



# Thrift Savings Plan BULLETIN for Agency TSP Representatives

**Subject:** Change to Thrift Savings Plan Error Report 1701 to Accommodate the New FERS-RAE Retirement Codes

**Date:** December 21, 2012

This bulletin outlines the changes to the TSP Error Report 1701, which identifies data records that were not processed and records that were processed but appear suspect. Public Law 112-96, Section 5001, the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012,” made two significant amendments to the Federal Employees’ Retirement System (FERS). Beginning in 2013, new employees will have to pay significantly higher employee contributions. New Members of Congress and Congressional employees, in addition to paying higher retirement contributions, will accrue retirement benefits at the same rate as regular FERS employees. The new FERS employees will be covered under the Federal Employees Retirement System as Revised Annuity Employees (FERS-RAE).

To accommodate the new FERS-RAE, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has created new two-character alphanumeric retirement codes. The TSP Error Report 1701 has been modified to show these new two-character alphanumeric retirement codes in fields 295 and 296. All previous retirement codes, including regular FERS, will remain the same. The [Electronic Data Transmission System \(EDTS\) Agency Guide for Report Descriptions and Data Record Formats](#), found in payroll office tools on the TSP website, was revised December 12, 2012, and provides the data file record format for the new two-character alphanumeric retirement codes.

The way retirement codes are submitted on the Employee Data (06) Record (EDR) will determine how they display on the 1701 report. The existing single-character retirement codes may be submitted in the single-character field on the EDR (position 227) or left-justified in the two-character field (position 239). The 1701 report will show the codes exactly as submitted. If both fields are used and the codes match, the record will be processed. If both fields are used and the codes do not match, the 1701 report will return error code RM3.

Agency payroll offices should contact their ATS representative to coordinate submission of their test files.

Kevin Laird  
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**Inquiries:** Questions concerning this bulletin should be directed to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board at **202-942-1450**.

**Chapter:** This bulletin may be filed in Chapter 2 General Information.