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SIRCON FOR CARRIERS

Branch Office Syncing



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Overview

Introduction and Background

Most customers track agency licenses, qualifications, and appointments in Producer Central and want to keep this information synchronized with state data through Producer Central's automated data reconciliation services. Often, a large agency (or "mega-firm") will have multiple branch offices or sub-agencies, any of which may have its own licenses, qualifications, or carrier appointments to track.

When the main agency and its branch locations all have different Federal Employer Identification Numbers (EIN), then they can be kept up to date using the standard method without enabling the Branch Office Syncing functionality. In this case you would have separate producer records in Producer Central for the main office and for each branch. Automated data reconciliation will update each record and its distinct licenses, qualifications, and appointments.

When the main agency and its branch location share Federal Employer Identification Numbers (EIN), Branch Office Syncing functionality should be used to keep these branch records up to date. The license, qualification, and appointment data for the main agency and all its branches are combined by state in a single report on the national PDB, with little indication of which credentials are held by which location.

Branch Office Syncing allows this mix of licensing information to be separated and associated with specific producer records. This prevents Data Reconciliation errors due to multiple licenses of the same type in the same state, a result of the combined PDB Report.





Note: In Producer Central, your company may currently have numerous identical records for a master agency and its branch agencies, differentiated only by the value in each record of the External System ID field of a certain external system type (e.g., Agency Code).

Which record is identifiable as the default record and which are branch agency records are based on the external system ID is information that are maintained by your licensing staff. Vertafore cannot be responsible for errors resulting from inadvertent changes to records based on mistaken identity.

What will be covered?

This document is intended as a best practice guide for using Producer Central and Producer Central to track the compliance data of a master agency and its branch locations when all share a single EIN.

Who should use this document?

Any users that need to manage branch office syncing in Producer Central.

When should you use this document?

Use this document when you need to create or manage branch office syncing for agencies in Producer Central.

Section: The Basics of Branch Office Updates

The Basics of Branch Office Updates

Branch records are no different from other firm producer records, except that they share one PDB Report. On these reports, information is divided into groupings called **PDB Groups**. This information is provided on the PDB and is used to help determine what information on the PDB is from the same branch.

Branch Office Syncing takes this shared PDB report, breaks it down into smaller groupings, and then assigns the grouped information to firm records. A single branch record can have many PDB Groups assigned to it, but a PDB Group may only be assigned to one producer record.

Navigating to the Branch Office Licensing Assignment Page

The Branch Office Licensing Assignments page is the hub of the Branch Office Syncing Functionality. This page is from the perspective of the PDB report and thus is shared by all branch records with the same EIN. Any record can access this page by using either of the following two methods:

- From the Producer Record
- From the Data Reconciliation page

NAVIGATE TO BRANCH OFFICE SYNCING FROM PRODUCER RECORD

 Search for the firm's producer record using the Producer Quick Search or open the record from the Recently Viewed Producers section on the main page of Producer Central.

Sircon PS Training		-
Licensing - Companies - Inquiries - Express Services -	ministration 👻 🔍 Pro	ducer Quick Search
Find existing producers with Review/Update Producer or Advanced Producer Search Producer Network Add Producer Add Producers in Bulk Bulk Transactions & Service Requests	Recently Viewed Producers	19 minutes ago 09-15-2023 09-15-2023 09-14-2023 09-14-2023
Update Producer Information Add/Activate Licenses/Qualifications Correct License Data Maintain Contact Information	Recent Subscriber Notices	Show All
Manage Appointments Add Appointments Terminate Appointments Approve/Deny Appointments Review Rejected Appointments	Producers with pending updates: 1 Producers with completed updates: 1 Today: 0 Last 7 Days: 0 Last 30 Days: 2	

Section: The Basics of Branch Office Updates

2. Click the Data Reconciliation section from the quick links.

	i tet	iem opulier i		
NANCH OFFICE SYNCS D	EMO AGENCY Unrated			Search Produce
EIN External System	ID Active BU	NPN	Resident State/License	Additional States/Licenses
18-1800011		181800011	PA	
This producer has invalid informati	on or is missing required information.			
Firm Details	Appointments	Business	Units	
Producer Business Rules	Agreements	Required	Items	
Resident States	Individual Associations	License A	pplications	
External Svs IDs	Costs	Commen	ts	
Contact Information		Product 0	Certifications	
Address History	Data Reconciliation	Transacti	on History	
Email Messages	State Producer Numbers	Professio	nal Liability	
Licenses/Qualifications	FINRA Information	Authoriza	tion Overrides	
		Compens	ation Profile	
				Key: 🥞 = Fix Missing Required Information

3. Using the **Manage Branch Offices** link in the upper right-hand corner of the **Data Reconciliation** section on the *Review Update Producer* page. This will take you to the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page in the system.

□ Data Reconciliation						Top
					Manage Branc	h Offices
Reconciliation Action	Status	Requested Date	Data Sources	Processing Messages	Produc Modifie	er Action
Quick Sync	Processed	07-20-2017	PDB Report Retrieved 07-10-2017	\land 1 Unreviewed		9
Quick Add	Processed	07-10-2017	PDB Report Retrieved 07-10-2017	\land 1 Unreviewed	×.	٩.
Key: 📲 View PDB Report 💁 Vi	ew Reconciliation Details					
2 data reconciliations found, displayin	ng all data reconciliations.					

