

Credit Gateway

Common Questions

What change are you making?

The U.S. Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) will implement on September 13, 2010 a new deposit program for Fedwire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) credit transactions called the Credit Gateway. The Credit Gateway will replace the Fedwire Deposit System (FDS) program and the Remittance Express (REX) program, among others.

Why are you making this change?

The Credit Gateway will allow us to consolidate several deposit programs. This include FDS and REX and eventually the Federal Reserve Electronic Tax Application (FR-ETA) and electronic lockboxes as well. Its implementation also is a necessary step toward our long-term goal of decommissioning our CASHLINK II system, of which FDS and REX each are a part. By consolidating functionality from various systems, we believe that we can provide better service at lower cost.

Who will serve as your points of contact?

The Credit Gateway brings with it some changes to the organizations that are responsible for Fedwire and ACH credit deposits. Within FMS's Federal Finance (FF) Assistant Commissioner area, responsibility for the gateway will be with the Settlement Services Division. This is a change; FDS has been managed by FF's Accounting and Data Management Division, while REX has been managed by FF's General Revenue Collection Division. The Credit Gateway will be a service operated by FMS's financial agent, US Bank, as opposed to FDS and REX, which have been operated by another financial agent, PNC Bank.

After the Credit Gateway is in production, you should direct operational questions (i.e., questions relating to specific Credit Gateway transactions) to US Bank. You can reach them by phone at 1-877-815-1206 or 314-425-1841 or by email at customer.care@USBank.com. If you call US Bank before the implementation date (which should not be necessary, because the Credit Gateway will not be processing transactions for you at that point), you may be forwarded to voice mail.

You can direct other questions (such as account setup questions or general inquiries) to our Settlement Services Division. You can contact the Settlement Services Division through the Credit Gateway program manager, Randolph Maxwell, at 202-874-3720, or by email at settlement.services@fms.treas.gov.

How will the settlement process change?

Funds will continue to settle in the same manner as they do today. All Fedwire deposits currently processed through FDS will continue to settle through Treasury's existing bank routing number

(021030004). All ACH credit deposits currently processed through REX will continue to settle through Treasury's existing bank routing number (051036706). You will not have to make changes to the payment instructions you provide to your remitters for existing cash flows. No service outages are planned when the transition occurs.

What differences will there be in agency reporting?

The transition to the Credit Gateway will bring some minor changes to how we report Fedwire and ACH credit transactions to you. CA\$HLINK II still will provide information to you, but there will be changes that impact a limited amount of information viewable today through that system. You will (better) access this information—and other data currently provided by CA\$HLINK II—through a new system, the Transaction Reporting System (TRS). You will be able to access CA\$HLINK II and TRS until CA\$HLINK II is decommissioned, which is planned for 2012. That said, the reporting functionality of TRS will exceed that of CA\$HLINK II and you should consider using TRS well before CA\$HLINK II goes away.

Fedwire

The Credit Gateway will cause a change in the timing of Fedwire information that you today access through CA\$HLINK II. You will not be able to view Fedwire information in CA\$HLINK II until after the close of the banking day. This is a change from the current process, in which you can view detail transaction information in CA\$HLINK II on a near real-time basis. If you receive automated, downloadable files from CA\$HLINK II after the close of business, you will continue to receive these files, though these may be made available slightly later than is the case today.

If you need to view information on Fedwire deposits in near real-time, you should use TRS. TRS will have all Fedwire information that will be in CA\$HLINK II, including deposit ticket numbers that are provided to it at the end of the Fedwire banking day. TRS also will provide detailed transaction information that you can view on a near real-time basis. TRS will have the ability to provide you with automated, downloadable files as well, which it will make available after the close of the Fedwire banking day and create using a standard XML file format.

ACH Credit

The Credit Gateway will cause a change in the availability of information on future-dated ACH credit entries that today you access through CA\$HLINK II. ("Future-dated" ACH credits are entries we have received but which will not settle on the current banking date.) CA\$HLINK II will have information only on settled ACH items. You will not be able to view information on future-dated items in CA\$HLINK II until the items settle (at which point they are no longer future-dated). This is a change from the current process, in which you can view future-dated ACH credit information in CA\$HLINK II. If you receive automated, downloadable files from CA\$HLINK II, you will continue to receive these files. These files will continue to be made available on the morning of the settlement date, though they may be made available slightly later than is the case today. The information in these automated files will be limited to settled ACH items, as is the case today.

