

Technology Transformation Impacts on Data Advice Frequently Asked Questions

Note: The answers below reflect general use of Data Advice.

BCA recognizes that each customer may have specific methods for processing Data Advice. As such, we recommend customers work with their software providers or IT departments to ensure the correct process.

Please review and test the sample file provided in the Roll Reports section of the website.

For questions or concerns reach out to: bcacustomer.services@bcassessment.ca

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When can I expect upcoming communications?

- Communication #1: Announcement of release date and communication schedule
- Communication #2: Mid-March – Additional details, including test files, initial code/description conversion mapping documents, date & time for upcoming information sessions
- Communication #3: Early April – Virtual Information Sessions (Separate morning & afternoon sessions)
- Communication #4: May – Final code/description conversion mapping documents and further information on impacted files as necessary
- Post-release follow-up: Early June

What are the key dates impacting Data Advice?

Last Data Advice file delivery: **May 8, 2022**

Last Supplementary Cycle Data Advice delivery: **April 27, 2022**

The first impacted files after the new database is implemented will be:

- Weekly Data Advice: May 29, June 5
- Monthly Data Advice: June 16, 2022
- Supplementary Data Advice:
 - SUPP03 – June 3 (*First SUPP from new database*)
 - SUPP04 – June 17 (*Additional SUPP Cycle to catch up data entry.*
[Please see Data Advice Processing Schedule for updates](#))
- Completed Roll Data Advice: January 1, 2023
- Revised Roll Data Advice: TBD, Spring 2023

**Note: two weeks prior to May 24, 2022, BCA's database will be in read-only mode as the final conversion work is completed. The last Supplementary cycle before conversion will be cycle #2. The first Supplementary cycle after conversion will be cycle #3.*

What codes are changing within Data Advice?

1) Minor Taxing (Service Area) Codes

Minor Taxing codes, with the exception of Electoral Area, Improvement District, and Islands Trust, are changing to a new 7 digit format.

Defined Area and Specified Regional Codes will no longer be tracked on separate reference tables, and will be converted to new Service Area Codes.

Examples:

Code	Current Format	New Format
Service Area Code	75224AA	0000388
Specified Municipal Area Code	32115E	0000005
Local Area Code	321P	0000006
General Service Area Code	76022CA	0000003

- BC Assessment (BCA) codes Minor Taxing (Service Area) bylaws by making use of different internal tables to create and store bylaw codes, such as Service Area, Defined Area, Specified Regional Area, Specified Municipal Area, Local Area, and General Service Area. BCA started coding service area bylaws using an alphanumeric schema, with the codes initially being stored on the Service Area table.
- The alphanumeric coding schema was limited due to each set of characters representing existing BCA codes, such as jurisdiction, regional district, and electoral area information. As BCA started exhausting the codes available on the Service Area table, we had to make use of the other reference tables mentioned above. Due to the limited amount of codes available, BCA, in conjunction with the Property Taxation Branch, are converting all existing non-unique alphanumeric codes outlined below to a new 7 digit numerical format.

Example of old code:



- Descriptions are not changing

- This change will result in a one to many relationship for the “MinorTaxingCodeShort” data element. As a result, BC Assessment will be excluding this data element from Data Advice after the roll-out of the new system on May 24, 2022. Moving forward, the full 7 digit code should be utilized to identify the Minor Taxing Service Area code. The descriptions will not be changing. BC Assessment has been engaging with municipal software vendors to implement this change in their software.

2) Bulk Mail Code

Bulk mail codes are changing to a new 10 digit format.

Bulk mail codes are part of the ownership information, so if you are not updating the ownership information from the refreshed file, you may not need to be concerned with the bulk mail code changes. These changes will come through weekly Data Advice files as Ownership changes occur.

Example:

Code	Current Format	New Format
Bulk Mail Code	Z16N	0005557493

To assist with this change, we’ve attached a zip file containing a conversion document in excel that maps the current codes and the codes they are changing to.

