

**Centralized Station Master (CSM)
Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQ's)**

1. Question: **Who creates a Freight Station Accounting Code number (FSAC)?**

Answer: FSACs are assigned to the stations by the carrier(s). Leading zeros must be added to fill in all FIVE positions.

2. Question: **Who assigns an Open and Prepaid Station List (OPSL) number?**

Answer: Carriers assign OPSL numbers.

3. Question: **When would an OPSL number with nines (99999.99) and OPSL name N/A be appropriate?**

Answer: OPLS numbers (99999.99) and OPSL name N/A are optional, and can be applied to CSM stations with Station Types H (Haulage), O (Operating), W (Switching) and (J) (CSXT only) or in combinations of H, O & W. Station Types can also be assigned valid OPSL number by carriers.

4. Question: **When are an OPSL number and name applied to a CSM station?**

Answer: OPSL numbers are required when Station Type(s) is (R) Revenue or are in combination of (R O) Revenue & Operating, (R H) Revenue & Haulage, and (R W) Revenue Switching. Valid OPSL numbers are assigned by carriers

5. Question: **What is a Standard Point Location Code (SPLC), and what information is required to establish an SPLC?**

Answer: A SPLC is a 6 to 9 digit numeric code used to specify the physical location of a station and is required on all CSM stations. Verifying a current SPLC and or establishing New SPLCs for Canada, U.S. and Mexico can be obtained by contacting Meshalle Carter at (919) 651-5265 or aar_ps@ralinc.com.

6. Question: **What information is needed to establish a new SPLC for U. S. and Mexican stations?**

Answer:

- (1) ROAD MARK (2 – 4 Chars)
- (2) STATION NAME
- (3) STATE
- (4) COUNTY
- (5) Distance from closest existing station and/or mile posts.

7. Question: **What information is needed to establish a new SPLC for Canadian stations?**

Answer: (1) ROAD MARK (2 – 4 Chars)
(2) STATION NAME
(3) FSAC
(4) PROVINCE
(5) STATE

8. Question: **What options are available to query a CSM station?**

Answer: CSM stations can be queried via the following options:
(1) Via SPLC – ex. SPLC 380000
(2) Road Mark & FSAC – ex. CSXT 12345.

9. Question: **Is station Zip and Rating Zip Codes optional or required fields?**

Answer: Station Zip codes are an optional field; however, rating zip codes are required for all station types including (R) Revenue.

10. Question: **Are 260 accounting numbers for SCACs required on CSM?**

Answer: 260 Accounting numbers for SCACs are not required on CSM stations.

11. Question: **How are new stations identified in a line sale?**

Answer: In a line sale, the expired station is identified with a valid expiration date and status reason S – Sold, and the new MARK & FSAC of the new station.

12. Question: **How is an active station identified?**

Answer: An active station is identified with an open-ended expiration date of 9999-12-31.

13. Question: **Does every CSM station with a Junction Abbreviation support an Interchange?**

Answer: Not every station with an abbreviation supports Interchanges. Abbreviations can also be used to identify waybills. To verify interchanges check the Junction Interchange table.

14. Question: **How is an abandoned station identified?**

Answer: An abandoned station is identified with a status reason A – Abandoned and a valid expiration date.