If you need information on future-dated ACH credit transactions, you should use TRS. TRS will have all the ACH information that will be in CA\$HLINK II, including deposit ticket numbers, and will have information on both settled and future-dated items. TRS will have the ability to provide you with automated, downloadable files as well, which it will make available on the morning of the settlement date and in a standard XML file format. Furthermore, unlike CA\$HLINK II, these automated files from TRS can include data on future-dated ACH items if the agency so desires.

The table below summarizes this discussion.

Agency Reporting	Fedwire	ACH Credit
Availability of viewable information in CA\$HLINK II	Summary and detail information will be made available after the close of the banking day; information on individual Fedwires will no longer be viewable on a near real-time basis	Summary and detail information will be made available on the morning of the settlement date, but information on future-dated ACH credits will no longer be viewable
Availability of automated, downloadable files from CA\$HLINK	Available after close of the banking day	Available on the morning of the settlement date
Availability of viewable information in TRS	Same or better than CA\$HLINK II today; information on individual Fedwires will be viewable on a near real-time basis	Same or better than CA\$HLINK II today; information on future-dated ACH credits will be viewable
Availability of automated, downloadable files from TRS	Same or better than CA\$HLINK II today (XML file format); available after close of banking day	Same or better than CA\$HLINK II today (XML file format); available on the morning of the settlement date

Why should my agency use TRS?

TRS will be our long-term solution for agency reporting on collections, eventually replacing reporting solutions we provide to agencies in many programs, including CA\$HLINK II. When the Credit Gateway is implemented, TRS will “meet or beat” the reporting that CA\$HLINK II provides. It will consolidate much of the information on collections that agencies currently must obtain through various sources. Additional information about TRS, including an “Introduction to TRS” webinar and how to prepare for TRS, can be obtained from the TRS website at <http://fms.treas.gov/trs/index.html>.

To use TRS, your agency must be enrolled in that application. The TRS Team has contacted all agencies that access either same-day Fedwire data or future-dated ACH credit data to ascertain their needs. The TRS Team has made enrollment of these agencies in TRS a top priority. If you are interested in enrolling your agency with TRS or if you have not been contacted, you also may reach the TRS Agency Outreach Team at (301) 699-6814 or TRSAgencyOutreach@pnc.com.

We strongly encourage agencies to use TRS!

What will happen to the notifications that my agency currently receives through the CASHLINK II application?

When the Credit Gateway is implemented, you will not have the ability to receive a notification in the CASHLINK II application upon the creation of a deposit ticket related to a Fedwire or ACH credit transaction. A handful of agencies use this functionality for FDS and REX transactions today, but it will not exist once the Credit Gateway goes live. It may be implemented in TRS at a later date.

What is an account ID, why does it matter, and how will it be used?

Through Credit Gateway Account IDs, the Credit Gateway will standardize the way that we associate Fedwire and ACH credit transactions with your agency or a specific cash flow. Unlike FDS and REX—which each have legacy account IDs of different lengths and structures—the Credit Gateway will employ a 12-digit account ID. The gateway will employ two versions of this account ID: Converted and New. There will be some differences between these IDs to accommodate the legacy account IDs that FDS and REX employ today, but they will have the same general structure.

The Credit Gateway Account ID will be important for several reasons. Among other things, it will allow us to associate Fedwire and ACH credit transactions with both an Agency Location Code (ALC) and a cash flow. This cannot be done for Fedwire transactions in FDS today. It also has implications for agency and GWA reporting, as set out in the following sections.

Fedwire

Converted Account IDs—Today, you use your eight-digit ALC as your FDS Account ID. It also sometimes is known as the Fedwire Beneficiary ID. (In practice, we have not used the concept of an account ID when referring to how we organize FDS transactions; instead, we have simply organized transactions around your ALC. However, “account ID” and “ALC” are broad and not always synonymous terms, so it is sometimes necessary to distinguish between them even if in FDS they are the same.) Remitters include this information when they initiate a payment. Because the FDS Account ID is the ALC, we have no standard means to allow you to track cash flows at a level under the ALC.

When the Credit Gateway goes live, we will assign you a *Converted* Credit Gateway Account ID. Your Converted Account ID will be 12 digits. It will begin with a leading “8,” be followed by your eight-digit ALC, and end with three zeros. (Example: 82222222000; where 22222222 is your Fedwire Beneficiary ID and ALC). Use by your remitters of the Converted Account ID code is optional; your remitters may continue to simply use your ALC if you so choose. If a remitter includes an ALC in a payment, we will map it to the appropriate Converted Account ID.

