

CHAPTER 3 NEW RELEASE ENHANCEMENTS AND CHANGES AFFECTING MAT SUBMISSIONS

Chapter 3 contains a listing of the enhancements and changes for TRACS Release 2.0.2.C

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Release 2.0.2.C is driven by the requirement that Multifamily Housing (MFH) business partners and TRACS comply with HUD rules and regulations as published in the HUD Handbook 4350.3 REV-2. An Office of Management and Budget (OMB) mandate modifies the descriptions of race and ethnicity and shifts the reporting level from the head of household to the individual members. Student status has been added in order to track compliance with new rules related to the eligibility of full or part-time students at an institution of higher education. This release includes modifications to MAT record formats to collect those additional data as required by Housing. TRACS release 2.0.2. C affects the Tenant System. For consistency purposes, only, the release/version number of the Voucher/Payment system has been updated to display 2.0.2.C.

3.1. Release 2.0.2.C MAT Enhancements and Changes

3.1.1 MAT10 Section 2: Basic Record Changes

The Release/Version Number has been updated from 2.0.2.B. to 2.0.2.C.

The following fields have been discontinued:

- Field 18: Conversion Date Code
- Field 19: Age 62 At Conversion Indicator
- Field 20: Continuous Section 8 Indicator
- Field 61: HCDA %
- Field 68: Section 236 Basic Rent
- Field 75: Region Code
- Field 76: Field Office Code
- Field 90: Other Preference Code

Two values for the following field have been dropped:

- Field 12: Transaction Type

The following field size has been reduced by one position:

- Field 25: Filler

The following fields have been Re-aligned:

- Field 26: Number of Family Members
- Field 27: Number of Non-Family Members
- Field 28: Number of Dependents

The following field size have been increased by one position:

- Field 29: Total Assets

The following field have been redefined:

- Field 79: Household Assistance Status Code

3.1.2 MAT10 Section 3: Family Record

The values of the following fields have been updated:

- Field 10: Special Status Code
- Member Eligibility Code

The following field has been discontinued:

- Field 14: Occupation Description

The values of the following fields have been added:

- Field 17: Ethnicity
- Field 18 – 24: Race
- Field 25: Student Status

3.1.3 MAT10 Section 4: Income Record

The following fields have been discontinued:

- Field 6: New Household Member Income Indicator
- Field 7: Newly Employed Income Indicator

3.1.4 MAT10 Section 5: Asset Record

The size of the following field has been increased by one position:

- Field 6: Cash Value Amount

The location of the following field has been realigned:

- Field 7: Actual Yearly Income Amount

The following field has been activated:

- Field 8: Date Divested

3.1.5 MAT Voucher System Changes

The Release/Version Number has been updated from 2.0.2.B. to 2.0.2.C.

3.2. iMAX

The integrated Multifamily Access eXchange (iMAX) system was developed as a replacement for the TRACSMail system. Replacing the TRACSMail system was deemed necessary because its performance was unreliable, unsupported, and did not take advantage of newer, faster, and more secure technologies that had been developed for data interchange. Phase I of the iMAX system was put into production in 2008.

Phase II of the iMAX project will be put into production in September, 2010. The enhanced iMAX system will continue the existing functionality of the current iMAX system, allowing users to send files to TRACS or other iMAX users and to receive files from TRACS and other iMAX Users. In addition, the TRACS Rules of Behavior acceptance functionality will be automated, which must be accepted via the user interface, and the iMAT application will replace any initial mainframe MAT processing regarding daily Monthly Activity Transmission files. The objectives and functionality of the iMAX system include to:

- Provide a system for users to submit Section 8 annual certifications and other subsidy vouchers for payments to TRACS and receive TRACS responses.
- Improve user experience by real time acknowledgement after successful Monthly Activity Transmission (MAT) file submission.
- Continue to support communications between property owners, owner agents (O/A) and contract administrators (CA).
- Facilitate system automation by supporting web services to allow third-party software systems to integrate with iMAX system seamlessly.
- Utilize advanced J2EE and web technologies to minimize system downtime.
- Automate the TRACS Rules of Behavior acceptance functionality.
- Modernize the technology utilized by the MAT edit functionality.
- Perform MAT edits before passing the data to the TRACS system for Tenant and Voucher processing.
- Return error messages to the Industry when an edit fails in a more timely manner (at least every two hours).

Users of iMAX have two means of access to the system: interactively through a web browser, or systematically through web service calls.

Users accessing iMAX through the web browser need to login and authenticate through HUD's **Web Access Secure Systems (WASS)** Single Sign on. Once logged in and authenticated, users need to provide their iMAX user ID and password. Users are then be able to upload a file(s) to TRACS or other iMAX users, view and/or download responses from TRACS or other iMAX users, or view files sent to TRACS or other iMAX users. Additionally, users can manage their iMAX user ID profile through the web browser.

Users accessing iMAX through the web services require their software system to make calls to iMAX through the web services. The calls require the software system to provide a WASS user id and password as well as an iMAX user ID and password. Then the software can make specific calls to upload file(s) to TRACS or other iMAX users, receive a list or download files from TRACS or other iMAX users, and to receive a list of files sent to TRACS or other iMAX users.

For more information on the iMAX web services, please refer to the iMAX Industry Specifications posted on the TRACS documents page.