

# HEALTH CHECK: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Christine Andrews Rob Campbell



## **Keys to accounts payable**

- A well running payables function in a dealership is a combination of proper purchasing and efficient payment.
- More than KPIs; performance is judged when we find issues, exceptions and errors
- The rule of mistakes

BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH \*\*

## **Payables**

- Inventory
  - Factory
  - Outside purchases
- Deal related
  - Taxes and Motor vehicle
  - Aftersale Products
  - Payoffs (floorplan and lien)
  - Refunds
- Operations (water, rent, insurance)
- Special Requests (charity, goodwill)
- Not considering payroll/commissions/benefits

E IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH



#### **Vendor control**

- Who can enter new vendors in your DMS
- New vendor forms
  - W-9
  - OFAC
  - Complete the information in the DMS
  - Verify legitimacy
- Sales/use tax is correct



BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH "

## **Purchasing/Purchase Orders/Check request**

- Most things we buy don't have formal control
- Management control and separation of duties
- The point of a purchase order, check request or related is to be very specific about what the company is buying.
- Generating purchase orders after the fact or from a vendor's invoice is kind of pointless. You might just as well have management sign and write the correct account numbers on the invoice.

BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH

#### The three-way match What Is Three-Way Matching **PURCHASE ORDER RECEIPTS &** 3 INVOICES **ORDERS** PACKAGING SLIPS Official confirmation Proof of payment Requests payment for a purchase OUANTITY **QUANTITY** OUANTITY **☑** VALUE ☐ VALUE **☑** VALUE

4

#### Questions for every invoice

- What did the dealership order? (e.g., PO)
- What did the dealership receive? (e.g., packing slip)
- Are the unit costs, calculations, totals, terms, etc. all correct from what was expected?
- Does contact information match your system?
- Does the invoice have a unique number?
- What is the due date and terms of payment



BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH \*

#### Approval of invoice

 With the three-way match and check request items, we have already established management approval (hopefully)



- Who approves the window cleaner, the pizza delivery, the electric bill, the ads we ran this month, etc.?
- Approver needs to not only verify the correctness of the invoice, but also the correct accounts and departmental distribution.

BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH

# **Cutting a check**

- Vendor statement reconciliation
  - Matching invoices and marking as paid
  - Missing invoices (from your AP and their statement)
- Who are the signatories?
- Back-up requirements



10

# Non-check purchases/payments

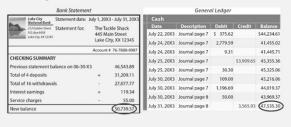
- Corporate cards
- ACH/EFT
- Factory



E IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH "

## **Bank Reconciliation**

- Positive pay
- Endorsements
- No address on check
- Random selection of checks made to individual
- Don't forget the refund account as well



BE IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH \*\*\*

#### Schedule maintenance

- AP (open item and balance forward)
- Factory statement
- Other payables
- Accrued Expenses and Pre-paid Expenses

DEIN A DO

# **Unclaimed property issues**

- Escheatment laws
- The best time to figure out an uncashed check is "as soon as possible."
  - Check could have been cut twice and one was not voided
  - Vendor could have voided invoice
- Once you figure out what went wrong then note the situation when voiding the check.

E IN A POSITION OF STRENGTH \*\*

