

NOTICE: Upcoming Changes to Social Security ACH Benefit Payments

Effective with payments dated January 3, 2013, the Department of the Treasury and the Social Security Administration (SSA) will convert ACH benefit payments that routinely pay on the 3rd of each month, to a new payment processing system. This change in processing results in some changes to certain fields associated with ACH records related to SSA benefit payments. Depending upon how your institution or its data processor uses this information to post Social Security benefit payments to customer accounts, these changes could be important.

These changes affect the originating Routing and Transit Number (RTN), the Company Name, the Company Identification number, and the Originating Depository Financial Institution (ODFI) Identification in ACH files. Details of the specific changes and a sample of the ACH File and Batch Header formats are provided below.

If you have additional questions, please direct inquiries to Matt Fineout at 816-414-2142 or Matthew.Fineout@fms.treas.gov

Changes in the ACH format are as follows:

1. File Header

Immediate Origin (positions 14-23): will be RTN ‘031736026’.

2. Batch Header

Company Name (positions 5-20): will be ‘SSA TREAS 310’. Previously, this field used ‘US TREASURY 303’, ‘US TREASURY 310’, or ‘US TREASURY 312’, based on the Disbursing Office symbol.

Company Identification (positions 41-50): in accordance with NACHA operating rules, position 41 contains the ANSI one-digit Identification Code Designator (ICD) as follows:

‘1’ = EIN provided for Child Support

‘9’ = User Assigned Number

Previously, this field used ‘3’ in position 41, followed by a nine-digit RTN.

When the ICD is “1”, positions 42-50 will contain the IRS Employer Identification Number.

When the ICD is “9”, positions 42-50 will contain one of the following nine-digit RTNs:

‘031736026’, ‘031736039’, ‘031736042’, ‘031036030’,

‘031736013’, ‘031036360’, ‘101036216’, ‘101736147’,

‘121036241’, and ‘121036092’.

It is important to note that the RTN assigned to individual payments may vary from those used previously. Financial institutions should not expect to receive regularly recurring monthly benefit payments for the same recipient or customer under the same RTN.

ODFI Identification (positions 80-87): will be the first eight digits of the RTN used in the individual payment record.

Sample ACH File and Batch Header records:

SSA ACH Payments – Beginning with January 3, 2013, payments (New format)

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-----1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----
101 101000048 0317360261208281817A094101FEDACH          US TREASURY PAM
5220SSA  TREAS 310          9031736026PPDXSOC SEC 100312121003 2031736020000000
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SSA ACH Payments – December 2012 and prior (Old format)

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-----1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----
101 081000045 031036030120912  A094101ST. LOUIS FRB          PHILADELPHIA DISB CTR  SSAP015
5220US  TREASURY 303          3031036030PPDXSOC SEC 091912120919 2031036030000000
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