
ARC Monthly Bulletin – December 2013

Valuable information for ARC's customers

Article headlines appear below. Scroll down for full stories.

HEADLINES

Business Technology Services

1. Update Oracle Federal Financial Applications

Financial Management Services

2. Accounting Services Division Reorganization

Human Resources Services

3. Treasury Human Capital Strategic Partner Certification Program
4. No Change to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Contribution Limits for Tax Year 2014
5. Upcoming Changes in Take Home Pay
6. Delegated Examining Unit Evaluation
7. FY13 Accomplishments in Staff Acquisition and Classification

Information and Security Services

8. Fiscal Service Open Data Policy Publication Submission
-

FULL STORIES

1. Update Oracle Federal Financial Applications

We will be updating the Oracle Federal Financial application (shared customer environment only) to meet Government-wide Treasury Account Symbol reporting requirements the weekend of January 3-5, 2014. This update will require our financial management applications--Oracle Federal Financials, Discoverer, and PRISM-- to be unavailable from 6:00 pm on Friday, January 3 until 6:00 am on Monday, January 6.

For additional information, contact Lisa Offenberger at 304-480-7156 or lisa.offenberger@bpd.treas.gov.

2. Accounting Services Division Reorganization

The growth of financial management shared services has necessitated a new organizational structure effective December 2013. The Accounting Services Division will be replaced with two new divisions: Division of Transaction Maintenance and Verification and Division of Compilation and Analysis.

While the reorganization will be effective in December, the movement of work assignments and resources to align to the new structure will take place in incremental steps over the coming months. Our expectation is to be completely transitioned to the new functional structure by June 2014. We are committed to maintaining exceptional service through this transition. Specific changes affecting individual agencies will be communicated at the time they are effective.

Please check the customer webpages for additional updates as we progress through our reorganization:

<https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/customer-pages/>

For additional information, contact Debra Daniell at 304-480-7002 or debra.daniell@bpd.treas.gov.

3. Treasury Human Capital Strategic Partner Certification Program

The Human Resources Operations Division would like to introduce you to three HROD employees that were recently certified through the Treasury Human Capital Strategic Partner Certification Program. Gerrod Negley, Manager of the Treasury Processing and Quality Review Branch, Kelly Nettleton, Supervisor of the Classification Staff and Carrie Sharp, Manager of the Employment Services Branch, are three out of seven individuals recently recognized by Treasury. Gerrod, Kelly, and Carrie are considered Strategic Partners and will act as high-level consultants who develop Human Capital strategies to address long-term business needs. These individuals are distinguished and set apart from their peers because they have a broader and more advanced skill set that will bring even more value to the organizations they service.

For additional information, contact Nancy Smith at 304-480-8260 or nancy.smith@bpd.treas.gov.

4. No Change to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Contribution Limits for Tax Year 2014

The TSP regular contribution limit for tax year 2014 will remain \$17,500. For Federal agencies paid through the National Finance Center, including all of our HR customers, the 2014 tax year spans from December 15, 2013, through December 13, 2014. To distribute \$17,500 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute \$674 per pay period to the TSP. Employees should make this election between December 1 and December 14, 2013, for the change to begin with the new tax year.

Employees who will be age 50 or older during 2014 may again contribute up to an additional \$5,500 in tax-deferred "catch-up" contributions—only if regular contributions for the tax year will total \$17,500. To distribute the \$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 1 and December 14, 2013.

If you miss the window between December 1 and December 14, 2013, or have other calculation questions, the TSP's elective deferral calculator can be found at:
<https://www.tsp.gov/making-contributions/>.

You can also read more about the TSP annual contribution limit at:
<https://www.tsp.gov/making-contributions/contribution-limits/>.

For instructions on changing your TSP contribution amount, including how to send emailed elections more securely, contact the Benefits Service Center at 304-480-8275 or send an email to benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

5. Upcoming Changes in Take Home Pay

Many employees will notice changes in their net pay during the upcoming months for a variety of reasons. Changes in Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB), Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) contributions could impact the amount of take home pay in the coming weeks. In addition, Federal, state, and local tax changes could also impact net pay.

A more detailed description of changes in take home pay will be posted in early January on your agency's ARC customer web page at:
<https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/login/>.

For additional information, contact the Benefits Service Center at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

6. Delegated Examining Unit Evaluation

In April 2013, the Office of Personnel Management conducted an evaluation of our delegated examining unit. The overall findings were favorable and we are committed to significantly improving any process where the potential for violation of prohibited personnel practices or violation of veteran's preference laws is a concern. The majority of the findings had previously been identified and actions were in place to track and remedy issues.

For additional information, contact Carrie Sharp at 304-480-8371 or carrie.sharp@bpd.treas.gov.

7. FY13 Accomplishments in Staff Acquisition and Classification

The Employment Services Branch completed a multitude of achievements in supporting our customers. In the classification realm, approximately 764 position descriptions were classified and 421 pen and ink changes to positions descriptions were completed. For staff acquisition, 3,453 job announcements were posted, 558,954 applications were processed, and 2,915 selections were brought on-board. In addition, approximately 19,863 phone calls and inquiries were received and answered in response to both staff acquisition and classification needs. With the onset of our Quality Control Program, 166 staff acquisition cases and 59 classification cases have also been reviewed in a period of three quarters of this past fiscal year. In addition to our daily operations, we also supported the completion of 38 major projects in support of operations and customer service.

For additional information, contact Carrie Sharp at 304-480-8371 or carrie.sharp@bpd.treas.gov.

8. Fiscal Service Open Data Policy Publication Submission

Due to the rise of data as an economic enabler for a recession-hit global economy, central governments of several nations including the UK and US Federal Government have embraced open government initiatives like endorsing and embracing the use of open standards for interoperability. To complete this, the current Administration has produced, in accordance with the "Digital Government: Building a 21st Century Platform to Better Serve the American People" strategy document and the Office of Management and Budget "Open Data Policy" mandate, guidance as to the management of public sector information.

The guidance is both broad, deep and fundamentally changes the way in which the federal government has managed data and changes the way in which the federal government thinks about innovation. Open data is about sharing our data so that any innovative organization can discover new insights, solve old problems, and upend fragile processes. The Bureau of Fiscal Service is committed to Open Data and to Open Government and submitted our first Open Data Policy on November 4, 2013. As the first Treasury bureau to complete the requirement, Fiscal Service will be working with Treasury to ensure that their submissions meet OMB mandates.

For additional information, contact Marcel Jemio at 202-607-6614 or marcel.jemio@fms.treas.gov.

ARC Websites: [Homepage](#) | [Customer Access Pages](#) | [Bulletin Archives](#)

Administration: [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Bulletin Feedback](#)