AMA File Formats

AMA – Record Format for Batch Issuance File from Processor

File Formats (Incoming)

Each batch issuance file received by Account Management Agent (AMA) must be in the format specified below in order for data to be successfully processed.

Issuance Files

Processors may send batch files that contain issuance data. Each file is required to have a File Header Record and a File Trailer Record. If the file contains only a File Header Record and File Trailer Record, then the file trailer's File-Record-Count must be 000002 and the file will be treated as an "empty" file.

If the file is not "empty" it must contain at least one project header record, at least one effective date detail record for each project header record, one to five unique detail transaction records for each effective date record, and a project trailer record for each project header. The records should be sequenced in the following manner:

- Project Header Records should appear in ascending order based on the combination of Agency-Location-Code, Region-Code, Recipient-Organization-ID, Program-Year-Code, and Letter-Of-Credit-Code.
- Detail Effective Date Records should appear in ascending order within each project based on Effective-Date.
- Detail Transaction Code Records should appear in ascending order within each effective date based on Transaction-Code.

The following depicts the format of this file:

File is fixed block
Record size is 80 characters

File Header Record

Field	Length/Type	Value/Description
Record Type	PIC X (02)	'FH'
Processor ID	PIC 9(08)	Number which uniquely identifies a processor; FRB Operations will provide this number to each processor before the processor begins transmitting issuance files
File Number	PIC 9(06)	Begins at 000001 and incremented by 1 for each new file **
File Creation Date	PIC 9(08)	'CCYYMMDD' format
File Creation Time	PIC 9(06)	'HHMMSS' format
Filler	PIC X(50)	SPACES

** If a processor handles more than one state, the beginning file number may vary.

Project Header Record

Field	Length/Type	Value/Description
Record Type	PIC X(02)	'PH'
Agency Location Code	PIC X(08)	'12350001'
Region Code	PIC X(02)	'09'
Recipient Organization ID	PIC 9(07)	Recipient Organization ID for the project
Program Year Code	PIC X(04)	'0080'
Letter of Credit Code	PIC X(04)	Letter of Credit Code for the project
Index Code	PIC X(12)	'9S6008'
Filler	PIC X(41)	SPACES

Detail Record – Effective Date

Field	Length/Type	Value/Description
Record Type	PIC X(02)	'PD'
Detail Type	PIC X(02)	'ED'
Effective Date	PIC 9(08)	'CCYYMMDD'
Filler	PIC X(68)	SPACES

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Detail Record – Transaction Code

Field	Length/Type	Value/Description
Record Type	PIC X(02)	'PD'
Detail Type	PIC X(02)	'PB'
Transaction Code	PIC X(02)	'IO' (issuance other) 'IS' (issuance) 'RC' (return coupon) 'RE' (return expungement) 'RO' (return other)
Transaction Amount	PIC 9(12 V(02)	
Filler	PIC X(60)	SPACES

Project Trailer Record

Field	Length/Type	Value/Description
Record Type	PIC X(02)	'PT'
Agency Location Code	PIC X(08)	'12350001'
Region Code	PIC X(02)	'09'
Recipient Organization Code	PIC 9(07)	Must match the Project Header Record
Program Year Code	PIC X(04)	'0080'
Letter of Credit Code	PIC X(04)	Must match the Project Header Record
Index Code	PIC X(12)	'9S6008'
Filler	PIC X(06)	SPACES
Project Total Amount	PIC 9(12) V(02)	Sum of all transaction amounts for current project (will be positive number since each transaction amount is positive)
Project Record Count	PIC 9(06)	Count of all records for current project including Project Header and Project Trailer records
Filler	PIC X(15)	SPACES

File Trailer Record

Field	Length/Type	Value/Description
Record Type	PIC X(02)	'FT'
Processor ID	PIC 9(08)	Must match File Header Record
File Number	PIC 9(06)	Must match File Header Record
File Creation Date	PIC 9(08)	Must match File Header Record
File Creation Time	PIC 9(06)	Must match File Header Record
File Record Count	PIC 9(06)	Count of all records in file including File Header and File Trailer records
Filler	PIC X(44)	SPACES

Sample File
***************************************Top of
Data***************************************
FHXXXXXXX0000001000229003710
PH1235000109NNNNNNN0080YYYY9S6008
PDED20000228
PDPBIS00000000255055
PDED20000229
PDPBIS00000003006507
PT1235000109NNNNNNN0080YYYY9S6008   0000000321562000006
FTXXXXXXX0000001000229003710000008
*************************************Bottom of
Data*************************************
XXXXXXXX - Processor ID
NNNNNNN   - Recipient Organization (RO)-ID
YYYY   - Letter of Credit Code for the Project

Store Tracking and Redemption Subsystem (STARS) File Format Specifications:

Header Record

Record identifier	PIC X	Value '1'
Filler	PIC X	Value space
Processor R/T #	PIC X(9)	Bank R/T number
Processor Suffix #	PIC X(7)	Bank Suffix number or zeros
State Code	PIC XX	Alpha state code
Filler	PIC X(3)	Value zeros.
Date file generated	PIC X(6)	YYMMDD
Time file generated	PIC X(4)	HHMM
LOC number	PIC X(4)	Letter of Credit number or state
Filler	PIC X(43)	Value spaces.

