

For: State and County Offices

**Converting 8-Inch Diskettes to Tapes Cartridges to Create
Permanent Backups of Price Support History Files**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

**A
Background**

An important function in the current Start-of-Day (SOD) process is the migration of permanent **online** price support transaction history to **offline** storage on 8-inch diskettes. This migration process was designed to free up computer space and runs on an as needed basis. In County Offices that have:

- a **low** volume of price support activity, the process can occur as **infrequently** as once every 6 months
- a **high** volume of price support activity, the process can occur weekly.

FSA will soon begin delivery of **new** AS/400 computers to County Offices that:

- will eventually replace all System A/36 computers
- have a tape cartridge
- do **not** have an 8-inch diskette drive as the System A/36 does.

Note: In this notice the terms “migration” and “backup” are essentially synonymous. FSA technical personnel tend to use the term “migration”, whereas handbooks and County Office personnel tend to use “backup”.

Before **new** AS/400 deliveries to County Offices begin, the current process of migrating permanent **online** price support history files from System A/36 to 8-inch diskettes will be converted to migration to tape cartridges. To minimize problems with this conversion to tape cartridges, the backup process will be kept as similar as possible to current procedure in 14-PS, paragraphs 1330 and 1331.

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Disposal Date	Distribution
August 1, 2001	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 Overview (Continued)

B

Purpose

This notice advises State and County Offices that County Release No. 441 will provide software that initiates the SOD process for backing-up price support history files to tape cartridges.

In preparation for **new** AS/400 deliveries, County Offices shall:

- correct any known loan errors in the System A/36
 - follow this notice to:
 - maintain an adequate supply of tape cartridges
 - complete backups to tape cartridges
 - **not destroy diskettes that contain prior price support backups created after December 30, 1996.**
-

2 The Price Support Backup Process

A

Importance of Backups

Space considerations and the need for data recovery mandate continuing price support history migration to **offline** storage.

Example: The price support “Corrections” subsystem uses data from backups to restore transactions.

B

Backup Process Explanation

After completing each price support transaction, data is written to a temporary **online** history file “APK200”. During SOD, the contents of the previous day’s “APK200” is migrated to a permanent **online** history file “APK202” still within the computer. This daily **online** migration continues until the record count of “APK202” exceeds 200,000 records. At this point, a price support history file “APK205” is created in the computer, the oldest price support records are ready for migration to diskette and a screen notifies the County Office that migration will occur in the next SOD, see subparagraph 4 B.

C

Future Instructions

Future notices will provide important information about:

- “copying” price support transactions that were backed-up to 8-inch diskettes, before installing County Release No. 441, to tape cartridges for use in:
 - new AS/400’s
 - System A/36’s that remain functional in County Offices
 - backing up **other** price support **functions** to tape cartridges.
-

3 Tape Acquisition and Maintenance

A

Tapes

County Offices shall consult the computer specialist when necessary and:

- order tape cartridges, as needed, from latest Forms Catalog according to “SCOAP Supplies”, item number:
 - 478, “Data cartridge DC/6525, 525 MB tape drive”
 - 479, “Data cartridge DC/9120, 1.2GB tape drive”
 - maintain tape drives and cartridges according to 2-IRM, paragraph 97.
-

Notice PS-365

4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files to Tape Cartridges in SOD

A

Screen Displays

The following paragraph provides a sequential display of SOD screens for price support **tape cartridge** migration.

B

**Example of
Screen
PKA70000**

The following example of Screen PKA70000 will be displayed when the “APK202” record count exceeds 200,000 records according to subparagraph 2 B.

```
                                067-E@FLOYD                                PKA70000
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY          Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:08 Term #4
-----
                                     A permanent Price Support Transaction History file will
                                     be created and saved to tape the next time Start-Of-Day
                                     is performed for E@FLOYD Co., IOWA

Enter=Continue
```

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files to Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

C
Example of
Screen
PKA71000

The following example of Screen PKA71000 will be displayed when the migration process is apportioning oldest price support activity to “APK202”.

067-E@FLOYD	PKA71000
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY	Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:09 Term #4

<p>The Price Support Transaction History file is now being built.</p> <p>Please wait . . .</p>	
Enter=Continue	

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

D
Example of
Screen
PKA70500

The following example of Screen PKA70500 will be displayed and advise the user of the number of tape cartridges needed to migrate history to tape.

Important: This step represents the greatest departure from the diskette backup process where the user was:

- shown the number of diskettes required
- given the option to initialize diskettes before actually migrating the “APK205” file to diskette.