NAVIGATE TO BRANCH OFFICE SYNCING FROM DATA RECONCILIATION PAGE

1. From the Licensing menu, select Data Reconciliation Requests.

M Sircon PS	Train	ing		UAT 10201				•	•	
Licensing 🔹 Comp	anies	- Inquiries -	Express Services	Admin	istration –			3*	Roducer Quick Search	
Producer										
Appointments		Review/Update Produc	er or Advanced Producer S	earch		Re	cently Vie	ewed Producer	s ———	
Accoriations					- 🗐 🛄 🖬	BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS	DEMO AC	SENCY	1 minute ago	
ASSOCIATIONS						ASLEY, CORA			09-15-2023	
Agreements					- 🖧 /	BBOT, LEE			09-15-2023	
License Applications		nuico Roqueste			- 💑 A	LEXIS			09-14-2023	
		ivice Requests			🚳 F	ORE, VERTA			09-14-2023	
Education Credentialing		on ———			\neg				e h	
Continuing Education		Qualifications			Rece	nt Subscriber Notices —			31	
Data Reconciliation Reg	iasta	guanneations			No no	otices.				
	Jests	nation								
Sales Authorization						updates Summary —	1			
Data Fix						icers with pending updates				
Add Appointmen	15				Produ	Icers with completed upda	tes:			

Section: The Basics of Branch Office Updates

2. Click the View Reconciliation Details button.

	Queued Requests All Requests All Requests Needing Review My Requests My Requests Needing Review	Queued Requests Reconciliation requests that are currently processing or awaiting processing.		
		Refresh		
Requests Awaiting Processing				
# Producer		Request Date	Reconciliation Action	Actions
1 BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS DE EIN: 18-1800011	EMO AGENCY (PA)	2023-01-26 09:21:59 AM	Add Producer	<u>s</u> ×
Key: 💁 = View Data Reconciliation Details	X = Cancel Data Reconciliation			
One reconciliation request found.				

3. You will now see the Data Reconciliation Details page. A yellow warning message is presented after a branch record is updated if there are PDB Groups that are unassigned. Click the **Manage Branch Offices** button.

Note: Unassigned PDB Groups indicate PDB information that could not be automatically assigned and that has not been manually resolved.

	External System ID	Active BU	NPN	Resident State/License	Additional States/Licenses				
41100			181841100						
This produc	cer has invalid information or is missin	g required information.							
erview					Reports:				
Action:	Quick Load With Sync (View	Job Details)			Broducer Record Undates				
Reques	ted Date: 08-08-2017 2:03 PM	Á			Producer Record opdates				
Reques	ted By: Emily Klopfer				PDB Report				
Status:	Processed				Reused because no updates from PI				
Status	Date: 08-08-2017 2:06 PM								
Cost Ce	enter: No cost center was bille	d because a PDB report wa	as reused.						
	To improve data reconciliation of firm branch offices, please go to Manage Branch Offices to manage your branches. Processing Messages to Review Review Status: 2 Unreviewed Beview All / Best All								
CCESSIN Review Review A	To improve data reconciliation of manage your branches. g Messages to Review Status:	firm branch offices, please go	to Manage Branch O						
CCESSIN Review Review A Reviewed	To improve data reconciliation of manage your branches. g Messages to Review Status: 2 Unreviewed II / Reset All State	firm branch offices, please go	to Manage Branch O	je					



4. You will now see the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.

Branch Office	Licensing A	ssignn	nents			
NPN: 181841100 EIN: 18-1841100	PM Firm Count:	2				
號 Default Branch: BR/	NCH OFFICE SYNCS AG	ENCY EIN: 1	8-1841100 Ext. ID: Branch 1	Change Def	ault Branch 🕕	
Changes to the Branch Office Licensing Assignments will not take effect until the record is updated with PDB data. You can either wait for the next automatic PDB Update or manually Force Refresh the records. Force Refresh All Connected Firms with this EIN						
SHOW Assigned	 All Addres 	ss States	▼ All License Ty	pes	 All License State 	s v
Any Assigned Firm	1					¥
SELECT All None SELEC	TED: 0 Generate PDB R	eport Ass	ign Ignore Assign	to New Branch	es	
Firm		PDB Group	Business Address			Actions
BRANCH OFFICE B Ext. ID: Branch 1	SYNCS AGENCY	43210001	WILKES-BARRE, PA 28066	3	Reas	Ignore Reassign sign to New Branch
				License	License Type	License State
				5098319970 (AC)	Non-Res Producer Organization	UT
				50004987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
BRANCH OFFICE Ext. ID: 000000076	SYNCS AGENCY	42802304	SALEM, OR 92001-2040		Reas	Ignore Reassign sign to New Branch
			This PI)B Group has 1 I	hidden license because of d	isabled Use Indicators
This PDB Group has 1 hidden license because of disabled Use Indicators.						
Key: (AC) = Active Licen	se (IN) = Inactive Licens	ie .				

Default Branches

A **Default Branch** is the producer record that holds much of the licensing information. The key function of the Default Branch is to ensure consistent behavior when automatically assigning PDB Groups during data reconciliation. All new mappings will be automatically assigned to the Default Branch record at the time of the data reconciliation.

On the Branch Office pages, the Default Branch is indicated by star in the upper left corner of the firm icon. The Default Branch is also identified at the top of each branch office page.

Branch Office Licensing Assignments					
NPN: 2000000019 EIN: 00-6233077	PM Firm Count: 1				
่ Default Branch: Di	EAN AND DAVIS INSURANCE AG (GA) EIN: 00-6233077	Change Default Branch 🕕			

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Section: The Basics of Branch Office Updates

There can only be one Default Branch per unique EIN. The Default Branch can be changed to another PM record with the same EIN from the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.

A Default Branch cannot be deleted if there are multiple firm records with the same EIN, but it can be deleted if it is the only firm with the EIN. The Default Branch will always be the first record to be connected and the last to be disconnected.

Note: If your organization uses the Outbound Data Feed, changes to the Default Branch will not be present in the Outbound Data Feed and will not trigger the Outbound Data Feed. Changes to agency licenses, qualifications, appointments, or any other PDB information on a producer record as a result of changing the Default Branch will be present in the feed.

PDB Groups

A **PDB Group** is an attribute provided on the PDB which groups license, appointment, and demographic information that is known to belong to the same branch location. Each branch office can be assigned multiple PDB Groups, but a PDB Group can only belong to a single branch office.

Each PDB Group is identified by a **PDB Group ID** and includes demographic information, such:

- Addresses
- Aliases
- Licenses with their associated lines of authority
- Appointments

The Branch Office Licensing Assignments page displays a table of PDB Groups with the associated branch records. The Branch Office Licensing Assignments page only displays the associated license information for a PDB Group because that is the information which is used to determine if there is a collision.