Retailer Transaction Record

Record identifier	PIC X	Value space
Credit date	PIC X(6)	YYMMDD
Filler	PIC X(12)	Value spaces
'Sign' for dollar amount (next field)	PIC X	+ or -
Dollar amount	PIC 9(7)V99	Daily total amount for retailer for credit date
Retailer FNS number	PIC X(7)	
Filler	PIC X(44)	Value spaces

Daily Total Record

Record identifier	PIC X	Value 'C'
Credit date	PIC X(6)	YYMMDD
Total count	PIC 9(6)	Total number of transaction records for credit date
Filler	PIC X(6)	Value spaces
'Sign' for dollar amount (next field)	PIC X	+ or -
Total amount	PIC 9(9)V99	Total dollar amount of all transactions for credit date
Filler	PIC X(49)	Value spaces

Trailer Record

Record identifier	PIC X	Value 'T'
Filler	PIC X(6)	Value spaces
Total record count	PIC 9(6)	Total number of transaction records in this transmission
Filler	PIC X(6)	Value spaces
'Sign' for dollar amount (next field)	PIC X	+ or -
Total dollar amount	PIC 9(9)V99	Total dollar amount for all transaction records in this transmission
Filler	PIC X(49)	Value spaces

Anti-Fraud Locator using EBT Retailer Transactions (ALERT) File Format Specifications:

1. **Introduction**

   The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Retailer Administration Branch (RAB) is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Anti-fraud Locator using Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Retailer Transactions (ALERT) system. This document details the Version 2.0 data specifications for the EBT daily transaction files submitted by the EBT Processors.

2. **Background**
   2.1. **Food Nutrition Services (FNS)**

   The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the nutrition assistance programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of FNS is to provide children and needy families better access to food and a more healthful diet through its food assistance programs and comprehensive nutrition education efforts. In addition to providing access to nutritious food, FNS also works to

empower program participants with knowledge of the link between diet and health.

2.2. The ALERT System

The Anti-fraud Locator using Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Retailer Transactions (ALERT) System is a fraud detection, decision support system designed to monitor and track electronically conducted transactions completed by SNAP recipients in authorized meal program and food retailer locations. The ALERT System facilitates management of the program by providing transaction-level information to Federal personnel charged with the responsibility of SNAP retailer management and compliance activities.

3. Compressed Files

For each daily submission, the Processor will submit one compressed file containing all state submission files the processor is responsible for and formatted as follows:

1. File format: ZIP
2. ASCII Encoded
3. File Naming Standards:

<EBT Processor Code>_CCYYMMDD[R#].ZIP

Code Symbol	Code Description	Comments
<EBT Processor Code>	Code of Processor sending submissions (see header record specification for values).	Code used here must match Header/Trailer value of all files in the compressed ZIP file
CCYY	Four digit year	
MM	Two Digit Month with leading zeroes (01 – 12)	
DD	Two digit Day with leading zeroes (01 – 31)	
[R#]	Replacement Indicator, where # = a sequential numeric value for each replacement (1 – 9)	Mandatory when the file is a replacement for a previously provided submission file – Not used for original submission

Examples:

XYZ_20160901.ZIP
XYZ_20160901R1.ZIP *(Example of replacement compressed file)*

File contents will consist of all recipient state file submissions generated by the EBT processor.

Examples:

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ABC_20160109.ZIP would contain the following:
> DC20160109v02.00.DAT *(Version 2.00 data format)*
> MD20160109v01.00.DAT *(Version 1.00 data format)*
> :
> :
> VA20160109v02.00.DAT   *(Version 2.00 data format)*

ABC_20160109R1.ZIP would contain only the state files being re-submitted:
> VA20160109v02.00R1.DAT *(Revised submission of*
> *VA201600109v02.00.DAT)*

4. State Submission Files
The compressed file will contain the state submission files from the processor.

1. File Format: Fixed Record Length; Fixed Column width; records Delimited by Carriage Return (Hex "0D") Linefeed (Hex "0A") characters
2. ASCII Encoded
3. File Naming Standards:

<Recipient State><CCYYMMDD>v<##,##>[R#].DAT

Code Symbol	Code Description	Comments
<Recipient State>	State Abbreviation of State, Territory, or District of Columbia	
CCYY	Four digit year	
MM	Two Digit Month with leading zeroes (01 – 12)	
DD	Two digit Day with leading zeroes (01 – 31)	
v##.##	Version number of Submission file	
R#	Replacement Indicator, where # = a sequential numeric value for each replacement (1 – 9)	Mandatory when the file is a replacement for a previously provided submission file – Not used for original submission

Examples:

MD20160109v02.00.DAT
PA20160109v01.00.DAT
VA20160109v02.00R1.DAT *(Example of replacement submission file)*
NY20160109v01.00R1.DAT *(Example of replacement submission file)*

4.1. <u>Submission File Record Sequence</u>

       Header Record
             Detail Transaction Record 1
             Detail Transaction Record 2
             Detail Transaction Record 3
             :
             :
             :
             Detail Transaction Record n
       Trailer Record

4.2. <u>Submission File Record Content – Benefit Type</u>

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) provides authority to the Food and Nutrition Service to disqualify retailers for a variety of offenses described therein. However, the only transactions which may be considered in making disqualification decisions are those authorized by the Act, namely those funded through either the Federal or State SNAP Programs. Programs funded by any other sources and/or legislation may not be considered in those decisions. Therefore it is essential to filter out such benefit transactions from the ALERT file, and if that is not possible, identify such transactions so that FNS can filter them. EBT processors should:

1. Include the following benefit transaction types in the ALERT file and code them as 00-Program Type = SNAP:
    a. All Federal SNAP benefits funded through the federal SNAP LOC, including those issued for disasters and undercover investigators.
    b. All State SNAP Program benefits, regardless of whether they are funded through the FNS SNAP LOC or a State-owned account.
2. Filter out, or specially code, all other Non-SNAP benefit transaction types, including those funded through other FNS programs (e.g., Child Nutrition Program for Summer Feeding and Childhood Hunger projects) as well as those funded by other government or non-government entities:
    a. If Non-SNAP benefits are all maintained in separate accounts from SNAP benefits, those accounts should be ignored while when creating the ALERT file.
    b. If some or all Non-SNAP benefits are maintained in the same accounts as SNAP benefits, code all transactions in accordance with instructions in the Detail Record specification chart.

