

Spreadsheet File Transfer User Guide

FR Y-11

Financial Statements of U.S. Nonbank
Subsidiaries of U.S. Holding Companies

and

FR Y-11S

Abbreviated Financial Statements of U.S. Nonbank
Subsidiaries of U.S. Holding Companies

STATISTICS FUNCTION
September 29, 2016

Overview

The Federal Reserve System's Reporting Central Application provides the ability to submit spreadsheet files (*e.g.*, Microsoft Excel) via the internet. As a result, reporting institutions that use a spreadsheet to prepare their data will not have to key their data into a web page form. While this feature was provided for reporting institutions using spreadsheets, the file can be created by any other backend system that a reporting institution uses to generate its data.

This document provides the required file format for submitting the data via Reporting Central and shows how a reporting institution can create the file from a spreadsheet for the **FR Y-11 - Financial Statements of U.S. Nonbank Subsidiaries of U.S. Holding Companies** and the **FR Y-11S - Abbreviated Financial Statements of U.S. Nonbank Subsidiaries of U.S. Holding Companies**. Formulas were used to pull the data from the spreadsheet worksheets containing the data and format them for transmission to Reporting Central.

Microsoft Excel was used in this example but the same process can be applied to other spreadsheet software. The method used to create the file is at the discretion of the reporter. This guide assumes that the data already exist in spreadsheet form.

How to create a text file from a spreadsheet for the FR Y-11

The FR Y-11 is comprised of multiple schedules and several hundred financial and text fields. To minimize issues with problems arising during the creation of the Reporting Central text file, it is strongly recommended reporting institutions follow the process described below.

NOTE Only one file upload can be submitted for each individual respondent and as of date. It is no longer possible to submit multiple branches or agencies in a single file.

Field Labels

The identifying label for both financial and text data is the four-character and eight-character MDRM descriptor listed in Appendix A. Reporting Central uses the 8-character MDRM to identify individual report items. For File Upload, Reporting Central allows you to use either the **IESUB format** or the **CIPS format**.

Appendix A
FR Y-11 Report Detailed Field Specifications

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	MDRM
Financial Data Items		
Cover Page, Number of reports attested to under this signature	N/A	BHCSJ444
Schedule IS, Income Statement	1.a.	BHCSA028
Schedule IS, Income Statement	1.b.	BHCSA029
Schedule IS, Income Statement	1.c.	BHCS4107
Schedule IS, Income Statement	2.	BHCSA010

Field Values

Financial data fields can have either positive, negative, zero, or null values. These values are formatted differently in the IESUB and CIPS upload files.

Table 1. Format Differences for Financial Data Item Values

Financial Data Item Value	IESUB Format	CIPS Format
Positive	[leave value as is]	Precede by plus (+) sign
Negative	Precede by minus (-) sign	Precede by minus (-) sign
Zero	0	+0
Null (or blank)	[leave blank]	-0

Step 1 – Create Data Listing

Since it is presumed that the reporter already has the report data in spreadsheet format, all subsequent steps in this guide are based on using this report data as the source. The first step recommended is to create a sequential listing of all the items containing the item number, the eight-character MDRM, item description, and item value.

It is easier if you list all of the financial data items first and then the text items after that.

Both the **IESUB file format** and the **CIPS file format** use the eight-character MDRM (see Column D below)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1												
2	FR Y-11 - Financial Statements of US Non-bank Subsidiaries of US Holding Companies											
3												
4		Respondent ID		9999999999								
5		Series Name		FR Y-11								
6		As of Date		9/30/2013								
7												
8			Report Form	RC Item							Dollar Amount	
9		Schedule	Line Name	Identifier	Item Description						in Thousands	
10		IS	1A	BHCSA028	Interest and fee income from nonrelated organizations						100	
11		IS	1B	BHCSA029	Interest and fee income from related organizations						10	
12		IS	1C	BHCS4107	Total interest income						110	
13		IS	2A	BHCSA030	Interest expense pertaining to nonrelated organizations						50	
14		IS	2B	BHCSA031	Interest expense pertaining to related organizations						0	
15		IS	2C	BHCS4073	Total interest expense						50	
16		IS	3	BHCS4074	Net interest income						60	
1335		BS-M	8A	SUBCA025	Provision for loan and lease losses						30	
1336		BS-M	8B	SUBCA026	Net deferred tax liabilities						0	
1337		BS-M	8C	SUBCA07	Accounts payable						187555	
1338												
1339					SUBSC490							John Smith
1340					SUBSC491							Vice President, Accounting
1341					TEXT9010							General Capital Corp.
1342					TEXT9110							200 Main St.

