

SPS Changes for
Component-based Treasury Account Symbol-Business Event Type Code
(TAS-BETC)
Common Questions as of 10/31/2008

1. Question: When is component-based TAS-BETC entry to be available for entry by GWA Reporter ALCs in SPS?

Answer: Component-based TAS-BETC will be available for GWA Reporter ALC entry in SPS in early calendar year 2011. It is expected that agencies will be rolled out as GWA Reporter ALCs. Although there is no mandated date for becoming a GWA Reporter ALC at this time, agencies should be preparing.

2. Question: How is the component-based GWA Treasury Account Symbol and Business Event Type Code (TAS-BETC) format differ from the Account Symbol/Appropriation Symbol that agencies currently enter in SPS certified schedules (except Same Day Payment) today?

Answer: Currently SPS users enter 7-16 positions in the Account Symbol field and it is not validated against actual accounts. Typically it is in string format where only the pieces of the account symbol that apply are strung together (Ex. 20X1234). “Non-GWA Reporter ALCs for SPS” will continue to report in this format until they become GWA Reporter ALCs for SPS. GWA Reporter ALCs for SPS will have to enter the component-based GWA TAS and the BETC together and it must match to a valid GWA TAS-BETC in the Shared Accounting Module (SAM). (Ex. 20X1234)

Component-based GWA TAS								BETC
Sub-level Prefix Code (SP)	Allocation Transfer Agency Identifier (ATA)	Agency Identifier (AID)	Beginning Period of Availability (BPOA)	Ending Period of Availability (EPOA)	Availability Type Code (A)	Main Account Code (MAIN)	Sub Account Code (SUB)	
		020			X	1234	000	DISB

Note: Sub-Account Code is required and it must be a valid Sub-Account Code according to the payment GWA TAS-BETCs in SAM.

See GWA Website TAS-BETC Factsheet Attachment B – Component-based GWA TAS for more information on format edits for payments:
www.fms.treas.gov/gwa/factsheet_tas.html

3. Question: Is uploading a “Schedule” into SPS the same as transmitting a payments “bulk file” to the Regional Finance Center (RFC)?

Answer: No.

A Federal Program Agency (FPA) can create a “schedule” file using their own proprietary software, Computer Off-the-Shelf software or SPS offline. The schedule file format shall follow the *SPS Schedule Upload 440 File Formats*. The Data Entry Operator (DEO) can sign-on to SPS with their credentials, upload the file into SPS, and then submit the schedule to the Certifying Officer (CO). The CO can sign-on to SPS with their credentials and certify the schedule. The schedule types are Regular Check, Manual Check, ACH, ACH Prenotes, Same Day Payment, Summary and Summary Prenotes.

Payment bulk files are transmitted to the RFCs. The related summary totals are on the Summary Schedule which is created in SPS (entered on-line in SPS or uploaded by a Data Entry Operator (DEO) and certified by a Certifying Officer (CO)).

4. Question: What is the difference between Technical Note 16 Formats and Edit Criteria and SPS Schedule Upload 440 File Formats?

Answer:

Technical Note 16 Formats and Edit Criteria is the file format that is currently used for SPS schedule files. All ALCs are currently Non-GWA Reporter ALCs for SPS.

SPS Schedule Upload 440 File Formats has both the current file formats that the Non-GWA Reporter ALCs use and the new formats that GWA Reporter ALCs will need to use when they start reporting TAS-BETC. These formats are being released to help agencies anticipate changes that will be needed for their systems if they plan to create schedule files to upload.

5. Question: What happens if one of the specific benefit agencies submits mixed Check and ACH bulk files to the RFC? This only applies to SSA 3rd of the month, SSA PMA daily, SSI daily, OPM daily, RRB daily, VA Retro, and VA 1606.

Answer: (Updated 10/29/08)

PAM has PAM Input File Specification – Standard Format on their website for reporting the component TAS-BETC. The PAM Input File Specification – Standard Format does not allow mixed Check and ACH. (See www.fms.treas.gov/pam/)

6. Question: What does it mean to be a GWA Reporter ALC for SPS?

Answer:

The GWA Reporter ALC for SPS will need to have 1-100 valid Treasury Disbursing Office (TDO) Payment GWA TAS-BETCs per Payment and 1-300 valid TDO payment GWA TAS-BETCs per Schedule.

