

Financial Management Service

PFC Journal

Same Day Accounting: Now a Reality at PFC

March 1, 2005, was a very important date for the Accounting Section at the Philadelphia Financial Center (PFC). February month-end close was ongoing; however, a new chapter was being added to the book of numbers. "Same Day Accounting" went live at the PFC. As the government's money manager, the Financial Management Service (FMS) continues to find ways to better serve its customers with today's technological advancements.

With Same Day Accounting, Federal agencies can access payments processed by FMS through GOALS-RFC Agency Link by noon of the payment date. It is important to note that payment cancellations and returns are processed during the mid-afternoon (3 PM). FMS is confident that payment information is available daily to its customers by close of business on the issue date of payment. This reporting innovation will assist our customers in filing the FMS-224 one day earlier.

If you have any questions, please contact Sean Mather at (215) 516-8039 or e-mail sean.mather@fms.treas.gov.

Inside this issue:

Presort Equipment will Provide Postage Savings 2

Agencies Reaping the Benefits of Internet Cancellations 3

PFC Customer Database 4

Presort Equipment will Provide Postage Savings

Each year, the Financial Management Service (FMS) disburses 26 million vendor and miscellaneous checks to various Federal payment recipients. In addition, each Regional Financial Center (RFC) mails nearly 3 million additional notice letters to recipients and financial institutions.

Current Post Office regulations stipulate that mailers can achieve postage savings by presorting their mail into 3 and 5 digit zip ranges and by applying a barcode on each piece of mail. This reduces the amount of manual labor that the Post Office must perform to deliver the mail, thereby permitting them to avail cost savings to those mailers who presort and barcode their mail.

There are several vendors who offer mail sort equipment to assist high volume mailers to presort their mail. This equipment uses the latest in Multi-Level Optical Character Recognition (MLOCR) technology to capture an image of the mail piece address in order to apply an accurate barcode and to automatically presort the mail into 3 and 5 digit bins. The presort equipment can be equipped with over 100 pockets in which to sort the mail, thereby maximizing processing rates while reducing manual labor. Most presort equipment manufactured today can process 30,000 to 40,000 mail pieces per hour. The presort equipment is operated primarily through the use of Windows-based software applications, therefore making the operation of the equipment extremely user-friendly. The equipment also includes flexible reporting options to satisfy Post Office regulations and to internally track cost savings, zip code trends, and productivity.

It is estimated that the Government will save over \$900,000 per year by FMS presorting its mail with the Olympus II equipment.

On December 30th, 2004, FMS awarded a contract to a national vendor to provide presort equipment to the RFCs. The presort equipment will sort and barcode RFC daily check mail in order to avail significant postage savings for the Government as a whole. It is estimated that the Government will save over \$900,000 per year by FMS presorting its mail with the equipment. The equipment also includes the functionality to provide automated internal controls to ensure that each daily check produced by an RFC is accounted for before release to the Post Office.

The vendor began installation of the equipment at PFC on March 7th. Installation at the other RFCs is expected 30 days after the initial installation at PFC. Several post-award tests will occur after installation at each site to ensure that the equipment can meet RFC processing needs and software requirements.

Agencies Reaping the Benefits of Internet Cancellations

In May of 2004, the Philadelphia Financial Center (PFC) announced the release of the Pay.gov; Internet Cancellations application to their customer agencies. The Internet Cancellations application allows agencies to receive their cancellation documents on a secure web site, as opposed to receiving the paper documents through the mail. This web-based system provides agencies with a more timely and efficient alternative to access information about their returned payments (1098, 1185, 145 forms).

Since the Internet Cancellations application was developed, 33 different agencies representing 92 agency location codes (ALCs) have enrolled to use the system. These agencies experienced immediate benefits by receiving their cancellation data on the same day the information was available. This is a drastic improvement over receiving their cancellation documents by mail, which can entail as many as 7 days mail float before receipt. As a result, the Internet Cancellation application provides agency customers with the ability to complete their month-end reporting on the 1st day of the next month, in comparison to a week later if they receive their cancellation documents through the mail. Universally, Internet Cancellation customers have expressed satisfaction with this enhancement.

Agencies have reported other improvements made available by the Internet Cancellations application. One customer found that Internet Cancellations has improved their payment and accounting processing within their own agency. This agency shares its accounting and accounts payable processing among several regional sites throughout the country. Prior to the Internet Cancellation application, this agency had to produce multiple copies of the cancellation data and fax it to their regional centers. With the arrival of Internet Cancellations, each of their regional centers has a representative who can receive and download cancellation data from website, thereby eliminating the need to copy and fax the paper documents.

The Internet Cancellation application will also benefit the Government as a whole by reducing the postage and handling costs associated with mailing the cancellation documents.

If you are interested in enrolling for Internet Cancellations, please contact either Sneyzhana Naymit at (215) 516-8094 or email sneyzhana.naymit@fms.treas.gov or Kathyne Gave at (215) 516-8115 or email kathyne.gave@fms.treas.gov.

The Philadelphia Financial Center Newsletter entitled PFC Journal is presented by the Customer Assistance Staff and addresses a variety of topics of interest to individuals in the Federal financial community.

P.O. Box 51317
Philadelphia, PA 19115-6317

Phone: 215-516-8000
Fax: 215-516-8010
Email: philly@fms.treas.gov

The PFC Journal is published on a quarterly basis and is available exclusively on our website.

<http://www.fms.treas.gov/pfc>



PFC Customer Database

The Customer Assistance Staff (CAS) is updating their database of the Federal agencies serviced by the Philadelphia Financial Center. Please contact CAS with this data so we can better service you. This information can be emailed to philly@fms.treas.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Kathryn Gave at (215) 516-8115 or email kathryne.gave@fms.treas.gov or Sneyzhana Naymit at (215) 516-8094 or email sneyzhana.naymit@fms.treas.gov.

Please provide the following information:

- Agency Name
- Primary ALC
- Secondary ALCs
- FPA ID
- Mailing Address
- Fax Number
- Two Points of Contact including Title, Phone Number and e-mail
- ECS/SPS Point of Contact including Title, Phone Number and e-mail.