



**Questions and Answers from the Financial Management Service's  
June 24, 2010 ▪ Collections Webinar  
for Federal Program Agencies**

**[Collections and Cash Management Modernization \(CCMM\)](#)**

**General Revenue Collection Division**

- **How do CCMM changes affect Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) with a Qualified Lockbox Provider receiving deposit information through Electronic Check Processing (ECP)?**

In the CCMM end-state, the Transaction Reporting System (TRS) will be the single touch-point for collections. FPAs should plan to get their deposit information (and supporting detail) through TRS. There will be multiple options for getting data from TRS including canned reports that are downloadable to PDF, Excel, and comma-delimited (CSV) formats and file transmissions in the Financial Management Service (FMS) Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema. The mechanism an FPA will use to obtain data from TRS will depend on the data elements needed and the volume of data. During the enrollment process, the TRS team will work with the FPA to identify collections data access needs and determine how those needs will be met.

Though not CCMM related, the agreements with current lockbox providers expire in January 2013. A re-bid process will begin shortly.

- **We currently reconcile deposits from the Bank of America lockbox that are deposited through ECP. Can someone explain how ECP relates to either Treasury General Account (TGA) or Paper Check Conversion (PCC) current state and then what the future state might look like? I'm trying to understand more about TGA-PCC and Over the Counter (OTC) to our current servicing operations.**

The Electronic Check Processing (ECP) application is a key part of our mail channel and facilitates the conversion of paper checks to electronic collections by Treasury's designated lockbox providers. TGAnet, PCC OTC, and the future OTCnet are programs designed for FPAs who accept funds over the counter at their FPA location. Over the counter includes customers walking up to pay a bill, customers mailing checks to your office or Post Office (P.O.) Box, and customers dropping off payments to an unmanned drop box. If your FPA collects these checks and you make a physical deposit into a TGA bank then you can use one of our programs for TGAnet or PCC OTC.

Please note: it is the FPA's responsibility to reconcile their deposits regardless of collection channel.

### **Modernization Planning Office**

- **Do the United States (U.S.) Courts need to transition as well? Specifically, bankruptcy courts.**

Yes, any FPA not using our end-state collection applications will need to transition to the new systems. The sooner an FPA can do so, the better, but this needs to be done no later than 2012.

### **Over the Counter Revenue Collection Division**

- **Should we enroll in TGAnet or OTCnet now (is there a benefit to one over the other)?**

We strongly encourage you to enroll in TGAnet now if you are an FPA who collects cash or checks and is making a physical deposit into a Treasury General Account (TGA) bank, International TGA bank, or Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) TGA bank. The benefit to enrolling in TGAnet now is that your FPA will only have to implement once if they are enrolled in TGAnet prior to OTCnet being deployed. There will be an automated conversion tool to facilitate the conversion process for FPAs on the legacy TGAnet program onto OTCnet.

- **Why enroll in PCC OTC or TGA.net now if we are converting to OTC.net? Can we simply convert to OTC.net?**

Enrolling in PCC OTC or TGA.net now as opposed to waiting for OTC.net is best answered in two ways. Enrolling in PCC OTC now as opposed to waiting for OTC.net allows FPAs to begin benefiting from check conversion and check truncation processing of paper checks immediately. FPAs benefit from features such as the availability of check images stored within our Check Image and Research Archive, and the re-presentation of checks that are returned for insufficient funds or other reasons. FPAs that implement PCC OTC prior to the moratorium on all TGA.net and PCC OTC implementations (effective October 1, 2010) will benefit from PCC OTC until such time that the FPA is scheduled to convert to OTC.net.

Enrolling in TGA.net now as opposed to waiting for OTC.net will allow FPAs to benefit from the efficiencies provided by the TGA.net system such as the elimination of the paper Standard Form (SF) 215, and FPAs will only have to implement once if they are enrolled in TGA.net prior to OTC.net being deployed. There will be an automated conversion tool to facilitate the conversion process for FPAs on the legacy TGA.net program onto OTC.net. FPAs have until September 30, 2010 to enroll in TGA.net. FMS will implement a moratorium on all TGA.net and PCC OTC implementations effective October 1, 2010.

