



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20782

DATE: August 28, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CFOs and DEPUTY CFOs

FROM: JUDITH R. TILLMAN
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: IPAC Update

In my last update, dated June 27, 2001, I informed you that the Financial Management Service (FMS) was still on schedule for the implementation of the Intra-governmental Payment and Collection System (IPAC) on September 4, 2001 barring something unforeseen. I want to take this opportunity to inform you that FMS has decided that it is in the best interest of the Government to delay IPAC's implementation until later this calendar year.

An exact implementation date has yet to be decided; however, we do know that the new date will not be later than December 2001. We will, of course, notify you immediately once a new date has been determined.

Though FMS has been continuing to work toward the September implementation date, we reached this difficult decision to delay after considering the following factors.

First, we feel that the environment in which the application will operate is not as stable as it needs to be to ensure agencies will be able to process transactions and retrieve reports in a timely fashion. FMS is confident that delaying the implementation a month or two will help stabilize the environment and the applications.

Second, implementing IPAC in the next fiscal year will allow agencies to close their books and begin the preparation of their financial statements for fiscal year 2001 without expending resources on familiarizing themselves with the new IPAC system. This will allow agencies to continue processing intra-governmental transactions uninterrupted.

Finally, several agencies have requested that FMS delay IPAC's implementation for various reasons. One, as noted above, would be to avoid the distraction of implementing a major system in the last month of the fiscal year. Another is to allow additional time for our customers using bulk file transmissions to conduct testing, provide training and develop software implementation schedules for their users.

As you may know, FMS provided training on the IPAC system during the May 27 through August 3 timeframe. There are no plans to schedule further formal training. FMS has, however, developed computer-based training in a CD-ROM medium. A copy of the CD will be distributed to each IPAC Agency Administrator (IAA) for further distribution within each organization.

FMS has created user IDs and passwords for all users who completed and returned their IPAC User Request form to FMS prior to July 31st. The User ID and password letters will be mailed to each user prior to implementation. User Request forms received after July 31st will be processed in the next few weeks. If you have not sent in your User Request form, please provide your information as quickly as possible.

We understand that agencies have expended a significant effort to prepare for the implementation of IPAC. We would ask that agencies continue with their readiness efforts (i.e., bulk certification, testing, training and software rollout) during this delay so they are prepared to convert when IPAC is implemented.

In closing, we apologize for any inconvenience this change in dates will create for your agency. We sincerely hope they are minimal. We understand how vital the OPAC family of applications have become to our customers for the processing of intra-governmental transactions and will not make any decisions that might negatively impact your ability to continue to conduct business with your customers. The IPAC functionality and information exchange between agencies that it facilitates is too important and vital to the financial integrity of the Federal Government to allow FMS to implement IPAC before we are confident that it is ready to meet your needs.