NOTE Adding additional information to this spreadsheet (like item description and item number) can make items easier to identify and help troubleshoot potential problems. However, this information is completely optional.

Step 2 – Link and Format Data Cells

In Sheet 2 of the workbook, all of the financial and text items will be linked to cells in Sheet 1 and formatting characters inserted to aid in the creation of the final text file. Note that the formatting of item values in the IESUB upload file differs from that of the CIPS upload file.

IESUB – Data Format

- “L” is the separator between data items.
- Eight-character MDRM.
- “+” represents the maximum number of columns on the report form into which financial data can be entered. If a report section contains less number of columns than another section that has the maximum number, each item still must contain the maximum number of +’s.
- Financial data is entered after each “+”.
- Text data entry is preceded by two underscores and followed by two underscores.

IESUB Financial Data Excel Formula: ="L"&Sheet1!D8&"+"&Sheet1!G8

Translates to: LBHCSA028+100

IESUB Text Data Excel Formula: ="L"&Sheet1!D1339&"__"&Sheet1!G1339&"__"

Translates to: LSUBSC490__John Smith__

CIPS – Data Format

- Data items are separated by commas.
- Eight-character MDRM.
- “+” is placed between the MDRM and the data value.
- Null values are represented by “-0” and are not preceded by the “+” sign.
- Text data values are preceded by a single underscore and followed by three underscores

CIPS Financial Data Excel Formula: =Sheet1!D8&"+"&Sheet1!G8&" , "

Translates to: BHCSA028+100 ,

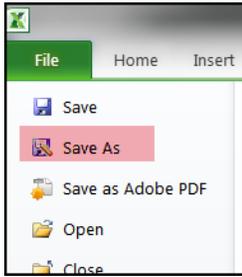
CIPS Text Data Excel Formula: =Sheet1!E1339&"+"_&Sheet1!G1339&"____ , "

Translates to: SUBSC490+_John Smith____ ,

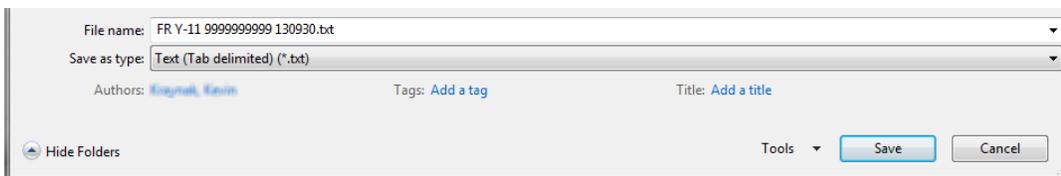
This is repeated for all fields and, once all fields have been linked, you can create the text file.

Step 3 – Create the Text File

After saving the file in spreadsheet format the text file can be created by first navigating to the **File** tab.



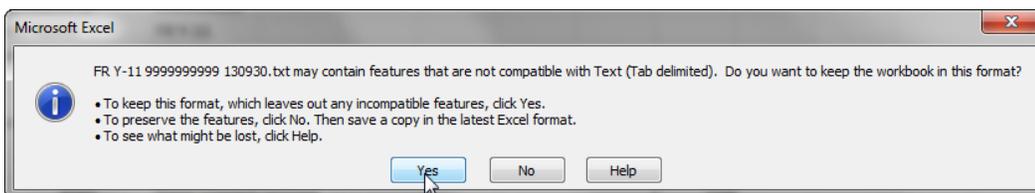
Then selecting the **'Save As'** option and indicating the file type as **'Text (Tab delimited) (*.txt).'**



A message will appear indicating that this file selection does not support workbooks with multiple worksheets, select **'OK.'**

