



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
P.O. BOX 24700  
OAKLAND, CA 94623-1700

APR 21 2006

TO: Agencies Serviced by the San Francisco Financial Center (SFC)

SUBJECT: Age Limits on Regional Financial Center Claims Research

The Financial Management Service (FMS) has established an age limit for payment search requests which will be effective June 1, 2006. The new timeframe in which payment or claims information can be requested is as follows:

Treasury Checks

7 years from the date of issuance (Note: As announced by FMS' Financial Operations correspondence dated February 8 and March 9, 2005)

ACH Payments

6 years from the date of issuance

Requests over six years old make up a very low percentage of the requests we receive. However, the following factors were key in establishing the new limits:

- Labor-intensive manual searches
- Limits of the FMS PACER system's data storage capabilities
- NACHA Rules requiring financial institutions to keep ACH payment data for only six years
- Title 31, CFR 210, limit of six years on financial institution liability for ACH reclamations

Any exceptions to the above limits will be decided on a case by case basis, taking into account the resources available for research and the gravity of the request (e.g., U.S. Attorney, Agency Inspector General, Secret Service, Court Cases, or ACH Reclamations where there is evidence the financial institution has older payments available).

Should you have questions, please contact Debbie Price, Manager, Special Payments and Claims Branch, at 510-594-7170.

Sincerely,

  
for Philip A. Belisle  
Regional Director

cc: Judy Tillman  
Assistant Commissioner, Regional Operations