

Business One in Action - Why 'In Stock' Quantities Become Negative?



Applies to:

SAP Business One, [Logistics](#), [Stock](#)

Summary:

This article explores & explains the different settings in SAP Business One which control whether or not the stock is allowed to in negative quantities.

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Created on: December 2009

Author Bio:

Lorna Real joined SAP in 2007 and is currently active as Senior Support Consultant for SAP Business One. She has worked as both technical and business consultant. She authored this article as a direct response to a partner enquiry during the Expert-on-Phone project, where she consulted on mainly logistics and Finance related topics.

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Why 'In Stock' Quantities Become Negative?

The 'In Stock' quantities of an item may become negative if the 'Block Negative Stock' option in the Document Settings -> General tab is not selected. When this is not ticked, the system allows the release of stock items even if the quantities in the system are not sufficient to fulfill the requirement in the document.

This flexibility is specifically helpful in business scenarios where physical quantities are available but there have been delays in updating of the stock in Business One (e.g. updates are only done at certain hours of the day).

Note: When this option is un-ticked, the total monetary value of the item also goes into negative together with its quantity. These negative values are offset when subsequent receipts are posted for the item.

The screenshot shows the 'Document Settings' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The 'Block Negative Stock' checkbox is highlighted with a red box and is currently unchecked. Other settings include 'Calculate Gross Profit' checked, 'Base Price Origin' set to 'Last Purchase Price', 'Calculate % Gross Profit as' set to 'Profit/Base Price', 'Document Remarks Include' set to 'BP Reference Number', 'For a Sales BOM in Documents, Display' set to 'Price for Component Items', 'Response to Release of Stock below the Minimum Level' set to 'Block Release', 'Manage Stock by Warehouse' checked, 'Rounding Method' set to 'By Currency', 'Exchange Rate Base Date (AP Documents)' set to 'Posting Date', and several other options like 'Display Rounding Remark', 'Use Warehouse Address', and 'Copy Opening and Closing Remarks to Target Document' checked.

Even when the 'Block Negative Stock' option is ticked, it is still possible that some items show negative quantities in the 'In Stock' column in Item Master Data -> Stock Data tab.

Item Master Data

Item Number: A1000 Bar Code: | Stock Item
 Description: Boxing Gloves Sales Item
 Desc. in Foreign Lang.: Purchased Item
 Item Type: Items Fixed Assets
 Item Group: Combat sports
 Price List: Price List 03 Unit Price: |

General Purchasing Data Sales Data **Stock Data** Planning Data Properties Remarks

Manage Stock by Warehouse

Set G/L Accounts by: Warehouse Stock Level: |
 Stock UoM: | Required (Purchasing UoM): |
 Valuation Method: Standard Minimum: |
 Item Cost: 50 Maximum: |

#	Whse ...	Whse Na...	Locked	In Stock	Committed	Ordered	Available	Item Cost
1	01	General War	<input type="checkbox"/>	106	59	100	147	50
2	02	Store 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	-10			-10	50
3	03	Dropship	<input type="checkbox"/>					
4	04	Consignmen	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5	06	Wholesale W	<input type="checkbox"/>					
				96	59	100	137	

Set Default Whse

OK Cancel

The 'Block Release' and 'Block Negative Stock' options ensure that the stock quantity does not go negative. This setting however refers to the total 'In Stock' quantity of the item after considering all the warehouses. Hence, it is possible that a specific warehouse has a negative 'In Stock' quantity but the total 'In Stock' remains at positive values.

Item Master Data

Item Number: A1000 | Bar Code: | Stock Item
 Description: Boxing Gloves | Sales Item
 Desc. in Foreign Lang.: | Purchased Item
 Item Type: Items | Fixed Assets
 Item Group: Combat sports
 Price List: Price List 03 | Unit Price:

General | Purchasing Data | Sales Data | **Stock Data** | Planning Data | Properties | Remarks

Manage Stock by Warehouse

Set G/L Accounts by: Warehouse | Stock Level:
 Stock UoM: | Required (Purchasing UoM):
 Valuation Method: Standard | Minimum:
 Item Cost: 50 | Maximum:

#	Whse ...	Whse Na...	Locked	In Stock	Committed	Ordered	Available	Item Cost
1	01	General War	<input type="checkbox"/>	106	59	100	147	50
2	02	Store 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	-10			-10	50
3	03	Dropship	<input type="checkbox"/>					
4	04	Consignmen	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5	06	Wholesale W	<input type="checkbox"/>					
				96	59	100	137	

Set Default Whse

OK | Cancel

To prevent quantities in any of the warehouses from going negative, tick the 'Manage Stock by Warehouse'.

Item Master Data

Item Number: A1000 | Bar Code: | Stock Item
 Description: Boxing Gloves | Sales Item
 Desc. in Foreign Lang.: | Purchased Item
 Item Type: Items | Fixed Assets
 Item Group: Combat sports
 Price List: Price List 03 | Unit Price:

General | Purchasing Data | Sales Data | **Stock Data** | Planning Data | Properties | Remarks

Manage Stock by Warehouse

Set G/L Accounts by: Warehouse | Stock Level:
 Stock UoM: | Required (Purchasing UoM):
 Valuation Method: Standard | Minimum:
 Item Cost: 50 | Maximum:

#	Whse ...	Whse Na...	Locked	In Stock	Committed	Ordered	Available	Min. Stock	M
1	01	General War	<input type="checkbox"/>	106	59	100	147		
2	02	Store 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	-10			-10		
3	03	Dropship	<input type="checkbox"/>						
4	04	Consignmen	<input type="checkbox"/>						
				96	59	100	137		

Set Default Whse

Update | Cancel

The 'Manage Stock by Warehouse' option is available in the 'Document Settings' window. When this option is ticked, new item records created in the system will automatically have this option ticked in the 'Item Master Data' window.

The screenshot shows the 'Document Settings' dialog box with the 'Per Document' tab selected. The 'Manage Stock by Warehouse' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. Other options include 'Calculate Gross Profit' (checked), 'Base Price Origin' (Last Purchase Price), 'Calculate % Gross Profit as:' (Profit/Base Price selected), 'Document Remarks Include:' (BP Reference Number selected), 'For a Sales BOM in Documents, Display:' (Price for Component Items selected), 'Response to Release of Stock below the Minimum Level:' (Block Release selected), 'Block Negative Stock' (unchecked), 'Rounding Method' (By Currency selected), 'Exchange Rate Base Date (AP Documents)' (Posting Date), 'Display Rounding Remark' (checked), 'Use Warehouse Address' (checked), 'Manage Freight in Documents' (unchecked), 'Block Documents with Earlier Posting Date' (unchecked), 'Allow Future Posting Date' (unchecked), 'Calculate Row Total Using Unit Price' (unchecked), and 'Copy Opening and Closing Remarks to Target Document' (checked). Buttons for 'OK' and 'Cancel' are at the bottom.

Related Contents

- [SAP Business One in Action Catalog Page](#)
- [Link to DRC](#) documentation
- Note [863791](#)
- For more information, visit the [Business One homepage](#).

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