Valid payment GWA TAS-BETCs have to match the payments component-based GWA TAS-BETCs that will be on SAM.

All the payments for the GWA Reporter ALC must be ready to enter/upload GWA TAS-BETCs (i.e., all schedules that they use ex., Regular Check, Manual Check, ACH, ACH Prenotes, Summary, Summary Prenotes, Same Day Payments must be GWA Reporter ALCs for SPS.) That is, for a specific ALC, an agency cannot submit some schedule certifications in current non-GWA Reporter ALC format, and some payments in GWA Reporter ALC format. The entire ALC is either a GWA Reporter ALC or not. Also, once an agency becomes a GWA Reporter ALC, they cannot revert back to being a non-GWA Reporter ALC.

If the ALC is transmitting payment bulk files, those files must also include TAS-BETC information for the payments and go through Payment Automation Manager (PAM).

7. Question: What are valid Payment BETCs for SPS?

Answer:

<u>BETC</u>	<u>Name</u>
DISB	- Gross Disbursement
DISBCA	- Payment for Obligations of Closed Accounts
INVNFED	- Investment in Non-Federal Securities
INVNFS	- Investment in Non-Federal Securities (Market Value)
REFTAXD	- Refund of Taxes, Debit
FHOTXD	- Funds Held Outside of Treasury

“DISB” is typically the most commonly used BETC for TDO payments in SPS.
(Note: Adjustment BETCs cannot be entered into SPS.)

Per GWA BETCs for “F” accounts are not valid.

8. Question: What are the valid TAS-BETCs for SPS?

Answer: Updated 10/29/08 (Date changed to FY 2010)

GWA identifies the valid component TAS-BETCs and SAM will provide the component-based GWA TAS-BETCs for SPS on the SAM Public Website in Fiscal Year 2010. The SAM Public Website URL is (<https://www.sam.gov/sampublic>). The SAM website can also be accessed off the SPS Website.

9. Question: When it says 1-300 GWA TAS-BETC per schedule is that the same as number of payments?

Answer: No. “1-300 GWA TAS-BETC per schedule” is the number of **unique** TAS-BETCs per schedule. It is possible to have one TAS-BETC that

applies to numerous payments. It is also possible to have more than one TAS-BETC apply to one payment. (Below is just one illustration of GWA TAS-BETC per schedule (in the 3rd block) and per payment (in the 4th block). See *SPS TDO Payments Interface with GWA* presentation for other examples.)

