



GLOSSARY OF SAP ADVANCED PLANNING AND OPTIMIZATION

**A Quick Reference Guide to
SAP Terminologies**

Concept/Term	Definition
SAP APO	A key component of SAP SCM used for supply chain planning. Supports demand, supply, and production planning.
DP (Demand Planning)	Tool in APO to forecast future customer demand. Uses statistical methods and historical data.
SNP (Supply Network Planning)	Plans supply chain activities across locations. Balances demand, supply, and transportation.
PP/DS (Production Planning/Detailed Scheduling)	Plans and schedules production orders at detailed levels. Optimizes machine and labor usage.
GATP (Global Available-to-Promise)	Confirms product availability in real time. Considers inventory, receipts, and allocations.

Concept/Term	Definition
CIF (Core Interface)	Connects APO with ECC/S4HANA for data transfer. Handles master and transaction data.
LiveCache	In-memory data storage engine used by APO. Provides fast access to planning-relevant data.
Planning Book	A user interface in DP for planning activities. Displays key figures and characteristics in a grid.
Data View	A subset of data within a planning book. Filters relevant data for specific users or purposes.
Time Series Planning	Planning method in DP using historical time-based data. Generates forecasts per time bucket.

Concept/Term	Definition
Characteristic	Represents dimensions like product, location, customer. Used to structure planning data.
Key Figure	Numeric value used in planning, like forecast or demand. Holds planning quantities over time.
Forecast Profile	Contains parameters for statistical forecasting. Includes model type, outlier correction, and trend.
Heuristics	Rules-based planning algorithms in APO. Used for SNP and PPDS to propose feasible plans.
Optimizer	Advanced algorithm that finds cost-optimal plans. Used in SNP and transportation planning.

Concept/Term	Definition
Deployment	Determines how available stock is distributed. Prioritizes demand based on predefined rules.
Transportation Load Builder (TLB)	Groups planned shipments into transportation loads. Considers constraints like capacity and route.
Planning Version	Stores planning data for simulations or what-if analysis. Multiple versions can exist in parallel.
Supply Chain Model	Represents the entire planning network. Includes products, locations, resources, and transport lanes.
Location	A node in the supply chain, such as plant or DC. Essential for modeling supply and demand.

Concept/Term	Definition
Product Master	Contains planning parameters for materials in APO. Includes lot size, procurement type, and horizon.
Location Product	Combination of a product and location. Defines planning behavior for each pairing.
Transport Lane	Defines the route and parameters between locations. Includes lead time and transport costs.
Quota Arrangement	Allocates supply to different sources based on ratio. Guides sourcing decisions in SNP and GATP.
Supply Heuristic	Generates supply proposals using rules. Balances demand with available capacity and stock.

Concept/Term	Definition
Capable-to-Match (CTM)	Matches supply and demand while respecting constraints. A mid-way between heuristic and optimizer.
PPDS Horizon	Time range where detailed scheduling is active. Outside this, planning happens at aggregated levels.
Resource	Represents machines, labor, or capacities in PPDS. Used for finite scheduling and capacity checks.
Production Data Structure (PDS)	Contains BOM and routing data in APO. Used for detailed planning and scheduling.
Order-Based Planning	Works on discrete orders instead of aggregated data. Relevant in PPDS and GATP.

Concept/Term	Definition
Time Bucket Profile	Defines time intervals for planning views. Commonly set to days, weeks, or months.
ATP Check	Verifies if requested quantity can be confirmed. Considers supply, stock, and future receipts.
Product Allocation	Limits product confirmation based on rules. Ensures fair distribution in case of shortages.
Forecast Consumption	Reduces forecast by incoming sales orders. Prevents double counting in demand.
Backward Scheduling	Schedules production orders from required finish date. Moves backward to calculate start.
Forward Scheduling	Schedules from the current date forward. Calculates earliest possible delivery date.

Concept/Term	Definition
Interactive Planning	Manual adjustment of planning data in APO UI. Allows planners to override system proposals.
Release to ECC	Transfers APO planning results back to ECC. Converts planned orders or purchase requisitions.
Data Mart	APO structure to hold planning-relevant data. Supports analysis and reporting within DP.
Univariate Forecasting	Statistical forecast using one variable (usually historical demand). Common in DP.
Causal Forecasting	Forecast based on external factors like promotions or weather. Adds intelligence to planning.

Concept/Term	Definition
Macrobuilder	Tool for creating planning logic in planning books. Supports automated adjustments and custom flows.
Alert Monitor	Identifies exceptions or planning issues in APO. Helps planners focus on urgent problems.
Forecast Error	Difference between actual demand and forecast. Used to improve model accuracy.
Planning Operator	Executes a specific function like forecast or heuristics. Triggered from planning book or job.
Job Scheduling	Automates planning runs at defined intervals. Managed via background jobs or process chains.

Concept/Term	Definition
Process Chain	Sequence of planning steps executed automatically. Ensures end-to-end data processing.
Transportation Scheduling	Plans transport execution based on constraints. Ensures timely and cost-effective delivery.
Shelf Life Planning	Ensures that product shelf life is considered during planning. Reduces waste and spoilage.
Block Planning	Schedules production in blocks or campaigns. Useful for similar products sharing setup.
Safety Stock Planning	Maintains buffer stock to prevent stockouts. Can be time-dependent or fixed quantity.