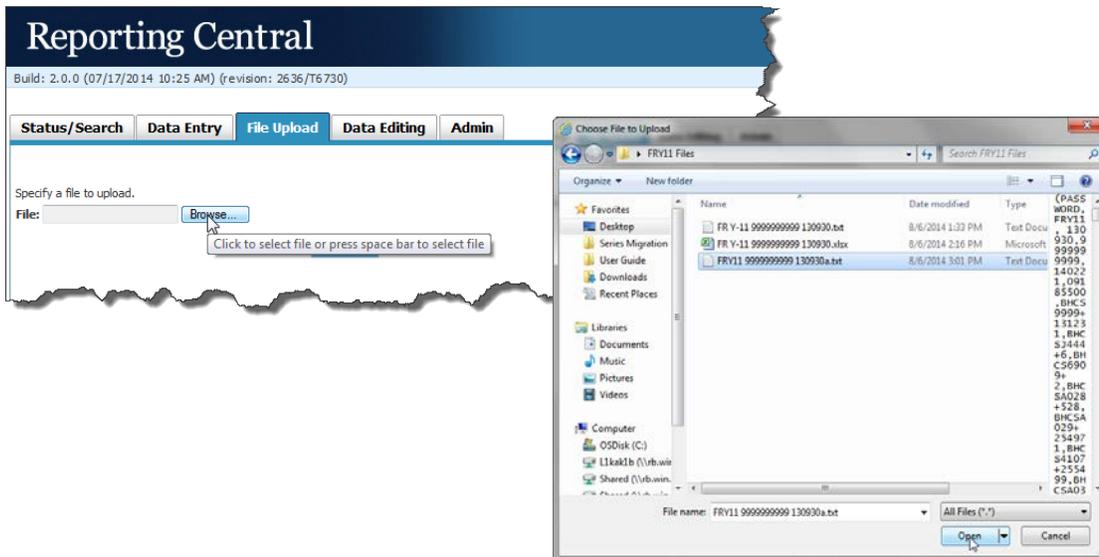


An additional message will be displayed concerning incompatibility features, select **'Yes.'**

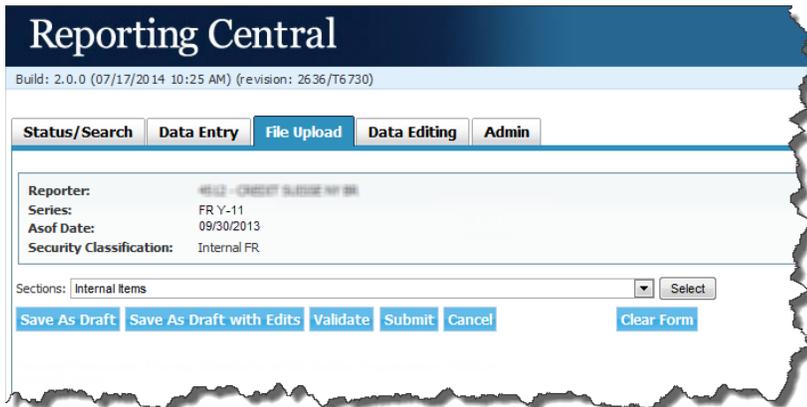


Step 5 – Reporting Central Submission

In Reporting Central, select the File Upload tab and then click the **‘Browse...’** button. Then, navigate to the stored text file and select the filename so it appears in the ‘File:’ box. Select continue to upload.



If there are no formatting issues during the file upload the data will load directly into the report screen.



The report data can then be validated and saved. If errors exist in the text file error messages will appear in the file upload window, which can be used to troubleshoot any formatting issues.

How to create a Text file from a spreadsheet for the FR Y-11S

All of the formatting requirements that apply to the FR Y-11 report also apply to the FR Y-11S. The only difference is to the field labels and the file header information.

Field Labels. The MDRM field labels for the FR Y-11S can be found in Appendix B.

Appendix B
FR Y-11S Report Detailed Field Specifications

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	MDRM
Financial Data Items		
Cover Page, Number of reports attested to under this signature	N/A	BHCSJ444
Abbreviated Financial Statements	1.	BHCS4210
Abbreviated Financial Statements	2.	BHCS2170
Abbreviated Financial Statements	3.	BHCS3210
Abbreviated Financial Statements	4.	BHCS2013
Abbreviated Financial Statements	5.	BHCSF822

File Header. The file header should be formatted as follows, for both the IESUB and the CIPS file uploads.

The **IESUB file header record** consists of the following items:

- the first 10 spaces are the RSSD ID with leading zeroes
- the next 8 spaces are the report series name 'FRY11S' followed by two spaces
- the report as-of date, in MM-DD-YYYY.

