		60 <u>12 28 44 60</u> 61 13 29 45 61
62 126 63 127	62 126 63 127	62 126 63 127	62 126 63 127		62 14 30 46 62
64 128	64 128	64 128	64 128		63 15 31 47 63 64 16 32 48 64
EE EDDINGT on online	over \$225: Orders less than :	1715 #15 failed about		NOTES:	
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	370HE 3H	ina rung			



~ 15 ~



A-Line Greetings has started the process of doing credits that will be used for rebilling in the following year. Christmas returns normally occur from December 27th, 2017 to January 20, 2018. The rebilling of these returns will be issued for November 15th, 2018 as normal billing for auto shipments occur. The returns will not be shipped back to the warehouse but stored in the under carriage or an agreed place somewhere else in the store.

For Field Staff that do not have scanners:

To complete the credit and re-bill process:

- You will need to sort the product by Sku and input information on our Credit & Re-bill form with quantities so that we can capture the data.
- Sign the form
- The product would be placed in under carriage drawer's storage and placed in a plastic bag or box clearly marked credit and rebill with a copy of the Credit & Re-bill form included– labels with "Property of A-Line Greeting Cards" are being supplied to be attached to the outside of the bag.
- Put a copy of the credit and re-bill form in the bag with the cards.
- Keep a copy of the credit and re-bill form for your records
- Fax a copy of the credit and re-bill form to 1-800-771-7633 or email to <u>accountsreceivable@alinegreetings.com</u>

For the store owner, their credit is applied just as normal; there are no changes to when the credit is applied and what is owing on the account. The merchandise that is left in the store will be re-billed for the next year's season of that corresponding product. With the only difference to the customer being that they are holding the product until the following year, Aline will review what was shipped to the store against what was scanned as credit and re-bill to determine what product is required for that season the following year.

If you have a tablet and a scanner, please see your territory manager for instruction on how to complete the credit and re-bill process.



For Field Staff that have scanners only:

These cards will need to be scanned using a special bar code so we can record what was sold and what was not during that season. A copy of the bar code will be included with the forms when they are mailed from the office.

Leave the Credit & Re-Bill scanning to be done at the end of your store visit.

- Scan into your store as normal
- Tidy Every day and Themed sections
- Scan planogram label and pocket labels to generate your ED order Do not scan out of the store
- Scan your Credit & Re-bill label
- Scan each Seasonal card individually
- Scan Credit & Re-bill label to complete the process
- The product would be placed in under carriage drawer's storage and placed in a box clearly marked credit and re-bill labels with "Property of A-Line Greetings" are being supplied to be attached to the outside of the box.
- Scan out of the store
- No paper credit note will be required at the store, an email copy will be sent within the next two business days directly to the customers.

It is important to note when scanning:

- Each scan of the Credit & Re-bill label is either a "scan in" or "scan out" of the process. If you are unsure that you scanned in the label and scan the label a possible second time, you will actually scan yourself out of the process and end the Credit & Re-bill. All cards scanned would generate an order rather than a credit.
- If at any time you realize that there is additional product to be added to the Credit & Re-bill scan, just rescan your Credit & Re-bill label and proceed to scan the cards individually and then scan the label again to end the process.
- If you forget to scan the Credit & Re-bill label to close the process and then try to scan an ED card order for that store, the order will not generate and a rescan of the product will be required to get the product required for that store.



EMAILING THE OFFICE

It is extremely important that any inquires you have are answered in a timely manner. You have customers that you have direct contact with waiting for answers. It is also important to get an accurate and quick response, so please direct your questions to the correct department. This will avoid multiple communication interventions and hopefully result in getting answers the first time around. It should help speed up processes and avoid confusion.

Remember, however, all your customer info is available for review on the web application. It should be your first instinct to check the web application. In most instances, this may eliminate a call or an email to the office.

A few things to include in emails:

- Customer #
- Customer Name
- Reason for the email
- Provide clear questions if a reply is needed

Always remember:

1. Don't use e-mail as an excuse to avoid personal contact.

Don't forget the value of face-to-face or even voice-to-voice communication. E-mail communication isn't appropriate when sending confusing or emotional messages. Think of the times you've heard someone in the office indignantly say, "Well, I *sent* you an e-mail." If you have a problem with someone, speak with that person directly. Don't use e-mail to avoid an uncomfortable situation or to cover up a mistake. If you do receive an email that upsets you do not respond with another email in rebuttal. This is referred to as "flaming"; it just gets the ball rolling until you have a full blown confrontation on your hands. Don't just hit the reply button and send something that you will regret later. **2. Remember that your tone can't be heard in an e-mail.**

Have you ever attempted sarcasm in an e-mail, and the recipient took it the wrong way? E-mail communication cannot convey the nuances of verbal communication. In an attempt to infer tone of voice, some people use emoticons, but use them sparingly so that you don't appear unprofessional. Also, don't assume that using a smiley will diffuse a difficult message.