New Account IDs—When the Credit Gateway becomes operational, any new accounts you create will be issued a *New* Credit Gateway Account ID. The structure of the New Account ID will be similar to that of the Converted Account ID, but will be different in two important ways: First, use by your remitters of the New Account ID code will be mandatory. Second, if you

have more than one cash flow associated with the same ALC, we will iterate the three-digit suffix to treat each of your cash flows as a new, separate account. In this fashion, amounts that previously may otherwise have been associated with a Converted Account ID can be associated with a New Account ID. This cash flow functionality will be available starting in the first quarter of 2011.

ACH Credit

Converted Account IDs—Today, you use a dedicated, six-digit account ID for each REX account. Remitters include this information when they initiate a payment. You can have more than one REX Account ID associated with your ALC. Among other things, this allows for REX Account IDs to be established at the cash flow level, rather than the ALC level.

When the Credit Gateway goes live, you will be assigned a *Converted* Credit Gateway Account ID for each of your existing REX Account IDs. Your Credit Gateway Account ID(s) will be 12 digits. It will begin with “800”, be followed by your six-digit REX Account ID, and end with three zeros. (Example: 800111111000; where 111111 is your REX Account ID). Use by your remitters of the converted Credit Gateway Account ID is optional; your remitters may continue to simply use your current REX Account ID if you so choose. If a remitter includes a REX Account ID in a payment, we will map it to the appropriate converted Credit Gateway Account ID.

New Account IDs—When the Credit Gateway becomes operational, any new accounts you create will be setup using a *New* Credit Gateway Account ID. Your new account will be 12 digits. It will begin with a leading “8”, be followed by your eight-digit ALC, and end with a three-digit cash flow identifier. (Example: 822222222000; where 2222222 is your ALC). For new cash flows, your remitters must include the New Account ID as part of their payment information. This structure can be used to separate your cash flows from one another. The three-digit suffix at the end of each Credit Gateway Account ID can be iterated to treat each of your various cash flows as a new, separate account. In this fashion, amounts that previously may otherwise have been associated with a Converted Account ID can be associated with a New Account ID. This cash flow functionality will be available starting with the implementation date of the Credit Gateway.

The table below summarizes this discussion.

Account IDs	Fedwire	ACH Credit
Format of legacy FDS/REX Account ID	8-digit ALC	6-digit REX Account ID
Granularity of legacy FDS/REX ID	ALC level	ALC and cash flow level
Format of Converted Account ID	12 digits: 8 + ALC + 000	12 digits: 800 + REX Account ID + 000
Granularity of Converted Account ID	ALC level	ALC and cash flow level
Use of Converted Account ID by remitters	Optional. If a remitter provides an ALC in a payment, we will map it to the Converted Credit Gateway Account ID	Optional. If a remitter provides REX Account ID in a payment, we will map it to the Converted Credit Gateway Account ID
Format of New Account ID	12 digits: 8 + ALC + 3-digit cash flow identifier	12 digits: 8 + ALC + 3-digit cash flow identifier
Granularity of New Account ID	ALC and cash flow level	ALC and cash flow level

How will account IDs be used in agency reporting?

The rules governing account IDs will impact how you access your transaction data within CA\$HLINK II and TRS. In all cases, both systems will allow searches by ALC. However, there are differences between the two systems, especially for reporting on transactions tied to FDS and REX accounts that have been converted to the Credit Gateway.

For converted accounts, CA\$HLINK II will require you to search using an ALC or REX Account ID. The ALC must be used for Fedwire transactions. (The ALC doubles as the FDS Account ID.) Either the ALC or REX Account ID can be used for ACH credit transactions. This will be the case even if the remitter provides a Converted Account ID as part of the payment; we will map the transaction to the legacy FDS or REX Account ID. CA\$HLINK II will not allow use of a Converted Account ID for searches.

For new accounts, CA\$HLINK II will require you to search using an ALC or a New Credit Gateway Account ID. The ALC must be used for Fedwire transactions. Either the ALC or New Credit Gateway Account ID can be used to search for ACH credit transactions. If it is used, the New Credit Gateway Account ID must be entered the REX Account ID search parameter field in CA\$HLINK II.

For converted accounts, TRS takes the opposite approach of CA\$HLINK II. TRS will require you to search using an ALC or Converted Account ID. This will be the case even if the remitter provides a legacy REX Account ID as part of the payment; we will map the transaction to a Converted Account ID. TRS will not allow a search by REX Account ID. (TRS will allow a search by an FDS Account ID, but only because that ID is the ALC.)

For new accounts, TRS is somewhat similar to CA\$HLINK. TRS will allow searches by ALC or New Credit Gateway ID, though it goes beyond CA\$HLINK II in allowing these to be used for searches on both Fedwire and ACH credit transactions.

The table below summarizes this discussion.