Firm	PDB Group	Business Address			Actions
Unassigned	37388975	Dayton, OH 44122		As	lgnore Assign sign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			49304987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
			U0255432 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	ID
			8319970 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	MI
		This PD)B Group has 1 h	idden license because of d	isabled Use Indicators.



Note: To see the other information full PDB Report can be viewed from the Inquiries menu in Producer Central.

PDB Groups are unique identifiers only within a PDB report. In other words, PDB Groups can only be used within the context of a single PDB Report and cannot be used to compare multiple different PDB Reports.

PDB Groups are identifiers at a State Level in the PDB Report. This means that for a branch location that is licensed in multiple states they will have at least as many PDB Groups as the number of states in which they hold a license.

License Collisions

A license collision results from having two different licenses that have the same license type in the same state on a single PDB Report. A producer's record can only have one license of a particular type in a particular state; collisions will result in an error indicating that there is an invalid data scenario. An example of a license collision is shown in the picture below where there are two Non-Resident Producer Agency licenses in the state of Pennsylvania.

Unassigned	902304	WILLIAMSBURG, PA 20133		As	lgr Ass sign to New Bra	nore sign Inch
			License	License Type	License State	
			PA-123409 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA	
2 BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY	43210001	WILKES-BARRE, PA 28066		Reas	lgr Rease sign to New Bra	nore sign Inch
			License	License Type	License State	
			5098319970 (AC)	Non-Res Producer Organization	UT	
			50004987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA	

License collisions are a large problem for mega-firms with multiple branches because each branch can have its own licenses, some of which might have the same type in the same state as another branch. When the information is rolled up on the PDB and then synced, this results in an error and the record is not able to be synced.

Branch Office Syncing prevents collisions from occurring by allowing a producer record to only be assigned PDB Groups that do not collide with any other PDB Groups assigned to that producer record.



A PDB Group which contains a license that is in a collision state will not be automatically assigned to the Default Branch. Manual intervention is necessary to determine which of the two or more PDB Groups that are in collision should be assigned to which producer record. For more information on managing License Collisions see the <u>Managing</u> <u>Branches Offices</u> section of this guide.

Branch Office Syncing Options

Branch Office Syncing functionality can be utilized using the following two methods:

- Multiple producer records are created for each branch office location.
- A single branch office is created, and all other branch office locations are ignored.

MULTIPLE PRODUCER RECORDS ARE CREATED FOR EACH BRANCH OFFICE LOCATION (RECOMMENDED PROCESS)

In this scenario a separate producer record is created for each branch office that is tracked. Then for a set of PDB Groups that are in collision, every PDB Group in the set will be assigned to a different producer record.

Once all the PDB Groups have been assigned, all the PDB information will be merged onto the assigned branch record during data reconciliation and the branch office processing message will no longer appear (until another new branch is added on the PDB).

BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY Ext. ID: 0000000075	43210001	WILKES-BARRE, PA 28066		Reas	Ignore Reassign ssign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			5098319970 (AC)	Non-Res Producer Organization	UT
			50004987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY Ext. ID: 0000000076	902304	WILLIAMSBURG, PA 20133		Reas	lgnore Reassign sign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			PA-123409 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA



A SINGLE PRODUCER RECORD IS CREATED FOR THE MAIN OFFICE LOCATION

This is the solution for those that do not want to allow multiple records with the same EIN in the system. In this scenario a single record is created for the main location and as many PDB Groups as possible are assigned to the record.

This only allows one license of a given type in a given state to be assigned because there cannot be collisions. In this case, all other PDB Groups that could not be assigned due to collisions will not be synced onto any record and will not be tracked.

It is recommended that licenses that are not able to be assigned are ignored in order to remove the branch office processing messages from constantly reoccurring (unless another new branch is added on the PDB).

BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY Ext. ID: 0000000075	43210001	WILKES-BARRE, PA 28066		Reas	lgnore Reassign ssign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			5098319970 (AC)	Non-Res Producer Organization	UT
			50004987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
Ignored	902304	WILLIAMSBURG, PA 20133		Reas	Assign sign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			PA-123409 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA

When choosing between options on tracking branch offices keep in mind the following:

- Only by tracking multiple producer records will all the licensing information be merged into the system if there are conflicts between PDB Groups.
- Tracking multiple producer records is a more accurate representation of the PDB Information.
- Using only one producer record will place information from multiple branch locations all on the same record but will not necessarily include all the PDB information.
- Using multiple producer records can have implications on downstream systems. There will be multiple producer records with the same EIN.

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Section: The Basics of Branch Office Updates

Differentiating Between Branch Office Records Using External System Identifiers

The primary method to identity a branch agency record should always be an **External System Identifier** value. If you are already differentiating among the various megaagency records in another system (policy admin or new business, for example), you probably already have an **External System Type** (Agency ID, for example) and **External System ID** (a unique code) established for each of the mega-agency records.

Simply provide that information on the producer's record. If you do not see the appropriate External System Type, contact your system administrator or Vertafore representative.

External System IDs can be found in the producer badge throughout the Branch Office Functionality user interface. On these pages, all active External System IDs associated with the producer will be listed. External System ID can be any value and is configurable by customer.

the BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY Ext. ID: Branch 1 0000000075	43210001	WILKES-BARRE, PA 28066		Reas	lgnore Reassign ssign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			5098319970 (AC)	Non-Res Producer Organization	UT
			50004987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA



Section: Enabling Branch Office Updates

Enabling Branch Office Updates

Configuration is necessary in order to take advantage of Branch Office Syncing functionality.

Configuration Points

BRANCH OFFICE SYNCING BUSINESS RULE CONFIGURATION

Branch Office Syncing functionality is controlled by a business rule that is Vertaforeconfigured. To enable this rule, contact your Vertafore representative.

SECURITY FUNCTIONS

In order to view the Branch Office Assignments page, a security function must be enabled.