4.3. Submission File Record Content – Date Range

While the individual records in the submission file shall show the date and time that the reported transaction occurred in the EBT processor's host system (converted to Greenwich Mean Time), the file for each given reporting day will contain only those records which meet the following conditions:

1. For all settling transactions, the file shall contain those transactions that were credited to or debited from the retailer during the switch settlement day reported in the submission file header record. As a result, the total value of all of the settling transactions, as reported in the Completed Transaction Amount field, should[1] match to the value of both:
    a. The Daily Total Record (Record Identifier = "C") reported in the STARS Net Retailer Credit (NRC) file for the same settlement date.
    b. The amount of funds drawn from the FNS LOC for the same settlement date.
2. For non-settling transactions (i.e., balance inquiries, voucher authorizations and voucher expirations), the file shall contain those transactions for which the host system date and time fall within the switch settlement day period reported in the submission file header record (this will depend on the EBT processor's switch cutoff time for the State).

5. EBT Submission Header and Trailer Record Specification

Description	Start Pos	Len	Type	Comments
Recipient State	1	2	Alpha	Alphabetic Abbreviation (e.g., VA) of state providing benefits to enclosed households
Settlement Date	3	8	Date	Date that retailer will be paid; CCYYMMDD format
Number of transactions included	11	9	Numeric	Number of transaction records included (does not include header/trailer records in count). "Header Record" may contain a value of zero, but Trailer Record MUST contain valid count
EBT Processor Code	20	3	Alphanumeric	FIS - Fidelity National Information Services JPM - JP Morgan Electronic Financial Services SOL - Solutran CON - Conduent
File generation date	23	8	Date	Date file generated in CCYYMMDD format

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[1] Variances may result for States where the EBT Food account includes other non-SNAP benefits and/or run a State SNAP program for which funds are drawn directly from a State-owned account rather than the FNS LOC.

Description	Start Pos	Len	Type	Comments
File Version	31	5	Numeric	Major version of the data file format; should match version number of submission file name value "##.##"; required
Record Delimiter	36	2	CrLf	Carriage Return ASCII Hex Value 0D Linefeed ASCII Hex Value 0A

5.1. Header/Trailer Record Contextual Requirements

1. Header Record must be first record in submission file

2. Trailer Record must be last record in submission file

3. Trailer Record must have the number of transactions enclosed in submission file (count does not include number of Header/Trailer Records)

4. Example (Daily Submission Header and Trailer):

Description	Value
Recipient State	DC
Settlement Date	20160104
Number of transactions included	012345678[2]
EBT Processor Code	XYZ
File generation date	20160105
File Version	02.00
Record Delimiter	Hex 0D0A

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[2] The Header record may have 000000000 for number of transactions included because total may not be known till the end of the routine.

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

6. **EBT Transaction Record Specification**

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
FNS Retailer ID Number	1	7	Numeric	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 111-3 (EB) pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Valid FNS Number identifying retailer
Retailer State Location	8	2	Alpha (fill with spaces if information not available)	M for POS unless X9 message blank C for all others if data is available in transaction record	X9.58 bit 43-3 pass-through for POS transactions;	State Abbreviation for retailer location
POS Terminal ID	10	8	Alpha-numeric	M for all transactions unless X9 message blank	X9.58 bit 41 pass-though for all POS transactions, including POS voucher clears; EBT system for all others	POS Terminal ID (unique within retailer) For non-POS transactions: ARU – ARU/IVR (e.g. most Voucher Authorizations) BATCH – Transactions entered or created in EBT system by a batch operation, (e.g. Direct Debit, Voucher Expires, some Adjustments) PORTAL – Retailer portal (e.g. voucher clear) ADMIN – for all other

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
						transaction types Left justify and pad with trailing spaces
State-assigned Client/ Household Number	18	20	Alpha-numeric	M for all transactions	State certification/ EBT system	Unique, consistent, single identifier (preferably client number of head of HH if available, otherwise the case number) assigned by the State's certification system that identifies the household owning the account[3].
EBT Card Number	38	19	Alpha-numeric	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 2 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others; for adjustments use card number of original transaction; for card replacement fees use new replacement card number	Card number used in transaction. Left justify and pad with trailing spaces
Host Transaction Date	57	8	Date	M for all transactions	EBT system host value	Host system date transaction completed in CCYYMMDD format (converted by EBT processor to GMT)

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[3] During conversions, the new contractor must use the same identifier for each case as the previous contractor. Left justify and pad with trailing spaces

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Host Transaction Time	65	6	Time	M for all transactions	EBT system host value	Host system time in HHMMSS 24 hour format (converted by EBT processor to GMT)
Requested Transaction Amount	71	7	Numeric	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 4 inbound value for POS transactions; Amount keyed by retailer or CSR for manual voucher authorization; EBT system for all others	Requested transaction amount in 99999V99 (assumed 2 decimal places) [i.e., 1234567 to represent $12,345.67]; right justify and pad with leading spaces.
Transaction Amount Sign	78	1	+ or -	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 3-1 for POS transaction; EBT system for all others	+ to designate credit to recipient - to designate debit to recipient Ignored (blank space) for balance inquiry type transactions

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
EBT Program	79	2	Numeric	M for all transactions	State certification/ EBT system - If multiple benefit types (both SNAP and non-SNAP) used for approved transaction, ALERT should contain two transaction records, one coded "03" and the other "04"; all data elements will be the same except EBT Program and Completed Transaction Amount	00 – SNAP 01 – [Reserved] 02 – Non-SNAP* 03 – Partial SNAP 04 – Partial Non-SNAP* Codes 02-04 to be used only for States that mix SNAP and other -Non-SNAP benefits in the same account. NOTE: See Completed Transaction Amount for additional instructions on splitting the value between the two transaction records. * Non-SNAP currently includes Summer Feeding, Childhood Hunger Demo and/or FINI funded benefits, but may be expanded in the future.

