



Questions and Answers from 9/15/2020 Industry Day: Training on Contract Data Reports on beta.SAM.gov



Q: FAADC is the Financial Assistance Award Data collection. How is it related to the Federal Hierarchy?

A: Contract Data reports are only for contract awards. FAADC reports can be found from the assistance listings domain of beta.SAM.gov.

Q: Could you please show us how to run an ad hoc report where you are searching for obligations for a global vendor name similar to "Booz Allen" as an example? Or funding agency similar to "rural"? I also would like to understand the blue vs. red filters under the ad hoc report. Thank you!

A: A demonstration of running an ad hoc report can be reviewed [in this recording of the Industry Day program](#). It doesn't use the criteria you mentioned, but it is similar.

Q: What is the difference between static and standard report types?

A: Static reports are a set of predefined reports with fixed attributes and logic and pre-generated for users to download. Users can't provide their own filters. The standard reports are a set of predefined reports, but users can key in report parameters such as dates and government agencies to refine the report results.

Q: Can I see how to add the filters either in words or in numbers?

A: [This video](#) provides instructions on how to manage filters.

Q: Is there a report with interested vendors for contract opportunities?

A: You can search for contract opportunities from the [contract opportunities domain](#) at beta.SAM.gov. Interested vendors can express their interest on opportunities where the contracting officer has enabled the Interested Vendor List.

Q: Is the top 100 firms list new, or has that always been available?

A: The Top 100 Contractor report is currently available in FPDS.gov and has been migrated to beta.SAM.gov.

Q: With the transition of FPDS moving into beta.sam.gov, how will that impact other government data sources, such as USASpending.gov?

A: There will be no impact to USASpending. FPDS data search, input, and associated data services are not changing and will remain at [FPDS.gov](#). Only the FPDS reports are moving to [beta.SAM.gov](#) at this time.

Q: Are these available in alpha.sam.gov as well?

A: All functionality being demoed is available in both alpha.SAM.gov and beta.SAM.gov.



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Q: There are some incorrect organization codes in the dropdown for my agency. How can I get these removed?

A: You can reach out to your department federal hierarchy administrator for the correction.

Q: How do you run all agencies?

A: If you want to run a standard report for all agencies, leave the organization blank. However, you should use a small time range. Otherwise, your report may exceed the maximum number of rows (150,000).

Q: What is the best number to call for FPDS questions in the new BETA system where one can get directly to a tier 2 or 3 person right away, like FPDS used to have with the contractors in Reston, instead of having to wait days for an answer as it is now?

A: All contacts are initiated through the Federal Service Desk at [FSD.gov](https://www.fsd.gov). Issues are forwarded to a technical team as required.

Q: Can the report come in Excel?

A: You can export the reports in Excel format.

Q: Which report is more accurate for the 8a totals?

A: Both the standard Small Business Goaling report (SMGR) and ad hoc reports can provide the same results if you apply the logic/filters correctly. You will not get the same results in an ad hoc report unless you apply the complex logic described in the SMGR appendix.

Q: I was looking at the report for Subcontracting Plan, yet it has the word Anomaly after it. When I run the report, there appears to be an error. How can I create a report of awards by agency within a certain time period, and specify the NAICS, that have a small business subcontracting plan?

A: Subcontracting Plan is a standard report. It doesn't allow you to filter by NAICS. You would have to create an ad hoc report for a solution.

Q: How can I follow the GSA MAS solicitation released by the contracting office, yet not follow the award announcements that show other firms who have a GSA MAS, and also not see the GSA MAS before it was consolidated? I thought I had a report and was following, yet on August 30. beta.SAM.gov did not alert me that there was a refresh released.

A: For information on following a solicitation, go to [Following](#).

Q: Are the standard reports and ad hoc reports fully 508c compliant?

A: Yes.

Q: How will this affect what is available at USASpending?

A: There will be no impact to USASpending.



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Q: GSA statements indicate that FPDS reports will be moving to beta.sam, but FPDS will remain the authoritative source of contract data. Please explain this generally, but also what functionality will be remaining in FPDS, if any.

A: Only the reports function of FPDS will be moved to beta.SAM.gov. All other functions, such as data entry and data services, will remain at FPDS.gov.

Q: When I am logged into beta.sam.gov, I do not see the star to utilize favorites in standard reports.

A: Please contact [FSD.gov](https://www.fsd.gov) for assistance.

Q: Working on a Mac. When I try to use the attributes, I can't seem to get out of the dropdown screen.

A: You may try a different browser or contact [FSD.gov](https://www.fsd.gov) for assistance.

Q: Is there a .pdf document or report that shows a "tree" of attributes within each group?

A: The attribute "tree" can be found on the screen, but there is not a separate document that shows how attributes are organized.

Q: When selecting an attribute to qualify, there is a red and blue selection option "Qualify" vs. "Select." What's the difference/right choice to make?

A: You can attain the same results by using either method.

Qualify allows users to choose one of several operators paired with a value to filter the report data.

Select allows users to select one or more values from a list of valid values.

