

For: State and County Offices

Changes to the Requirement to Use an Application System (AS)/400 Cleaning Cartridge

Approved by: Deputy Administrator for Management



1 Overview

A Background

Operational use of the AS/400 has decreased significantly due to the successful efforts to build a replacement web based platform, migrate the necessary legacy data, and remove all dependencies from the AS/400 day-to-day business. The price support marketing assistance loans (MAL's) is the only Farm Service Agency (FSA) application still operating on the AS/400.

It is anticipated that the new platform and migration of the active MAL's will be completed later this year and the AS/400 will be decommissioned at that time.

B Purpose

This notice identifies updated policy about the requirement to use the AS/400 cleaning cartridge.

2 Updated Requirement

A Revised Policy

Effective immediately, the requirement to use a cleaning cartridge in the AS/400 has been reduced from once a day to at least once per month.

Because of the difficulty in locating and purchasing AS/400 cleaning cartridges, the Management Services Division (MSD) warehouse is no longer in a position to accept and fill orders for Item 436, Dry Process Cleaning Cartridge MLR/SLR, Imation Part Number: 12094, IBM Part Number: 35L0844.

Note: If an FSA office does not have a useable AS/400 cleaning cartridge on hand, and a useable cleaning cartridge cannot be located, using a cleaning cartridge is no longer required.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2015 6-29-15	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2 Updated Requirement (Continued)

B Rationale

The determination to reduce the frequency of using the AS/400 cleaning cartridge was based on the following:

- an evaluation of the current lower usage of the AS/400,
- an evaluation of the current AS/400 maintenance needs, and
- cleaning cartridges are no longer being manufactured and are; therefore, difficult to locate and cost prohibitive to purchase if located.

C Calling for Maintenance

If the AS/400 tape drive becomes inoperable and needs to be repaired or replaced, the existing procedures are to be followed to request maintenance.

Note: If during the tape drive repair process the employee is asked, “Have you cleaned your tape drive?”, the employee may respond, “We have not cleaned the tape drive because FSA has not been able to locate, purchase, and provide the office with an AS/400 cleaning cartridge.”

D Extra Cleaning Cartridges

With the reduction in the need to use the cleaning cartridges and the anticipated decommission for the AS/400, it is possible that FSA offices may now have extra cleaning cartridges on hand. To ensure effective and efficient use of government purchased supply items, FSA county offices are highly encouraged to notify their respective FSA state office if they have extra AS/400 cleaning cartridges on hand. The FSA state office can then determine the best way to redistribute the extra cleaning cartridges to their FSA county offices that do not have a useable cleaning cartridge on hand.

E Contact

For questions regarding this notice contact John Underwood at either of the following:

- e-mail to john.underwood@kcc.usda.gov, or
- phone at 816-926-6992.