

Taxbox: Installation and maintenance of routing table

Note: This revised version supersedes the version published on 4 August 2008 and provides an updated version of appendix 2.

Clearstream Banking¹ would like to provide customers with information on the data required to set up the central routing table for the Taxbox service. In preparation of the customer simulation phase starting in October 2008, all functional² participants wanting to use this CBF service are requested to provide CBF with the relevant data by

19 September 2008,

using the attached Excel template or a CSV file.

Background Information

From 1 January 2009, a flat tax on investment income will be introduced in Germany. In this context, banks and investment companies are obliged to forward tax-related data to the recipient institution when customers change their custody accounts to another financial institution. Taxbox is a new platform for the transfer of tax-related data. This service will be made available to market participants upon introduction of the German flat tax for investment income. Taxbox enables tax-related data to be transmitted electronically to the recipient institution.

The Taxbox system receives records from the dispatching custodian bank or its service provider which are addressed to the receiving custodian bank. The address for the receiving custodian bank is its BIC (bank identifier code) or its bank code. The system will assign the BIC or bank code of the receiving custodian bank to a functional participant who is identified in the system with the help of his four-digit CBF account number. If the Taxbox system is unable to identify a functional participant as recipient of a record, this record will be rejected and a corresponding error message will be transmitted to the sender.

The routing table contains the necessary allocation details and is maintained by CBF on the basis of the information provided by the functional Taxbox participants.

CBF will update and publish the routing table on a regular basis. It serves all Taxbox participants as a central source of information to ensure that tax-related data is sent to the correct custodian bank.

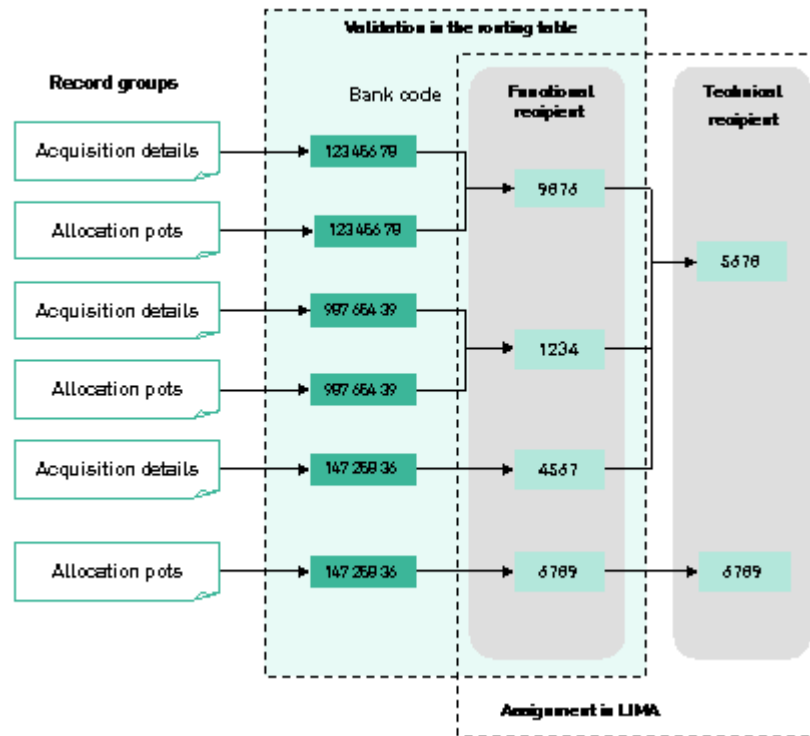
Data gathering process

Each functional Taxbox participant should inform CBF of the custodian banks (identified through bank code and/or BIC) and the four-digit CBF accounts he would like to receive tax-related data for. For each custodian bank he must therefore stipulate whether he is receiving acquisition details and/or acquisition pots for this institution. (The functional recipient need not necessarily receive both record types for one custodian bank). However, upon going into production, CBF will check when setting up the routing table that each custodian bank recorded as a recipient of tax-related data is able to receive both record groups. To ensure that the system is well-received by the market, custodian banks should be able to receive both record groups.

¹ Clearstream Banking in this announcement refers to Clearstream Banking AG, Frankfurt (CBF). CBF is a Deutsche Börse Group company.

² Taxbox participants which functionally send or receive tax-related data for their CBF accounts (see also Connectivity Handbook Taxbox).

Example:



Transaction bank XYZ is taking part in the Taxbox service as functional participant with three CBF accounts (9876, 1234 and 4567). The technical connection will be made at a later stage using account 5678, where 5678 is the technical Taxbox participant¹.

Account 9876 will receive the acquisition costs and allocation pots for bank code 123 456 78 and account 1234 will receive the acquisition costs and allocation pots for bank code 987 654 39. Account 4567 only receives the acquisition details for bank code 147 258 36. Allocation pots for bank code 147 258 36 are received by a different functional participant with the CBF account number 6789.

As additional functional participant, account 6789 must provide CBF with a separate declaration for entry in the routing table. Prior to going into production, CBF will check whether there is a functional recipient for both record groups for bank code 147 258 36.

