

Frequently Asked Questions

FlexFile Responses

Will FlexFiles reduce the effort it takes me to complete my 1921?

A 2013 IDA study found that it takes on average 139 hours to create a set (1921, -1, -2) of 1921-series forms (40 for the 1921, 46.7 for the 1921-1, and 52.3 for the 1921-2), with 11.9 non-recurring hours and 127.1 recurring hours. Based on the data we were able to collect on the 22 pilots we have performed, it averaged about 40-60 hours to create those submissions. CADE/DCARC team is working with contractors who participated in the FlexFile pilots to collect additional effort information.

Does the Creation Tool ensure data integrity and is it flexible to handle all data that would be in a mapped file?

The Creation Tool currently validates against the data model outlined in the data exchange instructions (DEI) and file format specifications.. It currently only handles mapped data that corresponds with a one-to-one relationship with the data model. For example, all dollars have to be in one column, as opposed to dollars being reported in multiple columns. The data will still need to go through the validation process that exists today

When will CADE be able to generate the 1921 forms using data found in a FlexFile?

CADE currently has the capability to generate the 1921 forms using FlexFile data on the Submit/Review side of the site. However, as of the Focus Group, there is no FlexFile data ingested in CADE.

Given the submission of a FlexFile, how much follow-up will there be?

A FlexFile submission will follow the same timeline for validations that 1921 reports do today. How many comments a report receives and how the contractor addresses those comments will determine how much follow-up there is.

Is CADE getting input from Industry on the Creation Tool?

Currently the Creation Tool is being tested internally. The intention is for this to be tested by Industry and at that point we will document and assess feedback appropriately.

Once a program completes an initial FlexFile report, is it expected that subsequent reports will take less time to complete?

CADE/DCARC team is currently looking for contractors to help test this question.

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During the lifetime of a program, how many FlexFiles are submitted?

This depends on the number of contracts that breach the reporting threshold, the number of subcontractors that breach the reporting threshold, and the planning methodology. For example, a five-year contract with one subcontractor that breaches threshold can expect 10 FlexFile submissions if annual reporting is required for both the prime and subcontractor.

Is the effort different between prime and direct reporting subcontractors?

There is no difference in the FlexFile requirement between a prime and direct reporting subcontractor.

Once the data has been submitted, what happens next?

Once a FlexFile has been submitted, it will go through the validation process to ensure what is being asked for has been reported. The FlexFile will then be accepted and published for analysts to view and download.

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Tech Data Responses/BOM

Don't understand, when the FAR already required companies to submit BOMs (which go to DCMA/DCAA), why CAPE is so adamant about not collaborating within DoD to make them more relevant and available?

The BOM working group is actively working with DCMA and the service cost agencies to consolidate the requirements and reduce the redundancy of reporting.

Is there a win-win list for all commodities?

The Tech Data Working Group is currently working with the government to create a "core" list of technical data parameters by commodity. Once the list is consolidated by the government, we will be socializing the list with Industry. Both the FlexFile and Technical Data initiatives are working with Industry to understand what reporting requirements are burdensome on Industry. We will collect that feedback and make final decisions based on this feedback and data from Industry.

Where can we see the win-win list?

From the perspective of the Government, a win-win solution is the reasonable set of technical parameters needed to perform cost analysis functions and those same parameters are a natural by product of Industry design and build processes. The core parameters lists (by commodity) are the initial attempt. The Agencies and Industry are encouraged to comment on the core parameters, <http://cade.osd.mil/policy/techdata>.

What if the parameter values are classified? Is there a mechanism to submit classified data?

The process for submitting classified technical data is still being determined. Eventually, with IT investments, CADE/DCARC will have the capability to ingest data segregated by classification. Currently, the program office and the reporting contractor will have to work together to notify the DCARC when the technical parameter or aggregation of technical parameters classifies the Technical Data Report, prior to upload and submission to CADE.

Are these technical parameters "as Tested" or "as Built" to a specification?

Technical parameter values evolve through the development process. Initial submissions can annotate the value as estimated/predicted. After design qualification and build, the expectation is for actual/measured parameter values. For each submission the contractor can note the pedigree of the values.

How is percent new design defined? Or is this a qualitative estimate only?

Percent new is a qualitative measure of heritage that takes into account design similarity, technology readiness levels, and manufacturing readiness levels. For the purposes of the Technical Data Report, percent new definition provides some guidelines: 0% - 10% Existing design; 10% – 40% Minor design changes; 40% - 60% Moderate design changes; 60% - 90% Mostly new design or major redesign; 90% - 100% Complete new design.

Will implementation differ by commodity?

Yes, the Technical Parameter Vocabulary database contains technical parameters that are unique to individual commodities and phases, as well as parameters that are common across all commodities. The CWIPT can leverage the Technical Data standard parameters attachment, available on the CADE Public Site, to tailor the required parameters to the individual program or contract.