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Transaction Type	81	2	Numeric	M for all transactions	Combination of X9.58 bit 3-1, 111-3 (VN) and EBT system	10 – POS Purchase 20 – POS Refund 30 – System Reversal/Void 40 – Balance Inquiry 51 – Voucher Authorization 52 – Voucher Clear 53 – Voucher Expire/Release 60 – Adjustment 70 – Card Replacement Fee
Transaction Method	83	1	Numeric	M for all transactions	Combination of X9.58 bit 3-1, 22-1, 22-2, and 111-3 (VN)	0 – Electronic Swipe 1 – Manual/Key Entered 2 – Paper Voucher 3 – RFID/Pay by Touch 4 – Reserved 5 – Internet 6 – Direct Debit Code 2 always used for transaction types 51, 52 and 53
Store & Forward Indicator	84	1	Numeric	M for all transactions	Combination of X9.58 bit 39 and 111-3 (SF)	0 – Not a store & forward 1 – Is a store & forward
Response Code	85	2	Alpha-numeric	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 39 outbound value for POS transactions; EBT system others	Indicator for accepted or rejected transactions (see Table 1 for valid entries)

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Available Balance Prior to Transaction	87	8	Numeric	M for all transactions	EBT system	Balance amount available to client (ledger value minus holds) in 999999V99 (assumed 2 decimal places) [i.e., 12345678 to represent $123,456.78; right justify and pad with leading spaces
Completed Transaction Amount	95	7	Numeric	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 4 outbound value** for approved POS transactions; amount authorized by EBT system for manual voucher authorization; EBT system for other non-POS transactions; $0 for all denied transactions (i.e., Response Code not "00" or "10")	Completed transaction amount in 99999V99 (assumed 2 decimal places) [i.e., 1234567 to represent $12,345.67]; right justify and pad with leading spaces. **If both SNAP and non-SNAP benefits are used (see EBT Program) the value is split between the two transaction records; the "03" record should contain the subtotal of funds drawn from SNAP benefits and the "04" record the subtotal drawn from non-SNAP benefits. The sum of this value from the two records equals the amount described in the Source column.

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Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Settlement Date	102	8	Date	M for all transactions	X9.58 bit 15 outbound value for approved POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Date when the transaction has been included in the ACH and STARS files for all settling transactions; current switch date for all others, in CCYYMMDD format
Terminal Type Code	110	2	Numeric	M for POS unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available in transaction record	X9.58 bit 58-4 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Code to identify terminal type Position 9-10 of bit 58 (see Table 2 for valid entries)
Merchant Type	112	4	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 18 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Classification of the merchant's type of business product or service (see Table 3 for most common values)

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Card Acceptor Name	116	25	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 48 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Name of the retailer where the POS terminal is located (from the transaction message)
Card Acceptor Address	141	23	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 43-1 pass-through for POS-transaction; EBT system for all others	Retailer's street address (from the transaction message)
Card Acceptor City	164	13	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 43-2 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Retailer's city (from the transaction message)
Card Acceptor ZIP Code	177	9	Numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 43-5 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Retailer's ZIP code and extended zip code (from the transaction message);

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Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Card Acceptor ID	186	15	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 42 pass-through for POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Code assigned to the retail location by the terminal acquirer
Acquiring Institution Identification Code	201	11	Numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 32 pass-through for all original (type 2xx) transactions; X9.58 bit 90-4 pass-through for all reversal (type 4xx) transactions; EBT system for all others	Code assigned to the acquiring financial institution by the American Banking Association
Forwarding Institution Identification Code	212	11	Numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 33 pass-through for all original (type 2xx) transactions; X9.58 bit 90-5 pass-through for all reversal (type 4xx) transactions; EBT system for all others	Code assigned by the EBT processor, or its gateway, to the most recent institution before the gateway forwarding the request to the EBT system
System Trace Audit Number	223	6	Numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message is blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 11 pass-through for all original (type 2xx) transactions; X9.58 bit 90-2 pass-through for all reversal (type 4xx) transactions; EBT system for all others	Number assigned by the retailer or acquirer to uniquely identify a transaction

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Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Transmission Date/ Time	229	10	Numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 7 pass-through for all original (type 2xx) transactions; X9.58 bit 90-3 pass-through for all reversal (type 4xx) transactions; EBT system for all others	Terminal time and date in MMDDHHMMSS format (original value is in GMT)
Local Terminal Date	239	4	Date (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message is blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 13 pass-through for all POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Date transaction completed in MMDD format (original value is not in GMT)
Local Terminal Time	243	6	Time (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for POS transactions unless X9 message is blank; C for all others if data is available	X9.58 bit 12 pass-through for all POS transactions; EBT system for all others	Time in HHMMSS 24 hour (original value not in GMT)

Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
Reversal Reason Code	249	1	Numeric	M for all transactions	If X9.58 bit 60-6 equals "8" code as 2 (Clerk); if bit 60-6 greater than "0" and less than "8" code as 1 (System); code all other POS and non-POS transactions as 0 (Not reversal).	0 - Not a Reversal 1 - System Reversal 2 - Clerk Initiated Reversal (void) NOTE: If Transaction Type equals "30", this field must be coded as 1 or 2; if Transaction Type equals anything but "30", this field must be coded as 0
Approval Code	250	6	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for approved transactions, Voucher Authorizations, Voucher Clears and their Reversals, and Voucher Expires/Releases; O for other transactions	X9.58 bit 38 outbound value for approved POS transactions except for Voucher Clears and their related Reversals	The code assigned by the EBT processor identifying the approval action; for all Voucher related transactions, the approval code assigned to the original Voucher Authorization
Voucher Number	256	15	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for Voucher Authorizations, Voucher Clears and Voucher Releases	X9.58 bit 111-3 (VN) pass-through for POS voucher clears; EBT system for all others	Preprinted number from a manual voucher form