There is no benefit to waiting for OTC.net instead of enrolling in TGA.net or PCC OTC now. The look and feel will change slightly with OTC.net but the major functionality and process flow for reporting and confirming deposits will remain the same. We will have a self-paced Web-Based Training (WBT) for OTC.net to facilitate the differences between both systems. The moratorium on TGA.net and PCC OTC implementations effective October 1, 2010 will allow FMS to plan and organize for converting FPAs from the legacy systems to OTC.net.

- **For non-TGA.net FPAs, is it necessary to convert to TGA.net and PCC OTC before going to OTC.net, or can FPAs go directly from non-TGA.net status to OTC.net?**

No, it is not a prerequisite to enroll in TGA.net prior to OTC.net for non TGA.net FPAs. However, we strongly encourage you to enroll in TGA.net by September 30, 2010 if you are an FPA who collects cash or checks and are making a physical deposit into a TGA. Your FPA will only have to implement once if they are enrolled in TGA.net prior to OTC.net being deployed. There will be an automated conversion tool to facilitate the conversion process for FPAs on the legacy TGA.net program onto OTC.net. If an FPA is not able to implement TGA.net by September 30, 2010, we recommend that you contact FMS soon and reserve an early slot for OTC.net implementation for bank deposit activity. The TGA.net and PCC OTC systems will be decommissioned in 2011 and 2012 respectively, and there will be no exceptions to these dates.

- **If you have a PCC OTC login and TGAnet login, what login will you use when you convert to OTCnet format?**

If you are currently using PCC OTC and TGAnet the plan is to keep your existing TGAnet login for OTCnet. Once enrolled in OTCnet you will have the functionality to use the PCC OTC and TGAnet functions under your same login ID. So there will be no need to keep separate login information as you do today for OTCnet.

- **Will all scanners work for the OTCnet (or do we need a special one)?**

Yes, all scanners that we currently support for PCC OTC (RDM EC5000, EC6000, EC7000 and Panini My Vision X series) will continue to work with OTCnet.

- **OTCnet is replacing TGAnet – I thought I heard we should hurry up for TGAnet now.**

We strongly encourage you to enroll in TGAnet by September 30, 2010 if you are an FPA who collects cash or checks and are making a physical deposit into a Treasury General Account (TGA). Your FPA will only have to implement once if they are enrolled in TGAnet prior to OTCnet being deployed. There will be an automated conversion tool to facilitate the conversion process for FPAs on the legacy TGAnet program onto OTCnet. If an FPA is not able to implement TGAnet by September 30, 2010, we recommend that you contact FMS soon and reserve an early slot for OTCnet implementation for bank deposit activity.

- **If checks would be scanned in under the TGAnet system, and no one would go to the bank to make a deposit, how would we handle the coins and cash received?**

Checks will not be scanned under the TGAnet system. Checks are currently being scanned and converted or truncated under our Paper Check Conversion (PCC OTC) program. Currently, checks that are not processed under PCC OTC, coins and cash received by FPAs are handled by the TGAnet program. Using TGAnet, your FPA will record funds received and complete a deposit ticket on line in the TGAnet system. Once the deposit is prepared you will take the funds to your assigned TGA, ITGA, or FRB TGA bank for deposit into our Treasury General Account (TGA). The TGA bank will have access to your deposit information in TGAnet and confirm the deposit on line.

OTCnet will combine these two programs to have the functionality to scan and convert checks as well as record and confirm deposits for coins and cash.

- **How does my FPA become part of the OTCnet group going live in November 2010?**

Once OTCnet is in production during November 2010 we will have 3 to 5 FPAs implement OTCnet as early adopters. The early adoption period will be during the months of December 2010 and January 2011. The list of FPAs selected for early adopters is close to being finalized and the chosen FPAs will be informed prior to November 2010. If you are a TGAnet FPA you will convert over to OTCnet during the February/March 2011 timeframe. For all the PCC OTC FPAs, the OTCnet conversion process begins in April 2011 and will continue through 2012. You will be contacted individually to schedule an optimum timeline and approach for the conversion.

