# Training for New ACH Originators

This training document includes important information that every Originator should know including key terms, how to initiate entries, setting exposure limits, Same Day ACH requirements, return reason codes, etc.

### **Disclaimer**

This document can be used by an Originating Depository Financial Institution (ODFI) to train its new Originators on NACHA rules. Content is valid as of the revision date on the document. This document is not meant to be all-inclusive. The ODFI may wish to add or change the information provided herein. IBA does not warrant any additions or deletions to this document by the Depository Financial Institution (DFI).

# ANNUAL ACH ORIGINATION TRAINING

### **ACH Network**

ACH (Automated Clearing House) refers to the nationwide, batch-oriented electronic funds transfer system. The system moves large volumes of transactions between participating financial institutions. The National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) and the Federal Reserve Bank's ACH operating circulars establish ACH rules and regulations.

### **ACH Participants**

There are five key participants in completing an ACH transaction:

- 1. Originator: Your company is the Originator who initiates an ACH entry in response to an authorization from a Receiver (consumer or organization) to either credit or debit their account. For example, your company could initiate credit entries via the ACH network to pay your employees or you could initiate debit entries to a consumer or business for the payment of goods and services.
- 2. Receiver: The Receiver is a person or organization that authorized the Originator (your company) to initiate an ACH entry to their account. For example, your employee is the Receiver if your company initiates a payroll credit. A business partner is the Receiver if your company is sending a credit or debit for goods or services.
- 3. ACH Operator: The ACH Operator is the central clearing facility for ACH transactions. This can be the Federal Reserve Bank or private operator who accepts ACH entries from ODFIs and then forwards them to the Receiver's financial institution.
- 4. Originating Depository Financial Institution (ODFI): The Originating Depository Financial Institution is the financial institution that your company has a contract with for ACH services and is responsible for sending ACH entries into the ACH Network on your behalf. The ODFI forwards ACH entries to the ACH Operator for processing
- 5. Receiving Depository Financial Institution (RDFI): The Receiving Depository Financial Institution is a financial institution that receives entries from its ACH Operator and posts them to the accounts of their customers, known as Receivers.

# **Initiating ACH Entries**

First, your company must enter into a written contract with your bank (ODFI) that allows you to initiate ACH entries. Second, your company must obtain authorization from the Receiver (your employee or customer) to initiate a transaction to the Receiver's account. Third, your company creates a file of ACH transactions assigning a company name that the Receiver will easily recognize. Fourth, you will send the ACH file to your ODFI in the format required by the ODFI.

Your ODFI collects ACH files, verifies the validity of the files, and then transmits the files to the ACH Operator. The ACH Operator edits the files to ensure proper formatting and then distributes the files to RDFIs. The RDFI receives the files for its account holders. The RDFI posts entries to Receiver's accounts based upon the settlement date and the account number within the file.

### **Exposure Limits**

When your company enters into an agreement with your bank (ODFI), your bank will establish exposure limits. An exposure limit is the maximum dollar threshold for debits and/or credits your bank (ODFI) will accept from your company – either for a single day or a multi-day period. Files submitted by your company that exceed this limit may be rejected unless an exception is approved by the ODFI. For a typical payroll file, your bank (ODFI) will forward your ACH payroll file to the ACH Operator two days prior to the settlement date. Originators generally do not fund the account from which the ACH credit file will settle until the settlement date. If the Originator does not have sufficient funds on deposit to fund the ACH file on the settlement date, an overdraft will occur. Therefore, the ODFI will establish an exposure limit as a method of managing the ODFI's risk.

On the debit side, the ODFI's exposure begins on the date funds are made available to the Originator and ends on the date on which debits can no longer be returned by the RDFIs. Many entries must be returned within two banking days, but the RDFI has up to 60 calendar days to return unauthorized transactions. The amount of risk is based on the amount of returned ACH debit entries and the Originator's ability to cover them.

Ultimately, exposure limits are the maximum total established by the ODFI beyond which the ODFI is unwilling to process additional ACH files. NACHA rules require ODFIs to set and monitor these limits. Your bank (ODFI) will determine your exposure limit based on several factors including transaction history, financial strength, and dollar amounts in previous files processed.