 To enable the Branch Office security function, use the Administration menu at the top of the application to navigate to the User Security menu and either Add Security Role or Maintain Security Role.

Sircon PS Training	UAT 10201	4 9	-
Licensing Companies Inquiries Express Services	Administration 🔫		oducer Quick Search
	Online Help		
Find existing producers with Review/Update Producer or Advanced Producer S	User Security	Add New User	
Producer Network	Configure My Profile	Review/Update All Users	7 minutes ago about 2 hours ago
Add Producer	Configure System	Add Security Role	09-15-2023
Bulk Transactions & Service Requests	Education Credentialing	Maintain Security Role	09-15-2023 09-14-2023
Update Producer Information	Data Reconciliation	Maintain All Staff Member Cost Center	Show All
Add/Activate Licenses/Qualifications	Notifications	Maintain All Staff Member Business Unit	SHOW AI
Correct License Data	Sales Authorization	>	
Manage Appointments	Contact Us	Summary pending updates: 1	
Add Appointments	Logout	wur completed updates:	

- 2. For each role that needs access to this functionality, locate the **Branch Office Assignments** function in the Producer Section and then confirm that is selected and the box is checked.
 - Advanced Producer Search
 - Branch Office Assignments
 - Company Relationships
 - Create a new PX Request
 - Data Reconciliation Details
 - Delete Comments



Section: Enabling Branch Office Updates

3. In order to assign or create new branches on the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page, another security function must be enabled because these actions automatically connect the record. For each role that needs access to this functionality, locate the **Review Sircon Subscription** function in the Producer Section and then confirm that is selected and the box is checked.

Review Sircon Subscription

FIRM UNIQUE IDENTIFIER BUSINESS RULE CONFIGURATION

The **Firm Unique EIN** and **Firm Unique NPN** business rules control whether multiple firms with the same EIN/NPN can be created in the system. To enable this rule, contact your Vertafore representative.

Defining the Firm Default Branch

For a firm record to use Branch Office syncs to keep up to date, a **Default Branch** must be selected. Records that do not have a Default Branch will not use Branch Office Syncing functionality regardless of the configuration of the Branch Office business rule.

A **Default Branch** is the Producer Record that holds the majority of the licensing information. The key function of the Default Branch is to ensure consistent behavior when automatically assigning PDB Groups during a sync.

It can also be used to determine whether a firm record should use Branch Office Syncing. If there is not a Default Branch selected, then Branch Office Syncing will be disabled for that particular EIN. Once a Default Branch is chosen, then Branch Office Syncing will be enabled for that EIN.

There are a few scenarios for how a Default Branch is initially assigned for an EIN:

1. The first record for an EIN is loaded into the system after Branch Office Syncing was enabled.

If a record is added to the system after Branch Office Syncing was enabled, and it is the first record created for a given EIN, then it will be designated as the Default Branch.

In a Quick Load file, the first row in the file for a specific EIN will be the Default Branch. Branch Office Syncing is enabled for these records without needing to manually select a Default Branch record.



Section: Enabling Branch Office Updates

2. The first record for an EIN is loaded into the system after Branch Office Syncing has been enabled.

If a record is added to the system after Branch Office Syncing was enabled, and it is the first record created for a given EIN, then it will be designated as the Default Branch. Branch Office Syncing is enabled for these records without needing to manually select a Default Branch record.

3. Records were loaded into the system before Branch Office Syncing was enabled.

• There are multiple preexisting firm records for the EIN:

Because there can only be a single firm record that is designated as Default Branch for each EIN, the **Default Branch** must be selected from amongst multiple records. Because these records were created using the same PDB report and have much of the same information it is not possible for the system to automatically determine which of the multiple preexisting records should be Default.

Therefore, it takes manual intervention to choose the Default Branch using the **Choose a Default Branch** link in the header of the Branch Office Licensing Assignments Page.

Branch Office Licensing Assignments						
NPN: 181841100 EIN: 18-1841100	PM Firm Count: 1					
🚊 Default Branch: 🤇	hoose a Default Branch 🕕					

Note: Until the Default is chosen for these records, they will continue to sync using the standard method. Once the Default Branch has been selected, they will begin to use Branch Office Syncing.

• There is a single preexisting firm record for the EIN:

Because there is only a single firm record, it becomes a straightforward matter to choose the Default Record.

For these preexisting records, the **Default Branch** will be automatically assigned to the existing single firm record. Therefore, Branch Office syncing will be initially enabled for these records without manual intervention.



Loading Firm Branch Records

When adding a firm to Producer Central, it is not necessary to know that it is a "megafirm". If a firm is loaded and results in a Branch Office Syncing processing message, then a user can assign PDB Groups to the default record that was just created and/or create and assign PDB Groups to new records using the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.

One important thing to note is that the first record that is created will be the **Default Branch**. In the case that this is not the record that should be designated as the default for any new licensing information, then the Default Branch can be updated.

Creating the Initial Default Branch Record

To create the Default producer record, use the **Add Producer** workflow to create a firm. The shell record for the Default Firm will be immediately created with a connected status and will begin receiving Daily Updates for all states. The first Daily Sync will update the shell record with PDB information and will pull in all the PDB Group information needed for assigning and create Branch Offices.

		Add Producer	
Producer Type :	Firm Individual Licensee (1)		
Name	EIN		Search Cancel

Note: See the <u>Adding and Searching for Producers quick guide</u> for detailed instructions on how to create a firm producer record.

Creating Branch Records

Branch records (i.e. producer records with the same EIN) can only be created using the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page. A PDB Group will have the option in the **Actions** column to **Assign to a New Branch** or **Reassign to a New Branch**.

This option begins a workflow to create a new PM firm record with the same EIN and assigns the selected PDB group to the newly created record automatically.

Section: Loading Firm Branch Records

Firm	PDB Group	Business Address				Actions
Unassigned	37388975	Dayton, OH 44122			As	Ignore Assign sign to New Branch
			Lic	cense	License Type	License State
			49 (A0	304987 C)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
			U0 (A0	0255432 C)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	ID
			83 (A0	(19970 C)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	MI
		Thi	is PDB Gr	roup has 1 hi	dden license because of d	lisabled Use Indicators.