Current State:

```
<MailingAddress> -
  <StreetName>MURSCHALL 5</StreetName>
  <City>84529 TITTMONING</City>
  <Country>GERMANY</Country>
  <BulkMailCode>8931</BulkMailCode>
</MailingAddress>
```

Future State:

```
<MailingAddress> -
  <Country>GERMANY</Country>
  <FreeformAddress>MURSCHALL 5 84529 TITTMONING</FreeformAddress>
  <BulkMailCode>0000365087</BulkMailCode>
</MailingAddress>
```

3) Farm Number

Farm numbers are changing to a new 10 character format by adding the prefix “FM + Jurisdiction Code” to the existing farm number. Zeros may be inserted (e.g. “FMOJUR”) to bring it up to 10 characters, if necessary.

Example:

Code	Current Format	New Format
Farm Number	11828	FM75911828

Current State:

```
<Farms>
  <Farm ID="7845">
    <FarmNumber>7845</FarmNumber>
  </Farm>
</Farms>
```

Future State:

```
<Farms>
  <Farm ID="FM03107845">
    <FarmNumber>FM03107845</FarmNumber>
  </Farm>
</Farms>
```

4) Managed Forest Number

Managed Forest numbers are changing to a new 10 character format by adding the prefix "MF0000" to the existing number (zeros will be inserted as necessary to bring it up to 10 characters).

Example:

Code	Current Format	New Format
Managed Forest Number	0021	MF00000021

Current State:

```
<ManagedForests>
  <ManagedForest ID="0021">
    <ManagedForestNumber>0021</ManagedForestNumber>
  </ManagedForest>
</ManagedForests>
```

Future State:

```
<ManagedForests>
  <ManagedForest ID="MF00000021">
    <ManagedForestNumber>MF00000021</ManagedForestNumber>
  </ManagedForest>
```

What other changes are happening within Data Advice?

1) Owner Pairing

In the past, BCA's legacy data source utilized an internal unique object identifier and *Effective Year* to determine ownership pairings. This method of pairing owners led to sporadic changes in the order owners may appear in Data Advice files.

The owner pairing logic has been updated to improve consistency. Owners will be paired by *Mailing Address* and by *Equity Type*, which will ensure mail outs are sent to the correct owner according to the mailing address information from the land title office.

- Mailing address is not changing
- Owner ID is not changing
- May result in a different order displayed in the .XML, but pairs should remain the same

2) Formatted Mailing Address Cosmetic Changes

The number of spaces before the postal code in Lines 2, 3, and 4 of Formatted Mailing Addresses is being decreased.

Data Element	Current Format	New Format
Lines 2, 3, 4	VANCOUVER BC V6L 1G2	VANCOUVER BC V6L 1G2

Current State:

```
<FormattedMailingAddress>
  <Line1>110-18663 52 AVE</Line1>
  <Line2>SURREY BC V3S 8E5</Line2>
```

Future State:

```
<FormattedMailingAddress>
  <Line1>110-18663 52 AVE</Line1>
  <Line2>SURREY BC V3S 8E5</Line2>
```

- The old database had to be formatted with the extra spaces, while the new database does not.
- Won't be in Periodic files just because of space.
- As Ownership changes are reported in the Periodic files, if there is some other change that triggers Data Advice the formatting changes will be reported.

3) Foreign Owner Mailing Address Formatting

Foreign mailing addresses currently formatted by Street Address, City, and Postal Code will be replaced with Free Form Address.

Example:

Data Element	Current Format	New Format
City	SINGAPORE	Blank
Street Name	LANTANA	Blank
Street Number	23	Blank
Street Type	AVE	Blank
Free Form Address	Blank	23 LANTANA AVE SINGAPORE

- Foreign Owner Mailing Address is defined as an address outside of North America
- Foreign Owner Mailing Address "StreetName" and "City" will be now be in "FreeFormAddress" in the .XML

Current State:

```
<MailingAddress>  
  <StreetName>MURSCHALL 5</StreetName>  
  <City>84529 TITTMONING</City>  
  <Country>GERMANY</Country>
```

Future State:

```
<MailingAddress>  
  <Country>GERMANY</Country>  
  <FreeformAddress>MURSCHALL 5 84529 TITTMONING</FreeformAddress>
```

4) Formatted Legal Description

Formatted legal descriptions will follow a new standard which results in the order components being rearranged for many folios in the province.