The **CIPS file header record** consists of the following items, all separated by a comma (“,”):

- the series password that is provided by the Federal Reserve Bank analyst—it must be exactly eight characters in length and spaces should be inserted if the actual password is shorter
- the report series name 'FRY11s'
- the report as-of date, in YYMMDD format
- the reporter RSSD ID—it must be ten digits in length and should be prefixed by leading zeroes if shorter
- the date stamp, in YYMMDD format
- the time stamp, in HHMMSS format, then add two zeroes at the end.

Appendix A

FR Y-11 Report Detailed Field Specifications

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	Item Limits ¹	MDRM
Financial Data Items			
Cover Page, Number of reports attested to under this signature	N/A	3,0	BHCSJ444
Cover Page, Filing criteria for December report only	N/A	1,0	BHCS6909
Cover Page, Date of Signature (must be: MM/DD/YYYY)	N/A	10,0	BHCSJ196
Schedule IS, Income Statement	1.a.	14,0	BHCSA028
Schedule IS, Income Statement	1.b.	14,0	BHCSA029
Schedule IS, Income Statement	1.c.	14,0	BHCS4107
Schedule IS, Income Statement	2.a.	14,0	BHCSA030
Schedule IS, Income Statement	2.b.	14,0	BHCSA031
Schedule IS, Income Statement	2.c.	14,0	BHCS4073
Schedule IS, Income Statement	3.	14,0	BHCS4074
Schedule IS, Income Statement	4.	14,0	BHCS4230
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.c.	14,0	BHCS4079
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.b.	14,0	BHCS4619
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(1)	14,0	BHCS4070
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(2)	14,0	BHCS4080
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(3)	14,0	BHCSA220
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(4)	14,0	BHCSB490
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(5)	14,0	BHCSB491
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(6)	14,0	BHCSB492
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(7)	14,0	BHCSB493
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(8)	14,0	BHCSB494
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(9)	14,0	BHCS4087
Schedule IS, Income Statement	5.a.(10)	14,0	BHCSB497
Schedule IS, Income Statement	6.	14,0	BHCS4091
Schedule IS, Income Statement	7.a.	14,0	BHCSA034
Schedule IS, Income Statement	7.b.	14,0	BHCS4093
Schedule IS, Income Statement	7.c.	14,0	BHCS4093
Schedule IS, Income Statement	8.	14,0	BHCS3631
Schedule IS, Income Statement	9.	14,0	BHCS4302
Schedule IS, Income Statement	10.	14,0	BHCS4320
Schedule IS, Income Statement	11.	14,0	BHCS3147
Schedule IS, Income Statement	12.	14,0	BHCS4340
Schedule IS, Income Statement	M.1.	14,0	BHCSF228
Schedule IS, Income Statement	M.2.	14,0	BHCSJ980
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	1.	14,0	BHCS3217
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	2.	14,0	BHCT4340
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	3.	14,0	BHCSA035
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	4.	14,0	BHCS4598

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	Item Limits ¹	MDRM
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	5.	14,0	BHCSB511
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	6.	14,0	BHCS3581
Schedule IS-A, Changes in Equity Capital	7.	14,0	BHCT3210
Schedule IS-B, Changes in Allowance for Loans and Lease Losses	1.	14,0	BHCS3124
Schedule IS-B, Changes in Allowance for Loans and Lease Losses	2.	14,0	BHCS4605
Schedule IS-B, Changes in Allowance for Loans and Lease Losses	3.	14,0	BHCS079
Schedule IS-B, Changes in Allowance for Loans and Lease Losses	4.	14,0	BHCT4230
Schedule IS-B, Changes in Allowance for Loans and Lease Losses	5.	14,0	BHCS4815
Schedule IS-B, Changes in Allowance for Loans and Lease Losses	6.	14,0	BHCT3123
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	1.	14,0	BHCS0010
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	2.a.	14,0	BHCS1754
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	2.b.	14,0	BHCS1773
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	3.a.	14,0	BHCS2122
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	3.b.	14,0	BHCS3123
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	3.c.	14,0	BHCS2125
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	4.	14,0	BHCS3545
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	5.	14,0	BHCS2145
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	6.	14,0	BHCS2150
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	7.	14,0	BHCS1724
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	8.	14,0	BHCS377
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	9.	14,0	BHCS378
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	10.	14,0	BHCS2170
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	11.	14,0	BHCS3548
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	12.	14,0	BHCS379
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	13.	14,0	BHCS1729
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	14.	14,0	BHCS2750
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	15.	14,0	BHCSA012
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	16.	14,0	BHCS380
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	17.	14,0	BHCS2948
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.a.	14,0	BHCS3230
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.b.	14,0	BHCS3240
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.c.	14,0	BHCS3247
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.d.	14,0	BHCSB530
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.e.	14,0	BHCSF033
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.f.	14,0	BHCSA130
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	18.g.	14,0	BHCS3210
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	19.	14,0	BHCS3300
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	20.	14,0	BHCS3817
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	21.	14,0	BHCSA013
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	22.	14,0	BHCSA014
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	23.	14,0	BHCS3411
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	24.	14,0	BHCS3415
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	25.	14,0	BHCSA015