3. Review an email before you send it.

You should always review your emails before sending them. This avoids things being left out. Make sure that the individual receiving your email has a good understanding of what you are asking. If you are sending an attachment, always remember to attach it.

4. Remember that e-mail isn't private.

E-mail is considered company property and can be retrieved, examined, and used in a court of law. Unless you are using an encryption device (hardware or software), you should assume that e-mail over the Internet is not secure. Never put in an e-mail message anything that you wouldn't put on a postcard. Remember that e-mail can be forwarded, so unintended audiences may see what you've written. You might also inadvertently send something to the wrong party, so always keep the content professional to avoid embarrassment.

5. Be sparing with group e-mail.

Send group e-mail only when it's useful to every recipient. Use the "reply all" button only when compiling results requiring collective input and only if you have something to add. Recipients get quite annoyed to open an e-mail that says only "Me too!"

6. Use the subject field to indicate content and purpose.

Don't just say, "Hi!" or "From Laura." Agree on acronyms to use that quickly identify actions. For example, your team could use <AR> to mean "Action Required" or <MSR> for the Monthly Status Report. It's also a good practice to include the word "Long" in the subject field, if necessary, so that the recipient knows that the message will take time to read.

7. Answer Promptly

If you are asked a question in an email ensure you provide a prompt response or let the sender know when they will receive a reply. If the answer to the question is lengthy or complex, consider calling the sender.

8. Answer all questions

When responding to an email, be sure to answer all questions contained within the email. Not answering all questions will only result in more email. *After receiving reply emails that have answered your questions, Re-replying with a "thank you" email, although sent with good intentions, is often unnecessary. Besides taking up valuable disk space it also unintentionally leads to minor frustration having to open emails that only say "thank you" or "noted"*

9. Don't send chain letters, virus warnings, or junk mail.

Always check a reputable antivirus Web site or your IT department before sending out an alarm. If a constant stream of jokes from a friend annoys you, be honest and ask to be removed from the list. Direct all personal e-mail to your home e-mail account.

10. Be concise and to the point

Avoid long winded emails. Emails should be concise, relatively brief, and specific

11. Use proper structure and layout

Business emails are business emails. Often we tend to get a little informal with our emails. Using acronym like "lol", "ttyl" or "cya" should be avoided. The use of emoticons · should also be avoided. Their intent is to ensure that the receiver does not take your email out of context. This can often be avoided by restructuring your sentences or communicating via the telephone or directly.



12. Text case and sentence structure

Emails written in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS are perceived as though you're shouting. Emails written with all lowercase letters are perceived as being lazy. We should use proper grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. Start sentences with capital letters and use periods at the end. Use complete sentences. Typing phrases or thoughts does not lead to clear communications. Additionally, do not use multiple question marks or exclamations; it is another form of on-line impatience. Do not use a lot of colors or graphics embedded in your message, because not everyone uses an e-mail program that can display them.

13. Formatting

Stay away from fancy fonts and graphical backgrounds.

14. Courtesy

The additions of words like please and thank you often go a long way. Using courteous greetings and closing help make emails not seem demanding or terse.

15. The CC field

Use the cc field sparingly. It is often unnecessary to cc many of the individuals who often get copied on emails. If it directly involves the individual they should be directly in the address line. The cc should be used to keep anyone who has to be aware of the contents of the email, but who is not directly involved in the email, in the loop.

16. Use the blind copy and courtesy copy appropriately.

Don't use BCC to keep others from seeing who you copied; it shows confidence when you directly CC anyone receiving a copy. Do use BCC, however, when sending to a large distribution list, so recipients won't have to see a huge list of names. Be cautious with your use of CC; overuse simply clutters inboxes. Copy only people who are directly involved.

17. Do not copy or forward messages or attachment without permission.

Email sent to you is often intended for you only. If you receive an email questioning the actions of another individual NEVER forward that email or any portion of that email to the individual in question. This is very unprofessional and often lead to unnecessary conflict. If necessary, a separate email should be written by you and the original email should not be copied or referred to.

18. Avoid using urgent or important

Some people always send their email as important. If it is that important you may want to contact the individual directly instead of by email. **19. Use a signature that includes contact information.**

To ensure that people know who you are, include a signature that has your contact information; including your mailing address, Web site, and phone numbers.