Please note that these formatting changes will not change the actual contents of the legal description. If the only change made to a folio is related to the legal description, it is not reported out in Weekly/Monthly Data Advice.

- “FormattedLegalDescription” in the .XML will be displayed in upper case instead of mixed case
- A change in order may appear in the “FormattedLegalDescription”; the parsed fields below are all present and in the same order
- No change to the legal description itself

Current State:

```
</OwnershipGroups/
<LegalDescriptions>
  <LegalDescription ID="D000006C37">
    <FormattedLegalDescription>Lot 2, Plan BCP43659, District Lot 34, Group 1, Yale Div of Yale Land District</FormattedLegalDescription>
    <PID>028162901</PID>
    <Lot>2</Lot>
    <Plan>BCP43659</Plan>
    <DistrictLot>34</DistrictLot>
    <BCAGroup>1</BCAGroup>
    <LandDistrict>59</LandDistrict>
    <LandDistrictDescription>Yale Div of Yale</LandDistrictDescription>
  </LegalDescription>
```

T

Future State:

```
<LegalDescriptions>
  <LegalDescription ID="D000006C37">
    <FormattedLegalDescription>LOT 2, PLAN BCP43659, DISTRICT LOT 34, GROUP 1, YALE DIV OF YALE LAND DISTRICT</FormattedLegalDescription>
    <PID>028162901</PID>
    <Lot>2</Lot>
    <Plan>BCP43659</Plan>
    <DistrictLot>34</DistrictLot>
    <BCAGroup>1</BCAGroup>
    <LandDistrict>59</LandDistrict>
    <LandDistrictDescription>Yale Div of Yale</LandDistrictDescription>
  </LegalDescription>
</LegalDescriptions>
```

Where can I get a sample file?

A sample file is now available on the Roll Reports section of the BC Assessment website.

Note: This sample data is from a prior Roll Year, and is not reflective of the current state of information from our current data source.

Data for the test files is being run from 2021 REVISED ROLL (reporting period: 01-Jan-2020 - 31-Dec-2020). This is the most current data we have available with our new data source still hosted in a test environment.

What are the implementation outage dates & impacts to files?

From May 6th to 24th 2022, BC Assessment's database will be in read-only mode as the final conversion work is completed. Once the new system is out of read-only mode, data entry will resume and customers may see higher volumes of changes as we work to make updates.

The last Supplementary cycle before conversion will be cycle #2 (April 22). The first Supplementary cycle after conversion will be cycle #3 (June 3). Please refer to the [schedule](#) on our website as we will post dates as they become available.

Due to the large number of changes to individual folios, our Weekly and Monthly Data Advice files have shown to be unstable in reporting out these changes. As such, we will be providing a refreshed annual Data Advice file that encompasses values as of 2022 Revised Roll, with an option to include the most recent Supplementary Cycle.

What if I only load values from the Annual File?

If a customer only looks at values from Annual files (Completed Roll, Revised Roll), and only take ownership from Periodic (weekly and monthly files), impacts are likely small.

Likewise, if a customer is not concerned about the code changes as listed above, impacts are likely small.

What if I bring in all the data from the Annual File?

If you bring in all info from Annual files including up to date title changes, those will also come through on the weekly files post release.

You should upload in this order:

- 2022 Revised Roll delivered March 31st 2022. (contains ownership information for the upcoming 2023 roll-year)
- Weekly Files as they are delivered
- Upload Refreshed file (values through PARP, and any ownership changes for the upcoming 2023 roll-year)
- Resume with Periodic files

Do I have to load the refreshed file?

There is no requirement to load the refreshed file. Each customer should decide for themselves based on their business practices and discussions with their software providers or IT departments.

Note that bulk cosmetic changes (Code changes, Legal Description and Address formatting) will only be in the refreshed file, and not reported out as changes in the Periodic (Weekly/Monthly) files.

When will the refreshed file be available?

We are currently working with our software developers to work out the dates of when this will be provided. We will send out a communication when the files are available.

Is BC Assessment working with all taxing Authority software providers?

BC Assessment has been working with and performing outreach to providers that have been identified by taxing authorities. If you are concerned that BC Assessment is not working with your vendor, please let us know at bcacustomer.services@bcassessment.ca.

