

Green Book

On-Line PDFs

A Guide to Federal Government
ACH Payments and Collections



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Introduction

Welcome to the Green Book — a comprehensive guide for financial institutions that receive ACH payments from the Federal government, and send payments (i.e. collections) to the Federal government.

Today, the vast majority of Federal payments and collections are made via the ACH. With very few exceptions, Federal government ACH transactions continue to be subject to the same rules as private industry ACH payments. As a result, the Green Book continues to get smaller in size and is designed to deal primarily with exceptions or issues unique to Federal government operations.

Federal agency contact information is included and, since so much information is available via the Internet, web site addresses are included where appropriate. The Green Book continues to be available on the Internet at www.fms.treas.gov/greenbook and chapters can be printed as Portable Display Format (PDF) documents. We no longer print and mail hard copies. So, we encourage you to visit the web site for updates and news relevant to Federal government ACH transactions.

The ACH regulation, 31 CFR 210, provides the basis for most of the information contained in the Green Book. However, there are other regulations that impact Federal government ACH payments. The following table summarizes these regulations:

Regulation	Governs	Developed and maintained by:
31 CFR Part 210	Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House	Financial Management Service
31 CFR Part 208	Management of Federal Agency Disbursements	Financial Management Service
31 CFR Part 203	Payment of Federal Taxes and the Treasury Tax and Loan Program	Financial Management Service
31 CFR Part 370	Electronic Transactions and Funds Transfers Relating to United States Securities	Bureau of the Public Debt

We still occasionally get asked, “Why green?” It is really simple. The first publication issued in 1975 dealing with the Direct Deposit of Federal government payments, when the ACH network was in its infancy, had a green cover. More than thirty years later, the world of Federal government payments has changed, but the Green Book is still green! We hope you incorporate the Green Book into your daily operations and visit us frequently.

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