20. Subject lines

Subject lines should always be included with emails and should be concise. This helps the receiver sort through unread emails and makes it much easier to search for emails later.



21. Summarize long discussions.

Scrolling through pages of replies to understand a discussion is annoying. Instead of continuing to forward a message string, take a minute to summarize it for your reader. You could even highlight or quote the relevant passage, then include your response. Some words of caution:

1. If you are forwarding or reposting a message you've received, do not change the wording.

2. If you want to repost to a group a message that you received individually, ask the author for permission first.

3. Give proper attribution.

PAY STUBS

Please note that for all Field Staff your pay stubs are not mailed directly to you, they are emailed on the Friday of the pay week. Any new field personnel will have their pay stub emailed directly to their personal email account (Hotmail, yahoo, Gmail, etc.).

Once the email is received you will require a password to open the file – this is done for security reasons. The password required to open this file is not the same Aline password that is used to login to staff access on the web site. Your password consists of the first 3 letters of your last name (lowercase letters only) followed by your birthday in month, day and year (mmddyyyy). There are no spaces between the letters and the numbers.

There are 2 major departments of office staff available by phone or email:

- 1. Customer Operations- Consists of the Customer Service and Field Operations Departments
- 2. Financial Services consists of Accounts Receivable



Everything should be emailed to the generic email addresses unless otherwise specified

CUSTOMER SERVICE — <u>customerservice@alinegreetings.com</u> Ext 1

- Processing orders (including all trade show orders)
 - -hand written orders
 - tablet orders
 - scanned orders
 - web store orders
- > Tracking orders
- Inventory inquiries
- Requests to add to orders on hand (not invoiced)
- > Supplies Requisitions for Customers only (i.e. order forms, catalogues)
- Supplying copies of planograms/invoices by fax or email to customers/field staff
- > Altering ship/STAB(ship to arrive by) dates (for re-orders -not new set ups/revisions)
- Advise pricing on active customer's account
- General customer inquiries (addresses, phone #'s, date of last order, etc.)



FIELD OPERATIONS – <u>fieldoperations@alinegreetings.com</u> Ext 7

- Setting up new accounts/reviewing revisions on existing accounts should be emailed directly to Krista (ksimms@alinegreetings.com) and cc'd to Jeff Fradsham (<u>ifradsham@alinegreetings.com</u>) not to field operations email unless otherwise notified.
 a revision is any time a new planogram is required to be added/removed to/from a store or anytime that any racking is required.
- Routing Changes
- > Entering of Part Time Payroll entering invoices and/or routing sheets to submit to payroll office
- Contracts and Contract Renewal
- > Any Pricing Discrepancies on invoices (must include invoice # and details)
- Setting up New Hires (access to web application)
- > Closing out Field staff accesses when they are no longer working with Aline
- > Closing out Customer accounts in the database (i.e. no longer carrying cards, store closures)
- Supplies Requisitions Field staff only (i.e. order forms, catalogues, return forms, scanners)



FINANCIAL SERVICES

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE - accountsreceivable@alinegreetings.com or ext. 6

- Processing Returns & Stock Transfers,
- > Determining terms for new and existing customers
- Credit Reference Requests
- Credit Applications
- Everyday/Seasonal Hold file
- > Approving orders/Releasing orders from hold
- Cheque with Setup Follow up
- Stores Closures (Return of Product)
- Reconciling Rep accounts (Seasonal Product)
- Sales reports/Aging report
- Short Shipments
- Proof of deliveries



CALLING THE OFFICE

Points to remember when calling the office:

- All office staff members have voice mail; there should be no reason to give a message to someone else in the office to pass along.
- When leaving a message on someone's voice mail please make sure the message that you leave is detailed and explains exactly what you are looking for or what the call is regarding. Messages like, "Hey, its Joe call me back please!" should not be left on anyone's machine.
- If you have left a message for someone please do not call back to the office to someone else and ask the same questions, it is a waste of time to have numerous people in the office working on the same task at the same time.
- After leaving a voice mail please do not email that person within a couple of minutes, pick one or the other. Obviously if the person did not answer your call they are already busy with something or someone else. Your call will be answered when the person becomes available.
- Each department has numerous people that can answer your questions; this is the reason why you should get used to dealing with departments rather than individuals, unless of course you are returning a call from an individual staff member.

As there are over 100+ field personnel in Canada, when leaving a voice mail please make sure to give both first and last names. We have many people on staff with the same first name and this will eliminate any confusion regarding who to return the call to.

Remember that the office staff members are fielding calls from all across the country; people are in all different time zones. There are times when your call may not be returned right away. However, we ask that if you are waiting for a response, please be patient.