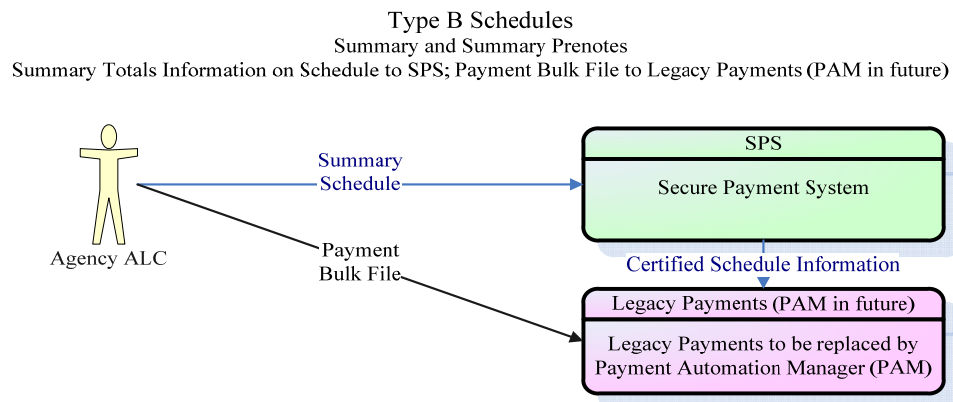
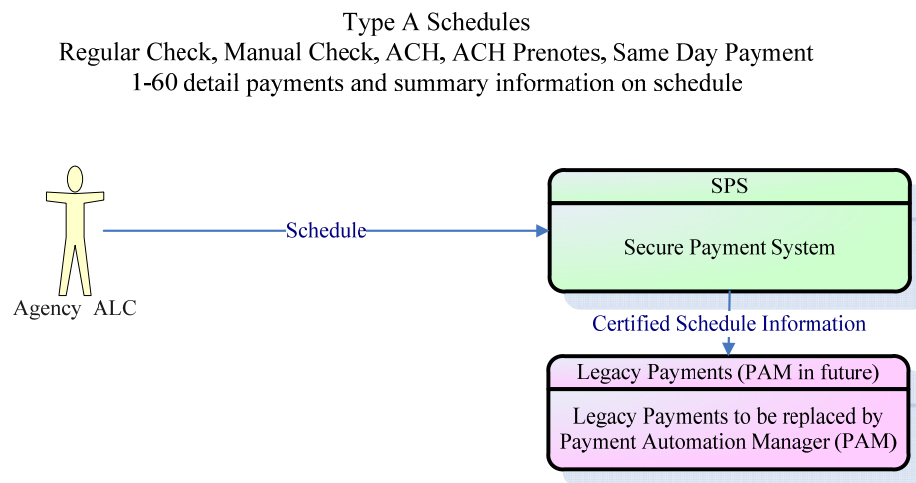
Example – Type A Schedules with detail and more than 1 TAS-BETC				
Schedule Type: (Type A – Regular Check, Manual Check, ACH, ACH Prenotes, SDP) Total Number of Payments: 4 Total Amount \$300 ALC: (GWA Reporter ALC for SPS) Schedule Number: 00001234567894				
TAS-BETC Schedule Summary TAS-BETC #1 \$100 TAS-BETC #2 \$200				
Payment	TAS-BETC	TAS-BETC-Amount	Payee ID	Payment Amount
(1)	TAS-BETC #1	\$ 50	Payee A	\$ 50
(2)	TAS-BETC #1	\$ 30	Payee B	\$ 30
(3)	TAS-BETC #2	\$ 75	Payee C	\$ 75
(4)	TAS-BETC #1	\$ 20	Payee D	\$145
	TAS-BETC #2	\$125		

10. Question: When/how does an ALC need to become a GWA Reporter ALC for SPS?

Answer: Updated 10/29/08 (Added “See SPS Agency Steps.”)
 GWA will work with the agencies and FMS to convert ALCs to becoming GWA Reporter ALCs for SPS. Eventually all ALCs will need to become GWA Reporter ALCs. There is no official date yet, but agencies should be planning. See SPS Agency Steps.

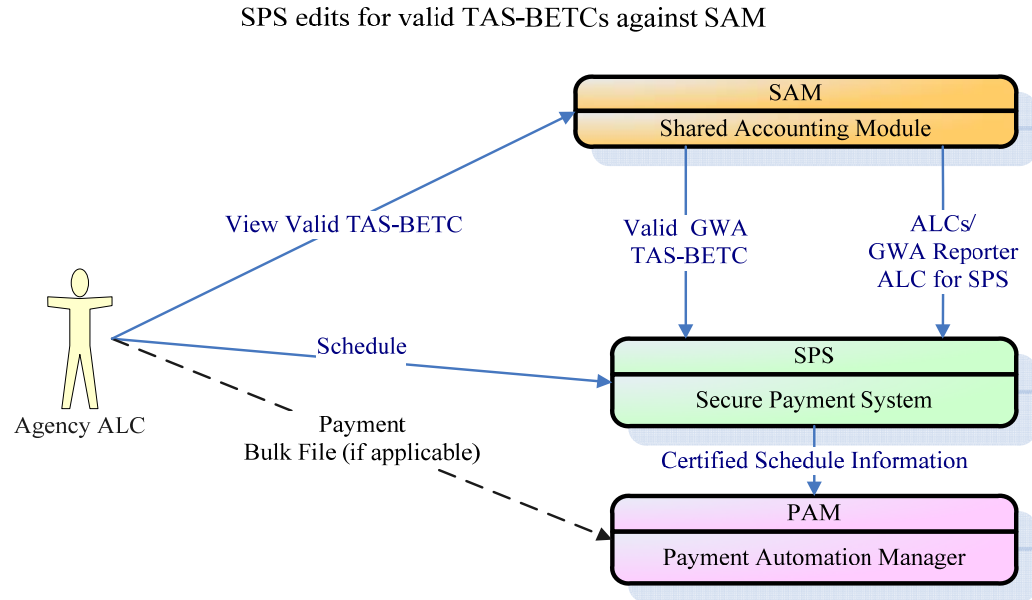
11. Question: What is the difference between Type A Schedules and Type B Schedules?

