



TESTING OF REPORTING OF SURVEY ON INVESTMENT FUNDS' BALANCE SHEETS (SIRA) IN THE DCS SERVICE

1 Introduction

As from mid-November onwards, reporters can test the updated survey on investment funds' balance sheets (SIRA) in the DCS system test environment at <https://test.sol.itella.net/a/ec/bof/auth?lang=en>. The exact date of opening the test environment will be announced later.

The DCS system contains SIRA record structure (version 1.5) and reports are checked accordingly.

Reporters have the requisite user IDs (for test and production environment) already delivered in connection with an earlier ID order. (**Note: Test user IDs are used in the test environment and production user IDs in the production environment!**) New management companies can order user IDs for the DCS service from the Bank of Finland through the ID order service at <https://sol.itella.net/ec/bof-tunnustilaus>.

In matters related to user IDs, please contact Itella Helpdesk: helpdesk@itella.net

It is advisable to carry out testing before the new definitions are entered into production on 3 January 2011!

1.1 Drawing up reporter's own CSV-formatted test report

The following instructions refer to fields in the batch record (000 record) when the reporter creates a **CSV-formatted test file from its own systems**:

- At the start of testing, data type (field 5) should be "N" = Test data; not transmitted to the Bank of Finland. A test report based on reporter's actual data and which passes the validation process can also be transmitted to the Bank of Finland. In such a case, data type is "T". (**Note: Identification code "P" (which means production data) must not be used in the test environment!**)
- Test report's reporting period should be 2010M10 or some later period. The system does not accept future dates for reporting periods.

2 Validation of report in the DCS service

The DCS service checks (validates) automatically all reported data after the report has been sent and gives immediate feedback:

- If the data accord with the record structure, the system accepts the report and transmits it to the Bank of Finland (if data type in batch record is "T").
- If the data do not accord with record structures, the system sends an error message listing all known errors. The reporter must correct the data and resend the report.

Note! Data in the batch record must be correct before the DCS service starts to check other data.

Record structures are relatively detailed, and so it can be laborious to correct data to match them. The instructions given below should facilitate and speed up the correction of errors.

3 Data correction tools and files

The following files and tools are needed to correct data:

- Original report file.
- Error messages created by the DCS service.
- SIRA Record Structure document (version 1.5) and Instructions for reporting (version 1.4)
- Code lists. Code lists are updated as necessary and can be found on the Bank of Finland website.
- Text editor or some other program suitable for checking report files. File correction is much easier if the editor can show row numbers and cursor location in the row, since error messages mainly refer to a specific row in the file.

3.1 Localisation of data to be corrected

Errors can be located as follows:

1. Read the error message. An error message consists of five elements:
 - error type: format or content error
 - location of error in the report
 - erroneous value
 - error code, eg validation rule number
 - verbal description of the error
2. Find the place indicated by the error message in the report file (row and column). A report file only contains text and is fully readable with a text editor. Data requiring correction can be localised by checking the file.
3. Read the error message text and, from the SIRA Record Structure document, read the validation rule indicated by the error message code.
4. Compare the report file text with the validation rule in the Record Structure document. After this, the required correction should be clear.

- Error messages should be checked in the order produced by the DCS system. In some cases, correction of data indicated by an error message leads to corrections of next errors in line.
- An error message always gives the location of an error in the file to the accuracy of a row. Depending on validations, an error message also gives the number of a column in the row or the location of the error in the row to the accuracy of one character.
- Except for some format errors, an error message always gives the specific place in the Record Structure document to which the error message refers. This is indicated with the error message code. An error code contains the following facts, separated by underline characters: survey code, record type, field number and validation rule number. For example, the error code 'SIRA_IF_7_001' refers to SIRA data collection IF record, field 7, ie "Balance sheet total" and specific validation rule number 001. Almost all validations have an own specific code.
- If the validation does not refer to a specific record, the error message code starts with GEN or ALL. Error messages starting with GEN can occur, for instance, if the record contains too many fields (GEN_007). Error messages starting with ALL refer to the validation of a field's format. For example, the value in the field must be in number format (ALL_FIELD_002) or from the specified code list (ALL_FIELD_009). Such error message texts should be read carefully.
- Error type indicates whether the error refers to the format of the report file or to data content. If the error message type is FORMAT ERROR, the report file format does not accord with the SIRA Record Structure document. In such cases, it may be difficult to locate data that needs to be corrected because the DCS system cannot produce as detailed error messages as with data contents. However, the error message usually indicates the row in which the error occurs.
- Possible file format errors should be corrected first and the file should then be resent to the DCS service for validation. Generally, it is not advisable to correct content errors before the file accords fully with the format specified in the Record Structure document.
- Error messages' explanatory texts are not designed to enable data correction solely on the basis of an explanatory text. In some simple cases, they provide enough information to correct errors, but usually the text of the Record Structure document must also be read.
- If these instructions are not sufficient for the location of data that needs to be corrected, the Bank of Finland can provide assistance.

3.2 Correction of data

Correction of data is reporter-specific due to differences source systems used for data production. The following includes some general instructions:

- Generally, it is not advisable to correct data directly in the report file. It would be better to make the necessary changes in the source system producing the data and then recreate the report file.
- Errors in file format (error message type: FORMAT ERROR) often result from programming errors in source systems. Correction of these errors may require programming.
- Error messages relating to code lists may result from updates in data collection code lists. Code list updates must be imported into the source systems.

4 Contact details

If these instructions are not sufficient for resolving problems relating to test report contents, please contact the Bank of Finland: sijoitusrahastot@bof.fi. Please describe the problem in detail (eg insert a copy of the report rows and the DCS service's error message).

For problems relating to the use of the DCS service, please contact Itella Helpdesk helpdesk@itella.net.