AGIIS Enhancements 2012

Entity Maintenance Web Service
10/27/2012

Added new functionality to AGIIS web services to enable entity maintenance including GLN or GLN and EBID add and update transactions. If no comments entered, no duplicates detected, no name/address override, no verification required, no change in entity status and all edits passed, the entity add or update transactions will be successful.

D&B Transition TF Recommendations 1 and 2 (PCR 184-1 & 184-2)
9/15/2012

The first 2 phases of the Duns & Bradstreet Transition Task Force (DBTTF) recommendations are complete. These included the discontinuation of requests being sent to Dun & Bradstreet for verification and enumeration of EBID numbers and instead, using the GLN assigned to new entities to populate the EBID field. While the GLN is a 13-digit identifier, the same length as the previous EBID identifier, it is important to note that the newly enumerated entity records will not have four trailing zeros as the previous EBID identifiers.

This update affects only new entities in which an EBID is requested and will not impact existing entities within AGIIS.

AGIIS Product Directory Simplification and Security Enhancements (PCR 183-2)
7/2/2012

AGIIS product simplification and security enhancements make adding and maintaining products much simpler. We also introduced product security features that allow subscribers to determine precisely who can access their product information in AGIIS. The product directory enhancements are the result of the implementation of the Product Task Force (PTF) recommendations approved in November 2011.

With these enhancements, AGIIS subscribers have the ability to add and maintain products easier through a simplified Web interface as well as updated XML and CSV file formats and the introduction of Web Services for maintaining products.

The product directory security enhancements allow AGIIS subscribers to use bulk and website interfaces to grant or restrict access to their products by maintaining security settings of "Exclude", "Include" or "Open".

Quarterly LACS Processing
3/31/2012

Entity maintenance activities have taken place on a regular schedule (at a minimum once per year) since the inception of AGIIS as a way to automate data maintenance and improve data accuracy. The maintenance activities include Locatable Address Conversion System (LACS) updates used to convert rural route addresses to 911 addresses; National Change of Address (NCOA) updates based on change of address forms submitted to the USPS; Area Code Splits updates when a new area code is established to increase the phone numbers available in a specific area; and finally, Orphan maintenance to inactivate entities not in any subscriber's subset. More recently the Directory Oversight Committee (DOC) has added a maintenance activity to ensure that all active entities have city and state information, where appropriate.

The AGIIS Duplicates Taskforce recommended that a quarterly LACS process be performed on entities with an address consisting of a rural route number and/or rural route number and box number (RR# and RR# Box#) in order to apply 911 updates to records on a quarterly basis. This will ensure that the entity address is up-to-date in the AGIIS database and prevent potential duplicates from entering the system.

AGIIS Duplicate Exemption Flag (PCR 182-4)
1/30/2012

As part of the AGIIS Duplicates Task Force recommendation for Third Name processing, new functionality was added to allow records inactivated by the recent global de-duplication process to be reactivated based on specific criteria including:
1. Entity exists in AGIIS in an inactive state
2. Entity type is Farm Business AND the contact name (Third Name) fields are populate
3. Unique Identifier is needed to differentiate between Farm Business entities for billing purposes

Reactivation comments are required and must indicate the reason the entity is needed. All submitted requests will be reviewed by the AGIIS Help Desk prior to reactivation.

AGIIS De-Duplication (PCR 182-5)
1/22/2012

All of the AGIIS Duplicates Task Force's De-duplication recommendations (Sub-standard data, Unique License, Annual Maintenance and Third Name were activities focused on preparing AGIIS data for the De-duplication process. The process supports entity and duplicate definitions, survivorship rules and data harvesting functionality established by the AGIIS Duplicate Task Force and approved by the Directory Oversight Committee (DOC). The de-duplication process was run twice; the first run focused on the physical address and the second run focused on the mailing address.

Subscriber Impact Duplicate records were replaced with a survivor record. Subscribers received information regarding replaced entities in their subset in the special Entity Update file which

contained only de-duplication results (one file per AGIIS subset). The files were delivered via the normal EBID and GLN Update Extract file process.

Actions Required Subscribers were encouraged to apply de-duplication results to their internal systems and to begin the process of synchronizing with AGIIS as soon as possible. This would enable them to capitalize on the benefits of the de-duplication.

Third Name Processing (PCR 182-4)
1/22/2012

This AGIIS Duplicates Task Force recommendation addresses the perception of duplicates created by a third name field "Grower Name" in all entity types. The recommendation is a compromise between addressing the needs of subscribers using the Third Name field for billing and those who would like the Third Name field eliminated to remove duplicates from AGIIS. This approach will minimize the initial impact to subscribers while beginning the transition to the elimination of the Third name field completely.

On the weekend of December 24, 2011 a bulk process was run to create new unique individual Grower entity records (First Name Last Name, MI + same address data) for each existing entity that has the Third Name fields populated. The creation of these entities allows subscribers to create a cross reference in their internal system (after the AGIIS de-dupe) between entities with an individual name (Grower Entity Type) and entities with a Company name. Also during this special run third names were blanked out on Non-Farm Business entity types and the information has been retained in history. During the weekend of January 7th new business rules were added to prevent a Third Name from being added to new entities or to existing entities. During the weekend of January 21st the De-duplication recommendation was implemented and Third Name will not be considered as part of duplicate identification criteria. This resulted in entities with a Third Name being considered a duplicate and inactivated in AGIIS. Shortly after the De-duplication the ability to reactivate Farm Business entity types with a Third Name became available to subscribers who needed this functionality for billing purposes. Requests for reactivation are processed by the Help Desk as usual these records will be marked as "Duplicate Exceptions".

Subscriber Impact
Subscribers that use the Third Name for internal business purposes such as billing will need to develop an alternative approach to address their business needs. In the short term these subscribers may need to reactivate entities with a Third Name after the de-duplication. The Third Name fields will not be available on any new entity records and Third Name cannot be added to existing entities.