



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF DALLAS

HELEN E. HOLCOMB  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DALLAS, TEXAS  
75265-5906

November 5, 1997

**Notice 97-103**

**TO:** The Chief Operating Officer of each  
financial institution and others concerned  
in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District

**SUBJECT**

**Federal Reserve System Strategy for  
Customer Testing**

**DETAILS**

To continue to keep you fully informed about the Federal Reserve's Century Date Change (CDC) project, we have prepared the enclosed *Century Date Change Bulletin*, issue No. 2. This bulletin contains information necessary for your own Year 2000 project and defines our CDC testing strategy for those institutions planning to test the CDC readiness of their automated interfaces with the Federal Reserve. Please circulate this bulletin to the appropriate management and technical staff in your institution with responsibility for your Year 2000 project.

As our plans progress and the CDC testing schedule is fully defined, we will continue to share critical information with you. We expect to release the testing schedule and sign-up information in February 1998. In addition, our next *Century Date Change News*, with new tips and guidelines for Year 2000 project managers, will be released in November.

**ENCLOSURE**

A copy of the Federal Reserve System's *Century Date Change Bulletin*, issue No. 2, is enclosed.

**MORE INFORMATION**

If you have any questions regarding the Century Date Change project or need more information on the contents of this bulletin, please contact Sarah Jennings by phone at (800)

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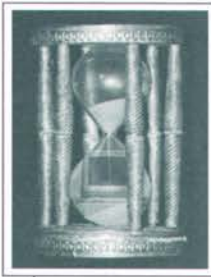
For additional copies, bankers and others are encouraged to use one of the following toll-free numbers in contacting the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas: Dallas Office (800) 333-4460; El Paso Branch *Intrastate* (800) 592-1631, *Interstate* (800) 351-1012; Houston Branch *Intrastate* (800) 392-4162, *Interstate* (800) 221-0363; San Antonio Branch *Intrastate* (800) 292-5810.

333-4460, ext. 5259 or via E-mail at [sarah.jennings@dal.frb.org](mailto:sarah.jennings@dal.frb.org). Current information on the Federal Reserve's CDC project is also available on the Internet at <http://dallasfed.org> and <http://www.frbsf.org/fiservices/cdc/>.

For additional copies of this Bank's notice, please contact the Public Affairs Department at (214) 922-5254.

Sincerely,

*Helen E. Holcomb*



# Century Date Change BULLETIN

Federal Reserve

No. 2

October 6, 1997

Published by Federal Reserve Automation Services, San Francisco

Please route this information to:

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## Federal Reserve Strategy for Customer Testing

This **Century Date Change Bulletin** presents the Federal Reserve's strategy for supporting customer testing for century date change (CDC) readiness of your automated interfaces with the Federal Reserve.

### CDC Test Environments

The Federal Reserve will be prepared to support CDC customer testing by providing the necessary test environments beginning July 1, 1998 and continuing through 1999. Each Federal Reserve business area that offers electronically accessed services will provide an environment to enable you to conduct interface testing with future dates. These environments will be set up at Federal Reserve consolidated processing sites and at local Federal Reserve offices, as appropriate for the application.

A series of future date cycles will be scheduled to enable you to test a number of critical future date scenarios. At a minimum, these will include:

- Last business day of 1999 through January 3, 2000,*
- and*
- Leap year processing – February 28 to February 29 to March 1, 2000.*

These future date cycles for some applications may be repeated. For example, the Funds Transfer and Book-entry Securities business areas plan to roll these applications through future date cycles in the test environment routinely on a weekly or biweekly basis. This will provide you with multiple opportunities to test your readiness.

### What You Need to Know and Do

#### About Test Planning

Our detailed customer test support plan for each Federal Reserve application will be published in the **Century Date Change Bulletin No. 3** early in 1998. This bulletin will describe the schedule, levels of support, availability of the environments, and other special procedures specific to CDC testing.

For customer-initiated CDC testing, most Federal Reserve business areas intend to mirror existing test support structures. Current scheduling procedures and mechanisms, already familiar to customers, will be used for reserving specific test dates and times.

The Federal Reserve may participate in or accommodate specially scheduled weekend end-to-end tests of specific applications or sets of applications for groups of institutions. After you have seen the published schedule, please forward any requests for additional test dates or types of test configurations, other than those defined in the schedule, to the attention of your local Federal Reserve testing contact as early as possible.

#### About Fedline

The **Century Date Change Bulletin No. 1**, dated August 1, 1997, stated that customers that use front-end and/or back-end systems to process Federal Reserve files and messages through Fedline<sup>®</sup> devices should request testing with the Federal Reserve to ensure correct processing of all date fields exchanged through Fedline.<sup>1</sup> Prior to testing, all Fedline customers

<sup>1</sup> "Fedline" is a registered trademark of the Federal Reserve Banks.



should plan to install the CDC release of the DOS-based Fedline software that will provide correct presentation of dates. This new release will be available in mid-1998. The Federal Reserve also will provide specific guidelines to Fedline customers on how to use the Fedline software to test century date change readiness.

### *About Bulkdata*

In the **Century Date Change Bulletin No. 1**, the Federal Reserve announced its plans to release a new version of MVS Bulkdata— for computer interface customers that have Bulkdata installed on their own mainframe systems— which will allow correct processing of files when the date changes from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000. MVS XA/ESA Bulkdata Version 5.1.3C will be available to you from your local Reserve Bank early in the second quarter of 1998.

MVS Bulkdata Version 5.1.3C must be installed in a test environment in order to conduct CDC testing of file *origination*. Please note, however, that this new version is *not* necessary to conduct CDC testing of file *receipt*. If you do not have a test Bulkdata system, you will need to create one, which can be accomplished using the automated “quick install” process. We strongly recommend that you work closely with your local Federal Reserve contacts to schedule your Bulkdata installation between April and June 1998. In this way, you will be prepared by July 1998 to participate in CDC testing of your applications with Federal Reserve applications which rely on Bulkdata for file transfer, such as FedACH.

### **Federal Reserve Support for CDC Customer Testing**

Your readiness for the year 2000 depends on the CDC readiness of your automation environment and of the software which is used to generate or process data sent to or received from the Federal Reserve. It is not possible for the Federal Reserve to determine the

readiness of either your environment or your software. Therefore, as a service provider, the Federal Reserve will not certify the CDC readiness of its customers with respect to Federal Reserve products. However, we will make every effort to accommodate your testing needs.

While the Federal Reserve may track progress on customer testing, we do not intend to routinely provide written confirmation of your test participation, progress, or results to you. Also, please be assured that we also do not intend, for purposes of privacy, to provide such information to any third party.

Each Federal Reserve business area will provide test guidelines for its application(s) in advance of testing. For example, these guidelines may identify those processes in customer interfaces with the Federal Reserve that span multiple processing days.

You will not be charged any fees for CDC testing. If, however, you are changing vendors and, in addition to CDC testing, need to fully retest an application and transmission protocols, then a charge may be assessed.

### **For More Information**

The **Century Date Change Bulletin No. 3**, scheduled for an early 1998 publication, will provide the specific details you will need to prepare for CDC testing with the Federal Reserve. As Federal Reserve business areas complete internal preparations to become year 2000 ready, we will inform you of our progress in future bulletins.

If you would like a copy of the **Century Date Change Bulletin No. 1** which details compliance information for Fedline, Bulkdata, and CIPS, or if you have questions and need additional information regarding the Federal Reserve’s plans for year 2000 readiness, please call your Business Development representative at your local Federal Reserve.