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Description	Start Pos.	Len	Type	Required? M-Mandatory C-Conditional O-Optional	Source	Comments
EBT Account Number	271	20	Alpha-numeric	M for all transactions	EBT system	Unique account number assigned to the household's SNAP account by the EBT processor. Left justify and pad with trailing spaces
Internet Shipping/ Delivery Address	291	28	Alpha-numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for all internet transactions	X9.58 bit 111-3 (IT) pass-through for all internet transactions	Street address portion (positions 1-28) of the cardholder shipping/ delivery address required for all internet transactions; left justified
Internet Shipping/ Delivery ZIP Code	319	9	Numeric (fill with spaces if informa-tion not available)	M for all internet transactions	X9.58 bit 111-3 (IT) pass-through for all internet transactions	ZIP code portion (positions 29-37) of the cardholder shipping/ delivery address required for all internet transactions
Record Delimiter	328	2	CrLf	N/A	N/A	Carriage Return ASCII Value 0D Linefeed ASCII Value 0A

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Appendix A: Valid Codes

Table 1 – Valid Response Code Combinations

X9.58-2013 (bit 039)	Description	Comments (elimination of leading character a given and not repeated)
00	Approved	Description revised to agree with X9.58
02	Bad FNS status for merchant	
03	Invalid merchant	
05	General denial	
06	Invalid transaction	
10	Partial approval	New code added to X9.58-2013 for use with S&F transactions when retailer receives less than the requested amount.
12	Invalid transaction type	
13	Invalid amount field	
14	Invalid card number	
19	Re-enter transaction	
23	Unacceptable transaction fee	
30	Format error	
31	Card has invalid ISO prefix	
40	Function not available	
41	Lost card	
42	No Account	
43	Lost/stolen card	
51	Insufficient funds	
52	No account on file	
54	Expired card	
55	Invalid PIN	Replaces Code S5 (PIN Not Selected) removed from X9.58-2013 as non-applicable.
56	Card number not found	
57	Transaction not permitted to cardholder	
58	Invalid transaction	
59	Fraud (return card)	
61	Return exceeds benefit authorization	
62	Restricted card	
75	PIN tries exceeded	

X9.58-2013 (bit 039)	Description	Comments (elimination of leading character a given and not repeated)
76	Key synchronization error	
80	Voucher expired	
86	Invalid security code	
89	CVV verification failed, no pick up	New code added to X9.58-2013.
90	Processor not logged on	
91	Authorizer not available (time-out)	Description revised to agree with X9.58.
92	Transaction destination cannot be found for routing	
96	System malfunction	
A1	Invalid voucher ID	Description revised to agree with X9.58.
A2	Approval code doesn't match voice approval code	
A3	Amount greater than original voice authorization	
A4	Original voice authorization not found for cardholder	
A5	FNS number does not match original voice authorization	
A6	Item already cleared	
FF	Invalid HIP amount	New code added to X9.58-2013.
S7	Unmatched voucher information	Code added back it to X9.58-2013.

Table 2 – Valid Terminal Type Codes

Source	Code	Type Description
X9.58 bit 58 Positions 9-10:	00	Administrative Terminal
	01	POS terminal
	04	Electronic cash register (ECR)
	05	Dial terminal
	08	Scrip machine

	25	Internet

Table 3 – Valid Merchant Type Codes

Class Description	Code	Merchant Type
Agricultural services	0763	Agricultural co-operatives
Retail Outlets	5300	Wholesale clubs
	5310	Discount shops
	5311	Department stores
	5331	Variety stores
	5399	Miscellaneous general merchandise
	5411	Groceries and supermarkets
	5422	Freezer and locker meat provisioners
	5441	Candy, nut and confectionery shops
	5451	Dairies
	5462	Bakeries
	5499	Miscellaneous food shops — convenience and specialty retail outlets
Automobiles and vehicles	5541	Service stations (with or without ancillary services)
Miscellaneous outlets	5812	Eating places and restaurants
	5814	Fast food restaurants
	5912	Drug stores and pharmacies
	5921	Package shops — beer, wine and liquor
	5994	Newsagents and news-stands
	5999	Miscellaneous and specialty retail outlets
Service providers	7278	Buying and shopping services and clubs

Retailer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Data Exchange (REDE) File Format Specifications:

In support of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) implementation, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) determined that an automated process was required to notify the EBT Processors, contracted by each state (and possibly by each county), of any changes to the data for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) retailers to which they provide service.

FNS has established requirements that the automated process will:

A. **Provide Detailed State Retailer Data for State EBT Processors.** FNS will provide a file of data for each retailer within a state to EBT processors. An EBT processor may request a file for multiple states. Changes to this retailer file, which contains additions and deletions of retailers, as well as changes to the basic information, will be provided on a daily basis, Monday through Friday. A full file of the retailer data for each state will be provided on a

monthly basis. This full file will allow the EBT processor to verify that no retailer changes have been missed.

B. **Provide National Retailer Data for Interoperability Between States.** FNS will initially provide, to each EBT processor, a file of limited data for each authorized retailer in the SNAP. This file will be used to allow for the inter-operability between states and EBT processors for the EBT redemption process. Changes to this file (additions and deletions of retailers) will be provided on a daily basis, Monday through Friday. A complete file of the limited retailer data for the entire SNAP will be provided on a monthly basis. The complete file will allow the EBT processor to verify that no retailer changes have been missed.