The Create a Firm to Assign a Branch page will display the selected PDB Group at the top of the page. Below, additional information can be provided which will be saved to the firm record when it is created. This includes:

- Firm Type
- Active Business Unit
- Cost Center
- External System Id Type
- External System Id. Firm Type,

Note: Active Business Unit, and Cost Center will be defaulted to the same value as the Default Branch record. The record will be created with a connected status.

IN: 18-1841100	PM Firm Count:	2					
Default Branch: BRAN	ICH OFFICE SYNCS AG	GENCY	IN: 18-1841100	Ext. ID: Branch 1	Change De	fault Branch 🕕	
		Creat	e a Firm to A	ssign a Brar	nch		
irm	P	DB Group	Business Addr	ess			
Jnassigned	3	7388975	Dayton, OH 447	122			
					License	License Type	License State
					49304987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
					U0255432 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	ID
					8319970 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	М
				This PD	B Group has 1	hidden license because of d	isabled Use Indicator
(AC) = Active License	e (IN) = Inactive Licen	ise					
ovide information for the new pro	oducer record:			_			
Firm Type	Non-Person		۲				
Active Business Unit			-				
Cost Center	W						



Creating Multiple Branch Records

Multiple branch records (i.e. producer records with the same EIN) can be created using the bulk actions on the *Branch Office Licensing Assignments* page. This bulk action will create a new Producer Record for each selected PDB Group. In other words, if 10 PDB Groups are selected there will be 10 new branch records, each assigned one PDB Group after the bulk workflow is completed.

To choose the PDB Groups that will be assigned to new records, select the checkboxes on the far left of the desired PDB groups. To choose all the PDB Groups, select the **All** option above the table containing the PDB Groups. Next, click the **Assign to New Branches** bulk action button in the SELECT menu above the table containing the PDB Groups.

Branch Office L	icensing Assignments							
NPN: 181841100 EIN: 18-1841100	PM Firm Count: 2							
Changes to the Branch Office Licensing Assignments will not take effect until the record is updated with PDB data. You can either wait for the next automatic PDB Update or manually Force Refresh the records.								
SHOW All PDB Groups Any Assigned Firm	All Address States All License Types All License States	- - -						
SELECT All None SELECTED	1 Generate PDB Report Assign Ignore Assign to New Branches							
Firm	PDB Group Business Address	Actions						
Unassigned	37388975 Dayton, OH 44122 Assign to New	lgnore Assign Branch						
	License License Type License Stat	e						

This begins the workflow to create a new PM firm record with the same NPN and assign the selected PDB group to the newly created record automatically for each of the selected PDB Groups.

For each PDB Group selected, there will be a corresponding Create a Firm to Assign a Branch page with the PDB Group to be assigned at the top of the page. Additional information can be provided which will be saved to the firm record. This includes:

- Firm Type
- Active Business Unit
- Cost Center
- External System ID Type
- External System ID



Note: Firm Type, Active Business Unit, and Cost Center will be defaulted to the same value as the Default record. Each record will be created with a connected status.

EIN: 18-1841100	PM Firm Count: 2					
💄 Default Branch: B	RANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY	EIN: 18-1841100	Ext. ID: Branch 1	Change De	fault Branch 🕕	
	Cre	ate a Firm to	Assign a Bran	ich		
Firm	PDB Grou	p Business Ac	Idress			
Unassigned	37388975	Dayton, OH	44122			
				License	License Type	License State
				49304987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
				U0255432 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	ID
				8319970 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	М
			This PD	B Group has 1	hidden license because of d	isabled Use Indicator
Key: (AC) = Active Lic	ense (IN) = Inactive License					
rovide information for the new	v producer record:					
Firm Type	Non-Person	•				
Active Business Unit		-				
Cost Center	W					
	vne	•				
External System ID 1	, po					

- Click **Continue** to move to the next PDB group to create another branch record.
- Click **Cancel** to return to the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.
- Clicking **Cancel** after clicking **Continue** for one or more branches will result in those records being created. The remaining records will not be created. These can later be selected again to assign to a new or existing branch.

Note: The procedures outlined in this document assume that the ORG_UNIQ_EIN business rule in your company's configuration of Producer Central has been set to "NO," which allows a firm record to have an identical value in the EIN field as another. If you have questions, please contact your Vertafore representative.

ADDING EXTERNAL SYSTEM IDENTIFIERS TO FIRM RECORDS

1. Navigate to the *Review/Update* page of the record to which an External System ID needs to be added. Click **Add/Update/Delete External System Identifiers**.

External Sys IDs Top									
	External System Type	External System Identifier	Business Unit	Primary	Inactive				
AGENCYID	0000000		1						
		Add/Update/Delete External System Identifiers							



- 2. In the Add External System Identifier section, enter the branch location's unique External System Type and External System ID. This information will be the primary differentiator between all of the branch location records.
- If you are already differentiating among the various mega-agency records in another system (policy admin or new business, for example), you probably already have an External System Type (Agency ID, for example) and External System ID (a unique code) established for each of the mega-agency records. Simply enter that information.

Note: If you do not see the appropriate **External System Type**, contact your system administrator or Vertafore representative.

4. When you are finished, click the **Save and Return** button.

🚊 BRAN	ICH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY Unrated	i -				Searc	h Producer
EIN	External System ID	Active BU	NPN	Resident State/License	Addition	al States/License	5
18-1841100)		181841100				
🌱 This p	producer has invalid information or is missing re-	quired information.					
Current E	External System Identifiers				Add New E	External System	m Identifier
Delete	External System Type	E	tternal System ID	Business Unit	Primary	Inactive	
	AGENCYID	000000076			1		Edit
Delete							Return
	late External System Identifier	<i>د</i>					Clear
External S	System Type	External System	ID	Business Unit		Primary	Inactive
	¥		Generate ID		Ŧ		
					Save R	teturn Save a	and Return



Managing Branch Offices

Branch Office Updates uses the shared PDB report between firms with the same EIN to break the report down into smaller groupings, and then assign the grouped information to firm records.