Q: Can I use this for freight acquisitions?

A: Any contract action reported to FPDS.gov is available in the reports on beta.SAM.gov.

Q: How do you make changes to an ad hoc report once you have saved it in your reports?

A: If the ad hoc report was created with the "Report Builder" mode, you can run the report, then follow the steps on the template to make the change. You can save the revised report.

If the ad hoc report was created with the "Blank Report" mode, you can 1) run the report, 2) click on the "Report Home" menu, and 3) choose "Design" to edit the report.

Q: Who can have access to the ad hoc reports on beta.SAM? Is there a requirement for the FPDS administrator to approve them first?

A: Anyone with an account in beta.SAM.gov can access the ad hoc reports.



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Q: Where and how do you access contractor revenue data that was in the old GSA Schedule Sales Query (SSL) website?

A: This website is run by another office in GSA. Please reach out to the National Customer Service Center (MAS) at 800-488-3111.

Q: So, if it does not pull "Rural" does that mean that there is missing data? I've been able to pull data for USDA Rural Development in the old FPDS.

A: No, we demonstrated that when we searched by Agency Name, the agency appeared.

Q: Has there been any thought to adding the Service Contract Reporting as a standard report?

A: There are no plans to do so at this time.

Q: Will there be another report migration for moving users existing ad hoc reports that were created after January of 2020?

A: No. The migration of ad hoc reports occurred in February of 2020. Reports created in FPDS after that date will not migrate and must be recreated in beta.SAM.gov. For assistance, use this Quick Start [Guide](#).

Q: If we have questions when building an ad hoc report, who can we reach out to?

A: You may contact the [FSD](#). We also have training materials and user guides available at <https://beta.sam.gov/help/contract-data>.

Q: What is Granular Level's intended use in the listed attributes?

A: In a normal ad hoc report, the metrics are aggregated based on the selected report attribute(s). For example: if you add Department ID and Dollars Obligated to a report, and set a filter to retrieve awards for more than \$1 million, the Dollars Obligated will be aggregated on the department level first before applying the filter (Dollars Obligated >=\$1 million). However, if you want to apply the filter (Dollars Obligated >=\$1 million) for each contract, you must apply this filter on the contract level by using the "Granular Level" option. The system will identify each contract by using a combination of agency code, PIID, modification number, reference PIID, reference agency code, and transaction number.

We recommend you view the video [here](#) for more information on using metrics at the granular level.

Q: Could you please demonstrate how to run a small business goaling report by agency?

A: Please refer to this [video](#) for assistance in creating standard reports.

Q: How do you know the Contracting Department ID?

A: If you don't know the contracting department ID, you can use the department name.



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Q: What wild cards are available for ad hoc report filtering?

A: Wild cards are not recommended since you can select specific operators such as equals, contains, greater than, begins with, like, etc.

Q: What is an example report to find which company was awarded a contract and the product description?

A: To find a single award, you can use the search in FPDS.gov. You can search by PIID, contractor, or agency.

Q: How do we know what letters mean for place of manufacture, e.g., does "A" represent a state?

A: You can refer to the [FPDS Data Dictionary](#) for details.

Q: Is the data dictionary available on beta.SAM.gov yet?

A: You can refer to the [FPDS Data Dictionary](#) for details.

Q: When will the data dictionary be moved from FPDS to beta.SAM.gov?

A: Not at this time. FPDS remains the place where data is reported by agencies.

Q: Is there a list of funding offices similar to a list of contract offices in FPDS?

A: You can select funding offices for your reports and filter by funding office.

Q: Will users be able to test the system prior to 10/17?

A: You can go to beta.SAM.gov and run your reports now. We have had this function available since March 2020.

Q: Will GSA do any more online training or classroom training in the future?

A: This training and other training videos, as well as user guides and quick start guides, can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov/help/contract-data>.

Q: My team runs daily reports and would like the results to pull based on specific PSC and NAICS codes. Is this possible?

A: You can create a saved report, which can be run daily.

Q: In FPDS, in metric filters there is an option to "Apply this filter to granular data, before the data is aggregated." Is this still possible in the new platform?

A: This functionality has changed. Please view [this video](#) for more information.



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Q: Will the user's ad hoc reports remain accessible in FPDS up until October 16? Will there be any final migration effort?

A: Yes, ad hoc reports will remain in FPDS until October 16. There will be no additional migration of reports created in FPDS since February 2020. We recommend that you view your reports in beta.SAM.gov to see which reports migrated prior to the transition and recreate those needed reports that did not migrate.

Q: Will FPDS have an archive link if one wants to use the previous FPDS version?

A: No.

Q: Are there CDC office details in the Contract Office field for CDC? FPDS data did not provide this.

A: The data in FPDS was migrated to the beta.SAM.gov reports module.

Q: Will we be able to run similar reports for contract opportunities?

A: Users can't create any ad hoc reports for the contract opportunities data. But contract opportunities has one standard report and one administrative report. The results can be downloaded to Excel for analysis.