



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20227

Suspension of SSN Suppression of Treasury Disbursed ACH Payments

The Department of the Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) has decided to suspend Social Security Number (SSN)/Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) in Treasury-disbursed automated clearing house (ACH) payments. This means that SSN/TIN numbers will once again be included in the ACH payment record as done previously, and this change should eliminate the issue that payment recipients have recently experienced. **The effective date of this change will be for Treasury-disbursed payments dated on or after July 22, 2011.**

Background: Treasury values the importance of privacy and the protection of personal identifiable information (PII). To that end, the suppression of SSNs and TINs in federal government ACH payments was begun in late 2010. As the government phased in additional payments and increased the diversity of payment types in which the SSN/TIN was being suppressed, a number of issues surfaced. One of the root problems is linked to third party or subsidiary account relationships. In these cases, the SSN/TIN provides the information that facilitates payments being posted or applied to a specific payee. Absent that information, the process breaks down and it becomes difficult if not impossible to apply the funds to the appropriate recipient.

This decision is expected to be a "temporary" solution. Treasury will be working with the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) and federal program agencies to identify and develop an appropriate approach to protect PII data throughout the entire ACH payment delivery cycle.