
ARC Monthly Bulletin – November 2012

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Oracle Release 12 Migration Project Update

The Oracle Release 12 (R12) Migration Project's deployment phase will enter its final stage in December 2012 when the last group of customer agencies migrate to R12. Agencies migrating December 1 include African Development Foundation, Bureau of the Public Debt's Accounts Receivable Section, Bureau of the Public Debt's Federal Borrowing Branch, Bureau of the Public Debt's Trust Fund Management Branch, DC Pensions Fund, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Federal Housing Finance Agency Office of Inspector General, Treasury Departmental Offices, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Financial Management Service's Financial Accounting & Services Division, Financial Management Service's Governmentwide Accounting, Office of Financial Stability and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Customer agencies will use a new accounting flexfield (AFF) structure on all transactional documents entered in Oracle, PRISM, and systems that feed into Oracle, upon migration. The expanded structure conforms to Common Government-Wide Account Classification (CGAC) requirements and provides the increased flexibility requested by customer agencies to better support their diverse business practices. More information is available on the R12 website, https://arc.publicdebt.treas.gov/fs/oraclar12/fsoracle_r12.htm. Customers need to evaluate all non-ARC systems (e.g., time and attendance, revenue/billing, etc.) they use or administer to determine what changes can or should be made to those systems to accommodate the new AFF structure. Feeder systems supported by ARC have been updated to support this change.

R12 initiated multiple changes to Discoverer and PRISM. Agencies are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the R12 training opportunities offered during the month leading up to their migration.

If you have questions on the Oracle R12 Project, contact us at R12Communication@bpd.treas.gov.

2. Federal Employees Retirement System – Revised Annuity Employee Guidance

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued guidance for implementing a new retirement coverage option—the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)-Revised Annuity Employee (RAE). Beginning on January 1, 2013, new employees (including Members of Congress and Congressional employees) who receive an appointment not excluded from FERS coverage and who would normally be placed in FERS will receive FERS-RAE coverage.

An employee will be excluded from FERS-RAE coverage if:

1. He/she was covered under FERS on December 31, 2012; OR
2. He/she was performing civilian service which is creditable or potentially creditable service under FERS on December 31, 2012; OR
3. He/she had at least five years of FERS creditable or potentially creditable service on December 31, 2012.

Employees covered under FERS-RAE are required to pay an additional 2.3 percent of salary to the retirement system. In addition, benefits for FERS-RAE employees will be computed under the regular employee formula. Benefits for Members of Congress and Congressional employees will no longer be computed using the enhanced formula.

The complete FERS-RAE Benefits Administration Letter can be found on OPM's website at: <http://www.opm.gov/retire/pubs/bals/2012/12-104.pdf>.

If you have any questions, contact ARC's Benefits Service Center at 304-480-8275 or Benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

3. Thrift Savings Plan Contribution Limits for Tax Year 2013

The regular Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contribution limit for tax year 2013 will increase from \$17,000 to \$17,500. Employees may contribute Traditional (pre-tax), Roth (after-tax), or a combination of both to reach the regular TSP limit.

For Federal agencies paid through the National Finance Center—including all of ARC's human resource customers—tax year 2013 spans from December 16, 2012, through December 14, 2013. To distribute \$17,500 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute \$674 per pay period to the TSP. This election should be made according to agency procedure between December 2, 2012, and December 15, 2012.

Employees who will be age 50 or older during 2013 may also contribute up to an additional \$5,500 as TSP "catch-up" contributions—only if regular TSP contributions will total \$17,500. Employees may contribute Traditional (pre-tax), Roth (after-tax), or a combination of both to reach the TSP catch-up limit.

To distribute \$5,500 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute \$212 per pay period to the TSP. This election should also be made between December 2, 2012, and December 15, 2012. Please note that a new "catch-up" election must be made each tax year.

If you have questions, contact the Benefits Service Center at 304-480-8275 or Benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

4. Changes to National Finance Center Employee Personal Page

Beginning November 13, 2012 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center (NFC) will no longer take calls directly from employees for assistance with Employee Personal Page (EPP). In conjunction with this change, NFC has replaced the physical mailing of forgotten user IDs and temporary

passwords with online self-service. Employees of customers who elected Human Resource Processing Operations services who are still having trouble with EPP may contact ARC's HR Systems Help Desk for assistance at 304-480-8000 option 4 or at HRSystems@bpd.treas.gov. The Help Desk will assist employees with initial EPP access, forgotten User IDs/passwords, or other EPP issues. The Help Desk will also act as an intermediary with NFC for issues that must be resolved by NFC.

If you have questions, contact Katrina Dickason at 304-480-8273 or Katrina.Dickason@bpd.treas.gov.

5. Discontinue Use of SF 215 Deposit Tickets

Agencies and financial institutions must use OTCnet Deposit Reporting in place of the SF 215 deposit tickets (deposits entered directly into CA\$HLINK II) for all TGA (Treasury General Account) and ITGA (International Treasury General Account) bank deposits because, after December 31, 2012, financial institutions will no longer be able to accept manual SF 215 deposit tickets. SF 215 deposits do not get reported to TRS (Transaction Reporting System). With the shutdown of CA\$HLINK II on December 31, 2012, TRS will be the only FMS system where agencies can view all of their collections information. By taking steps now to confirm this, agencies will have the opportunity to verify that all required data is available in TRS to support their business processes.

MITGA Deposits (Mail-In Treasury General Account)

All Agencies currently mailing over the counter deposits to one of the Federal Reserve Banks must switch to the Mail-in-TGA (MITGA), which is supported by US Bank. FMS is requiring these agencies to work with Treasury's Financial Agent, FRB St. Louis, to establish new depository arrangements with US Bank's Mail-In TGA. Contact FRB St. Louis customer service 1-866-771-1842.

If you have questions, contact Janet Frazier at 304-480-7186 or Janet.Frazier@bpd.treas.gov.

6. Fiscal Year 2013 Changes to the Treasury Contracting Officer's Representative Program

The Department of Treasury Acquisition Career Management Program Handbook has been updated to implement recent Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Officer's Representative (FAC-COR) program changes. The most significant Handbook changes focus on continuous learning points (CLPs). Chapter 6, Section 9, states that CLPs must be related to acquisition management, contracting, or project/program management. Additionally, Addendum A to the Handbook provides a list of mandatory CLP courses required in FY 13 for FAC-COR's at Levels II and III. For further information on changes to the Treasury COR program, you can access the revised Handbook and Addendum A on your ARC customer web page in the Procurement Guidance portion of the Guidance/References tab.

If you have questions, contact Loretta Osuna Cotto at 304-480-8717 or COR@bpd.treas.gov.

7. Upcoming GovTrip Training

ARC Travel Services will be conducting two upcoming quarterly GovTrip travel system demonstrations via the web. Participants may register for either of the sessions offered below.

Participants will be able to ask questions via the conference call center and after the completion of the demonstration.

Session 1

Class Location: Webinar - On-line Meeting Center
Date: December 4, 2012
Times: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Session 2

Class Location: Webinar - On-line Meeting Center
Date: December 6, 2012
Times: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

If you have questions, contact ARC Travel Services at 304-480-8000, option 1 or Travel@bpd.treas.gov.

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