Answer: Type A Schedules have 1-60 detail payments and summary information on the Schedule entered/uploaded in SPS and then certified. Type B Schedules have summary information on schedule entered/uploaded into SPS and then certified. The corresponding payments are transmitted by bulk file to FMS (RFC/PAM).



12. Question: What is considered a valid TAS-BETC?

Answer: For GWA Reporter ALCs, SPS will validate the GWA TAS-BETC entered/uploaded into SPS against what SAM provides as valid for SPS payments. It has to have a valid SPS payments' BETC (most commonly DISB or DISBCA). It must have a valid Sub-Account Code per GWA/SAM, not an internal agency sub-account categorization.



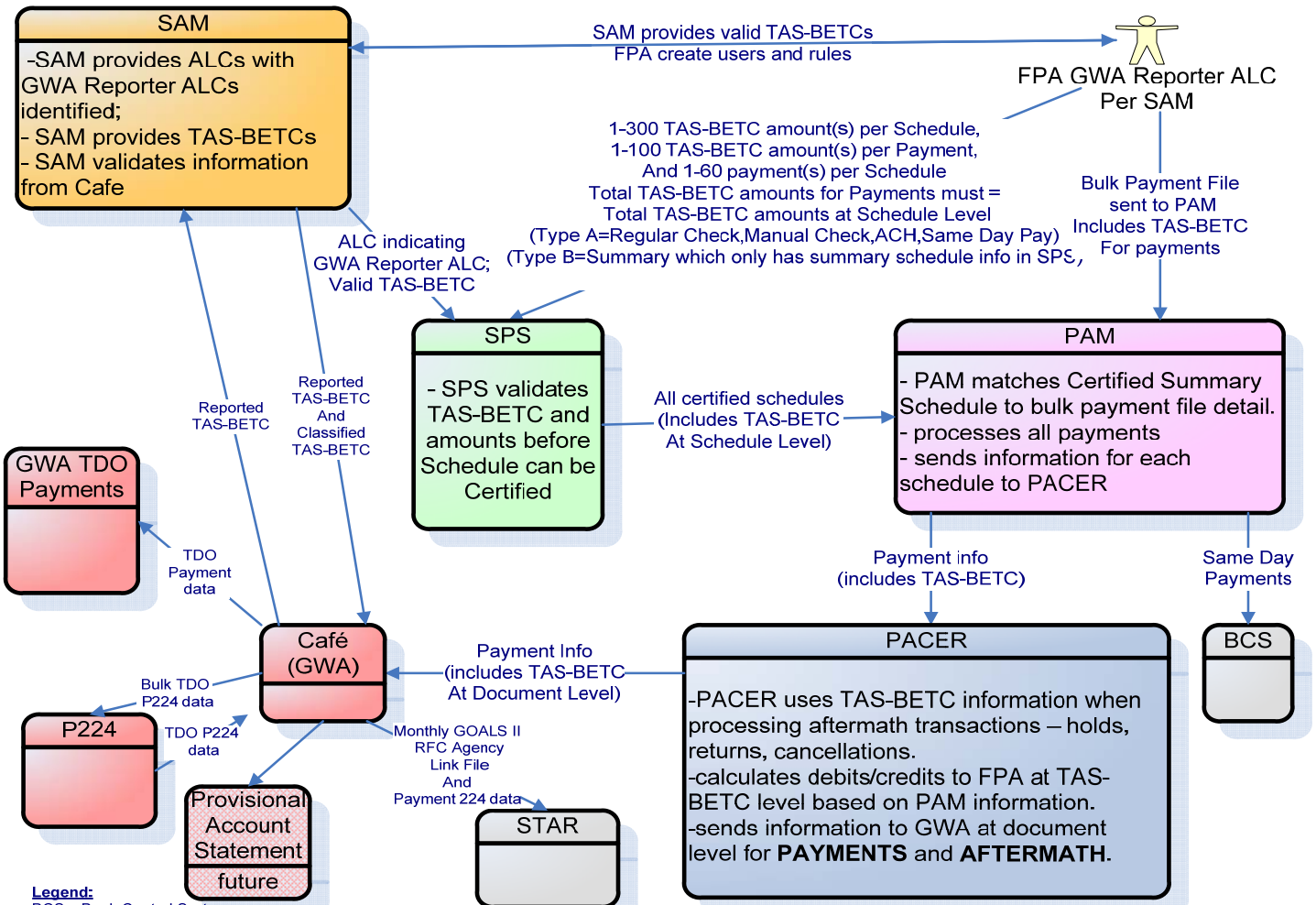
13. Question: Can an FPA do a certified schedule for one ALC and have that certify payments for other ALCs?