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How does this differ from what is now required in the CARD Tables on the technical information tab?

The CARD is a program office product that pertains to the whole program life cycle. In contrast, the Tech Data CDRL is a contractor product that pertains to that contractor's products on that contract's content. The Technical Data Vocabulary database of technical parameters is organized by the target data provider, which is either government or Industry. The parameters have been organized and tagged, and can be used by the program office and CWIPT to plan what technical data will be provided in the eCARD by the government and what data should be targeted for collection from Industry. When adhered to in both products, the vocabulary promotes consistency in parameter names, units of measure, and definition. At the post-award conference (PAC), the CWIPT will work with the reporting contractor to determine which parameters should be reporting in the Technical Data Report, and which parameter requirements can be met with other CDRLs. The government will then use this information to populate the eCARD and note the source of the parameter (either the Technical Data Report or another contractor-oriented CDRL).

What was the estimated labor effort to produce tech data on the pilot contract?

Full answer after additional pilots.

What tool will be provided for contractors to produce JSON format for Tech Data?

At this time, there is no tool to convert the Technical Data Report to JSON. Currently, the Technical Data Report can be fulfilled using the Draft Technical Data Model available on the CADE website, and submitted in Excel. All CDRLs placed on contract will reference the required delivery format.

Where is the current list of core parameters with definitions published?

The Technical Data Vocabulary database will be available for reference on the CADE public website.

How do we determine when Initial, Interim, and Final reports are needed?

The Technical Data Report submissions are planned by the CWIPT prior to contract award. The suggested submission reporting frequency is annual or milestone driven for development contracts. Reporting frequency of the Technical Data Report will depend on the phase of the contract, the engineering gates that will take place in a contract period, and use of the technical data by the CWIPT members. Non-development contract submissions will typically be at contract end (95% complete).

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What is the right level of detail to report?

The Technical Data Report will request only those 'core' parameters the CWIPT believes apply to the subject program. Industry is encouraged to help us refine the core parameters to a working data set that results in an intersection between those parameters we believe are pertinent to cost analysis and those parameters normally produced by Industry. In addition, the Government Program office may request discussions with Industry at each data submittal. That requirement will be identified in the RFP.

There is a lot of description about USAF programs ... how has this been accepted in the USA and USN?

The Technical Data Working Group, comprising members from all services, and the DCARC are actively working to initiate additional pilots across multiple services and commodities.

How do the FlexFile and Technical Data Report link together?

The Work Breakdown Structure identified in the approved DD Form 2794 is required to be reported on the FlexFile, Quantity Report, Technical Data Report, and SRDR. This is the key link between the cost, quantity, technical, and software data that is reported by the contractor.

Who will pull the data from other CDRLs to populate the database?

It is anticipated that the government program office will leverage the data reported within the Technical Data Report to populate the eCARD.

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Could you further define “anticipated availability”? Does this mean we do not have to provide the parameter until the column specified? (i.e. Volume is not specified until MS B)?

When the CWIPT is planning for the Technical Data Report (TDR) requirements on a contract, the CWIPT will start with the core parameters and vocabulary database that is organized by commodity and phase. In addition, the CWIPT will strongly consider the availability of the contractor’s technical data at the time of the report. When an Initial Report is required, the option to report the parameter values as an “estimate” is available. Over time, with each TDR submission, the parameter values can evolve from estimates to “actuals”. Additionally, submission frequency and reporting events can be discussed, reviewed, and re-negotiated at the Post Award Conference. The "anticipated availability" shown in some draft vocabularies is merely guidance from the CWIPT.

Technical Data Report, 1921-T, CARD Tables “Technical Data Tab”: how is this not triplication of effort?

The eCARD is a product of the Program Office. The Technical Data Report (TDR) is the contract CDRL, and the name is synonymous with the 1921-T, or -T. The TDR pertains to only the immediate contract content whereas the eCARD pertains to the entire program life cycle. The Technical Data Vocabulary database of technical parameters is organized by the target data provider, which is either Government or Industry. The parameters have been organized and tagged, and can be used by the program office and CWIPT to plan what technical data will be provided in the eCARD by the Government and what data should be targeted for collection from Industry. When adhered to in both products, the vocabulary promotes consistency in parameter names, units of measure, and definition. At the post award conference, the CWIPT will work with the reporting contractor to determine which parameters should be reporting in the Technical Data Report, and which parameter requirements can be met with other CDRLs. The Government will then use this information to populate the eCARD and note the source of the parameter (either the contractor’s Technical Data Report or another contractor CDRL).

Will tech data be updated in keeping up with ECOs?