Branch Office Updates can be managed from the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page. Each **PDB Group** should be either assigned to the appropriate producer record in order to have the associated PDB information merged onto the record or be ignored in order to prevent the information from being merged onto any producer record.

Note: Once all the **PDB Groups** have been assigned or ignored, the Branch Office processing and warning messages will no longer appear (until new information is on the PDB) and ongoing updates will use the assignments going forward.

Branch Offic	e Licensing A	ssignn	nents			
NPN: 181841100 EIN: 18-1841100	PM Firm Count:	2				
🗽 Default Branch: BF	ANCH OFFICE SYNCS AG	SENCY EIN: 1	8-1841100 Ext. ID: Branch 1	Change Def	ault Branch 🕕	
Changes to the Bran the next automatic Pl Force Refresh All Con	ch Office Licensing Assign DB Update or manually Fo nnected Firms with this EIN	ments will not rce Refresh th	take effect until the recone records.	rd is updated	with PDB data. You car	n either wait for
HOW Assigned	 All Addre 	ess States	 All License Ty 	pes	 All License State 	s 🔻
Any Assigned Fi	rm					¥
SELECT All None SELE	CTED: 0 Generate PDB F	Report Assi	ign Ignore Assign	to New Branch	es	
Firm		PDB Group	Business Address			Actions
 BRANCH OFFIC Ext. ID: Branch 1 	E SYNCS AGENCY	43210001	WILKES-BARRE, PA 28066	j	Reas	Ignore Reassign sign to New Branch
				License	License Type	License State
				5098319970 (AC)	Non-Res Producer Organization	UT
				50004987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
BRANCH OFFIC Ext. ID: 0000000078	E SYNCS AGENCY	42802304	SALEM, OR 92001-2040		Reas	Ignore Reassign sign to New Branch
			This PI)B Group has 1 l	hidden license because of d	isabled Use Indicators
	and the location lines		11101 L			section of the monodition of
Key: (AC) = Active Lice	ense (IN) = inactive i icen	5 p				



Assigning PDB Groups

Branch Office Licensing functionality depends on associations between a producer record and PDB Groups. This assignment of PDB information to a specific producer record not only resolves data errors but also allows for more accurate tracking of licensing information.

Changes to PDB Group assignments do not directly affect the licensing information on a producer record. In other words, assigning or reassigning a PDB Group to a producer record will not directly make any changes to the record. Instead, the changes to the information on the record will result from data reconciliation. In order to reflect changes in the PDB Group assignments on the producer record, make sure to update the record.

Changes to the licensing assignments that result in a license, qualification, or appointment or other PDB information no longer being merged onto a given record will result in the license, qualification, appointment or other PDB information being put in an inactive status on that record.

Assignments of PDB Groups will automatically connected a producer record if a PDB group is assigned to a disconnected record. Assignments can be made in two ways:

- 1. Users can manually assign any PDB Group to any branch record (with the EIN) if the PDB group does not conflict with another PDB group assigned to that branch.
 - To manually assign a single PDB Group to a producer record, first navigate to the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.
 - Then for the PDB Group that is going to be assigned, select the **Assign** or **Reassign** action from the rightmost column on the page.

Ignored	902304	WILLIAMSBURG, PA 20133			Assign Assign to New Branch
			License	License Type	License State
			PA-123409 (AC)	Non-Resident Prode Agency	ucer PA

- The assign action opens a search page that is used to select which producer record the PDB Group should be assigned to. The filtering at the top of the page can be used to search for specific records.
- To make the assignment, click the **Select Firm** action for the chosen firm in the right most column of the search result table.



			Search for a Firm	to Assign	a Bran	ch			
Please enter at	least one of the se	arch criteria below:							
Firm Name									
EIN	181841100	NPN		Active	Business	s Unit		۲	
License Numbe	r			Licens	e State				•
External System	n ID			Primar	y Externa	al ID Only			
Records Per Pa	age: 10 ▼								Search Cancel
Displaying 1 - 2	(of 2 matching reco	ords)							Page 1 of 1
Name 🔺			<u>Cit</u>	<u>y St</u>	ate -	± License Summa	ary		
抗 BRANCH C	OFFICE SYNCS AG	ENCY	SA	LEM OF	۲				Select Firm
EIN: 18-1841100		Branch 1							
🚊 BRANCH C	FFICE SYNCS AG	ENCY							Select Firm
EIN: 18-1841100	Ext. ID: 0000	000076							
Displaying 1 - 2	(of 2 matching reco	ords)							Page 1 of 1

- If the licenses in the PDB Group do not conflict with the licenses in any other PDB Group assigned to the selected firm, then the PDB Group will be assigned to the firm and the producer record will be automatically connected if it is in a disconnected status.
- If the PDB Group is in conflict, then a validation error will occur, and a message will be presented notifying the user of the collision and pointing out which licenses state(s) conflicted.
- If there is a conflict, you can choose to either search for another firm to assign the PDB Group to or return to the main Branch Office Licensing Assignments page to choose another PDB Group or ignore the current PDB Group.



- The final step is to force update each record that was previously assigned the PDB Group as well as the record to which the PDB Groups is now assigned should be synced.
- This will ensure that changes to the assignments will be reflected on the relevant producer records because changes to PDB Group assignments will not affect a producer record until the record is synced.
- To force update all the branches for an EIN use the Force Refresh All Connect Firms with this EIN option at the top of the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page. This will start a force refresh for every firm producer record with that EIN.

Section: Managing Branch Offices



2. The system can automatically make assignments of unassigned PDB Groups that do not conflict with any other unassigned PDB Group to the Default branch record.

During data reconciliation, all the PDB Groups that are not in conflict with another group will be assigned to the **Default Branch**. The first time adding a firm with a given EIN, all the PDB Groups that are not in conflict will be assigned to Default Branch.

