Bureau of the Fiscal Service

November 2026

Dear Federal Program Agencies,

As we approach the holiday season, we want to make you aware of upcoming **Yellow and Red Freeze periods** that may affect Card Acquiring Service (CAS) implementation activities.
Our partners at Global Payments have established scheduled freeze periods as part of their annual peak-season readiness program. These freezes are intended to reduce the risk associated with implementing technical changes during periods of increased transaction volume and to ensure resources remain focused on maintaining stable, secure, and reliable payment processing services.

Freeze Period Definitions

- **Yellow Freeze:** Implementation activities will be limited. Standard changes, server patching, and infrastructure updates that do not affect customer-facing platforms may continue. However, the release of new products, services, features, or enhancements to existing products will be restricted.

- **Red Freeze:** Implementation activities will be significantly restricted. No new products, services, features, or major enhancements may be introduced during this period.

2026 Holiday Freeze Schedule

- **November 1-22:** Yellow Freeze (Peak-season control period)
- **November 23-30:** Red Freeze (Thanksgiving holiday period)
- **December 1-10:** Yellow Freeze (Peak-season control period)
- **December 11, 2026 - January 2, 2027:** Red Freeze (Year-end holiday period)
- **January 3-7, 2027:** Yellow Freeze (Early January control period)

Agencies planning new onboardings, implementations, configuration changes, or other CAS requests during the remainder of the year are encouraged to engage the CAS team as early as possible. Requests that coincide with a freeze period may experience delays depending on the scope and complexity of the technical work required.

Thank you for your partnership and advance planning as we work together to ensure a smooth and stable holiday processing season.

Sincerely,
CAS Agency Outreach
CardAcquiringService@fiscal.treasury.gov
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Fiscal Service