IMPORTANT NOTICE

Treasury Issues Bulletin detailing requirements concerning TOP's (Treasury Offset Program) eligibility for all Miscellaneous Payment Vouchers

Since enactment of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) federal disbursing officials have been required to identify and certify payments as either legally eligible or ineligible for offset. This is accomplished by making an entry in the TOP Eligibility Code field included in the payment formats for both ACH and Check Payment requests.

The failure of some agencies to appropriately code their miscellaneous payments concerning TOP Eligibility has lead to the issuance of TFM Bulletin No. 2004-06 (dated July 28, 2004) concerning "Federal Agency Miscellaneous Payments Subject to Offset through the Treasury Offset Program". All agencies must comply with these requirements by January 1, 2005. The full text of this Bulletin is available at
http://www.fms.treas.gov/tfm/vol1/04-06.html.

The Philadelphia Financial Center (PFC) Customer Assistance Staff (CAS) is available to assist agencies in achieving full compliance with the TOP requirements of the DCIA. Should your require any assistance concerning coding of your payments directed to PFC or any DCIA compliance issues, please contact Bob Ciullo at (215) 516-8012 or e-mail robert.ciullo@fms.treas.gov.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Corporate Trade Exchange (CTX)
(A mechanism to accommodate the payment of multiple invoices directed to the same payee through a single payment transmission.)

CTX (Corporate Trade Exchange) is a corporate ACH format, which allows for up to 9,999 addenda records with approximately 800,000 characters. Given this large addendum record capability, full and complete remittance information can be transmitted with the CTX payment. Therefore, it is possible for one CTX payment to cover multiple invoices since full remittance information will be transmitted to the vendor's financial institution together with the payment.

The ACH CTX format includes an entire X12 820 transaction set in its addenda records. Though traditionally used for Vendor Payments, the CTX format is also being used by agencies to make payments of Allotments and Deductions (e.g. making one monthly CTX payment to a Union which covers union dues deducted from all member's salary payments.)

FMS originates CTX payments, which contain 820 Transaction Sets formatted according to X12 Version 3040. FMS has no current plans to change versions. Agencies making CTX payments transmit either an X12 820 or a flat file to the Austin Financial Center (AFC) which translates the file, performs the requisite Claims and Accounting tasks, and issues the payment.

EDI Translation Software ensures addenda records are properly formatted according to the X12 standards. This reduces the need for recipients to contact the agency/FMS.

In Fiscal Year 20003, FMS issued 754,901 CTX payments for a totaling over $ 3.5 Billion which included 4.9 million addenda records.

If you are making multiple payments to the same payee and not using EDI/CTX and would like additional information on this payment mechanism, please contact Jim Jeffries at (215) 516-8019 or e-mail james.jeffries@fms.treas.gov.