For subsequent updates, any new PDB Groups that appear on the PDB that are not in conflict with another PDB Group will be assigned to the Default Branch. Because this occurs during data reconciliation, the updates to the producer record will be effective immediately and there is no need to initiate another update to see the changes to the producer record.

If PDB Groups that are automatically assigned should be assigned to a producer record that is not the designed Default Branch, then the PDB Group should be reassigned using the actions in on the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.

After making changes to the Branch Office assignments the record that was previously assigned the PDB Group as well as the record to which the PDB Groups is now assigned should be updated. This will ensure that changes to the assignments will be reflected on the relevant producer records because changes to PDB Group assignments will not affect a producer record until the record is synced.

Ignoring PDB Groups

Ignoring a PDB Group prevents the information associated with the group from being merged with any Producer Central record. This is useful for any branch that you do not wish to track.

For example, if you do not have a relationship with one of the branch locations. Ignore also allows PDB Groups that cannot be assigned to any producer record to be moved from the unassigned status.



The benefit of taking the ignore action for a PDB Group instead of leaving it unassigned is that it is an acknowledgement that the group has purposefully been removed from data reconciliation. This will differentiate the PDB Groups that are ignored from the PDB Groups that are new and need manual intervention.

Note: By making sure that all PDB Groups are in either an ignored or assigned status, the Branch Office Syncing processing message or yellow warning box on the *Data Reconciliation Details* page will no longer appear until a new PDB Group that cannot be automatically assigned appears on the PDB Report. The ignore action also prevents automatically assigned branches from merging onto any record.

	Firm	PDB Group	Business Address			Actions
(Ignored	902304	WILLIAMSBURG, PA 20133		As	Assign sign to New Branch
				License	License Type	License State
				PA-123409 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
	Key: (AC) = Active License (IN) = Inactive License					

Updating the Default Branch

A Default Branch is the Producer Record that holds most of the licensing information. The key function of the Default Branch is to ensure consistent behavior when automatically assigning PDB Groups during a sync.

- 1. To update the Default Branch, navigate to the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page.
- 2. Then click on the **Change Default Branch** link to the right of the producer badge for the current Default Branch.
- 3. To the right of this link is an information symbol, that when clicked provides more detailed information on Default Branch.





- 4. The **Change a Default Branch** link opens a search page that is used to select which producer record is the default.
- 5. The filtering at the top of the page can be used to search for specific records.
- 6. To choose the Default click the **Set Default** action for the chosen firm in the right most column of the search result table.

	Search for a l	Firm to Set as	Default I	Branch		
Please enter at least one of the search	criteria below:					
Firm Name						
EIN 181841100	NPN	Ac	tive Busine	ess Unit	•	
License Number		Lie	ense State	•		•
External System ID		Pr	imary Exter	rnal ID Only	•	
Records Per Page: 10 •						Search Cancel
Displaying 1 - 2 (of 2 matching records)						Page 1 of 1
Name		City	<u>State</u>	License Summary		
EIN: 18-1841100 Ext. ID: Branch	Y 1	SALEM	OR			Set Default
BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENC EIN: 18-1841100 Ext. ID: 00000007	Y 6					Set Default
Displaying 1 - 2 (of 2 matching records)						Page 1 of 1

- 7. After clicking Set Default, you will be directed to the Select Default Branch confirmation page. This page will provide relevant warning and informational messages depending on the EINs specific data scenario at the top of the screen.
- 8. Below this is a table that shows all the PDB Groups that will be automatically assigned to the chosen default branch.
- 9. Only unassigned, non-conflicting PDB Groups will be assigned to the new Default Branch. PDB Groups that are already assigned to existing records, including the previous Default, will not be reassigned to the selected Default.

		Selected Default Branch: BR	RANCH C	OFFICE SYI	NCS AGENC	Y Ext. ID: 000000076	
The follow To assigned	owing unassigned PDB In a PDB group to a diffe	Groups will be assigned to the Default B erent record or to ignore the group, retur	Branch as in to the m	a result of th nain Branch (is action. Office Licensing	g Assignments screen by click	ing cancel.
		Existing PDB Groups to	be As	signed to	the New D	Default Branch	
SHOW All A	ddress States	 All License Types 	۲	All Licens	se States	•	
PDB Group	Business Address				License	License Type	License State
37388975	Dayton, OH 44122						
					49304987 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Agency	PA
					U0255432 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	ID
					8319970 (AC)	Non-Resident Producer Firm	MI
					This PDB Gro	up has 1 hidden license beca	use of disabled Use Indicators.
Key: (A	C) = Active License	(IN) = Inactive License					
•		14.24	Page 1	of 1	10 🔻		Þ
			490 I		10 1		Cancel Back Assign



Note: The confirmation page only displays information for PDB Groups that are already known by Producer Central as the result of a sync. It is not able to show PDB Groups that have not yet been merged into the system.

After confirming that the correct Default Branch record has been selected, continue the assignment by using the assign button on the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. At this point the PDB Groups listed on the screen will be automatically assigned and you will be directed back to the main *Branch Office Licensing* page where PDB Groups can be assigned or reassigned to producer record.

Filtering PDB Groups

At the top of the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page are criteria used to filter PDB Groups. PDB Groups can be filtered by the following criteria:

- PDB Group Status
- Producer Record (External System Id)
- Address State
- License Type
- License State

SHOW	All PDB Groups Any Assigned Firm	All Address States All License Types All License States	• •
SELECT	All None SELECTED: 0	Generate PDB Report Assign Ignore Assign to New Branches	
Fi	m	PDB Group Business Address	Actions

Queuing Updates for Branch Offices

Branches need to be separately added to the data reconciliation queue. In other words, updating one branch record does not mean all the other branch records will be also be updated.

To put all the producer records for an EIN on the queue, use Force Refresh All Connected Firms with this EIN option on the Branch Office Licensing Assignments page. This will put all the producer records on the queue that are not already queued.