### **Settlement Services Division**

- **How was the date of September 13, 2010 decided? That is the end of the fiscal year when we are naturally busy here at General Services Administration (GSA) and we receive Inter-agency agreements routinely.**

This date was set based upon the timelines of a number of active collection modernization projects affecting multiple programs. The Credit Gateway has multiple phases that are time sequenced. The Credit Gateway has been an active project for some time as wire transfer and ACH credits received are currently being processed in several collection platforms, and systems or service changes are required. The impact of migrating to the Credit Gateway was not expected to have a major impact on FPAs using these types of collection transactions, other than the need to be current on reconciliations in order to make corrections for transactions processed prior to the migration date in the predecessor systems, particularly Fedwire Deposit System (FDS) and Remittance Express (REX).

- **How does this affect 224 reporting and reconciliation?**

Once an FPA becomes a Government-wide Accounting (GWA) reporter, payments processed in the Credit Gateway should process straight through to GWA. The Credit Gateway account number will serve as the Classification Key (C-Key) that will be translated through GWA's Shared Accounting Module (SAM) into the appropriate Treasury Account Symbol/Business Event Type Code (TAS/BETC). Reclassifications of these transactions should be unnecessary.

- **Since Agency Location Codes (ALC) corrections will have to be done by reclassification through GWA, how will an FPA know the correct FPA ALC information to reclass to?**

Most corrections occur when an FPA has multiple ALC numbers and a payment is applied to the wrong ALC number. If an FPA cannot identify the correct ALC

number it should initiate through the FMS Settlement Services Division with a request to reverse the payment back to the originating financial institution.

- **If no changes to existing customer wire instructions are required for Fedwire, why is there a new account number? How do we obtain the 12 digit account number prior to the implementation date of 9/13/2010?**

The new 12 digit account number structure allows FPAs to process different cash flows under a single ALC number. Today, the only option is for an FPA to open separate ALC numbers in order to segregate cash flows. When the Credit Gateway goes live all ALC numbers will receive a 12 digit Credit Gateway account number. The number will begin with a leading “8,” be followed by your eight-digit ALC, and end with three zeros. (Example: 822222222000; where 2222222 is your ALC number). Beginning September 13, 2010, all new account setups will be initiated through the FMS Settlement Services Division. At that time your FPA will be given its new Credit Gateway account number.

- **Our FPA currently does not accept ACH payments, will the migration require us to change the way we accept payments from our vendors?**

Use of ACH is not required. You may continue to accept payments from your vendors as you do today.

- **When a collection channel processes a payment through a gateway, the channel reports the transaction detail to TRS and the Gateway reports the settlement to TRS. Who is responsible for balancing these two flows?**

The Credit Gateway can be loosely defined as a bank channel. There is no corresponding channel data related to transactions received in the Credit Gateway. The Credit Gateway does perform a daily reconciliation with the Federal Reserve Bank to ensure transactions received are in balance with the Federal Reserve.

- **How are the Credit Gateway’s voucher numbers assigned?**

The Credit Gateway will assign a six digit voucher number that is a combination of the day of the month and a sequence number. Agencies should not do any programming off of the voucher numbers assigned by the Credit Gateway or channels.

- **If we are unable to reconcile CA\$HLINK by September 13, what will happen?**

If you have Fedwire Deposit System (FDS) or Remittance Express (REX), reconciling items after September 13 will require a correction to another ALC number that you will need to contact the Government Wide Accounting (GWA) area for to reclassify these transactions.

## Accounting and Data Management Division

- **If we currently interface nightly with Pay.gov, will that interface need to be reconfigured to interface with TRS?**

Yes, in the CCMM end-state, TRS will be the single touch-point for collections. FPAs should plan to convert existing interfaces with Pay.gov and other collections data sources to TRS. TRS file transmissions support a scheduled extract of collections data by download or system-to-system interface. File transmissions will be transmitted in the FMS Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema format. The TRS Team will work with an FPA's information technology team to arrange system-to-system connectivity. The TRS standard transmission protocol is a Virtual Private Network (VPN) over the public Internet using Connect:Direct Secure+ as the transmission software. A file specification for system-to-system interfaces is available on the TRS website.