Impact of Account IDs on Agency Reporting	Fedwire	ACH Credit
When searching in CA\$HLINK II for accounts that have been converted to the Credit Gateway:	Search by ALC (which you can use even if the remitter provides a Converted Credit Gateway Account ID in the payment)	Search by ALC or REX Account ID (which you can use even if the remitter provides a Converted Credit Gateway Account ID in the payment)
When searching in CA\$HLINK II for new Credit Gateway accounts:	Search by ALC	Search by ALC or New Credit Gateway Account ID (entered into the REX Account ID search parameter)
When searching in TRS for accounts that have been converted to the Credit Gateway:	Search by ALC or Converted Credit Gateway Account ID (which you can use even if the remitter provides an ALC in the payment)	Search by ALC or Converted Credit Gateway Account ID (which you can use even if the remitter provides a REX Account ID in the payment) or ALC
When searching in TRS for new Credit Gateway accounts:	Search by ALC or New Credit Gateway Account ID	Search by ALC or New Credit Gateway Account ID

How will GWA reporting occur?

Both the converted and new Credit Gateway Account IDs will double as Classification Keys (C-Keys) in the Shared Accounting Module (SAM) program, which is in FMS's Governmentwide Accounting (GWA) Assistant Commissioner area. Use of the C-Key will allow for the classification of your transactions to Treasury Account Symbols and Business Event Type Codes (TAS/BETCs).

Before your agency becomes a GWA reporter for collections, the SAM Team will work with you to assign the appropriate TAS and BETC to your Credit Gateway Account ID. We will be able to report this C-Key to GWA so that your information is properly classified to a TAS/BETC. This is another change associated with the transition to the Credit Gateway. Currently, the C-Key for transactions in FDS is your ALC, rather than your Credit Gateway Account ID. The new Credit Gateway Account ID will be especially useful in this regard, because starting in the first quarter of 2011 it will allow for transactions to be broken down by cash flow. We currently do not capture a C-Key for transactions in REX, so the Credit Gateway will provide GWA reporting improvements over that legacy program as well as over FDS.

To begin the process of associating a TAS and BETC to your Credit Gateway Account ID(s), you can contact the SAM Team at (314) 444-4238 or (314) 444-6248 or by email at sam.conversion@stls.frb.org.

How will deposit tickets be numbered?

We will base the deposit ticket number associated with each day's deposits on a combination of the day of the month and a sequence number. The numbering scheme will be slightly different for Fedwire deposits and ACH credit deposits. You should not build business logic around these numbers.

What will happen if a remitter provides incorrect information with a payment?

Generally, if a remitter fails to follow payment instructions, the Credit Gateway automatically will reverse (Fedwire) or return (ACH) the transaction. We generally will not attempt to manually correct the transaction. In particular, we generally will reverse/return the transaction if a remitter fails to use either a valid, configured:

- ALC (for a Fedwire transaction) or REX Account ID (for an ACH credit transaction);
- Converted Credit Gateway Account ID; or
- New Credit Gateway Account ID.

This will be a change from FDS, in which we frequently have attempted to correct ALC information. However, although typically we will not manually attempt to correct the transaction, we may still attempt to do so for certain Fedwire transactions above a certain dollar threshold.

How will ALC corrections be handled?

Although generally we will not correct transactions with incorrect transaction data, there may be instances in which corrections are needed. For instance, a remitter may send a payment using a valid, configured account ID, but one that is associated with the ALC of another agency. Alternatively, you may determine that your own account ID is associated with an ALC that needs to be updated.

When the Credit Gateway becomes operational, it will not permit ALC corrections for transactions that occurred in FDS or REX. Once the Credit Gateway replaces FDS and REX, you will need to use Government-Wide Accounting (GWA) systems to transfer or reclassify legacy FDS or REX amounts from one ALC to another. If this situation arises, you can contact our Settlement Services Division for more information and assistance, using the contact information provided above.

The Credit Gateway will be able to correct erroneous ALC information only for those transactions processed going forward through the Credit Gateway. Your requests for ALC changes to Credit Gateway transactions should be initiated through US Bank, using the contact information provided above.

How will agency-initiated Fedwire reversals and ACH returns be handled?

When the Credit Gateway is implemented, Fedwire reversals and ACH returns that you may need to initiate still will be possible through the gateway, including for transactions that originally were deposited through FDS or REX. Your requests for reversals and returns should be directed to US Bank, using the contact information provided above.

Will I continue to be able to set up new accounts?

To facilitate the migration of existing accounts to the Credit Gateway there will be a moratorium on the setup of any additional accounts in REX starting August 9, 2010. This moratorium is expected to be brief and will lift after the Credit Gateway is operational.