Will there be a change in the way ownership pairs are reported with Bulk Mail Codes?

No. In the case of ownership where at least one of the owners has a bulk mail code, each owner will be listed with a separate Ownership Group ID as in previous reporting.

Below is an example from the sample file showing owner pairing where one ownership has a BMC and the other does not.

```

<FolioRecords>
  <FolioRecord ID="D00003FEU2">
    <RollNumber>0010010960</RollNumber>
    <FolioStatus>01</FolioStatus>
    <FolioStatusDescription>Active</FolioStatusDescription>
    <FolioAddresses>
      <FolioAddress ID="A00001C3W1">
        <PrimaryFlag>true</PrimaryFlag>
        <StreetNumber>960</StreetNumber>
        <StreetName>TSAMMASSEN BEACH</StreetName>
        <StreetType>RD</StreetType>
        <City>TSAMMASSEN</City>
        <ProvinceState>BC</ProvinceState>
        <PostalZip>V4M 2J3</PostalZip>
        <MapReferenceNumber>B18</MapReferenceNumber>
      </FolioAddress>
    </FolioAddresses>
    <OwnershipGroups>
      <OwnershipGroup>
        <OwnershipGroupID>D000013BCK</OwnershipGroupID>
        <AssessmentNoticeReturned>false</AssessmentNoticeReturned>
        <AssessmentNoticeSuppressed>false</AssessmentNoticeSuppressed>
        <ChangeDate>2012-02-29</ChangeDate>
        <Owners>
          <Owner ID="H4D000013BCK">
            <CompanyOrLastName>0044666 BC LTD</CompanyOrLastName>
            <EquityType>26</EquityType>
            <EquityTypeDescription>Occupier Otherwise Exempt Prop w Tenure</EquityTypeDescription>
          </Owner>
        </Owners>
        <FormattedMailingAddress>
          <Line1>1926 TSAMMASSEN DR</Line1>
          <Line2>TSAMMASSEN BC V4M 4G2</Line2>
        </FormattedMailingAddress>
        <MailingAddress>
          <StreetNumber>1926</StreetNumber>
          <StreetName>TSAMMASSEN</StreetName>
          <StreetType>DR</StreetType>
          <City>TSAMMASSEN</City>
          <ProvinceState>BC</ProvinceState>
          <Country>CANADA</Country>
          <PostalZip>V4M 4G2</PostalZip>
        </MailingAddress>
      </OwnershipGroup>
      <OwnershipGroup>
        <OwnershipGroupID>D00000K77H</OwnershipGroupID>
        <AssessmentNoticeReturned>false</AssessmentNoticeReturned>
        <AssessmentNoticeSuppressed>false</AssessmentNoticeSuppressed>
        <ChangeType>02</ChangeType>
        <ChangeTypeDescription>Mailing Address</ChangeTypeDescription>
        <ChangeDate>2018-09-06</ChangeDate>
        <ChangeSource>C</ChangeSource>
        <ChangeSourceDescription>Collector/Gov't Agent</ChangeSourceDescription>
        <Owners>
          <Owner ID="H4D00000K77H">
            <CompanyOrLastName>TSAMMASSEN FIRST NATION</CompanyOrLastName>
            <EquityType>00</EquityType>
            <EquityTypeDescription>Registered Owner</EquityTypeDescription>
          </Owner>
        </Owners>
        <FormattedMailingAddress>
          <Line1>1926 TSAMMASSEN DR</Line1>
          <Line2>TSAMMASSEN BC V4M 4G2</Line2>
        </FormattedMailingAddress>
        <MailingAddress>
          <StreetNumber>1926</StreetNumber>
          <StreetName>TSAMMASSEN</StreetName>
          <StreetType>DR</StreetType>
          <City>TSAMMASSEN</City>
          <ProvinceState>BC</ProvinceState>
          <Country>CANADA</Country>
          <PostalZip>V4M 4G2</PostalZip>
          <BulkMailCode>0003710863</BulkMailCode>
        </MailingAddress>
      </OwnershipGroup>
    </OwnershipGroups>
  </FolioRecords>
  <LegalDescriptions>

```