Answer: Not with PAM. PAM will require that there be a corresponding Certified Schedule for each ALC on the bulk files.

14. Question: What is the flow of the GWA TAS-BETC through SPS to GWA?

Answer: (10/29/08 – Noted GWA Provisional Account Statement in future)

TDO Payment Processing with GWA TAS-BETC (when ALC becomes GWA Reporter ALC in SAM)



SAM provides valid TAS-BETCs
FPA create users and rules

FPA GWA Reporter ALC
Per SAM

1-300 TAS-BETC amount(s) per Schedule,
1-100 TAS-BETC amount(s) per Payment,
And 1-60 payment(s) per Schedule
Total TAS-BETC amounts for Payments must =
Total TAS-BETC amounts at Schedule Level
(Type A=Regular Check,Manual Check,ACH,Same Day Pay)
(Type B=Summary which only has summary schedule info in SPS,

Bulk Payment File
sent to PAM
Includes TAS-BETC
For payments

ALC indicating
GWA Reporter ALC;
Valid TAS-BETC

All certified schedules
(Includes TAS-BETC
At Schedule Level)

Reported
TAS-BETC
And
Classified
TAS-BETC

TDO
Payment
data

Payment info
(includes TAS-BETC)

Same Day
Payments

Payment Info
(includes TAS-BETC
At Document Level)

Bulk TDO
P224 data

TDO P224
data

Provisional
Account
Statement
future

Legend:
BCS – Bank Control System
Café – GWA front end
FPA – Federal Program Agency
GOALS – Government On-Line Accounting Link II System
GWA – Government-wide Accounting
P224- Partial 224
PACER – Payments, Accounting, Claims and Enhanced Reconciliation
PAM – Payment Automation Manager
PM – Payment Management (formerly Regional Operations)

RFC – Financial Management Service Regional Financial Center
SAM – Shared Accounting Module
SDP – Same Day Payment
SPS – Secure Payment System
STAR – FMS Central Accounting System
GWA TDO Payments – Treasury Disbursing Office Support Listing (formerly GOALS)
TDO – Treasury Disbursing Office
Type A – Payment and Schedule level Certification in SPS
Type B – Summary Schedule Level Certification in SPS matched to payment detail from bulk file in PAM

15. **Question: What do the typical Acronyms used in SPS documentation mean?**

Answer: (10/29/08 – Added ACH, EFT, FEDACH, SRFC)

Acronyms:

ACH – Automated Clearing House

ALC – Agency Location Code

BCS – Bank Control System

BETC – Business Event Type Code (used with TAS as in TAS-BETC)

