

For: All FSA Offices

Communications Tracking and Control System (CTCS) – Bundle Control System (BCS)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Management



1 Overview

A Background

ITSD will migrate the current BCS to the new transmission system, CTCS-BCS. BCS software uses the System 36 (S/36) communication technology and protocols to control and track the transmission of over 10 million FSA program data files each year between the Kansas City Office and Service Centers. The new CTCS-BCS software will use the MQSeries, QLiner, and the TCP/IP capabilities of the AS400 to provide improved monitoring capability and timelier transmission of files.

When fully implemented, CTCS-BCS will include:

- Phase I, transmitting files from Kansas City to Service Centers
- Phase II, transmitting files from Service Centers to Kansas City.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices about:

- Phase I, migrating BCS to CTCS-BCS
- key changes to the S/36, AS400, and Web environments
- accessing CTCS-BCS System Users Guide.

Disposal Date	Distribution
March 1, 2008	All FSA Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice IRM-395

1 Overview (Continued)

C Contact

For technical assistance, contact either of the following:

- ITS Technical Support Division Representative
- ITS Service Desk by either of the following:
 - e-mail to servicedesk-kc@kcc.usda.gov
 - telephone at 1-800-457-3642.

2 Phase I Software Release

A Release Transmission Date

Software for Phase I migration was included in County Release No. 623 which was mailed on September 10. The associated State Release No. 478 was also transmitted on September 10.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- ensure that County Release No. 623 is installed immediately upon receipt
- report to the State Office when software has been successfully installed
- review CTCS-BCS System Users Guide to understand the migration and system changes
- refer to CTCS-BCS System Users Guide for trouble shooting problems before contacting technical support.

C State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- ensure that County Release No. 623 and State Release No. 478 are installed immediately upon receipt
- review CTCS-BCS System Users Guide to understand the migration and system changes
- refer to CTCS-BCS System Users Guide for trouble shooting problems before contacting technical support
- verify all County Offices have successfully installed software by September 21.

Notice IRM-395

3 Migrating to CTCS-BCS

A Date to Begin Transmitting Using New System

On September 24 Kansas City will begin transmitting BCS download files via CTCS-BCS. If a State or County Office has not successfully installed the release, they will **not** receive transmission files from Kansas City.

B System Changes

The following key changes will occur as a result of the migration.

System	Key Changes
S/36	Transmissions will begin during normal business hours instead of scheduled times during the end-of-day processing. Transmission files will no longer be received through the current BCS transmission. The file name format will change (reference the CTCS-BCS System Users Guide). A new CTCS-BCS File Transmission Log will automatically print during start-of-day. Option 14 has been added to Menu County to print the Transmission Log.
AS400	Option 30 has been added to USDA Main Menu to allow access to the CTCS-BCS Menu.
Web	CTCS-BCS Web Page has been added to provide information and allow access to Web Reports. Web Reporting System has been added to provide file transmission status.

C CTCS-BCS System Users Guide

The CTCS-BCS Users Guide is available online to provide information about CTCS-BCS and the Web Reporting System. Access the guide from the FSA Intranet Home Page at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/fsa> according to the following:

- select the "**FSA Infrastructure**" link from the menu options
- **CLICK "Communications Tracking and Control System Reports (CTCS)"**
- select the "**CTCS-BCS System User Guide**" link from the menu options.

D Impact on AS400-S/36 Operations

There are **no** major AS400-S/36 operational changes affecting Service Center employees.