OSD CAPE Cost & Technical Focus Group

FlexFile Overview and DID Updates

November 8, 2022

Cumulative Growth of FlexFile Metrics

	<= 2020	2021	2022
Submissions Approved	50	126	278
Non-ACAT I (%)	4%	7.1%	10.4%
Subcontractor (%)	20%	25.4%	27%
Contractor Formatted FF (%)	26%	18.2%	12.9%
Unique Contractors	19	43	80
Unique Programs	22	52	84

- Since the FlexFile Implementation Memo in 2019, CADE has seen
  - 150% growth from 2020 to 2021
  - 200% growth from 2021 to 2022 (to date)

- FlexFile reach has expanded across programs, contractors, and subcontractors for greater data collection

FlexFile collection following the increasing trend from updated policy

Data as of 2022-10-19

Out with Legacy 1921 and in with FlexFiles

- *As of 10/19/2022, 55% of CCDRs to be due through 2034 are FlexFiles*
- *The number of submissions due for future years will continue to grow as CSDR Plans are approved for new contracts.*
- *By 2024, it is projected that more than 50% of the total CCDRs due annually will be FlexFiles**

* = Estimate based on delta between the average number of submissions from 2019-2022 and actual submissions due

Submit-Review Lessons Learned

- If utilizing the Excel Template to prepare and submit the FlexFile and Quantity Data Report, use cPet to then validate and convert data into the JSON Data Model. A few resources are available to help with that process:
  - FlexFile DEI & FFS outlines what are the expected data tables, fields, and types. These documents are the basis for the cPet validation and conversion. (https://cade.osd.mil/policy/flexfile-quantity)
    - *NOTE*: If submitting in JSON and have failed CADE validation then there are DEI & FFS issues that can be resolved by reaching out to DCARC
  - The Excel Template that can be found on the CADE public website as some helpful comments imbedded in the file.
  - cPet User Guide outlines the errors a contractor may encounter when converting their files. (https://cade.osd.mil/tools/csdr-tools)
- Unit/Sublot Reporting and Allocations have been the most difficult data elements to provide and report correctly.
- Accounts and Functional/Functional Overhead Categories have been the most challenging data elements to validate.
- Many of the comments provided back to the contractor are similar to the ones provided for Legacy 1921s:
  - Metadata is missing, does not match the CSDR Plan, or appears incorrect.
  - WBS does not match CSDR Plan.
  - WBS element definitions are not complete or do no align with the reported costs.
  - Direct costs are reported without corresponding indirect costs.
  - Labor costs do not report hours, non-labor costs report hours.
  - Negative values are reported at summary levels of the FlexFile.

DID Update is Underway

- The FlexFile DID was formally approved 11/16/2017 and over 3+ years of implementation there are needed updates for clarification, application, and greater data collection.

- DCARC received government and industry feedback resulting in 150+ change recommendations

- DCARC has been updating the DID from this feedback and now are working with the Cost Research Standards Board (CRSB) for completed draft before CWIPT feedback

- Potential DID updates include:
  - Update structure of the DID from Data Groups to alignment with Data Model
  - Update definitions for Account, CLIN, Functional Categories, Order/Lot, End Items, and Fee
  - Insertion of requirements for contractor formatted FlexFiles
  - Defining report cycle expectations (i.e. Initial vs Interim vs Final)
  - Shifting Direct Reporting Subcontractor and IWO to Standard Functional Category (and not Detailed)
  - Expand the Unit Reporting ability for other functions than touch
  - Data Model changes:
    - Addition of conditional End Item into FAC Data table
    - Integration of the Quantity Data Report (QDR) into the FlexFile
    - Update Dictionary for Order/Lot or End Item detail

Above is the surface of changes!
DID Updates to be discussed during Panel Discussion

Other Future Updates

- Update to 2020 Implementation Guide to then follow
  - Provide more examples for data providers and reviewers

- Align implementation guidance with the JSON Data Model. Disconnect between what we are asking for and how we expect the data to be prepared and submitted.

- Publish update to validation checks. A list of checks exist in the Implementation Guide, but has not been updated to account for the last 3+ years of submissions.

- Update FlexFile 101 brief.

What are we monitoring?

IT Related	
The Three Submission Mechanisms	What is industry using to submit the FlexFiles and Quantity Data Reports? How is DCARC handling submissions in Contractor Format?
FlexFile Specific Validation Rules	Are there recurring FlexFile and Quantity Data Report specific checks that can be automated?
Process	
Validation Process	How long is it taking the DCARC to review a FlexFile? Is feedback burdensome relative to Legacy 1921s? Is the CWIPT asking more questions during the validation process? Is industry responsive to the CWIPT's questions and comments?
Compliance	210 FlexFile and Quantity Data Report submissions overdue
DID Requirements	
Functional and Functional Overhead Category	Is industry submitting according to the DID and current Implementation Guidance?
Standard Functional Category	How is industry submitting this information? According to Functional Category? According to Account? According to both?
Guidance/Training	
Implementation Guidance	Updates to the Implementation Guide are currently in process. Are there any scenarios or clarifications that need to be documented in future updates? More examples?

Resources

New to FlexFile and Quantity Data Report

- DIDs and Implementation Guide https://cade.osd.mil/policy/flexfile-quantity
- FlexFile and Quantity 101 Training brief https://cade.osd.mil/policy/flexfile-quantity
- FlexFile 101 (live or through learning management system) https://cade.osd.mil/support

Preparing Data for First Time

- File Format Specs (FFS), Data Exchange Instructions (DEI), and Excel Templates https://cade.osd.mil/policy/flexfile-quantity
- FlexFile DEI & FFS Webinar https://cade.osd.mil/support/webinars
- cPet User Guide https://cade.osd.mil/tools/csdr-tools
- Contact DCARC for additional guidance

Reports Have Been Submitted

- Contact DCARC for status or questions

Q&A