- **Will we receive a CD-ROM to help set up TRS like we did for CA\$HLINK II?**

TRS is a web-based application accessible via a web browser. TRS does not require any software to be installed on a user's workstation. TRS supports the two most recent versions of Internet Explorer (IE). Currently, IE 7.0 and IE 8.0 are supported. TRS has been developed and tested with these specific browsers. TRS may be used with other browsers; however, the TRS team is unable to assist users with problems related to other browsers. Additionally, there are specific browser settings that must be enabled, such as Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.0, but these settings are defaults for most IE browsers. Additional information on these settings is provided when users enroll in TRS.

- **On page 25 of the presentation, it is stated that FPAs can compare TRS reports to CA\$HLINK II reports from point of enrollment to 9/13/10 and provide feedback; however, my FPA is not scheduled to come up in TRS until CYQ2 2011. Will we have the same opportunity to compare and provide feedback?**

The opportunity to compare TRS and CA\$HLINK II reports and provide feedback exists from the time a user is enrolled in TRS until CA\$HLINK II is sunset. The earlier a user enrolls, the more time the user has to run TRS and CA\$HLINK II in parallel to compare the two systems and provide feedback, to get acclimated to TRS before CA\$HLINK II is sunset, and to identify and make changes to their internal processes, if any.

- **How do I know when to enroll in TRS?**

The TRS team will communicate to FPAs when the TRS team is ready to begin enrolling your FPA. Considerations on enrolling include collection systems used

by the FPA are reporting to TRS, as well as internal and external FPA constraints which would influence when an FPA could enroll. For example, an FPA's mission constraints or planned changes to its internal systems, for instance, are two considerations that may influence whether it chooses to move forward with or delay enrollment for a few months.

- **On page 49, it states that TRS will replace the deposit reporting. Does that imply that disbursement reporting will remain in CA\$HLINK II?**

TRS will only contain revenue collections information. Payments will be supported by separate systems. Study is underway to determine where payments data in CA\$HLINK II will be reported in the future. CA\$HLINK II users will continue to have access to payment information in CA\$HLINK II until this issue has been resolved.

### Acronym Glossary

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>ACH</b>      | Automated Clearing House                            |
| <b>ALC</b>      | Agency Location Code                                |
| <b>CCMM</b>     | Collections and Cash Management Modernization       |
| <b>CGAC</b>     | Common Government-Wide Accounting Classification    |
| <b>C-Key</b>    | Classification Keys                                 |
| <b>ECP</b>      | Electronic Check Processing                         |
| <b>EFTPS</b>    | Electronic Federal Tax Payment System               |
| <b>FBWT</b>     | Fund Balance with Treasury                          |
| <b>FDS</b>      | Fedwire Deposit System                              |
| <b>FMS</b>      | Financial Management Service                        |
| <b>FPA</b>      | Federal Program Agency                              |
| <b>FRB</b>      | Federal Reserve Bank                                |
| <b>GOALS II</b> | Government On-line Accounting Link System           |
| <b>GWA</b>      | Government-Wide Accounting                          |
| <b>GWAMP</b>    | Government-Wide Accounting Modernization Program    |
| <b>IPAC</b>     | Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection           |
| <b>ITGA</b>     | International Treasury General Account (Depositary) |
| <b>OTC</b>      | Over The Counter                                    |
| <b>OTCnet</b>   | Over The Counter Network                            |
| <b>PATAX</b>    | Paper Tax System                                    |
| <b>PCC OTC</b>  | Paper Check Conversion Over The Counter             |
| <b>POS</b>      | Point of Sale                                       |
| <b>REX</b>      | Remittance Express                                  |
| <b>SAM</b>      | Shared Accounting Module                            |
| <b>TAS/BETC</b> | Treasury Account Symbol/Business Event Type Code    |
| <b>TCMS</b>     | Treasury Cash Management System                     |
| <b>TGA</b>      | Treasury General Account                            |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>TGAnet</b>   | Treasury General Account Deposit Reporting Network |
| <b>TIP</b>      | Treasury Investment Program                        |
| <b>TRS</b>      | Transaction Reporting System                       |
| <b>TT&amp;L</b> | Treasury Tax & Loan (accounts)                     |