



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, 9TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108
TELEPHONE (617) 727-5000
WWW.MASS.GOV/COMPTROLLER

THOMAS G. SHACK III, Esq.
COMPTROLLER

MMARS Policy: Payroll

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Payroll Accounting: Closing a Fiscal Year

Executive Summary

State finance law defines the budget fiscal year for all payments, including payrolls, to begin on July 1st and end on June 30th of the subsequent year. Services rendered by employees through June 30th must be charged to the Closing FY. The state employee payroll charges will be split by HRCMS into two accounting departments: one for services rendered before June 30th and one for services after July 1st.

Considerations

Policy

Sufficient Funding

Commonwealth Departments are responsible for ensuring that sufficient funding is available in MMARS to cover all end of the year payroll expenditures (including related payroll taxes such as Medicare, UI and UHI) for both state and contract employees.

Cleaning Up Adjustment Transactions

Closing a fiscal year requires that Departments clean up any outstanding payroll reject or expenditure refund transactions before the final close.

Payroll Reject Transactions

A Payroll Reject (PRLDE) transaction is generated when a payroll expense, processed by HR/CMS or e*mpac, has missing or erroneous data (e.g., incorrect expense budget or a missing program code). All PRLDE transactions must be corrected before the first payroll run of the new fiscal year. Departments

must post PRLDE'S to accounting period 12 to insure that payroll expenditures are recorded in the appropriate fiscal year.

Expenditure Refund Transactions

For payroll refunds, Departments are required to process the Expenditure Refund transaction (PRRFC) for payroll on or before June 30th. Departments should take special care to clean up all outstanding Payroll Refund Receipt Vouchers prior to the final fiscal year payroll, so they only need to handle the few from the final payroll in July.

Irregular Balances

State Finance Law requires that funding be in place before employees are allowed to provide services for the Department. Departments should not hire any employees unless there is sufficient funding to cover payroll expenditures (including related payroll taxes such as Medicare, UI and UHI) in order to prevent negative (irregular) balances from occurring in MMARS. Departments must correct negative (irregular) balances immediately.

Accounts Payable Payroll

For State and Contracted Employees Accounts Payable payroll, Departments need to reserve (encumber) that portion of the account balances that will be used to support this accounts payable payroll using a Payroll Hold transaction in MMARS.

LCM Rules Table

Rules tables and Employee Defaults are timeline based in the Labor Cost Management system, and will continue until the appropriate end date is reached or a new record updates the entry. All rules in LCM will be automatically updated with a new end date except for alternate account rules, which must be submitted to the Comptroller's office for approval each Fiscal Year.

Internal Controls

Information Sources

- Related Procedure – None
- Legal Authority
 - The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Annual Closing/Opening Instructions issued by the Office of the Comptroller
 - Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 4, Section 7, Ninth
 - Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 7A, Sections 3, 7 and 8
- Attachments - None
- Links - [Close and Open Information](#)
- [Contacts – CTR Help Desk](#)

- **November 1, 2006** – Removed language referencing Knowledge Center and updated relevant links to Mass.gov/osc portal site.