GTAS … What's New!

Financial Management Service, Governmentwide Accounting

GTAS Training Classes

If you want to know more about GTAS requirements, the GTAS class is for you!

The one-day class is scenario-based and includes an in-depth discussion of the Super Master Account File data elements, bulk file format, GTAS attribute table, edits and validations. You will work in teams with other students to journalize accounting entries, prepare an adjusted trial balance and bulk file, and determine if the bulk file passes the validations and edits.

We have scheduled classes for July 12, August 23 and September 13 in Hyattsville, Maryland. An email will be sent to the GTAS users in a few weeks with information about how to register for the classes. Later this year we will announce a schedule for the 2012 class dates.

You may want to consider having the class on-site if several people from your agency are interested in attending the class. Contact Rita Cronley at rita.cronley@fms.treas.gov if your agency would like an on-site class.

New Fiduciary Edits

There will be new non-fatal fiduciary edits in GTAS that replace the current Intra-governmental Fiduciary Confirmation System (IFCS). The edits involve investments and loans with the Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) and loans with the Federal Financing Bank (FFB). Both BPD and FFB will send authoritative data to GTAS that will be used to edit the agencies' investment and loan bulk file data.

The BPD data will be used in the following edits:
Investments
● BPD Payables = Agency Receivables
● BPD Liabilities = Agency Assets
● BPD Expenses = Agency Revenue

Loans
● BPD Receivables = Agency Payables
● BPD Assets = Agency Liabilities
● BPD Revenues = Agency Expenses

The FFB loan data will be used in three edits:
● FFB Receivables = Agency Payables
● FFB Assets = Agency Liabilities
● FFB Revenue = Agency Expenses

Look for the new edits in the official 2013 Financial Reporting TFM coming in September 2011.

Backdated Transaction

"Backdated Transaction" is a new Treasury Account Symbol attribute that indicates whether or not a transaction has been backdated to a previous fiscal year in the Central Accounting System. If a TAS has one or more backdated transactions, the backdated transaction value will be Y (yes) on the Super Master Account File. If there are no backdated transactions for the TAS, the value on the SMAF will be N (no).

How does the new TAS level attribute affect your bulk file results? We built a validation that compares backdated transaction at the TAS level with the Prior Year Adjustment attribute at the USSGL level. The validation will allow you to use PYA B only if the backdated transaction is Y (yes). If you use PYA B when the backdated flag is N (no), your bulk file will fail the validation.

Refer to the SMAF and validations files on the GTAS website for more information.

http://www.fms.treas. gov/gtas

Bulk File Testing

Would you like to know if your trial balances pass the GTAS validations and edits? Several agencies do know because they have already started submitting GTAS bulk files for testing and so can you.

You will need to prepare a trial balance in the GTAS bulk file format that includes

● the TAS in the FMS Accounting Data Standards format *(f.k.a. CGAC)*
● the six-digit USSGL account
● the GTAS bulk file attributes

Send us your trial balance, and we will test it for you and provide feedback on the quality of the data in the trial balance within one business day. Contact Gregory Keel at Gregory.Keel@fms.treas.gov if you want to submit a GTAS bulk file for testing.

Agencies can start using the system to pilot test bulk files beginning in May 2012 but don't wait until then.

START TESTING NOW!!!

GTAS Team Member Profile

Kathy Wages is a vital member of the GTAS testing team. She has built several test bulk files to determine if the GTAS edits and validations work as expected. If there is an edit or validation that can be broken, Kathy always finds a way to break it. We have re-evaluated several validations and edits based on her test results.

Kathy has been with the Federal Government for 13 years, the entire time with the Financial Management Service. She has worked with both FACTS I and FACTS II so her experience is a great asset to the GTAS team.