Café – GWA front end

EFT – Electronic Funds Transfer

FEDACH – Federal Reserve Automated Clearing House

FMS – U.S. Treasury, Financial Management Service

FPA – Federal Program Agency

GOALS – Government On-Line Accounting Link II System

GWA – Government-wide Accounting

GWAMP – Government-wide Accounting Modernization Project

P224 – Partial FMS 224

PACER/POL – Payments, Accounting, Claims and Enhanced Reconciliation/PACER On-Line

PAM – Payment Application Modernization Project/Payment Automation Manager System

PM – U.S. Treasury, Financial Management Service, Payment Management (Formerly Regional Operations)

RFC – U.S. Treasury, Financial Management Service, Regional Financial Center

SAM – Shared Accounting Module

SDP – Same Day Payment (Fedwire) also known as Same Day Payment Request (SDPR)

SRFC – Servicing Regional Financial Center

SPS – Secure Payment System

STAR – FMS Central Accounting System

TAS – Treasury Account Symbol (must be used with BETC as in TAS-BETC)

TDO – Treasury Disbursing Office (Regional Finance Center that disburses payments)

Note:

Type A – 1 to 60 individual detail payment(s) and schedule level in SPS schedule certification

Type B - Summary schedule level totals in SPS schedule certification are matched to payment detail on bulk file that agency sent to FMS (RFC/PAM)

16. **Question: What are the different payment types?**

Answer: (10/29/08 – added question)

Type A Schedule Payments (1-60 individual payments and summary information on SPS schedule certification. Payment times based on schedules being received by the Servicing RFC (SRFC) before the SRFC's end-of-day cutoff for the type of payment.)

ACH – Type A electronic payments go through the FEDACH Automated Clearing House and are required by FEDACH rules to be available in the recipient's account by 9:00am the next business day.

ACH Prenotes – ACH payment messages for zero dollar amounts for the purposes of validating the bank routing number and depositor account number of the recipient.

Check – allows automated production of checks by FMS. (Typically takes at least a day to process.)

Same Day Payments (SDP) – electronic payments made through the Federal Reserve Electronic Funds Transfer System (Fedwire) that are paid the same day. Typically for \$100 thousand or higher. (EFT in the Banking Community refers to an immediate, non-revocable, real time transfer of funds.)

Manual Check – Manually typed checks on a typewriter, typically for \$10 million or higher.

Type B Schedule Payments (Summary totals on SPS schedule certification and bulk file of individual payments sent to FMS. Agency can specify payment date up to a couple of weeks in the future.)

Summary ACH – Electronic payments that settle one or more days in the future.

Summary Check – Allows automated production of checks by FMS, typically released to the U.S. Postal Service one or more days in the future.

Summary Prenote – ACH messages for zero dollar amounts for the purpose of validating bank routing number and depositor account number of the recipient.

Summary Mixed Check and ACH – mixed schedules can have both Check and ACH payments. When ALC becomes a GWA Reporter ALC for TDO payments and provides TAS-BETC, it will use the PAM Input File Specification – Standard Format which does not allow mixed Check and ACH schedules.)

(Note: Summary Schedules in SPS do not allow Manual Check or Same Day Payments.)

17. **Question: What are the Servicing RFC Cut-off Times for payment methods?**

Answer: (10/29/08 – added question)

Austin Financial Center (AFC) –
4:30 PM CST Check and ACH

Kansas City Financial Center (KFC) –
1:00 PM CST ITS.gov payments
3:00 PM CST Same Day Payment (Fedwire) Domestic
4:00 PM CST Check and ACH

Philadelphia Financial Center (PFC) –

4:30 PM EST Same Day Payment (Fedwire) Foreign
5:30 PM EST Same Day Payment (Fedwire) Domestic, Check and ACH

San Francisco Financial Center (SFC) –

1:00 PM PST Same Day Payment (Fedwire) Foreign
3:00 PM PST Same Day Payment (Fedwire) Domestic
5:00 PM PST Check and ACH

(Note: Agencies entering Same Day Payments, who are normally serviced by AFC, should check the SFC end of day cut-off times for Same Day Payments and note the time zone.)