

FinCEN Announces SAR Acknowledgements for BSA E-Filing Submissions

In September 2009, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) will implement Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Acknowledgements for Bank Secrecy Act Electronic Filing (BSA E-Filing) submissions. This functionality will give BSA E-filers a Document Control Number (DCN) as an acknowledgement of receipt for the originally submitted SAR and will be available for all SAR form types: Suspicious Activity Report by Depository Institutions (SAR-DI), Suspicious Activity Report by the Securities and Futures Industries (SAR-SF), Suspicious Activity Report by Casinos and Card Clubs (SAR-C), and Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Businesses (SAR-MSB).

The BSA E-Filing system will offer filers a self-enrollment feature to allow them to register to receive SAR Acknowledgement files when they are ready to begin processing. There is no enrollment deadline at this time; however, FinCEN strongly encourages filers to enroll to receive this critical feedback.

FinCEN is developing a SAR Acknowledgement Questions and Answers document containing information about this new functionality, along with revised BSA Electronic Filing Requirements. This document will provide filers with the information needed to make required changes for SAR Acknowledgement file processing and will be available on the BSA E-Filing Web site in August 2009. The Electronic Filing Requirements will include new SAR Acknowledgement file record formats and SAR form validation error codes and descriptions

In December 2009, FinCEN will implement SAR Validations, which will allow the BSA E-Filing system to validate SAR documents and provide filers with feedback on the quality of their submissions.

Please note, SAR Acknowledgement functionality is only available for BSA SAR filings submitted electronically. SAR filings submitted via paper are not acknowledged.

Please direct questions about the SAR Acknowledgements functionality to the BSA E-Filing System Help Desk at 1-888-827-2778 (option 6) or via email at BSAEFilingHelp@notes.tcs.treas.gov. The Help Desk is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET. The BSA E-Filing homepage is located at <http://bsaefiling.fincen.treas.gov/>.