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	Item Limits ¹	MDRM
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	26.a.	14,0	BHCSA098
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	26.b.	14,0	BHCSA099
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	27.	14,0	BHCS3450
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	28.	14,0	BHCS3826
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	29.	14,0	BHCS3829
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	30.	14,0	BHCSA100
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	M.1.a.	14,0	BHCSF819
Schedule BS, Balance Sheet	M.1.b.	14,0	BHCSF820
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	1.	14,0	BHCS1410
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	2.	14,0	BHCS3622
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	3.	14,0	BHCS3623
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	4.	14,0	BHCS1975
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	5.	14,0	BHCSA017
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	6.	14,0	BHCT2122
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	7.c.	14,0	BHCS1403
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	7.a.	14,0	BHCS1406
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	7.b.	14,0	BHCS1407
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	7.d.	14,0	BHCSJ979
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	M.1.a.	14,0	BHCSF230
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	M.1.b.	14,0	BHCSF231
Schedule BS-A, Loans and Lease Financing Receivables	M.1.c.	14,0	BHCSF232
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda, Number of loans and other assets in portfolio	1	12,0	BHCS1722
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	2.a.	14,0	BHCSA019
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	2.b.	14,0	BHCSA020
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	3.	14,0	BHCSA021
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	4.	14,0	BHCS2130
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	5.a.	14,0	BHCS3163
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	5.b.	14,0	BHCS3164
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	5.c.	14,0	BHCS3165
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.a.	14,0	BHCS5468
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.b.	14,0	BHCS5469
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.c.	14,0	BHCS5470
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.d.	14,0	BHCS5477
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.e.	14,0	BHCSA210
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.f.	14,0	BHCSG208
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.f.(1)(a)	14,0	BHCSF639
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.f.(1)(b)	14,0	BHCSF640
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	6.g.	14,0	BHCS5478
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	7.a.	14,0	BHCSB556
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	7.b.	14,0	BHCSA022
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	7.c.	14,0	BHCSA023
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	7.d.	14,0	BHCSA024
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	8.	14,0	BHCS3197