The Retailer Electronic Data Exchange (REDE) interface was developed to facilitate the exchange of retailer data between FNS and the EBT processors. REDE replaced the manual process which required a field office to fax the changes for a store to the EBT processor. It has helped to reduce the EBT processors' submission of incorrect authorization numbers with redemption data which must then be manually researched by FNS staff at the Benefit Redemption Systems Branch (BRSB), and at FNS regional offices and field offices. It can also be made available to Third Party Processors to limit input errors.

The most critical exchange is FNS' notification of EBT processors concerning newly authorized EBT retailers and EBT retailers who have been withdrawn or disqualified as participants in the SNAP. The EBT processor is responsible for promptly setting up a newly authorized EBT retailer to participate in the EBT redemption process, generally within 2 weeks of this notification. The EBT processor is also responsible for removing a withdrawn or disqualified retailer from the EBT redemption process within 2 days of notification from FNS.

The REDE Subsystem supports interoperability, which allows a SNAP recipient from one state's program to make EBT purchases in another state. Interoperability is supported through the notification of all EBT processors concerning changes in any SNAP retailer's authorization status. The REDE Subsystem provides this data not only to the state and/or county EBT processors, but also to organizations that may provide Gateway services to multiple EBT processors and/or to any other FNS-approved organizations. The data provided on each store authorized to accept SNAP EBT transactions is limited to only that data which allows the basic identification of the store as an authorized retailer.

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Operations

REDE processing includes standard (regularly scheduled) nightly and monthly operations and ad hoc operations. Both types of REDE operations are performed at the Benefit Redemption Systems Branch (BRSB) in Minneapolis, MN. The standard nightly operations are performed nightly, Monday through Friday, and create the state and national retailer data update files. The standard monthly operations are performed monthly (on the first Saturday of the calendar month) and create the full state and national retailer data files. The state retailer data update files are used to update the Retailer EBT Data Exchange (REDE) database. Ad hoc operations are performed as requested when a State Agency and/or EBT processor requests a start-up copy of a state or national retailer update file.

The REDE Subsystem will create state retailer data update files and a national retailer data update file on a nightly basis, Monday through Friday. The exceptions to this are federal holidays that fall on a weekday. A full state retailer data file and national data file, which contain authorized stores, will be created on a monthly basis during the first full weekend of a calendar month. These files will be readied for transmission to authorized recipients of each state's file and the national file who will be given the choice of accessing these files using either a Connect Direct process through the USDA Computer Center in Kansas City or a VPN internet solution.

Creating State Retailer Data Update Files

Each night, the REDE Subsystem will utilize the current and prior night's Retailer Extract File to create the state retailer data update files for those states that the State Agencies and/or EBT processors have included in a file of requested states. The state retailer data update files contain the retailer data update transactions for each state's retailers. These transactions identify when a retailer has been added to, removed from, or re-activated into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and identify if certain key retailer data has changed. If a state incurs no changes to its retailers' data, a file will still be created for that state and will contain a header record and trailer record which identify that no detail records were included in the file. The creation of a file for each of the requested states will improve security and integrity as the authorized data files recipients from each state will always get a file, even when it does not contain any updates.

Creating National Retailer Data Update Files

The national retailer data update files are also created by REDE on a nightly basis and will be readied for access in the same manner as the state retailer data update files. Each file will identify if a retailer has been removed from, or added to, the set of retailers authorized to perform EBT processing for the SNAP. While additions and deletions are the primary types of transactions, there is also a modify transaction that identifies whether the first ten characters of the retailer name have changed, or whether the state within which the retailer resides, has been changed or whether the business type has been changed. Ideally, the state change should occur only if

someone miskeys the information into the primary retailer database and then later corrects it. The national retailer update file may be sent to entities other than the state EBT processors; for example, it may also be provided to some independent processors that support a national EBT retailer database for the state EBT processors. As with the state file, if there are no changes to any retailers in the nation, a file containing a header record and a trailer record will be created which identify that no detail records were included in the file. This will ensure that all authorized recipients are aware that there were no changes to the nation's retailers for that period.

Creating Full State and National Retailer Data Files

On a monthly basis, the REDE Subsystem will create a full file of all of the state retailer data files and the national retailer data file using the most current Retailer Extract File. These files will be readied for access in the same manner as the update files. The primary purpose of these files is to ensure that updates have not been missed and that all updates were received by the authorized recipients of each file.

Creation of Start-up State and National Retailer Data Files

When requested by a newly implemented EBT state or that state's EBT processor, the REDE Subsystem will create a set of start-up files consisting of a full state retailer data file and/or full national retailer data file. The files will be created using the most current Retailer Extract File and will be readied for access in the same manner as the standard monthly files. These start-up files are provided for a state and an EBT processor to use when the state's EBT implementation does not coincide with the creation and transmission of the standard monthly Full State Retailer Data Files and National Retailer Data File.

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

EXPANDED REDE STATE RETAILER FILE FORMAT

Header Record

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Transaction Type Code	Char	1	1	Blank
State Code	Char	2	2 - 3	Alphabetic state code where stores are located
Date Range				Date range for effective dates of retailer update transactions
Beginning Date	Char	8	4 - 11	For the daily update file, the beginning date of date range in CCYYMMDD format. For the monthly file, the date the file is produced.
Ending Date	Char	8	12 - 19	For the daily file, the ending date of date range in CCYYMMDD format. For the monthly file, the date the file is produced
Transaction Count	Num	7	20 - 26	Count of detail records in the file
Filler	Char	395	27 - 421	Blanks (mainframe files only)