Some ODFIs will require you (the Originator) to pre-fund the amount the of an ACH credit file. This means the ODFI will debit or place a hold on your (the Originator) account on the date on which the file is sent to the ACH Operator to ensure funds are available to cover the file on the settlement date.

# **Settling ACH Entries**

Settlement occurs when a credit or debit entry is reflected on the books of the financial institution. The timing is based upon the Effective Entry Date specified in the ACH file and the time of the file's delivery to the ACH Operator. Your company will determine the Effective Entry Date, the date on which your company intends the entries to post to your Receiver's account. When the ACH Operator processes entries, they read the Effective Entry Date and entries are posted on the Settlement Date. In most cases, the Effective Entry Date and Settlement Date are the same, but it is possible that the ACH Operator cannot settle on the Effective Entry Date. This can be due to untimely delivery of a file, a file contains an Effective Entry Date that has already passed (known as a Stale Date) or has a date occurring on a weekend or holiday. In these cases, the ACH Operator will assign a Settlement Date of the next business day.

# Same Day ACH

Domestic ACH debit and credit entries of \$1,000,000 or less per transaction qualify for same-day processing. Entries can be processed during three clearing windows. RDFI's must make same-day credit entries available to the Receiver by 1:30 p.m. local time for entries processed during the first processing window, 5:00 p.m. local time for entries processed during the second processing window, and by the end of the RDFI's processing day during the third processing window. Same-day credits and debits are perfect for time-sensitive payments and emergency payroll. Also, the ODFI can set approved transaction limits for Originators so your transaction limit may be less. If you are interested in same-day processing, please contact us.

# **Verifying Account Numbers Via Pre-notes**

Once you collect account information from your Receiver, you may generate a Pre-Notification (prenote), or a zero-dollar entry via your ACH file to verify that the account number on the entry is valid. Pre-notes are optional. If your company chooses to send pre-notes, you are required to initiate these entries at least three banking days before sending a live entry (meaning the entry including the actual dollar amount to be debited or credited). If there are errors in the pre-note, the RDFI can send a Notification of Change (NOC) back to you letting you know the information you must correct, or they can return the entry. RDFIs are not required to initiate NOCs. If the RDFI decides to return the entry rather than send an NOC, the Return Reason Code will let you know why the transaction could not be posted. An Originator that has originated a pre-note may initiate a subsequent entry to the Receiver's account as soon as the third banking day following the Settlement Date of the original prenote entry. However, it is important to note if an Originator receives a NOC or returned entry in response to a pre-note, the Originator must not transmit subsequent entries until it has resolved the reason for the return or made the necessary correction requested by the NOC.

# ACH Entry or ACH File Initiated in Error

Once an entry or file of entries has been transmitted into the ACH Network, it cannot be recalled, but an erroneous or duplicate file may be reversed. An erroneous entry or file is one in which the information contained in the entry or file:

- is a duplicate of an entry or file previously initiated by the Originator;
- orders payment to or from a Receiver different than the Receiver intended to be credited or debited;
- orders payment in a dollar amount different than was intended by the Originator;
- is a credit PPD entry in which the funds are related to the Receiver's employment, the amount was paid by check at or prior to the Receiver's separation from employment, and the PPD credit was transmitted prior to the delivery of the check; or
- orders payment of a debit entry on a date earlier than Originator intended or payment of a credit entry later than intended to be credited by the Originator.

When an entry or file is reversed due to duplication or an error, the Originator or ODFI must:

- initiate the reversing file that it is made available to the RDFI within 5 banking days after the settlement date of the erroneous entry/file;
- place the word "REVERSAL" in the Company Entry Description field of each Company/Batch Header Record;
- ensure the Company ID/Originator ID, SEC code, and the amount fields are identical to the original entry. The name of the Originator must reflect the same Originator identified in the erroneous entry to which the reversal relates. Minor variations are allowed for accounting or tracking purposes as long as the name remains readily recognizable to the receiver.
- transmit the file to the ACH Operator within 24 hours of discovery of the error; and
- initiate a correcting file with the reversing file, if applicable.

