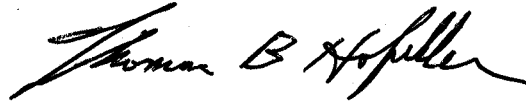


For: FSA Employees and Contractors

**Beta-RF Phase II: Communications Tracking and
Control System (CTCS) - Bundle Control System (BCS)**

Approved by: Associate Administrator for Operations and Management



1 Overview

A Background

ITSD will migrate the current BCS to the new transmission system called CTCS-BCS. The BCS software uses the System 36 (S/36) communication technology and protocols to control and track the transmission of FSA program data files between the Kansas City office and Service Centers. The new CTCS-BCS software will use MQ Series, QLiner, and TCP/IP capabilities of the AS400 to provide improved monitoring capability and timelier transmission of files.

Phase I migration, transmission of files from Kansas City to Service Centers, was implemented nationwide in September 2007.

Phase II migration will include transmission of files from Service Centers to Kansas City.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices of the following:

- Phase II migration of BCS to CTCS-BCS
- beta release installation instructions
- where to find additional CTCS-BCS information
- key changes to the S/36, AS400, and Web environments.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2009	All FSA employees and contractors; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice IRM-413

1 Overview (Continued)

C Contact

For technical assistance, contact either of the following:

- OCIO/Technical Support Division State IT Specialist
- ITS Service Desk by either of the following:
 - e-mail at **servicedesk-kc@kcc.usda.gov**
 - telephone at 1-800-457-3642.

Notes: Submit a Magic Ticket.

Include the State or county release number or letters.

Example: State and County Release Beta-RF.

2 Phase II Migration

A Beta Software Releases

The software release was mailed to State and County Offices on November 21, 2008, in State and County Release Beta-RF's.

The beta software will be mailed to:

- 1 system in the National Office
- all County Offices in the following States:
 - Alaska
 - American Samoa
 - Arizona
 - California
 - Georgia
 - Guam
 - Hawaii
 - Indiana
 - Kentucky
 - Michigan
 - Nevada
 - Oregon
 - South Carolina
 - Texas
 - Utah
 - Washington.

Note: The State and county selection for the beta test was based on:

- coverage of all time zones
- transmission volumes (high, medium, and low)
- Kansas City S/36 communication machine where State or County Office currently transmits their BCS files.

Notice IRM-413

3 Release Installation Instructions and Guidance

A State and County Office Action

Before installing releases, State and County Offices shall perform the following steps.

Crucial: Do **not** install the release until the exceptions are cleared. The installation must be completed by COB December 1, 2008.

Step	Action
1	Run start-of-day processing.
2	Check the Exception Report. Note: If there are no exceptions, go to step 6.
3	Complete a day time transmission.
4	Check the Exception Report. Note: If there are no exceptions, go to step 6.
5	Submit a Magic Ticket or contact the State Office to have them submit a Magic Ticket for Beta-RF transmission assistance before continuing with the installation.
6	Install the beta release. Note: This meets the requirement to perform a file backup before installing the software. The overnight file backup works for this purpose.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- ensure that County Release Beta-RF is installed immediately upon receipt
- review the CTCS-BCS System User Guide to understand the migration and system changes

Note: See paragraph 4 for how to access the CTCS-BCS System User Guide.

- refer to the CTCS-BCS System User Guide for trouble-shooting problems before contacting technical support.

Notice IRM-413

3 Release Installation Instructions and Guidance (Continued)

C State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- ensure that State and County Release Beta-RF's are installed immediately upon receipt
- review the CTCS-BCS System User Guide to understand the migration and system changes
- refer to the CTCS-BCS System User Guide for trouble-shooting problems before contacting technical support.

4 CTCS-BCS System User Guide

A Availability of the CTCS-BCS System User Guide

The CTCS-BCS System User Guide is available online to provide information about CTCS-BCS and the Web Reporting System.

B Accessing the CTCS-BCS System User Guide

Access the CTCS-BCS System User Guide by either of the following:

- go to <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/CTCS/index.html> and CLICK “**CTCS - BCS System User Guide**” under “Links”
- go to FSA Intranet Home Page at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/fsa/> and CLICK:
 - “**FSA Infrastructure**” under “Links”
 - “**Communications Tracking and Control System Reports (CTCS)**”
 - “**CTCS - BCS System User Guide**” under “Links”.

Note: A Level 2 eAuthentication employee ID is required to access the Web reports.

Notice IRM-413

5 System Changes

A S/36 Key Changes

The following S/36 key changes will occur as a result of the migration:

- transmission file name format will change (reference the CTCS-BCS System User Guide)
- Menu County now includes option 15, “Print Outgoing Transmission Log”
- Menu State now includes option 15, “Print Outgoing Transmission Log”
- for **start-of-day**, a new “CTCS-BCS File Transmission Log, Outgoing Files Sent” report will automatically print during start-of-day.

Notes: The Communications Log file list will continue to be printed during start-of-day.

Retain copies of both the “CTCS-BCS File Transmission Log, Outgoing Files Sent” report and the Communications Log file list.

The following table shows changes to day time transmission and end-of-day.

Day Time Transmission	End-of-Day
No longer performs transmission backup.	Same
No longer bundles application files.	Same
No longer displays screen for media selection.	Same
Will display new informational messages on the system console, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “MMDDYY HHMMSS FFN600-Job Started” • “MMDDYY HHMMSS FFN600-Current File SSCCFID” <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Example: TX001PK8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “FFN610-Copy S36 File FIDSTAnn to AS400”. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Example: PK8TXA01</p>	Same
No longer transmits using BCS.	Same
	No longer displays the message, “Do you wish to do a Receive Queue?”
	No longer displays End-of-Day Processing Time Schedule Screen FCK96101.
	Unattended end-of-day nightly backup executes at midnight.

5 System Changes (Continued)

B AS400 Key Change

Option 3, “Start the CTCS-BCS Outbound Send Process”, has been added to the CTCS-BCS Main Menu.

C Web Key Changes

The following Web reports will be added:

- Y DOT Report
- Exception Report.

D Impact on AS400-S/36 Operations

There are **no** major AS400-S/36 operational changes affecting Service Center employees.