



Interface of the Secure Payment System (SPS) and Treasury Offset Program (TOP)

1. Why was a change made in the way that Same Day Fedwire payments are processed in the Secure Payment System (SPS)?

An enhancement was made to the SPS application to determine if payees of Same Day Payment requests have active delinquent debts in the TOP database. If the tax identification number on the payment matches a TIN with an active delinquent debt, the creation of a same day payment will be challenged (see figure 1). When a Same Day payment is challenged, it is expected that the agency will proceed to recreate the payment using a different payment type (Check or ACH) which can be processed through the existing offset process, or take the appropriate action of “deselecting” the TOP Offset Eligibility box (see figure 2) if applicable.



Figure 1

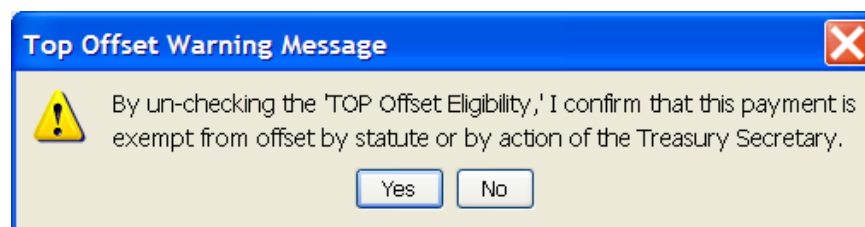


Figure 2

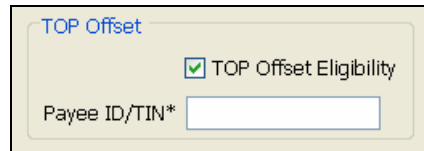
2. What are the legal authorities for making this change to SPS?

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), codified in pertinent part at 31 U.S.C. § 3716, requires Federal disbursing officials to withhold all or part of Federal payments made to persons who owe delinquent non-tax debts in order satisfy the debts. This process is known as “offset.” FMS has issued regulations governing offset of Federal payments to collect delinquent non-tax debt at 31 CFR 285.5. Authority for collecting delinquent tax debts through the continuous levy of certain Federal payments can be found at 26 U.S.C. § 6331(h).

3. What is the main change to SPS with this enhancement?

The main enhancement to the SPS application is to the process of a Data Entry Operator (DEO) creating a Same Day Schedule payment at an agency.

The area of the screen that contains the relevant fields is shown below (Figure :



The screenshot shows a form titled "TOP Offset". It contains a checked checkbox labeled "TOP Offset Eligibility" and a text input field labeled "Payee ID/TIN*".

Figure 3

A DEO will enter a TIN, if there is a match on the TOP Debtor File, the DEO will be presented with screen Figure 4. If there is no match, the create process will continue to flow as usual.



Figure 4

If a DEO de-selects the “Top Offset Eligibility” box, a “Popup Message” (Figure 5) appears (and the user action is captured in the SPS Audit database and in the Reporting tables). If the DEO “de-selects” by mistake, they can change to “select” (by placing a

check in the box) if appropriate. The default value for the “Top Offset Eligibility” field is “selected state (checked)”.

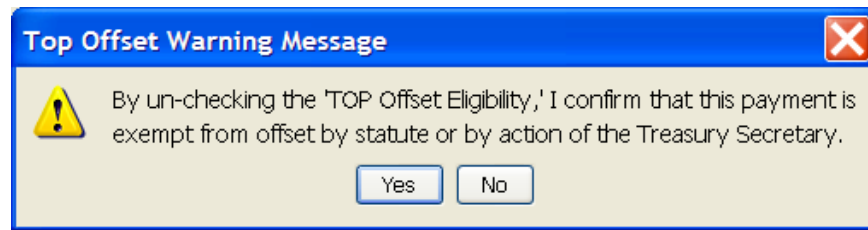


Figure 5

4. How do I know if a payment is exempt from TOP?

A list of all payments that are exempt from the Treasury Offset program can be found on the following website: <http://fms.treas.gov/debt/top.html>

5. How do I request a payment exemption?

Standards for Exemption of Federal Payments into the Treasury Offset Program can be found at: <http://fms.treas.gov/debt/top.html>

6. If there is a match with TOP, where can the payee find out information concerning a potential debt?

The payee can call the **Treasury Offset Call Center at 1-800-304-3107.**

7. What if the payee has a potential debt with the IRS?

Due to Federal law restrictions (26 U.S.C. § 6103), FMS is not authorized to confirm or deny any information with respect to any tax debts that may be owed to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For information concerning potential tax debt, **Businesses** should call the IRS at 1-800-829-3903 and **Individuals** should call the IRS at 1-800-829-7650.

8. Where can I find additional information about this enhancement to SPS?

Additional information concerning SPS can be found at:
<http://fms.treas.gov/sps>

(Related Sources - What's New – Note to Federal Program Agencies (TOP))

9. Where can I find out more information concerning the Treasury Offset Program?

You can call the Debt Program Division, Debt Program Relations Branch on 202-874-0540.