The Originator must make a reasonable attempt to notify the Receiver (i.e. mail, email, telephone, fax, etc.) of and the reason for the reversing entry no later than the settlement date of the reversing entry. This will ensure the Receiver is made aware of the reversal activity prior to receipt of their periodic statement.

An ODFI that initiates a reversing or correcting file must indemnify each participating financial institution and ACH Operator from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, liabilities and expenses, including attorneys' fees and costs, that result directly or indirectly from the debiting or crediting of any entry to the receiver's account. As such, reversals should be done with caution.

If you discover a potential error with an entry or file, contact your representative at the ODFI and they will either initiate the reversal or walk you through the required procedures and formatting requirements.

### **ACH Returns**

An ACH return is an entry that the RDFI is unable to post for a reason defined by NACHA (see common return reason codes below). The RDFI must initiate the return in time for your ODFI to receive it by opening of business on the second banking day following the settlement date of the original entry. This is often referred to as the "24-hour return deadline." The RDFI may return some entries beyond this deadline; however, your ODFI must inform you of all returns promptly. The return will include a code that describes the reason for the return.

Return Reason Code	Description	Originator Action
R01	Insufficient Funds	Originator may initiate a new ACH entry within 180 days of original settlement date (max of two additional attempts)
R02	Account Closed	Originator must stop initiation of entries. Must obtain a new authorization from Receiver for a different account.
R03	No Account/Unable to Locate	Originator must stop initiation of entries and contact Receiver for correct account information.
R04	Invalid Account Number Structure	Originator must stop initiation of entries and contact Receiver for correct account information.
R05	Unauthorized Debit to Consumer Account Using Corporate SEC Code	Originator must stop initiation of entries.
R06	Returned per ODFI's Request	ODFI has requested RDFI to return an entry (optional to RDFI). Originator should contact the ODFI if they need to request an RDFI to return an entry.
R07	Authorization Revoked by Customer	Originator must stop initiation of entries. Must obtain a new authorization to initiate entries.
R08	Payment Stopped	Originator must contact Receiver to identify reason for stop payment. Stop payment can be for one or more debit entries. May need new authorization to initiate entries.
R09	Uncollected Funds	Originator may initiate a new ACH entry within 180 days of original settlement date (max of two additional attempts)
R10	Customer Advises Originator is Not Known to Receiver and/or is Not Authorized	Originator must stop initiation of entries. Must obtain a new authorization to initiate entries.
R11	Customer Advises Entry Not in Accordance with Terms of Authorization	Originator may correct underlying error, if possible, and submit new Entry (no new authorization required).
R16	Account Frozen/Entry Returned Per OFAC Instruction	Originator must stop initiation of entries.
R20	Non Transaction Account	Originator must stop initiation of entries.
R23	Credit Entry Refused by Receiver	Originator must obtain a new authorization to initiate entries.
R24	Duplicate Entry	Originator should accept return.
R29	Corporate Customer Advises Not Authorized	Originator must stop initiation of entries. Must obtain a new authorization to initiate entries.

### **Reinitiation of Return Entries**

An Originator may reinitiate an entry, other than an RCK entry that was previously returned, only if the entry was returned for insufficient or uncollected funds, the entry was returned for stopped payment and reinitiation has been separately authorized by the Receiver after the Originator received the return entry or the Originator has taken corrective action to remedy the reason for the return.

The Originator must reinitiate the entry within 180 days after the settlement date of the original entry. And, the Originator may reinitiate an entry that has been returned for insufficient or uncollected funds a maximum of two times following the return of the original entry.

The reinitiated entries must be submitted as a separate batch that contains the word "RETRY PYMT" in the Company Entry Description field of the Company/Batch Header Record. For any reinitiated entry, the description "RETRY PYMT" must replace the original content of the Company Entry Description field transmitted in the original entry, including content otherwise required by the Rules.