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	Item Limits ¹	MDRM
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	9.a.	14,0	BHCS1725
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	9.b.	14,0	BHCS1726
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	9.c.	14,0	BHCS1793
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	10.	14,0	BHCS2309
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	11.	14,0	BHCS3298
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	12.a.	14,0	BHCSA025
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	12.b.	14,0	BHCSA026
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	12.c.	14,0	BHCSA027
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	13.a.	14,0	BHCS1781
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	13.b.	14,0	BHCS1782
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	13.c.	14,0	BHCS1794
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	14.	14,0	BHCS3283
Schedule BS-M, Memoranda	15.	14,0	BHCSA016
Notes to Financial Statements	1.	14,0	BHCSB057
Notes to Financial Statements	2.	14,0	BHCSB058
Notes to Financial Statements	3.	14,0	BHCSB059
Notes to Financial Statements	4.	14,0	BHCSB060
Notes to Financial Statements	5.	14,0	BHCSB061
Notes to Financial Statements	6.	14,0	BHCSB062
Notes to Financial Statements	7.	14,0	BHCSB063
Notes to Financial Statements	8.	14,0	BHCSB064
Notes to Financial Statements	9.	14,0	BHCSB065
Notes to Financial Statements	10.	14,0	BHCSB066
Text Items			
Cover Page, Printed Name of Officer	N/A	72	BHCS490
Cover Page, Title of Officer	N/A	72	BHCS491
Cover Page, Legal Name of the Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	72	TEXT9010
Cover Page, Mailing Address of the Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	72	TEXT9110
Cover Page, City of Top Tier Holding Company	N/A	30	TEXT9130
Cover Page, State of Top Tier-Holding Company	N/A	2	TEXT9200
Cover Page, Zip Code of Top Tier-Holding Company	N/A	30	TEXT9220
Cover Page Name/Title of Person in to whom questions about report should be directed	N/A	72	TEXT8901
Cover Page, Area Code/Phone Number of Person to contact about report	N/A	30	TEXT8902
Cover Page, Area Code/Fax Number of Person to contact about report	N/A	30	TEXT9116
Cover Page, Email Address of Person to Contact about report	N/A	72	TEXT4086
Cover Page, Legal Name of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	72	TEXT9012
Cover Page, Former name of nonbank subsidiary from previous report, if any	N/A	72	TEXT9023
Cover Page, Mailing Address of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	72	TEXT9013
Cover Page, City of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	30	TEXT9024
Cover Page, State of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	2	TEXT9026
Cover Page, Zip Code of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	30	TEXT9027
Notes to Financial Statements	1.	219	TEXTB057
Notes to Financial Statements	2.	219	TEXTB058

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	Item Limits ¹	MDRM
Notes to Financial Statements	3.	219	TEXTB059
Notes to Financial Statements	4.	219	TEXTB060
Notes to Financial Statements	5.	219	TEXTB061
Notes to Financial Statements	6.	219	TEXTB062
Notes to Financial Statements	7.	219	TEXTB063
Notes to Financial Statements	8.	219	TEXTB064
Notes to Financial Statements	9.	219	TEXTB065
Notes to Financial Statements	10.	219	TEXTB066

¹ Item limits for Financial Data items are provided in (x,y) format, where “x” is the maximum number of digits/characters allowed for the item, “y” is the maximum number of digits allowed after the decimal, and subtracting “y” from “x” is the maximum number of digits allowed before the decimal.

Appendix B

FR Y-11S Report Detailed Field Specifications

Schedule	Report Form Item Number	Item Limits ¹	MDRM
Financial Data Items			
Cover Page, Number of reports attested to under this signature	N/A	3,0	BHCSJ444
Abbreviated Financial Statements	1.	14,0	BHCS4340
Abbreviated Financial Statements	2.	14,0	BHCS2170
Abbreviated Financial Statements	3.	14,0	BHCS3210
Abbreviated Financial Statements	4.	14,0	BHCS2013
Abbreviated Financial Statements	5.	1,0	BHCSF822
Text Items			
Cover Page, Printed Name of Officer	N/A	72	BHCSC490
Cover Page, Title of Officer	N/A	72	BHCSC491
Cover Page, Date of Signature	N/A	10,0	BHCSJ196
Cover Page, Legal Name of Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	72	TEXT9010
Cover Page, Mailing Address of Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	72	TEXT9110
Cover Page, City of Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	30	TEXT9130
Cover Page, State of Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	2	TEXT9200
Cover Page, Zip Code of Top-Tier Holding Company	N/A	30	TEXT9220
Cover Page Name/Title of Person in to whom questions about report should be directed	N/A	72	TEXT8901
Cover Page, Area Code/Phone Number of Person to contact about report	N/A	30	TEXT8902
Cover Page, Area Code/Fax Number of Person to contact about report	N/A	30	TEXT9116
Cover Page, Email address of Person to contact about report	N/A	72	TEXT4086
Cover Page, Legal Name of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	72	TEXT9012
Cover Page, Former name of nonbank subsidiary from previous report, if any	N/A	72	TEXT9023
Cover Page, Mailing Address of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	72	TEXT9013
Cover Page, City of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	30	TEXT9024
Cover Page, State of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	2	TEXT9026
Cover Page, Zip Code of Nonbank Subsidiary	N/A	30	TEXT9027

¹ Item limits for Financial Data items are provided in (x,y) format, where “x” is the maximum number of digits/characters allowed for the item, “y” is the maximum number of digits allowed after the decimal, and subtracting “y” from “x” is the maximum number of digits allowed before the decimal.