1. Introduction

This document explains "what's new" with the next release of SPS (RelP 6.2) from the perspective of FPA users (DEO and CO user roles). This new release changes the processing of Same Day Payment-type (SDPR) schedules through SPS. This change includes verification of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) data against the list of delinquent debtors maintained in the TOP (Treasury Offset Program) Database at the Debt Management Services. The processing of all other schedule types (Regular Check, Manual Check, ACH, ACH Prenote, Summary and Summary Prenote) through SPS remains unchanged. This document also contains information about upcoming changes to SPS, and to the list of supported operating systems and Java Plug-ins.

This new release is expected to be available on Monday July 23, 2007.

2. What's New

2.1 DEO and CO Roles – "SDPR Schedule Screen" Enhancement

The "TOP Offset Eligibility" and the "Payee ID/TIN" in the SDPR schedule screens are rearranged and grouped under "TOP Offset" category (Figure 1).
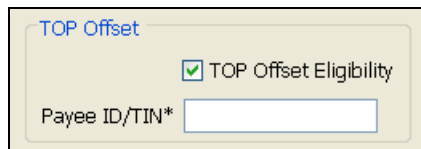

Figure 1: New arrangement of fields under "TOP Offset" category

2.2 DEO Role – "SDPR Schedule Processing" Enhancements

The two data fields under the "TOP Offset" category now have different and enhanced field edits.

1. When DEO users deselect the "TOP Offset Eligibility" checkbox, they now are alerted with a new popup message (Figure 2).
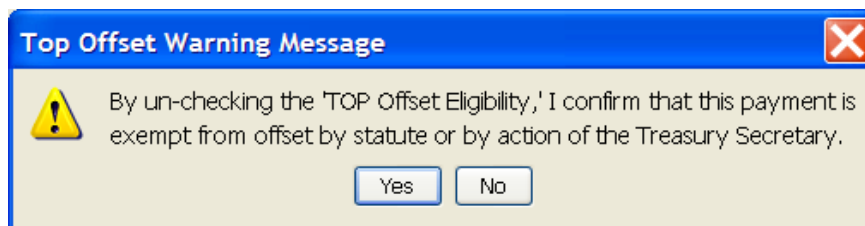

Figure 2: New Warning Message about un-checking "TOP Offset Eligibility" Checkbox

Selecting "Yes" option indicates that the DEO has expressly confirmed that the payment is exempted from "TOP Offset". The user selection is captured as a part of the schedule data and is auditable. Selecting "No" option returns the user back to the field with "TOP Offset Eligibility" checkbox selected again.

Similar enhancement is built into the "Upload" action for SDPR schedules.

2. When DEO users enters data into the "Payee ID/TIN" textbox and leaves the field, the data is validated against the debtor list at the TOP Database. In particular, if the data matches, that payment can not be created and the user is shown a popup message (Figure 3). Instead, the DEO user is expected to create a separate schedule of a different type (Check or ACH) to make the payment.

Figure 3: New Warning Message about a matching Payee ID/TIN

If there is no match, DEO can proceed with the payment creation.

Similar enhancement is built into the "Upload" action for SDPR schedules.

3. If DEO user enters a non-9 digit data into the "Payee ID/TIN" textbox and leaves the field, the following popup message appears (Figure 4).

Figure 4: New Warning Message about non 9-digit Payee ID/TIN

Selecting "Yes" option indicates that the DEO has expressly confirmed that a 9-digit Payee ID/TIN is not available. The user selection is captured as a part of the schedule data and is auditable. Selecting "No" option returns the user back to the field with "Payee ID/TIN" textbox so that DEO can enter data again.

Similar enhancement is built into the "Upload" action for SDPR schedules.

2.3 DEO Role – "SDPR Schedule Large Dollar Amount Notification" Enhancement

A new popup message appears when a DEO user creates or saves or Submits to CO of Same Day Payment-type schedules that have individual payment amounts that exceed $50,000,000.00.   DEO users are required to acknowledge the popup message by clicking the "OK" button before they can continue (Figure 5).
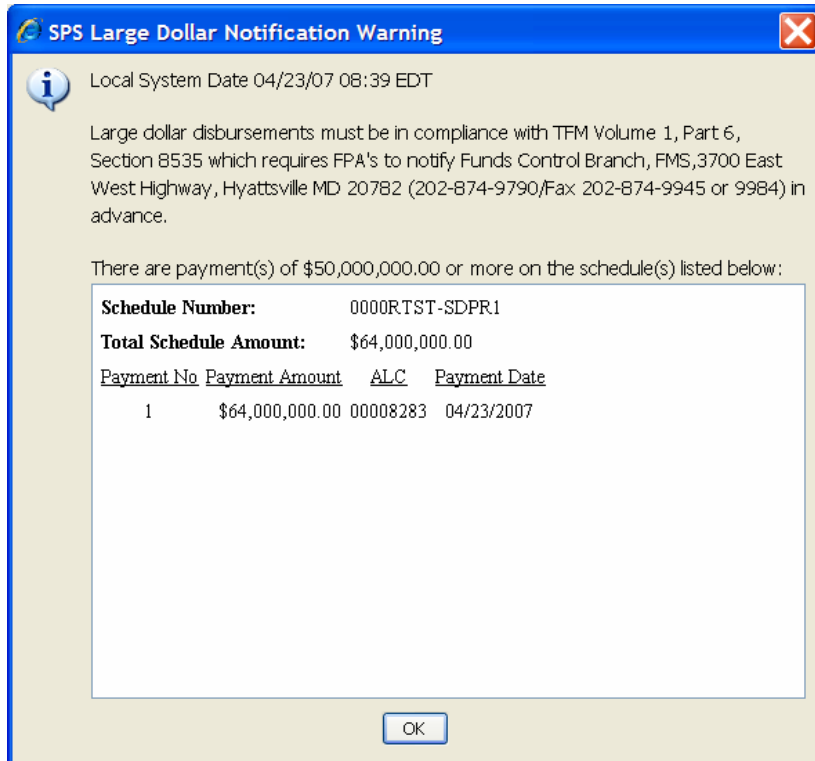

