



Grade Crossing Inventory System (GCIS)

Release v2.7.0.0 (12/01/2017)

Release Notes

This document is intended for Railroad, Transit, and State users. The following items will be released on Friday, December 01, 2017.

1. Online Form (Web User Interface [UI])

- a. The GCIS application was fixed to no longer accept New Crossing as the “Reason for Update” in Part C of the Inventory Form header for existing crossings.
- b. In Part C “Reason for Update” in the Inventory Form header, if the “Reason for Update” is Change in Primary Operating Railroad, the application will make Part I.7 “Do Other Railroads Operate a Separate Track at Crossing” available for editing, but optional.
- c. The GCIS application has been modified in Part III.2.D “Advance Warning Signs” to correct a bug that may have over-written existing data in certain cases.

Note: The FRA will provide additional information in the future concerning data validation and correction efforts. Users will be contacted to review cases where existing data may have been over-written. Please be aware that the Part III.2.D data may be incorrect due to this error.

- d. The GCIS application has been fixed in Part V.6 “LRS Milepost” to accept a decimal. Since the field was mistakenly rejecting the decimal, data that previously contained a decimal may have had the decimal removed if the crossing was updated.

Note: The FRA will provide additional information in the future concerning data validation and correction efforts. Users will be contacted to review cases where existing data may have had the decimal dropped. Please be aware that the Part V.6 data may be incorrect due to this error.

- e. The GCIS application has been modified to add a new tab on the Reports menu entitled “Unhandled Errors.” The report will permit the user to query the database for Unhandled Errors pertaining to crossings affiliated with their Agency. Users will be able to query by Crossing ID and Date Range (including all) to obtain information on most unhandled errors associated with their crossings, including date and time of the error and the batch ID associated with the upload (for spreadsheet or API submissions) that produced the error. If the error was not generated by the user running the report, the Submitted By column will be blank to protect users’ identities.



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- f. The GCIS application has been fixed to allow the train count “short” form to be filled out for railroads that are listed in Part I.7 “Do Other Railroad Operate a Separate Track at Crossing.”
- g. The GCIS application’s Help > Reference Documents page has been modified to link to an updated version of the “Guide for Preparing U.S. DOT Inventory Forms” document, dated July 2016.
- h. The GCIS application’s File Upload page has been updated to change the supported version of Microsoft Excel from 2007 to 2010.

2. FRA Approved API (for File Upload)

- a. The GCIS application was fixed to no longer accept New Crossing as the “Reason for Update” in Part C of the Inventory Form header for existing crossings.
- b. In Part C “Reason for Update” in the Inventory Form header, if the “Reason for Update” is Change in Primary Operating Railroad, the application will make Part I.7 “Do Other Railroads Operate a Separate Track at Crossing” available for editing, but optional.
- c. The secure API has been modified to unhide/display the Created, LastUpdated and CrossingClosed fields. The Created and LastUpdated fields capture the time and date of the update, whereas the RevisionDate only captures the date. The CrossingClosed field indicates whether a crossing has ever been closed: ‘1’ indicates ‘closed’ and ‘2’ indicates ‘open.’ This is useful for identifying crossings that have been closed and remain closed, but have had updates since their closure.
- d. More detailed error messaging has been implemented in cases where the API submission generates an “unhandled exception error” that causes the submission to fail. Users will now receive error messages for most submissions that were unsuccessful. The error message indicates the crossing ID of the failed entry and a more detailed indication of the problem, along with instructions to re-submit the update.
- e. The documentation for the Data Sampler (MasterWebService/SecureAPI/Support/Quick Start Guide) has been modified to include a list of fields that require the use of paired single quotes (e.g., ‘ ’) to process the crossing update correctly.
- f. The API was corrected to allow the user to request “Expired” (i.e., history) records.



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- g. The API has been modified to fix a bug that permitted a user to post a request without specifying a crossing ID.

3. FRA Approved Excel Templates (used for the File Upload feature)

- a. The GCIS application was fixed to no longer accept New Crossing as the “Reason for Update” in Part C of the Inventory Form header for existing crossings.
- b. In Part C “Reason for Update” in the Inventory Form header, if the “Reason for Update” is Change in Primary Operating Railroad, the application will make Part I.7 “Do Other Railroads Operate a Separate Track at Crossing” available for editing, but optional.
- c. A bug in the Excel template has been fixed that did not consistently remove current data from text fields where the spreadsheet submitted the designated code (X). Placing (X) in a text field on the spreadsheet will now delete the current data in that field in the database.
- d. More detailed error messaging has been implemented in cases where the spreadsheet upload generates an Error Code 900, “Unhandled exception error has been logged to the ApplicationErrors file. Please contact FRA.” Users will now receive error messages for most submissions that were unsuccessful. The error message indicates the crossing ID of the failed entry and a more detailed indication of the problem, along with instructions to re-submit the update.

4. Data Validation

- a. The GCIS application has been modified in Part I.5 “Street/Road Name & Block Number” to accept an apostrophe (‘) as part of the Street Name.

5. Public Website

- a. The link to the “National Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Regulations” on the page <https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/publicsite/GcisNewRequirements.aspx> has been fixed to correctly point to the document in question.

6. Documentation Inventory

The table below lists all current versions of documents located in the GCIS:

Document Name	Version	Last Updated Date
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Document Name	Version	Last Updated Date
GCIS Web User Guide v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017
GCIS Data Dictionary External Use v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017
GCIS Data Migration Strategy v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017
GCIS Electronic Submissions Instructions v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017
Grade Crossing Inventory Form Template RR_Data_Only v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017
Grade Crossing Inventory Form Template RR_Full_Inventory_Record v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017
Grade Crossing Inventory Form Template State v2.7.0.0 Rel 12-01-2017	7.0	12/01/2017

7. Documentation Change

- a. GCIS Web User Guide
 - i) Page 37, updated version of Excel to 2010
 - ii) Page 43, added information on Unhandled Errors
 - iii) Page 63, added information on the Unhandled Errors report
- b. GCIS Data Dictionary
 - i) Page 18, added information on the CrossingClosed field
- c. GCIS Electronic Submission Instructions
 - i) Page 43, added information on Unhandled Errors