



WBSCM

March 2010 WBSCM Update

WBSCM has completed the additional development that was required and the project is currently in the integration testing phase. In mid March, the project will move into the user acceptance phase (UAT) where representatives of each of the agencies will begin their detailed testing. Defects reported during testing are being reviewed twice weekly to prioritize and monitor resolution progress. Limited agency training has begun for those individuals who will be training customers and vendors on FNS functions in WBSCM.

Throughout the project, the Project Management Office (PMO) which is led by AMS with representatives from FNS, FSA, FAS, and USAID have been monitoring key high project risks. Mitigation of these risks is agreed upon by the agencies. The detailed schedule is updated and reviewed weekly by FNS, AMS, FSA, FAS, and USAID to identify any schedule issues or changes based on these risks. In the next month, WBSCM will be determine if any of these risks will have an adverse effect on the project and the current go-live date. The goal to meet the go-live date is critical to project success. Decisions to adjust the schedule will be determined by the 5-Agency Project Management team and Executive Committee members based on critical impacts to business operations.

To ensure timely communications to all stakeholders it is recommended that all parties register for the GovDelivery service on the FDD WBSCM webpage (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/wbscm>). Registration for this service will allow users to receive email notifications when new information is posted on the website. Any changes to go-live date or other deployment related activities will be communicated through this website when they become available.

Preparation Activities

- **System Preparation**

Reminder: Access to WBSCM will be through the Internet, similar to how ECOS is accessed today. It is highly recommended that you use Internet Explorer (IE) version 6 or 7 as your browser. At this time, SAP (the software that WBSCM is built on) does not support IE 8.0. WBSCM can be accessed using IE 8 by setting access using IE 7 compatibility mode. Other browsers may be used to access WBSCM but will not be tested or supported and may not display the transactions in WBSCM correctly. All browser technical specifications and set up instructions will be documented and posted on the FDD WBSCM website when they are available.

- **User Preparation**

Reminder: Access to WBSCM will be through USDA's eAuthentication (eAuth) application. An eAuth username/password is a requirement for accessing the WBSCM portal. Customers and vendors need at least a level-1 for WBSCM. Information on eAuthentication for customers and vendors is available on the USDA web site at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>. Please note that the email address and last name used to register for your eAuth account MUST match the last name and email address used when your WBSCM account is created. Current ECOS users will be created in WBSCM using the name and email information in ECOS. Please review your existing information and update as necessary. You will also need to complete all the eAuth registration steps for your account to be active.

It is suggested that you not register for your new USDA eAuth account more than 6 months in advance of the WBSCM go-live date in order to avoid resetting your password prior to accessing WBSCM. Passwords in eAuth expire every 6 months. WBSCM users that currently have a USDA eAuth ID to access other USDA systems may use that ID for WBSCM. The last name and email address on the existing eAuth ID must match the ECOS information in order to be validated for access.

Testing

WBSCM is currently in the final phase of Internal System Integration Testing (SIT) testing. SIT testing is planned to be completed in mid-March. Upon completion of SIT, Interface testing and User Acceptance Testing (UAT) will be executed. UAT is currently scheduled to begin in mid-March at the completion of SIT.

External Users who will be involved in interface and User Acceptance Testing (UAT) will be contacted in the near future.

Training

Reminder: SDA Region Training schedules have been confirmed and are as follows:

April

Week of 4/5: WRO, MWRO
Week of 4/12: SERO, SWRO
Week of 4/19: None
Week of 4/26: MARO, NERO

May

Week of 5/3: MPRO
Week of 5/10: NERO
Week of 5/17: SERO, SWRO
Week of 5/24: MARO
Week of 5/31: MWRO, WRO

Representatives from FNS will be conducting the training at each region. Training will consist of slides, demos, and exercises for the trainees. WBSCM eLearning courses will be available for additional learning on ECOS in late April. Once WBSCM goes live, all eLearning and course material will be available on WBSCM.

We will be providing schedules for vendor and warehouse training in the near future.

Contact your regional office if you have any questions regarding your specific State training. States will determine the training schedule for their recipients. Procedures for accessing the WBSCM training database will be developed and posted on the FDD site in the next few months.

Conferences

In 2010, as part of the overall effort to get stakeholders ready for WBSCM, we will be discussing and demonstrating WBSCM functionality at industry conferences including:

American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA), Orlando, FL, April 16 –21, 2010
National Association Food Distribution Program Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR), Las Vegas, NV, April 26-29, 2010
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Association, Atlanta, GA, May 24-26, 2010
School Nutrition Association (SNA), Dallas, TX, July 11-14, 2010

What's Next?

As WBSCM is developed and more information becomes available, FNS will be posting information on our web sites:

ECOS: <https://ecos.usda.gov>

FDD: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/wbscm>

To register to receive email notifications when the WBSCM homepage on the FNS website has been updated, click the link "Email Updates" from the webpage above.

Communicate with FNS – questions, concerns, issues

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