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Trailer Record

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Transaction Type Code	Char	1	1	'T' - Trailer record
State Code	Char	2	2 - 3	Alphabetic state code where stores are located
Date Range				Date range for effective dates of retailer update transactions
Beginning Date	Char	8	4 - 11	For the daily update file, the beginning date of date range in CCYYMMDD format. For the monthly file, the date the file is produced.
Ending Date	Char	8	12 - 19	For the daily file, the ending date of date range in CCYYMMDD format. For the monthly file, the date the file is produced.
Transaction Count	Num	7	20 - 26	Count of detail records in the file
Add Transaction Record Count	Num	7	27 - 33	Count of "add" transaction records in the file
Delete Transaction Record Count	Num	7	34 - 40	Count of "delete" transaction records in the file
Modify Transaction Record Count	Num	7	41 - 47	Count of "modify" transaction records in the file
Re-activate Transaction Record Count	Num	7	48 - 54	Count of "re-activate" transaction records in the file
Hash Count	Num	8	55 - 62	Numeric hash count for backwards compatibility
Filler	Char	359	63 - 421	Blanks (mainframe files only)

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Detail Records

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Transaction Type Code	Char	1	1	'A' if a new store was added; 'R' if a previously authorized store was reinstated (Auth status 01, Reason Code 02); 'M' if an existing store was modified; 'D' if an existing store was removed from the program.
State Abbreviation	Char	2	2-3	Alphabetic State Code
Store Number	Num	7	4-10	STARS Authorization Number
Store Name	Char	50	11-60	Full name of store
Primary Telephone Number	Num	10	61-70	Full telephone number with area code
Alternate Telephone Number	Num	10	71-80	Telephone number to use in case Primary Telephone Number is unavailable.
Open 24 Hours Indicator	Char	1	81	'Y' if open 24 hours; otherwise 'N'
Registers Count	Num	5	82-86	Total number of check-out registers in store
County Code	Char	3	87-89	Code indicating county within state where store resides
Business Type Code	Char	2	90-91	Code indicating type of store - **see Figure 1**
Address Number	Char	8	92-99	Address number on street where store is located
Street Name	Char	40	100-139	Full name of street where store is located

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Additional Address Info	Char	40	140-179	Supplemental address information that is not contained in the street name (e.g. Suite Number)
City Name	Char	30	180-209	Full name of city where store is located
State Code	Char	2	210-211	Alphabetic state code where store is located.
Zip Code	Num	5	212-216	5 digit zip code where store is located.
Zip 4 Code	Num	4	217-220	4 digit zip code suffix where store is located
Authorization Status Code	Char	2	221-222	Code indicating current authorization status of store - **see Figure 2.**
Authorization Status Date	Num	8	223-230	Effective date of current authorization status in CCYYMMDD format.
Authorization Withdrawal Reason Code	Char	2	231-232	Reason for authorization or withdrawal - **see Figure 3**
Re-certification Status Date	Num	8	233-240	Date in CCYYMMDD format the store was re-certified (re-authorized) as authorized under FNS regulations based on updated data supplied by the retailer.
Ownership Type Code	Char	1	241	'1' if sole proprietorship or '2' if partnership or '3' if privately-held corporation or '4' if publicly owned corporation or '5' if cooperative or '6' if government or '7' if limited liability company or '8' if

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
				limited liability partnership
Owner's Name Format	Char	1	242	'1' if a person's name or '2' if an organization's name (corporation, company, government, etc.)
Owner's Name	Char	50	243-292	Organization or primary person that owns the retailer (if person's name, the first 15 characters contain the first name, the second 15 characters the middle name or initial, and the last 20 characters contain the last name)
Mailing Address Number	Char	8	293-300	Address number on street on store mailing address.
Mailing Street Name	Char	40	301-340	Full name of street on store mailing address.
Mailing Additional Address Info	Char	40	341-380	Supplemental mailing address information that is not contained in the street name (e.g. Suite Number)
Mailing City Name	Char	30	381-410	Full name of city on store mailing address.
Mailing State Code	Char	2	411-412	Alphabetic state code on store mailing address.
Mailing Zip Code	Num	5	413-417	5 digit zip code on store mailing address.
Mailing Zip 4 Code	Num	4	418-421	4 digit zip code extension on store mailing address.

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

NATIONAL RETAILER FILE

Header Record

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Transaction Type Code	Char	1	1	Blank
Creation Date	Char	8	2 - 9	Date this file was created in CCYYMMDD format.
File Type	Char	1	10 - 10	File type indicator where 'D' = daily change file, 'F' = full replacement file.
Transaction Count	Num	7	11 - 17	Count of detail records in the file
Filler	Char	18	18 - 35	Blanks

Trailer Record

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Transaction Type Code	Char	1	1	'T' - Trailer record
Creation Date	Char	8	2 - 9	Date this file was created in CCYYMMDD format.
File Type	Char	1	10 - 10	File type indicator where 'D' = daily change file,'F' = full replacement file.
Add Transaction Count	Num	7	11 - 17	Count of "add" detail records in the file
Delete Transaction Count	Num	7	18 - 24	Count of "delete" detail records in the file
Modify Transaction Count	Num	7	25 - 31	Count of "modify" detail records in the file

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Filler	Char	4	32 - 35	Blanks

Detail Record

FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD TYPE	FIELD WIDTH	FIELD POSITION	COMMENTS
Transaction Type Code	Char	1	1	'A' if store was added or 'D' if store was deleted or 'M' if state code, first ten characters of store name or business type code were modified
Store Identification	Num	7	2 - 8	STARS Authorization Number
State Code	Char	2	9 - 10	Alphabetic state code where store is located
Store Name	Char	10	11 - 20	First ten characters of the store name
Business Type Code	Char	2	21 - 22	Code indicating type of store
Filler	Char	13	23 - 35	Blanks

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Code Definitions for Business Type, Authorization Status and State Code/Abbreviation

The values for the Business Type; Authorization Status; Status Reason and State Abbreviation codes used in the record layouts are listed in the Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 below:

Business Type Code	Description	Store or Meal Service
AD	Drug and/or Alcohol Treatment Program	Meal Service
BB	Bakery Specialty	Store
BC	Non-profit Food Buying Co-op	Store
BW	Shelter for Battered Women and Children	Meal Service
CA	Community Supported Agriculture Organization	Store
CD	Communal Dining Facility	Meal Service
CO	Combination Grocery/Other	Store
CS	Convenience Store	Store
DR	Delivery Route	Store
DF	Direct Marketing Farmer	Store
FM	Farmers' Market	Store
FV	Fruits/Vegetable Specialty	Store
GL	Group Living Arrangement	Meal Service
HP	Homeless Meal Provider	Meal Service
IR	Internet Retailer	Store
LG	Large Grocery Store	Store
MC	Military Commissary	Store
MD	Meal Delivery Service	Meal Service
ME	Meat/Poultry Specialty	Store
MG	Medium Grocery Store	Store
RE	Private Restaurant/Meal Delivery	Meal Service
SC	Senior Citizens' Center/Residential Building	Meal Service
SE	Seafood Specialty	Store
SG	Small Grocery Store	Store
SM	Supermarket	Store
SS	Super Store	Store
WH	Wholesaler	Store

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Figure 1
Business Type Code List

Authorization Status Codes	
Code	**Status**
01	Authorized
03	Withdrawn
04	Disqualified
07	Permanent Disqualification
10	Permanently Withdrawn

Figure 2
Authorization Status Codes

Status Reason Codes		
Status (Status Code)	**Code**	**Reason**
Authorized (01)	01	Initial Authorization
Authorized (01)	02	Reinstated
Withdrawn (03)	01	Voluntary Withdrawal
Withdrawn (03)	02	Involuntary – Other
Withdrawn (03)	03	Involuntary - Withdrawn
Withdrawn (03)	04	Involuntary – Does not meet Criteria A or Criteria B
Withdrawn (03)	05	Involuntary – Not a Retail Food Store
Withdrawn (03)	06	Involuntary – Failure to Cooperate
Withdrawn (03)	07	Involuntary – Failure to Pay
Withdrawn (03)	08	Involuntary – Business Integrity
Withdrawn (03)	09	Involuntary – Non-Redeemer
Withdrawn (03)	10*	Involuntary – No State Contract*
Withdrawn (03)	11	Involuntary – Failure to Cooperate with Reauthorization Process
Disqualified (04)	01	SNAP Violation
Disqualified (04)	02	WIC Program Violation
Disqualified (04)	03	Failure to Pay
Permanently Disqualified (07)	01	SNAP Violation
Permanently Disqualified (07)	02	WIC Program Violation
Permanently Disqualified (07)	03	Failure to Pay
Permanently Withdrawn (10)	01	Business Integrity

*This code only applies to authorized meal services that are withdrawn from the Program for

failure to maintain or renew state certification

Figure 4
State Abbreviation Codes

State Abbreviation Codes	
State/Possession	**Code**
ALABAMA	AL
ALASKA	AK
AMERICAN SAMOA	AS
ARIZONA	AZ
ARKANSAS	AR
CALIFORNIA	CA
COLORADO	CO
CONNECTICUT	CT
DELEWARE	DE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	DC
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	FM
FLORIDA	FL
GEORGIA	GA
GUAM	GU
HAWAII	HI
IDAHO	ID
ILLINOIS	IL
INDIANA	IN
IOWA	IA
KANSAS	KS
KENTUCKY	KY
LOUISANA	LA
MAINE	ME
MARSHALL ISLANDS	MH
MARYLAND	MD
MASSACHUSETTS	MA
MICHIGAN	MI
MINNESOTA	MN
MISSISSIPPI	MS
MISSOURI	MO
MONTANA	MT
NEBRASKA	NE
NEVADA	NV
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NH
NEW JERSEY	NJ
NEW MEXICO	NM

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NEW YORK	NY
NORTH CAROLINA	NC
NORTH DAKOTA	ND
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	MP
OHIO	OH
OKLAHOMA	OK
OREGON	OR
PALAU	PW
PENNSYLVANIA	PA
State/Possession	**Code**
PUERTO RICO	PR
RHODE ISLAND	RI
SOUTH CAROLINA	SC
SOUTH DAKOTA	SD
TENNESSEE	TN
TEXAS	TX
UTAH	UT
VERMONT	VT
VIRGIN ISLANDS	VI
VIRGINIA	VA
WASHINGTON	WA
WEST VIRGINIA	WV
WISCONSIN	WI
WYOMING	WY

Exhibit SNAP -9: USDA FNS Interface File Formats

Additional Information

1. A modify transaction will contain all of the current data for a retailer. It does not **just** identify the elements that have changed.

2. The Zip 4 Code field will contain zeroes if the zip code is unknown.

3. If the retailer's mailing address is the same as the location address, the mailing address's character type fields will contain spaces and its numeric type fields will contain zeros. There are some retailers in the file, however, where the same information is reflected in both fields.

4. The monthly file will contain one add transaction for each authorized retailer within the state that is in the STARS database. An authorized retailer will have an authorization status code of '01' (Authorized). It does not contain de-authorized retailers that have an authorization status code of '03' (Withdrawn) or '04' (Disqualified) or '07' (Permanently Disqualified) or '10' (Permanently Withdrawn).

5. There are a few retailers that do not have a street address. This is a valid situation in certain cases. For instance, it is possible that the store is not on a street. Such as on an Indian Reservation.

6. Retailers that are involuntarily removed from SNAP will be given a five day grace period after the effective date until the removal is reflected in the REDE files. This grace period potentially allows for any appeals of the removal. The exception to this grace period is for the permanent disqualification (Authorization code of '07') where there is no suspension of the disqualification pending the outcome of an appeal.

7. Retailers that have been added to STARS as a new retailer, with an open date in the future, **will be** sent in the daily State Update File as soon as they are entered into STARS. This differs from the National Update File where future dated stores **will not be** included in the daily National Update File **until 3 days prior to the effective date**.