

## **Criteria for Using the STRIPES IC Process Flow vs. the STRIPES Standard Acquisition Process Flow**

There are currently 2 primary processes used to obligate Purchase Orders (PO's) in STARS:

1. Sites that use one of the Field Budget Systems (FBS), FCDS or BEARS, currently have the ability to upload contractor obligations directly from the FBS to STARS through the Non-Integrated Contract (NIC) interface. For the larger M&O/M&I and integrated type contracts, the financial plan generated by the FBS serves as the basis for the obligation (vs. a PR).
2. Non M&O/M&I/Integrated type contract obligations are currently entered into STARS using one of the following processes:
  - a. Manually thru the PO module
  - b. The NIC interface is used to record a commitment (PR) in STARS which is subsequently obligated at the time of contract award by manually executing the Autocreate function within the STARS PO Module.
  - c. An automated upload of the obligation through the NIC interface (no prior commitment recorded in STARS.)

With the underlying intention of standardizing these processes, commitments will now be recorded in STARS for all contract requisitions (PRs) that are not considered M&O/M&I/Integrated type contracts. The normal STRIPES process flow is as follows:

1. The PRs will be initiated in STRIPES, which will interface the commitment to STARS after the PR is reviewed and approved.
2. When the contract award is made, STRIPES will trigger the associated obligation in STARS and will automatically obligate and create the PO in STARS from the PR recorded previously. There will no longer be any manual effort needed to "Autocreate" the PO from the PR in STARS.
3. Subsequent contract mods will be initiated in STRIPES by creating a Requisition for Modification (PR) and following the same process flow.

In STRIPES, the default will be to interface all requisitions and awards to STARS as detailed above. The exception to this will be the larger M&O/M&I/Integrated, which will be handled as follows:

1. Summary level PR is entered into STRIPES with a pre-defined AFF (all segments = zeroes) and approved, but is not interfaced to STARS
2. A memorandum certifying that funding is available will be included with the PR package
3. STRIPES Award is reviewed and approved, but not interfaced to STARS
4. Upon notification of the award, the FBS's will interface the obligation adjustments to STARS using the NIC interface as is the current practice.

Note: For the offices not using a FBS (NETL, PNR, and SNR), the process for handling the M&O/M&I/integrated contracts will follow the normal STRIPES process outlined above.

**As noted above, the summary PRs created for the M&O/M&I/Integrated contracts for offices with FBS's will use a pre-defined AFF string where all AFF segments are zero-filled. This will identify the PR and subsequent award as being this type of contract and will allow the STARS interface to skip processing the data into STARS. Any attempt to use the pre-defined AFF on a contract that is not on the approved list will result in a validation error being generated.**

**The criteria for determining a contract that will be handled in this manner is as follows;**

1. **IC or M&O/M&I Contracts which are currently managed through a FBS (FCDS/BEARS)**
2. **Contracts with a large number (greater than 10) of *complex* funding sources that are currently managed thru a FBS (FCDS/BEARS).** Note: This is being included for the reason that it would be difficult for the PR originator to know how to split funding for multiple items without a significant amount of input from the budget office for each line of accounting on the PR.

**Additions to this list must be approved by the STRIPES Federal Project Director, Douglas Baptist, or his designee.**