
ARC Monthly Bulletin – November 2014
Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Status of TAS BETC Functionality Changes

Implementation date for TAS-BETC functionality - December 5-7, 2014

We are continuing to test and provide feedback on the Oracle R12 patches that provide new Treasury Account Symbol – Business Event Type Code (TAS-BETC) functionality to our system to meet government-wide modernization requirements. The changes, which are extensive, affect many of the modules, interfaces, and business processes. We are consulting regularly with the software vendor and pushing to identify and resolve the system issues preventing deployment. Our new target date for implementing the functionality is December 5-7, 2014.

No payment schedules transmitted - December 1-7, 2014

The changes ensure our platform, including feeder systems and interfaces, where necessary, are compliant with the new TAS-BETC reporting requirement and enable our platform to produce a compliant payment file. The new payment file will be in the Payment Automation Manager (PAM) standard reporting format requiring reporting of the component TAS format and BETC code on each disbursement. The government-wide systems must be configured to accept the new payment format at the beginning of a month. Therefore, we will be unable to produce a new PAM file from our Oracle system from December 1-7, 2014.

We will not be creating payment batches during this period. We recommend that customer agencies approve all available invoices and vouchers for payment before November 25, 2014 to ensure timely payment. Consistent with the accelerated payment directive, we pull all scheduled payments for disbursement each day. Invoices and vouchers that are scheduled for payment in Oracle on November 26, 2014 will be processed through the Secure Payment System on November 28, 2014.

In the event that you need to make an emergency payment during this period, please notify your primary financial management contact and we will coordinate the necessary activities on our end.

Partner Main Account Codes reported in GTAS – December 4-18, 2014

The TAS-BETC functionality enables our platform to record and report trading partner Main Account Codes on intragovernmental transactions, and is necessary for GTAS reporting. These additional fields enable GTAS to provide us with more information for eliminating intragovernmental balances with partner agencies. In the future, we will be able to determine intragovernmental differences at the Agency Identifier and Main Account Code levels of the component TAS level instead of the Agency Identifier level only.

For additional information, contact Debra Daniell at 304-480-7002 or Debra.Daniell@fiscal.treasury.gov.

2. Credit Gateway

Credit Gateway Fedwire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) codes are used by individuals or businesses to transfer funds directly to your agency. These post directly to the Treasury Account Symbol (TAS) and Business Event Type Code (BETC) in your Government Wide Accounting (GWA) accounts based on the cash profiles that were established when the Classification Key (CKey) was setup in GWA's Shared Accounting Module (SAM). The Cash Branch and the Accounts Receivable Branch (ARB) have been working with Fiscal Service's Revenue Collection Management (RCM), Settlement Services Division who manages the Credit Gateway system. The Credit Gateway accounts were created at different times and many have outdated contacts or duplicate other Credit Gateway accounts. We will reach out to you before making any updates to determine how you want us to proceed. New Credit Gateway accounts may be created to drive the cash flow to a different TAS and BETC. If needed, please contact ARServiceDesk@fiscal.treasury.gov and we will coordinate your needs with the Cash Branch and the Settlement Services Division. This ensures that all parties are aware of your needs, and cash reconciliations and reporting are completed smoothly.

For additional information, refer to https://fiscal.treasury.gov/credit-gateway/faqs.html. You may also contact Sara Taylor at 304-480-7007 or Sara.Taylor@fiscal.treasury.gov.

3. Budget Object Class Listing FY2015

Our budget staff has completed a review of the FY 2015 BOC Listing. This year we have added two Personal Service Contractor (PSC) related BOCs (Budget Object Classes) and modified one existing description. We have notified our customer budget contacts of the revised listing and provided the 2015 BOC listing on all accounting customer webpages (https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/login/) under the "Guidance/References>Financial Management" section. A summary page is located at the beginning of the document which shows all implemented changes. The webpage also includes the FY 2014 BOC list as a reference tool, so please be sure to use the most recent version when researching BOC items.

For additional information, contact Amy Stephens at 304-480-5354 or BudgetARC@bpd.treas.gov.

4. Thrift Savings Plan Contribution Limits for Tax Year 2015

The regular Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contribution limit for tax year 2015 will increase from $17,500 to $18,000. 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 our HR customers—tax year 2015 spans from December 14, 2014, through December 12, 2015. To distribute $18,000 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute $693 per pay period to the TSP. Employees should make this election between November 30 and December 13, 2014, for the change to begin with the new tax year.

Employees who will be age 50 or older during 2015 may also contribute up to an additional $6,000 as TSP "catch-up" contributions—only if regular TSP contributions for the tax year will total $18,000. To distribute $6,000 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute $231 per pay period. This election should also be made between November 30 and December 13, 2014. Please note that a new "catch-up" election must be made each tax year.

Our Employee Benefits Branch will provide 2015 TSP Contribution Limit notices to HROs for distribution to employees in the near future. In the meantime, 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 Benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

5. National Finance Center

In pay period 17/2014 (August 24, 2014 – September 6, 2014), the National Finance Center incorporated changes in their procedures to collect debts owed to the government by Federal employees. The change was made to ensure the debt collection process was in compliance with all the debt management rules and regulations. As a result, if an employee elects not to pursue a waiver of the debt owed, the repayment agreement that is included with the debt notice, must be completed, signed and returned to NFC within 30 days from the date of the Debt Notice and Demand for payment. Failure to complete the repayment agreement will result in employees being placed on a NFC delinquent report and may also reflect negatively on employee's credit reports.

Employees need to thoroughly review the Debt Notice and Demand for Payment to ensure they are complying with the repayment requirements as outlined.

In addition, as of pay period 22/2014 (November 2, 2014-November 15, 2014) NFC will be pursuing more stringent collection practices. This includes Garnishment of Cash Awards for any employee in a delinquent debt status.

The following payments are not subject to the garnishment of awards for a delinquent status debt:

- Recruitment Incentive
- Relocation Incentive
- Student Loan Repayment
- Separation Incentive
- Retention Incentive
- Individual and group Time off Awards

For additional information, contact Ellyn Branham at 304-480-8343 or Ellyn.Branham@bpd.treas.gov

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