If a return fee is charged by the Originator to the Receiver for a debit entry that was returned for insufficient or uncollected funds, the Originator is required to provide notice to the Receiver that a return fee will be assessed if an item is returned unpaid. The Originator must use the Standard Entry Class Code "PPD" and must submit return fee entries as a separate batch that contains the words "RETURN FEE" in the Company Entry Description field of the Company/Batch Header Record.

# **Notification of Change (NOC)**

An NOC is a non-monetary entry transmitted by an RDFI to identify incorrect information contained within an entry and also provides correct information to be used on future entries. NOC's provide a means for an RDFI to post an entry to the Receiver's account but also notify your company of changes that must be made. When an RDFI transmits a NOC, they warrant the information contained within the NOC is correct. Upon receipt of a NOC, the ODFI must notify you of the information that must be changed within 2 banking days. You must make the requested change(s) within 6 banking days or prior to initiation of another ACH entry, whichever is later. Some common NOC codes are below:

Change Code	Description
C01	Incorrect Account Number or is formatted incorrectly
C02	Incorrect Routing Number due to merger or consolidation
C05	Incorrect Transaction Code - The account number contained in the entry is a checking account, but the transaction code is for a savings account or vice versa.
C06	Incorrect Account Number and Transaction Code

# **Standard Entry Class (SEC) Codes**

SEC codes are payment types used by Originators to identify ACH debits or credits. Commonly used SEC codes are as follows:

SEC	Description	Application Use	Authorization
Code			Requirements
CCD	Corporate Credit	Provides a way for companies	The Rules do not require the
	or Debit	to receive or send ACH	CCD authorization to be a
		payments from or to other	specific form. The Rules
		companies. Companies that	require the Originator and
		need to transmit remittance	Receiver to have an agreement
		data with the CCD entry (such	that binds the Receiver to the
		as invoice or purchase order	Rules. This agreement should
		number) may add an addenda	contain the authorization
		record to carry the payment	requirements and procedures
		related information.	as determined by the parties.
CTX	Corporate Trade	This also provides a way for	The Rules do not require the
	Exchange	companies to receive or send	CTX authorization to be a
		ACH payments from or to other	specific form. The Rules
		companies generally to pay for	require the Originator and
		goods and services. The CTX	Receiver to have an agreement
		format supports the transfer of	that binds the Receiver to the
		extensive addenda records – up	Rules. This agreement should
		to a maximum of 9,999 records	contain the authorization
		each carrying 80 characters of	requirements and procedures
		payment related data.	as determined by the parties.
PPD	Prearranged	This code is used for a credit or	For PPD debits, the
	Payment or	debit entry originated by an	authorization must be in
	Deposit	organization to a consumer's	writing, be readily identifiable
		account. It can be a single or	as an ACH authorization, have
		recurring entry. PPD	clear and readily
		transactions are widely used for	understandable terms, provide
		direct deposit of payroll and	that the Receiver may revoke
		direct payments. Direct	the authorization by notifying
		payments provide the ability to	the Originator in the manner
		collect funds from a	specified in the authorization,
		consumer's account. PPD can	and be either signed or
		also be used for a return entry	similarly authenticated by the
		fee. If a company collects a fee	consumer. Iowa Law requires
		for a debit entry (ACH or check)	written authorization for PPD
		that is returned NSF or	payroll deposits. For other
		uncollected funds, the	credit entries, the
		company can use PPD as long	authorization may be in
		as proper notice is provided.	writing, or it may be obtained
			orally or by other non-written
			means.

SEC Code	Description	Application Use	Authorization Requirements
WEB	Internet- Initiated/Mobile Entry	Can be a debit or credit and can be a single or recurring entry. A WEB entry provides companies with the opportunity to initiate a debit entry to consumer accounts for the purchase of goods or services pursuant to an authorization obtained of the	Debit WEB entries require authorization that is communicated from the Receiver via the Internet or Wireless Network. WEB is also appropriate if the authorization was obtained in person, but the Receiver sends a text
TEL	Telephone- Initiated Entry	This code is used for debit entries Corporate to Consumer.	message to communicate when to initiate the debit.  For Single Entry, recorded oral authorization or written notice provided to the consumer confirming the oral authorization. For Recurring
			entries, a copy of the authorization must be provided to the consumer or Standing Authorization in place. See Nacha Rules book for more details.

