

The Future of Issuing Social Security Numbers (SSNs)

Background

As a way to increase the number of SSNs available for use by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and to aid in hampering identity theft SSA plans to change the way we issue SSNs. Your systems or information technology staffs may need to revise their programs to handle these changes.

What will change

- SSA will no longer issue SSNs based on geography (state and local area).
- Anticipated implementation date is June 2011.
- SSA will issue SSNs with the number "8" in position 1.
- SSA will include all possible SSNs with the number "7" in position 1. Currently SSNs starting with "7" are reserved for certain states and other specific groups.
- The High Group List will be frozen as of June 2011.
- Using these ranges of numbers will provide SSA the ability to continue to issue SSNs for approximately the next 30 years without having to make any additional changes.

What won't change

- SSA will not issue SSNs beginning with the number "9".
- SSA will not issue SSNs beginning with the number "666" in positions 1 – 3.
- SSA will not issue SSNs beginning with the number "000" in positions 1 – 3.
- SSA will not issue SSNs with the number "00" in positions 4 – 5.
- SSA will not issue SSNs with the number "0000" in positions 6 – 9.

Resources

Social Security Number Allocations

www.ssa.gov/employer/stateweb.htm

High Group List and Other Ways to Determine if an SSN is Valid

www.ssa.gov/employer/sssnvhighgroup.htm

Information and Instructions to Verify Social Security Numbers Online

www.ssa.gov/employer/ssnv.htm#overview