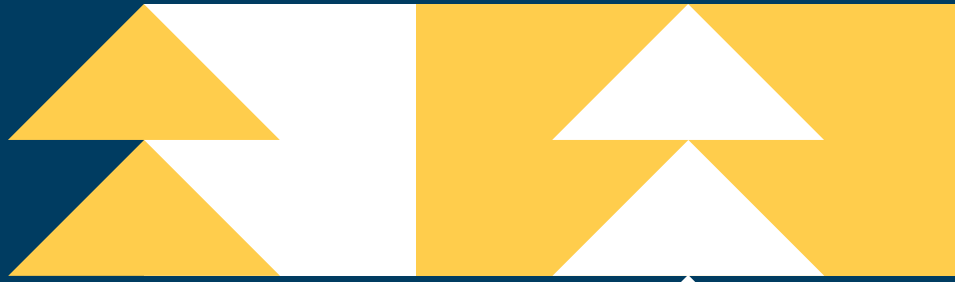




**OREGON
STATE
TREASURY**



Inside the Vault

State Agency Edition

Cash Management Legislation

With the 2024 legislative session starting next month, we would like to remind agencies that Treasury is available for advice and consultation regarding legislation with cash management impacts. That would include legislation with references to funds, accounts, interest earnings, investment authorities, debt management and bonding mechanics, and more. If you have questions or concerns about such legislation, please touch base with your regular Treasury contacts or one of the following:

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Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

Upcoming Holiday

Due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Treasury, the Federal Reserve, and financial institutions will be closed Monday, January 15. Customer statements and files will not be produced for January 15 due to the closures. In addition, ACH files sent to KeyBank after the last ACH processing window on Friday, January 12, will not be processed by the bank until Tuesday, January 16, and must have an effective date of January 17 or later.

Interest Rates

Average Annualized Yield	
December	5.00%
Interest Rates	
December 1–31	5.00%



2024

Nacha Operating Rules & Guidelines

The Guide to the Rules Governing the ACH Network



Nacha Rule Books

The *Nacha Operating Rules & Guidelines* (Rules or Rule Book) is an annual publication produced by Nacha. The Rule Book serves as the definitive source of information governing the exchange and settlement of electronic funds transfers through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network and provides users with the legal framework for the ACH Network. While Treasury staff is available to assist agencies with resolution of ACH file issues and answer questions regarding the ACH Network and Rules compliance, Treasury has purchased access to the Rule Book as an additional resource for agencies originating ACH transactions. Later this month, Treasury will distribute online access codes to agency ACH contacts. If you have any questions, contact Customer Solutions at customer.solutions@ost.state.or.us.

New Account Transfer System Close to Launch

Treasury is close to launching our newest banking system, the State Treasury Account Transfer System. STATS will transform how Treasury delivers account transfer services to our customers by providing an easy-to-use interface built on modern and secure technology. The launch of STATS will enable us to fully retire STAN Online followed soon thereafter by closure of the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Business Systems Renewal (BSR) project.



In preparation for transition from STAN Online to STATS, Treasury is creating training and transition plans to help make this shift as seamless as possible for agency users. Treasury staff will soon contact agencies that currently use STAN Online to outline next steps.

Contact project staff at EFT.BSR@ost.state.or.us or your Customer Solutions analyst at customer.solutions@ost.state.or.us with any questions or concerns in the meantime. Your input helps to ensure the success of the project, and we appreciate your continued engagement.

Business Continuity Reminder

Treasury continually evaluates processes to ensure that critical statewide cash management needs are met in the event that normal business is disrupted by disaster or other incident. As we continue through the winter months, even inclement weather can limit the access and availability of staff at Treasury or within agencies. Weather-related closures of agency offices around the state can create havoc in the short term for agencies that move funds via either ACH or wire transfer. In addition to weather-related staffing issues, vacation plans, holiday plans, and flu season may impact staffing. While Treasury has plans in place to keep business moving in those scenarios, it is essential that adequate coverage exists at agencies for important cash management processes to continue.

On a broader scale, if a major disaster or other critical business interruption were to impact Treasury, please note that it could take 48 to 72 hours for us to restore systems and to begin to provide normal cash management services to agencies. Treasury would maintain limited outgoing wire capacity to support critical statewide disbursement needs. It is important for agencies to evaluate their business continuity plans and processes in the event that Treasury or other partners suffer such an interruption in service.

If your agency has not already done so, it would be prudent to discuss your business continuity plans to ensure that your agency is well prepared. Questions to consider when discussing your plan may include the following:

- ▲ Does your agency have an updated Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) authorized signers list (Form C-9) on file at Treasury?
- ▲ How will you initiate and authorize transactions if necessary individuals are not in the office?
- ▲ Is your staff able to conduct business from a remote location, if necessary?
- ▲ Are your desk procedures up-to-date and well-defined in case individuals are required to provide coverage in areas of business that are unfamiliar to them?
- ▲ What are the most critical functions that absolutely have to be performed on a daily or weekly basis, and what functions may be delayed for a period of time?
- ▲ If your agency sends ACH Origination files via Secure FTP connection, are you able to re-create ACH files if needed?
- ▲ Does your agency have automated “jobs” to access external systems at predetermined times throughout the day? If this connection is not available, do you have the ability to manually connect at a later time?
- ▲ What would happen if you were unable to make timely ACH payments to third parties, whether they are customers, vendors, federal government, etc.? Would the delay in payment result in customer hardship, fines for past due payments, contract default, or other impacts?
- ▲ Do you have adequate staff available to cover daily operations or troubleshoot any issues that might arise?

Contact Customer Solutions at customer.solutions@ost.state.or.us if you have questions or concerns about your agency’s role as it relates to banking and cash management. We can help you identify the minimum staff required and help provide options for unexpected emergencies, as well as discuss payment and distribution criticality for potential broader continuity needs.

Service Spotlight

Checks and **warrants** are paper-based methods to disburse funds. While there are important differences between the two types of instruments, one of the practical distinctions for agencies is that checks are drawn against Treasury accounts while warrants are drawn against Agency or General Fund accounts (accounts must be specifically granted check-writing or warrant-writing authority). Another distinction is that warrants are centrally requested through the Statewide Financial Management Application (SFMA) and printed by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

To deter fraud, Treasury has adopted a custom single state check design that utilizes a controlled paper stock with a variety of security features. Treasury also has implemented **Reverse Positive Pay**, a service where agency staff review checks presented for payment and can elect to pay, return, or adjust a check.

Agencies also can choose to use **Positive Pay**, a service where an agency provides a daily file containing a list of issued checks, which reduces the risk of fraud losses. Any check attempting to clear that does not match a check included in the file will be flagged for the agency to review and determine whether to pay, return, or adjust the check. Although Positive Pay is an optional service, agencies that choose not to use the service run the risk of incurring losses for any checks that are fraudulently presented and cashed at a U.S. Bank branch.

If you are interested in evaluating your business needs and available options or have questions regarding check and warrant issuance generally, contact Customer Solutions at customer.solutions@ost.state.or.us.

ACH Risk Assessments

The annual deadline for completion of ACH Risk Assessments is January 12. Treasury recently sent instructions about the risk assessment process to agency ACH contacts. If you are an ACH contact for your agency and did not receive an e-mail, please contact Customer Solutions at customer.solutions@ost.state.or.us with your agency name and contact information. We will ensure that the assessment information is forwarded accordingly.

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