For each functional Taxbox participant, CBF will maintain a *data master*² for the routing table. The functional Taxbox participant is responsible for the content of the data master and for updating it. If a functional Taxbox participant wishes to alter the data master after 19 September, the entire template must be filled in again with up-to-date information.

The data master must be updated using the attached template provided by CBF.

Note: One CBF account is assigned to each technical participant. If no functional data is received for this CBF account (because the participant only processes tax-related data for other CBF accounts, as illustrated by account 5678 in the example), an empty template must be submitted marked "no tax-related data received for this CBF account".

¹ Taxbox participant who can send or receive tax-related data for his institution or for other participants.

² Main current instruction (available data) regarding setup of routing table by functional Taxbox participant.

Installation and automatic update of the routing table

All data masters from the functional Taxbox participant will be entered into the central database for the routing table in an IT processing cycle. These updates will be made on a weekly basis between 1 October and 21 November 2008.

Only valid records will be accepted in the routing table. CBF will inform functional Taxbox participants of incorrect records. Functional participants must then correct the data in their data master and resend the file to CBF for the next routing table update.

Although the data in the routing table will be used for the participation simulation from October, CBF does not intend to use test data in the routing table. The customers should therefore provide the data which will be used during proper production.

Migration to production

The penultimate automatic update of the routing table will take place on 21 November 2008, following which a data extract will be created for each functional participant (data master). This data master must be checked and signed by the authorised signatories of the relevant institution (functional participant). This process allows functional participants to confirm that they have been authorised by the custodians listed in the data master to receive data on their behalf and that this extract (file) corresponds with the data to be used for production.

Prior to production, the signed data master files should be sent to the following address:

Clearstream Banking AG
Customer Service Connectivity
Taxbox - Routing Tabelle Produktion
Neue Börsenstraße 1
60487 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

From 8 to 12 December (calendar week 51) the routing table will automatically be updated for the last time with the files in the production environment released and signed by the functional participant. Once set up, the production routing table will only be maintained manually by CBF's Customer Service in the same manner as the subsequent production process. Any alteration requests should be made to CBF in writing and signed by at least two authorised signatories.

Records to be submitted

The records submitted by the functional Taxbox participant for the routing table should be structured as follows:

Field content	Length	Format	Description
Recipient's BIC	11	alphanumeric	Valid BIC § May be left empty § Must be filled in if bank code is missing
Recipient's bank code	8	numeric	Valid bank code § May be left empty § Must be filled in if BIC is missing
Recipient's name	35	alphanumeric	Name of custodian bank identified by BIC or bank code § This field must be filled in § It may not contain any separators (;)
Record group	2	alphanumeric	Permissible values: § "VT"(for allocation pots) § "AD" (acquisition details)
Taxbox participant	4	numeric	Valid CBF account number for functional participant
Valid from	8	Date DD/MM/YY	A valid date in the future should be entered here. If no date or a date that lies in the past is entered in this field it will be replaced with the next CBF business day. § May be left empty § Date must be after 1 October 2008
Valid until	8	Date DD/MM/YY	A valid date in the future must be entered here. § May be left empty § This field must be left empty if the entry in the routing table is to remain valid indefinitely.

Important validation rules for filling in the routing table:

- Up to two validity periods may be entered for each custodian bank and record group. The periods entered may not overlap otherwise the entries will not be accepted into the routing table.
- Where possible, both bank code and BIC should be entered to ensure that the dispatching custodian banks are able to use either form of address for the receiving institution. However, BICs should only be used when they are uniquely assigned to the recipient's custodian and no other institution uses the same BIC. Either bank code or BIC must be stipulated. Each bank code or BIC may only be entered in the routing table once per record group.

CBF will not check whether the bank codes and BICs provided are valid. The same applies for the name of the recipient entered in the routing table, which is only provided for better orientation during online operations. However, the validity of transmitted CBF account numbers will be checked against CBF's customer master database.

Deliverable data format

The data master must be submitted in a comma separated values (CSV) format, where the semicolon is the field separator.

The attached Excel template may be used for this purpose. Once all data has been entered, the file must be saved with an *.csv extension instead of the usual *.xls extension.

If large volumes of data need to be processed, extracts from back-end systems may be submitted in CSV format, which must be structured in the same way as the attached sample CSV file (shown here as a text file). Please note that there are seven fields, the content, format and length of which must comply with the rules listed in the above table. As a result, each routing table entry is expected to have six separators (semicolons). If a field is left empty, the separators before and after the missing entry should not be separated by a blank.

A new record should be indicated by a line break.

Further Information

Please return responses for the upcoming customer simulation to Customer Service Connectivity in electronic form. If you should have any queries, Customer Service Connectivity can be contacted as follows:

Customer Service Connectivity	
E-mail:	connectfrankfurt@clearstream.com
Phone:	+49-(0) 69-2 11-1 15 90
Fax:	+49-(0) 69-2 11-61 15 90

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Announcement Routing Table: Excel Template
- Appendix 2 Announcement Routing Table: CSV Template (as text file).