Figure 5: "SPS Large Dollar Notification" popup

Similar enhancement is built into the "Upload" action for SDPR schedules.

2.4 CO Role – "Certification of SDPR Payments"

Even though there is no change to the existing functionality of certifying SDPR schedules, CO users need to be aware of the enhancements made to the processing of the SPDR payments with respect to "TOP Offset" matching.

3. Upcoming Changes to SPS

The next couple of releases of SPS are expected to offer a "Self Contained" version of SPS and to provide support for stronger versions of cryptographic components (SHA-2 and 2048-bit keys). The "Self Contained" version is expected to run SPS with out involving any standard browser or installed Java Plug-in on the user machine.

Windows XP (with latest patches and updates) is the only supported Operating System for SPS. Even though our official support will be dropped for Windows 2000, we expect

(but can not guarantee) SPS to continue to function with Windows 2000 Operating System after June 2007. The support for Windows XP is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. SPS support for the new Windows Vista Operating System is expected to be available early 2008.

SPS supports two versions of Java Plug-ins – version 1.4.2_13 and 1.5.0_11. The "SPS Software Update Required" pop-up (Figure 6) is shown when the software configuration on the SPS desktop does not meet the latest requirements.   The Java Plug-In entry is displayed when the version of the Java Plug-in installed on the SPS desktop is not one of 1.4.2_13, or 1.5.0_11.   However, the "Must be Installed by" column with the date displayed does not imply that SPS Application will not work after the specified date. Rather, the date reflects "United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team" issuance of a "Technical Cyber Security Alert" asking users to upgrade Java Plug-in versions to their latest versions (see http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-022A.html).   Users can use older versions of Java 1.4.xx, or 1.5.xx at their own risk.
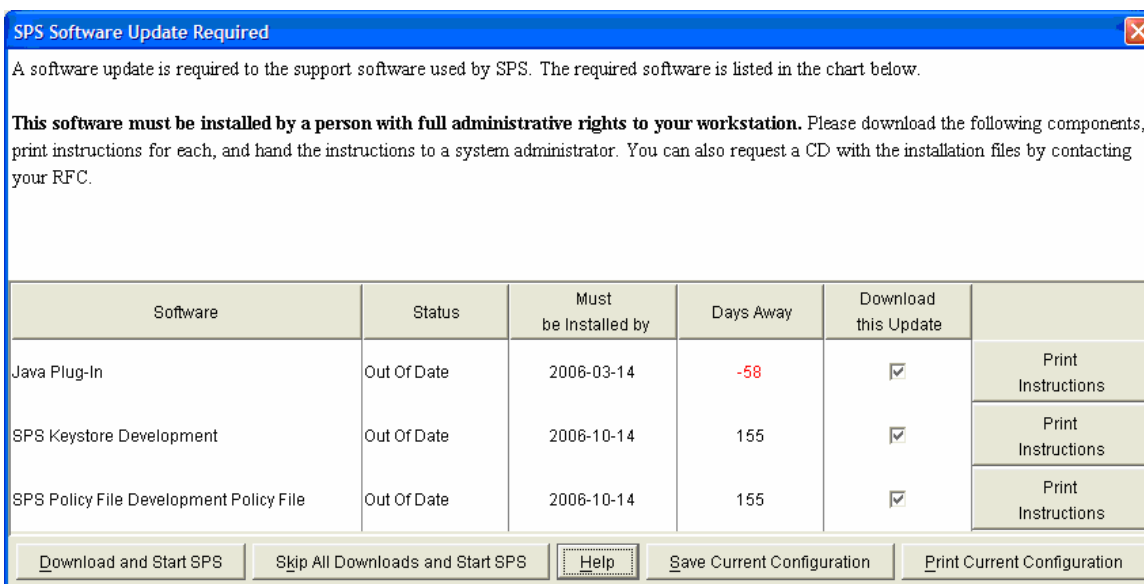

Figure 6: "SPS Software Update Required" pop-up message

The SPS support to Plug-in version 1.4.2_13 is expected to continue at least until the end of 2007. The SPS support to Plug-in version 1.5.0_11 is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. SPS support for the new Java plug-in – version 1.6.0_x is expected to be available early 2008.

4. For More Information

Please contact your servicing RFC (Regional Financial Center) for any questions, concerns or for more information. In addition, the latest "Updates" about SPS are available at: http://www.fms.treas.gov/sps/