

Interoperable Interface Control Document ICD-05: License Plate Validation List

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Interoperable Interface Control Document (ICD) describes the general file structure used by interoperable authorities to construct files that are exchanged between other authorized Service Providers and authorized Subscribers by means of the IOPHub system.

This interoperable ICD defines the format and content of the physical files transferred between authorized Service Providers or authorized Subscribers and authorized Service Providers via the IOPHub system to exchange license plate status and information. In addition, this ICD describes the License Plate Validation List (LVL) Acknowledgement File returned to the sending Service Provider and the naming conventions for the files used in this exchange are also described.

1.2 Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

A comprehensive glossary of terms is being maintained for the entire Interoperability project. The terms, acronyms and abbreviations used in this document will be contained in the Interoperable Project Glossary.

For easy reference, the following terms are provided.

Table 1.2: Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations¹

Term	Description
Home Authority (HA)	An Authority that issues accounts to patrons and posts transactions to those accounts.
Service Providers (SP)	An Authority that operates and maintains a customer service center that issues accounts for electronic payment of AVI transactions, such as toll road fees and parking fees. For this document, the Service Provider shall be defined as an authority that sends toll variance transactions to the IOPHub system for reconciliation.
Subscriber	An authority that employs a Service Provider to conduct customer service center operations. These types of authorities do not maintain their own customer accounts, or operate a customer service center.
License Plate Validation List (LVL)	A comprehensive list of license plates in use to identify patron accounts by each interoperable Authority.
License Plate Validation List Update	A list of License Plate Validation List (LVL) changes since the last LVL Update or LVL.
Visited Authority (VA)	Any Authority, or its designated representative, that is not the customer's Home Authority.

¹ Note: If changes are made to this table, please verify against the IOPHub Project Glossary.



1.3 References

The following items are referenced in this document:

- *Interoperability Business Requirements Document*
- *Interoperable - ICD-01: File Transfer*
- *Interoperable - ICD-03: Transactions File*
- *IOPHub Data Security Guidelines*
- *IOPHub Project Glossary*

1.4 Overview

The IOPHub system uses a standard set of data exchange protocols that provide Interoperable functionality between one or more authorized Service Providers and Subscribers to communicate and exchange data.

This document contains the specification for the format of the Interoperable License Plate Validation List and License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement. The exact structure of the file and the layout of the individual components are detailed in the remaining sections of this document. Security related issues and processing guidelines are also addressed.

The exchange of data (transactions and license plate statuses) is governed by the requirements as set forth in the *Interoperability Business Requirements document*. The ICD-01 File Transfer defines the general format of the files used to exchange interoperable transactions and License Plate Validation List Specification.



2 License Plate Validation List File Specification

2.1 Type

This specification defines the general structure of Interoperable License Plate Validation List. The License Plate Validation List is an ASCII text file. The file contains records with comma-delimited fields, terminated by Carriage Return & Line Feed characters.

2.2 Security

The data files will be written with no special security considerations. The contents of the files are viewable in a standard text editor. The files contain no security-sensitive information.

The IOPHub utilizes a firewall scheme that will prevent unauthorized access by authorized or unauthorized users. Captive accounts or similar accounts shall be used to prevent unauthorized user from accessing other areas of the IOPHub system and Service Providers' computer systems.

Each Service Provider shall utilize a firewall scheme that will prevent access by unauthorized users. Captive accounts or similar accounts shall be used to prevent an unauthorized user from accessing other areas of the Service Providers and Subscribers computer systems.

The IOPHub Data Security Guidelines provides documentation on the minimum and desired security standards.

2.3 Processing Guidelines

Files will be exchanged between Service Providers and Subscribers via the IOPHub utilizing the protocol described in the *Interoperable-ICD-01: File Transfer*. Subscribers will receive LVL files, but will not send LVL files. The file transfer protocol verifies the size of the file, checksum, record count and validates the file format.

An interoperable authorized Service Provider shall create a License Plate Validation List for the registered License Plates on patron accounts used for video tolling by the Authority. This specification requires that the status file contain a record for every License Plate in use by the Authority that is not associated with a Tag. Additionally, partial License Plate Validation List updates are created on an "as required" basis. The License Plate Validation List Update shall contain the updated license plates updated since the last full list. Once the License Plate Validation List is created, it is transmitted to the other Service Providers and Subscribers via the IOPHub.