# **OFAC Requirements**

The Originator is required to check payees/ACH recipients against Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") compliance checklists. OFAC checklists contain lists of countries, groups and individuals with which U.S. Companies are not permitted to send or receive funds. The Bank helps protect clients by informing them it is against the law to send debit or credit entries to OFAC-blocked entities. The OFAC SDN list can be found at <a href="https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/">https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/</a>.

### **Record Retention**

The Originator must retain the original or reproductive copy of each written authorization of the Receiver, or a readily and accurately reproducible record evidencing any other form of authorization, for two years from the termination or revocation of the authorization and must be able to provide the ODFI with an accurate copy or other accurate record to the RDFI within ten banking days without charge.

# WEB – Risk Management and Annual Audit

The best way Originators can minimize the potential for fraudulent Internet/Mobile initiated ACH transactions is to employ robust authentication methods to verify the identity of the Receiver before accepting ACH debit authorizations online. The more robust the authentication, the less likely a transaction will be fraudulent and returned as unauthorized. Since the Originator may ultimately be responsible for unauthorized or fraudulent ACH transactions when those transactions are returned, it is beneficial to employ adequate levels of authentication into the online ACH payments process.

Originators who initiate WEB (Internet Initiated) debit entries are required to perform account validation screening as part of a "commercially reasonable fraudulent transaction detection system." This process is intended to validate the account to be debited for the first use of such account number and for any subsequent change(s) to the account number. A common method used to validate account information is to initiate a pre-notification.

Compromised data not only affects the Receiver, but it can also damage the Originator's reputation. To ensure an Originator of WEB debits has adequate procedures in place to protect Receiver financial information, Nacha Rules require Originators to conduct an annual data security audit. The audit must review security practices to ensure they include adequate levels of physical security to protect against theft, tampering, or damage; administrative, technical, and physical access controls to protect against unauthorized access and use; and network security to ensure secure capture, transmission, storage, distribution and destruction of financial information. The ODFI may ask for a copy of your audit at any time.

### **TEL – Telephone Initiated Entry Authorization Requirements**

Originators of TEL entries must obtain the Receiver's oral authorization prior to initiating a debit entry to a consumer's account. The authorization must meet the minimum authorization requirements for a consumer debit entry and evidence the Receiver's identity and the Receiver's assent to the authorization.

Originators of a Single Entry TEL entries are obligated either to audio record the Receiver's oral authorization or provide, prior to the settlement of the entry, written notice to the Receiver that confirms the oral authorization.

Originators that obtain Standing TEL authorizations must either audio record the Receiver's oral authorization or provide, prior to the settlement of the first subsequent entry, written notice to the Receiver that confirms the oral authorization.

Originators of Recurring TEL entries are obligated to both audio record the Receiver's oral authorization and to provide a written copy of the authorization to the Receiver, to the extent required by Regulation E.

For full details on origination of TEL entries see Section V – Chapter 47 of the Nacha Rules book.

# **Information Security**

NACHA Rules establish data security requirements for all ACH transactions transmitted or exchanged via an Unsecured Electronic Network (UEN). An example of a UEN is the Internet. Banking information, which includes routing numbers, account numbers, etc. must be (1) encrypted, or (2) transmitted via a secure session using commercially reasonable security technology. The concept of "commercially reasonable" means that a party, given the facts of a specific transaction, acted in a way that a reasonable person in similar circumstances would have acted. Ultimately, the Originator must implement procedures to protect the security and integrity of ACH data throughout its lifecycle. The Originator must establish, implement, and update security policies, procedures, and systems related to the initiation, processing and storage of protected information (non-public personal information, including financial information, of a natural person used to create, or contained within an entry and any related addenda record).

Each Non-Consumer Originator that is not a Participating DFI, each Third-Party Service Provider, and each Third-Party Sender, whose ACH Origination or Transmission volume exceeds 2 million Entries annually must, by June 30 of the following year, protect DFI Account Numbers used in the initiation of Entries by rendering them unreadable when stored electronically.

