RAILINC | Centralized Station Master FAQs

Who creates a Freight Station Accounting Code number (FSAC)?
FSACs are assigned to the stations by the carrier(s). Leading zeros must be added to fill in all <u>five</u> positions.

Who assigns an Open and Prepaid Station List (OPSL) number?
Carriers assign OPSL numbers.

When would an OPSL number with nines (99999.99) and OPSL name N/A be appropriate?
OPLS numbers (99999.99) and OPSL name N/A are applied to CSM stations with Location Types H (Haulage), O (Operating), W (Switching), and J (CSXT only) or in combinations of H, O and W. Station Types can also be assigned valid OPSL number by carriers. These values are not allowed for rail stations where the Location Type contains a R (Revenue).

When are an OPSL number and name applied to a CSM station?
OPSL numbers are required when Station Type(s) is (R) Revenue or a combination of (R O) Revenue & Operating, (R H) Revenue & Haulage, and (R W) Revenue Switching. Valid OPSL numbers are assigned by carriers.

What is a Standard Point Location Code (SPLC), and what information is required to establish an SPLC?
A SPLC is a 6-to-9-digit numeric code used to specify the physical location of a station and is required on all CSM stations. Verifying a current SPLC and or establishing new SPLCs for Canada, U.S. and Mexico can be obtained by contacting aar_ps@ralinc.com.

What information is needed to establish a new SPLC for U. S. and Mexican stations?
- ROAD MARK (2 – 4 characters)
- STATION NAME
- STATE
- COUNTY
- Distance from closest existing station and/or mile posts

What information is needed to establish a new SPLC for Canadian stations?
- ROAD MARK (2 – 4 characters)
- STATION NAME
- FSAC
- PROVINCE
- STATE

What options are available to query a CSM station?
CSM stations can be queried using the MRIRF application via one (or a combination) of the following options:
- SPLC (example: 380000)
- Road Mark and FSAC (example: CSXT 12345)
- OPSL #
- OPSL Note #
- 3-3-3 Abbreviation
- Junction
- Zip Code
- State/Province
- Location Name

Is Station Zip and Rating Zip Codes optional or required fields?
Station Zip codes are an optional field; however, rating zip codes are required for all station types including (R) Revenue.

Are 260 accounting numbers for SCACs required on CSM?
260 accounting numbers for SCACs are not required on CSM stations.

How are new stations identified in a line sale?
In a line sale, the expired station is identified with a valid expiration date and status reason S – Sold, and the new MARK and FSAC of the new station.

How is an active station identified?
An active station is identified with an open-ended expiration date of 9999 -12-31 or is greater than the current date.

Does every CSM station with a Junction Abbreviation support an Interchange?
Not every station with an abbreviation supports Interchanges. Abbreviations can also be used to identify waybills. To verify interchanges, check the Junction Interchange table.

How is an abandoned station identified?
An abandoned station is identified with a status reason A – Abandoned and a valid expiration date.

What if I have questions about the Centralized Station Master?
For CSM related documents, see the Centralized Station Master page on Railinc.com. Railinc's customer service team is available to answer your questions. For more information about the Centralized Station Master, contact the Railinc Customer Success Center toll free at (877) 724-5462 or via email at csc@railinc.com.

Last Updated December 2023