067-E@FLOYD	PKA70500
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY	Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:10 Term #4

<p>Two tape cartridges will be required to save the Price Support Transaction History for this county.</p> <p>You will be prompted to insert/remove tapes at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Press “Enter” to begin.</p>	
Enter=Continue	

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

F
Example of
Screen
PKA71007

The following example of Screen PKA71007 will be displayed and inform the user that the tape cartridge is being initialized.

```
                                067-E@FLOYD                                PKA71007
PRICE SUPPORT - INITIALIZE TAPES                                Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:14 Term
#4
-----
                                The tape cartridge is being initialized.
                                Please wait . . .

Enter=Continue
```

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

G
Example of
Screen
PKA71020

The following example of Screen PKA71020 will be displayed when applicable and inform the user that the tape cartridge already contains price support history.

Important: This is detected if the VOLID of the tape cartridge equals the unique word "PRICE" that should only be applied by this price support SOD process. The user is instructed to do the following, "Please remove the tape cartridge and replace it with another one".

067-E@FLOYD	PKA71020
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY	Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:18 Term #4

<p>This tape cartridge already contains a permanent Price Support Transaction History file. Please remove the tape cartridge from the tape drive and insert another one.</p> <p>DO NOT REINITIALIZE THIS TAPE CARTRIDGE FOR ANY REASON.</p>	
Enter=Continue	

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

H
Example of
Screen
PKA71021

The following example of Screen PKA71021 will be displayed when applicable.

Important: Software is sent to County Offices through a tape cartridge that contains a unique VOLID beginning with the characters "KO...". Screen PKA71021 will be displayed when the VOLID begins with those characters and instruct the user to do the following, "Please remove the tape cartridge from the tape drive and insert another one".

```
067-E@FLOYD                                PKA71021
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY                 Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:21 Term #4
-----
This tape cartridge contains County Release Software.
Please remove the tape cartridge from the tape drive
and insert another one.

Press "Enter" to continue.

THIS TAPE CARTRIDGE CANNOT BE REINITIALIZED.

Enter=Continue
```

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

I
Example of
Screen
PKA71008

The following example of Screen PKA71008 will be displayed after the initialization has successfully completed.

Important: Screen PKA71008 indicates that price support history is being migrated to tape and that the process is continuing normally. There may be some time delay during the initialization process while the tape cartridge is being tensioned by the tape drive.

```
067-E@FLOYD                                PKA71008
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY                 Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:33 Term #4
-----
                                           Price Support History is being saved to tape.
                                           Please wait . . .
```

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

J
Example of
Screen
PKA71030

The following example of Screen PKA71030 will be displayed and inform the user that the first tape migration has completed successfully.

067-E@FLOYD	PKA71030
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY	Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:40 Term #4

<p>Remove the tape cartridge from the tape drive and label it "APK205, 072100" for E@FLOYD Co., IOWA</p> <p>This tape cartridge is a permanent record. Please label and retain in a safe location.</p> <p>Press "Enter" to continue.</p> <p>DO NOT REINITIALIZE THIS TAPE CARTRIDGE FOR ANY REASON.</p>	
Enter=Continue	

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

K
Example of
Screen
PKA71035

The following example of Screen PKA71035 will be displayed and instruct the user to insert another tape cartridge to create a second tape backup in the event that the first 1 is damaged or lost.

Important: At this point control is again directed to the initialization process. Accordingly, screens will again display in the sequence described in subparagraphs E through I.

067-E@FLOYD	PKA71035
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY	Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:44 Term #4

<p>Please insert another tape cartridge into the tape drive and create a second backup of the Price Support Transaction History for this county.</p> <p>This tape cartridge will be used as a backup in the event of damage to the "APK205, 072100" permanent history tape cartridge.</p> <p>Press "Enter" to continue.</p>	
Enter=Continue	

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4 Creating Backups of Price Support History Files Tape Cartridges in SOD (Continued)

L
Example of
Screen
PKA71040

The following example of Screen PKA71040 will be displayed and instruct the user to label the tape cartridge and maintain the copy at an **offsite** location.

Important: This tape cartridge contains a duplicate of the first “APK205” and should be labeled as such.

067-E@FLOYD PKA71040
PRICE SUPPORT - START OF DAY Version: AA02 07-21-00 8:50 Term #4

Remove the tape cartridge and label it “APK205, 072100”
for E@FLOYD Co., IOWA

This tape cartridge is a PERMANENT record. Please label and
retain in an offsite location. This tape cartridge is a
backup copy of Price Support Transaction History.

Press “Enter” to continue.

Enter=Continue

When the user PRESSES “Enter” to continue on the above screen, the SOD process will continue with other in the normal manner.