Yes, the CWIPT will consider tech data on engineering change contracts/CLINs.

What if I produce the same parameter value elsewhere, do you want me to duplicate for -T?

The implementation plan we have developed will allow Industry to either (a) reference the other CDRL that satisfies the Technical Data Report (TDR) requirement or (b) reproduce the parameter value along with the rest of the TDR information. It is important to note, the deliveries of the other CDRL(s) must correspond with the TDR delivery dates. Also, in the event the other CDRL is modified / deleted then requirement for the TDR parameters remains; therefore, the data will have to be provided under the TDR cover.

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Should Government test centers have a role in proving this data?

Yes, the government program office is responsible for providing the technical parameters in the eCARD.

Would the parameters generally be level 4 WBS?

WBS depth is program-specific and contract-specific as determined by the CWIPT.

Will there be a tool that allows analysts to access the data within CADE? When will we initiate that step?

Yes, all data submitted against the Technical Data Report will be available in CADE as hanging files, initially. As the requirement evolves, submission format, database applicability, and additional analytical tools will be designed and considered for prioritization.

Aren't there standard Technical Data CDRLs collected by the system engineering community?

Unfortunately there is not a consistent set of other technical CDRLs. However, the cost community and systems engineering community are in continuous collaboration regarding common goals. Yes, the implementation plan we have developed will allow Industry to either (a) reference the other CDRL that satisfies the Technical Data Report (TDR) requirement or (b) reproduce the parameter value along with the rest of the TDR information. It is important to note, the deliveries of the other CDRL(s) must correspond with the TDR delivery dates. In the event the other CDRL is modified / deleted the requirement for the TDR parameters remains; therefore, the data will have to be provided under the TDR cover.

What is the schedule to start modeling this effort in the data model?

A policy decision and whether to move forward with data modeling will occur after this early implementation phase, sometime in 2019.

How are CARDS being submitted today? What is the eCARD implementation plan?

CARDS are being submitted to OSD CAPE and to the Service Cost Agencies via the program office. Once a sufficiency review has been provided by the services, the eCARD can be submitted to CADE in Excel format. It will then be made available to government analysts via CADE.

What level of WBS will be required for these technical parameters?

WBS depth is program-specific and contract-specific as determined by the CWIPT. The Technical Unified Review Function (TURF) will be a group of Government analysts that are subject matter experts within a commodity and a service. These representatives will part of the CWIPT planning process to ensure that consistent technical data is requested by commodity and phase, across all programs for a given service or commodity group. When the CWIPT is planning for the Technical Data Reporting requirements on a contract, they will take into account the availability of the contractor's technical data at the time of the report. Additionally, submission frequency and reporting events can be discussed, reviewed, and re-negotiated at the post-award conference.

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What types of programs are anticipated to be required to submit technical data CDRLs?

All programs, across all commodities, may be considered for reporting of technical data parameters.

Will the Technical Data Report be source data for technical tabs in CARD workbook?

The government will use this information to populate the eCARD and note the source of the parameter (either the contractor's Technical Data Report or another contractor CDRL).

Is the Technical Data Report required for programs in sustainment?

Yes, the Technical Data Report will be used to provide sustainment-specific parameters as determined by the CWIPT.

Suggestion for parameters - have a field that identifies the provided parameter as estimated, calculated, measured, etc.

The Technical Data Report DID currently has a field that requests the reporting contractor to mark the parameter as "Estimated" or "Actual." Also use of the Notes column is encouraged to elaborate on value pedigree.

Any additional comments about the eCARD other than the fact that the spreadsheets tie in with the Tech Data report ?

Tech Data is a subset of the CARD. The CARD pertains to the program life cycle. The Technical Data Report is the contractual mechanism to capture technical data to satisfy the requirement of the cost estimating discipline and complete the CARD.

Can you elaborate on the relationship between the tech data report and the new eCARD? I expected a one-to-one relationship in parameters for ease of application.

The eCARD is a product of a Program Office. The Technical Data Report (TDR) is a contract CDRL. The TDR is typically pertains to only the immediate contract content whereas the eCARD pertains to the entire program life cycle. The Technical Data Vocabulary database of technical parameters is organized by the target data provider, which is either Government or Industry. The parameters have been organized and tagged, and can be used by the program office and CWIPT to plan what technical data will be provided in the eCARD by the Government and what data should be targeted for collection from Industry. When adhered to in both products, the vocabulary promotes consistency in parameter names, units of measure, and definition. At the post award conference, the CWIPT will work with the reporting contractor to determine which parameters to include within the TDR, and which parameter requirements can be met with other CDRLs. The Government will then use this information to populate the eCARD and note the source of the parameter.

Have you considered making the tech data and eCARD tables commodity specific (like MIL-STD-881)?

Yes, each will be commodity specific.