# Corporate Account Takeover (CATO)

CATO is a type of business identity theft in which a criminal gains access to a business' finances to make unauthorized transactions, including transferring funds, creating and adding new fake employees to a payroll file and stealing customer information. Cyber thieves target employees through phishing (fraudulent attempts to obtain confidential information such as usernames and passwords for malicious reasons), phone calls, e-mails, and sometimes through social networks.

NACHA released an ACH Bulletin on December 2, 2009, that summarizes CATO and what businesses can do to prevent it.

https://www.nacha.org/news/corporate-account-takeovers-can-lead-fraudulent-transactions.

### **Prevention Tips:**

- Use dual control to initiate ACH payments.
- Ensure anti-virus security software for all computers and laptops are up to date.
- Restrict functions for computers and laptops (such as general WEB browsing, social networking, etc.).
- Monitor and reconcile accounts daily and utilize alerts to detect unusual activity.

# **Website Spoofing**

Website spoofing is the act of creating a fake website to mislead individuals into sharing sensitive information. Spoof websites are typically made to look exactly like a legitimate website published by a trusted organization.

### **Prevention Tips:**

- Pay attention to the web address (URL) of websites. A website may look legitimate, but the URL may have a variation in spelling or use a different domain.
- If you are suspicious of a website, close it and contact the company directly.
- Do not click links on social networking sites, pop-up windows, or non-trusted websites. Links can take you to a different website than their labels indicate. Typing an address in your browser is a safer alternative.

- Only give sensitive information to websites using a secure connection. Verify the web address begins with "https://" (the "s" is for secure) rather than just http://.
- Avoid using websites when your browser displays certificate errors or warnings.

### **Phishing**

Phishing is when an attacker attempts to acquire information by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. Phishing messages often direct the recipient to a spoof website. Phishing attacks are typically carried out through email, instant messaging, telephone calls, and text messages (SMS).

### **Prevention Tips:**

- Delete email and text messages that ask you to confirm or provide sensitive information. Legitimate companies don't ask for sensitive information through email or text messages.
- Beware of visiting website addresses sent to you in an unsolicited message.
- Even if you feel the message is legitimate, type web addresses into your browser or use bookmarks instead of clicking links contained in messages.
- Try to independently verify any details given in the message directly with the company.
- Utilize anti-phishing features available in your email client and/or web browser.

# **Meaningful Modernization**

Nacha implemented amendments comprising Meaningful Modernization that are expected to improve and simplify the ACH user experience by facilitating the adoption of new technologies and channels for the authorization and initiation of ACH payments, reducing barriers to use of the ACH Network and providing clarity and consistency around the ACH authorization process.

Standing Authorizations - Part of the changes include use of a standing authorization for consumer ACH debits. A standing authorization is an advance authorization by a consumer for future debits at various intervals. Future debits may be initiated by the consumer through a future action. This differs from recurring payments as they occur at regular intervals and require no additional action by the consumer and a single entry that is a one-time payment. The new authorization is a hybrid and allows businesses and consumers to make more flexible payment arrangements that are on-going and require action by the consumer in the future. If you are interested in this product, please contact us for additional information.

Oral Authorizations - Prior to this amendment, the Rules did not provide for oral authorization outside of a telephone call. With the amendment, the Rules allow broader use of oral authorizations to include verbal interactions and voice-related technologies. If you are interested in learning more, please contact your ODFI.

Written Authorizations - As referenced above, the authorization for PPD debits must be in writing. At a minimum, they must include the following:

language detailing if the authorization is for a single entry or recurring entries;

- the amount of the entry(ies) or reference to the method of determining the amount;
- the timing (including start date), number and/or frequency of the entries;
- the Receiver's name or identity;
- the account number to be debited;
- the date of the Receiver's authorization; and
- language instructing the Receiver how to revoke the authorization directly with the Originator (including timing and manner by which the Receiver must communicate the revocation to the Originator.) For an authorization for a single entry scheduled in advance, the revocation must provide the Originator a reasonable opportunity to act on the revocation prior to initiating the entry.