Queuing all the producer records for an EIN to be updated ensures that after making changes to the PDB Group assignments any changes will be reflected on the effected producer records.



Section: Connecting and Disconnecting Branch Records



Use Indicators and Branch Office Syncing Functionality

Collision detection between PDB Groups eliminates records where Use Indicators are turned off. In other words, if more than one PDB Group has the same license type in the same state then regardless of use indicator status those licenses cannot be assigned to the same producer record.

PDB Groups that include PDB information with Use Indicators disabled will include a message with the number of licenses in that group that are disabled because of Use Indicators.

NOS FIRM	42802304	SALEM, OR 92001-2	040 Ignore Reassign Reassign to New Branch
			his PDB Group has 1 hidden license because of disabled Use Indicators.

Connecting and Disconnecting Branch Records

Determining Subscription Status of Branches

Producer Central indicates a producer record's Sircon Subscription Status in multiple ways.

First the producer icon can be used to determine if a producer is connected.

Connected producers – both individual and firm – are indicated with a green dot in the button right of the producer icon.

Recently Viewed Producers	
A MAZZUCHELLI, CORDELLE	1 minute ago
🛃 INGLETT, AHREANNA	1 minute ago
ANDREADIS, ADRYANNA RUST	1 minute ago
BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY	1 minute ago
1 BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY	1 minute ago

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Section: Connecting and Disconnecting Branch Records

In addition to producer icons, disconnected producers will have a disconnected banner displayed on their Review/Update Producer page (Figure 3).



The Review Sircon Subscription page, linked from a producer's Review Update page, also has information on the subscription status. The producer's subscription status is displayed under the producer header including the last date they were connected/disconnected.

Under the producer's subscription status, you will see options to Connect or Disconnect the subscription.

In the Sircon Services Summary section there is information about whether the producer is receiving Daily PDB Updates including a PDB lookup for producers who are not receiving Daily Updates. For producers receiving Daily Updates a button is available for you to force refresh the producer data.

Sircon Subscription Status: Connected
Since June 27, 2019
Disconnect Return
Disconnecting the Sircon Subscription will disable core functionality.
Sircon Services Summary
Daily PDB Updates Receiving Daily PDB Updates: Yes
Force Refresh Data No charges will be incurred for refreshing data.
Producer Service Portal Linked to Sircon Account: No

Connecting and Disconnecting the Default Branch Record

The Default Branch will always be the first record to be connected and the last to be disconnected. This is because the Default Branch is the producer record that will be assigned any new information from the PDB.

CONNECT DEFAULT BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION

When connecting a firm record in Producer Central, if the firm that is being connected is a branch and the Default firm record is disconnected then a message is displayed. If the user chooses to connect the branch record, then the Default record is also automatically connected.

Section: Connecting and Disconnecting Branch Records

Sircon Subscription Status: Disconnected Since October 7, 2019 Connect Return Connecting to Sircon will enable core functionality. Daily PDB Updates Receiving Daily PDB Updates: No	Connect Main Branch? Connecting this record will also connect the default branch record. Connect Cancel	
1 PDB entry was found:		
Name	Resident State	
BRANCH OFFICE SYNCS AGENCY	Pennsylvania	
Producer Service Portal Linked to Sircon Account: No		

Note: When connecting a firm using a Bulk Connection Status update, if the firm that is being connected is a branch and the Default record is disconnected then the branch is connected, and the Default record is also automatically connected.

DISCONNECTING DEFAULT BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION

When disconnecting a firm record in Producer Central, if the firm you are trying to disconnect is a branch, then the branch record is disconnected.

If the firm that is being disconnected is the default firm record, then all the other branch firms must be disconnected before the Default can be disconnected. (The button will be disabled, and a hover-over message will be visible)

Sircon Subscription Status: Connected	
Since August 30, 2019	
Disconnect All Branches Return	
Disconned The default firm record cannot be disconnected until all other records for this firm are disconnected.	ed.
Sircon Services Summary	у
Daily PDB Updates Receiving Daily PDB Updates: Yes	
Force Refresh Data No charges will be incurred for refreshing data.	
Producer Service Portal Linked to Sircon Account: No	

Note: When disconnecting a firm record using a Bulk Connection Status update, if the firm you are trying to disconnect is a branch, then the branch record is disconnected. If the firm record that is being disconnected is the Default firm, then the Default firm record and branch firm records will all be disconnected.



Section: Connecting and Disconnecting Branch Records

Disconnecting all the Branches (Including the Default) for an EIN

To disconnect all the branch records without needing to go individually to each producer record, use the **Disconnect All Branches** option on the *Review Sircon Subscription* page.

All the branch records including the Default Branch will be disconnected. This option is only visible if there are two or more connected branches.

Sircon Subscription Status: Connected			
Since October 7, 2019			
Disconnect All Branches Return Disconnecting the Sircon Subscription will disable core functionality.			
Sircon Services Summary			
Daily PDB Updates Receiving Daily PDB Updates: Yes			
Force Refresh Data No charges will be incurred for refreshing data.			
Producer Service Portal Linked to Sircon Account: No			

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Section: APPENDIX 1: Sircon for Carriers Help Resources

APPENDIX 1: Sircon for Carriers Help Resources

Help is just a click away. Vertafore has two resources available to support you 24/7:

- My Vertafore
- Sircon Support

My Vertafore

My Vertafore is our free online customer support portal and knowledge base. At <u>My</u> <u>Vertafore</u> you can:

- Log a Case Cases are used to request product support
- Submit Ideas Send Vertafore ideas for new product features or enhancements
- Search Knowledgebase Search for detailed articles on the Sircon Knowledge
 Base



Note: Sircon does not use the Submit a Product Idea or Chat with VICKI functions.

Contact Vertafore Customer Support

Can't find what you are looking for at My Vertafore? Our Customer Support team is here to help. <u>Click here to email Support</u> or call 877-876-4430.

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Section: APPENDIX 2: Document History

APPENDIX 2: Document History

Version	Revision Date	Revision Record
1.0	10/17/2023	Original Document



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