Originators must review and update, if necessary, the current authorization used for debit entries to ensure it includes the minimum data elements. Any new or updated authorization must conform to the new minimum requirements. Originators are not required to go back and obtain new authorizations for existing receivers.

### **Micro-Entries**

The Micro-Entries rule defines the term as a credit or debit Entry used by an Originator for the purpose of verifying a Receiver's account or an individual's access to an account. An Originator may originate one or more Micro-Entries to a Receiver's account prior to initiating future credit or debit Entries to the Receiver's account. Originators of Micro-Entries are required to use "ACCTVERIFY" as a standard Company Entry Description and populate the Company Entry Name field with the same or similar name to be used in future entries. The Rule requires the Originator using debit entry offsets to send the debit and corresponding credit Micro-Entries simultaneously for settlement. Additionally, the total amount of the credit Micro-Entry(ies) must be equal or greater than the value of the debit Miro-Entry(ies) and the aggregate total of debits and credits cannot result in a net debit to the Receiver. The credit Micro-Entry must be in an amount less than \$1.00. Originators of Micro-Entries are required to use commercially reasonable fraud detection practices, including monitoring forward and return Micro-Entry volumes.

# Third-Party Sender Responsibilities

Nacha Rules require all Third-Party Senders to conduct an annual audit of its compliance with the Rules no later than December 31st of each year. Third-Party Senders must conduct their own risk assessment and implement a risk management program based on its risk assessment.

The Nacha Rules have been updated to include requirements for Third Party Senders to identify any Nested Third-Party Senders. A Nested Third-Party Sender has an Origination Agreement with another Third-Party Sender to act on behalf of an Originator and does not have a direct agreement with the ODFI itself. Nested Third Party Senders are required to follow the same rules as a Third-Party Sender including the risk assessment requirement.

Document Revision History		
January 2020	Differentiating Unauthorized Return Reason Codes for R10 and R11, effective	
	3/20/20	
	Supplementing Data Security Requirements effective June 30, 2020.	
	Added new same-day processing window	
April 2020	Extended effective date by one year for Supplementing Data Security	
	Requirements per Nacha Operations Bulletin #4-2020.	
July 2020	Added information process for initiating a reversal of an ACH entry/file.	
September 2020	Changed Federal Reserve implementation date to facilitate adoption of a third same-day ACH processing and settlement window from March 19, 2021, to March 8, 2021	
October 2020	Per ACH Operations Bulletin #7-2020, updated to reflect deferred effective dates. Specifically, Nacha will not enforce the rule for up to one year related to the Supplemental Fraud Detection for WEB entries and/or Supplemental ACH Data Security for entities working in good faith toward compliance.	
January 2021	Added third Same Day ACH processing window timing and requirements; clarified what an Originator is required to do if ACH file was originated in error and added requirements for written authorizations beginning September 17, 2021.	
September 2021	Added formatting requirements for reversals and a section on reinitiation of entries and charging return fees. Added section for Meaningful Modernization changes.	
January 2022	Modified same-day transaction limit. Effective 3/18/22, same-day transaction limit will increase to \$1M. Also updated the same-day section to reflect the three clearing windows. Added annual security audit requirement for Originators of WEB debits and requirement to perform an annual audit and risk assessment for Third-Party Senders.	
February 2023	Added Micro-Entries phase 1 that defines the term Micro-Entry. Effective 1/31/2022 and the Phase II that requires Originators to have in place reasonable fraud detection for Micro-Entries. Effective 3/17/23. Added Nested Third-Party Senders requirement to conduct a risk assessment and implement risk management program based on risk assessment. Effective 9/30/22.	
January 2024	Added OFAC requirements; modified CATO format; Added Web Spoofing and Phishing to include additional security measures; Added Mico-Entries Phase 2 that requires Originators of Micro-Entries to use commercially reasonable fraud detection practices, including the monitoring of forward and return Micro-Entry volumes. Effective 3/17/2024.	
January 2025	Added TEL – Telephone Initiated Entries Authorization Requirements.	