The License Plate Validation List requires acknowledgement from the receiving Service Providers and Subscribers. The format of this acknowledgement file is described in **Section 3.5**. If the originating Authority does not receive an acknowledgement after a reasonable delay, an attempt should be made to retransmit the License Plate Validation List. It is the Sender's responsibility to repeat this failure processing before halting further file transfer attempts. Sender shall contact the IOPHub Support Team to resolve the issues that can not be resolved by the Sender. Each Sender can decide the number of attempts and the duration criteria for resending / repackaging files.

The License Plate Validation List must be named and constructed according to the following naming convention:

IOP_{Originating-Authority}_{Destination-Authority}_YYYYMMDD_HH24MISS_{XXXXXX}.LTA



The License Plate Validation List naming convention description:

- “IOP” is the designation abbreviation for Interoperability files.
- {Origination-Authority} is the name of the Authority creating the file. The Authority can be Service Provider, Subscriber or IOPHub.
- {Destination-Authority} is the name of the Authority receiving the file. The Authority can be Service Provider, Subscriber or IOPHub.
- YYYYMMDD is the GMT date where YYYY is the year in four-digit format (i.e. 2007), MM is the month in numerical format (i.e. October would be 10) and DD is the day of the month.²
- HH24MISS is the GMT time where HH24 is the 2-digit hour in 24-hour format, MI are the minutes, and SS are the seconds. The time used to create this external file name is the GMT time.
- {XXXXXXXXXX} is an arbitrary region of up to 9 characters to be used by the Origination Authority to allow unique file names to be generated. Any combinations of alphanumeric characters are allowed in this portion of the name.
- “LTA” is the file extension appended to the file name. This extension helps serve to identify the content type of the file.

Note: The Data File name and ZIP file name are both in upper case, including the file extension.

For example, a file created and sent from TTA to IOPHUB on March 13, 2007 at 5pm GMT might be named:

IOP_TTA_IOPHUB_20070313_170000_000002222.LTA

Once zipped, the file name of the zipped file would be named:

\$IOP_TTA_IOPHUB_20070313_170000_000002222.ZIP

² Dates and times are expressed in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) to facilitate date/time processing unaffected by daylight savings time changes, or time zone differences.



2.4 File Format

The file format conforms to the general structure described in the document *Interoperable-ICD-01: File Transfer* (see Figure 1). The files are in ASCII format, comprised of a file header and record header, followed by data records. The file header is described in *Interoperable-ICD-01 File Transfer*. This portion of the file is shown in gray in the figure below.

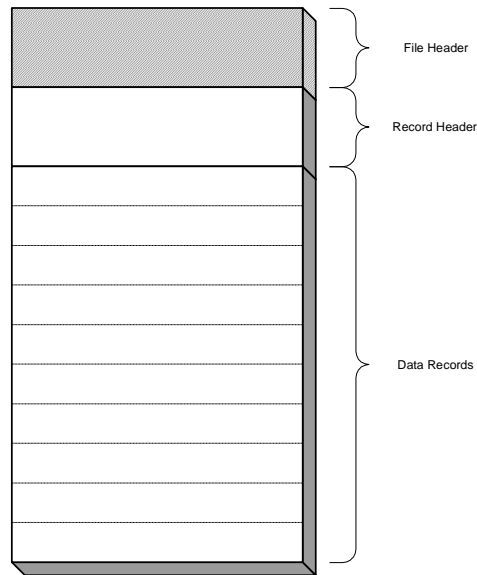


Figure 1. Interoperable File Structure.

The record header and data records are created by the Sender's system. The record header, as well as each data record, will be terminated by a Line Feed or Carriage Return & Line Feed (hex '0D 0A') character combination. Fields in a record header and data records are variable length and comma-delimited. Section 2.5 describes the format of the record header and data records.



2.5 Record Formats

The first portion of all record types is similar. Each record begins with a record code composed of a two-digit alpha code and a two-digit version code. The remaining fields in the record vary based upon the record type. All fields are ASCII alphanumeric characters, variable length and comma-delimited.

2.5.1 License Plate Validation List Record Header Format

The Record Header contains information about the originating Service Provider, time of creation and record count. The batch ID serves as identification in the acknowledgement returned to the file's originator. This field is sufficiently large to allow Service Provider to create unique batch IDs for a reasonable period of time. This would be the amount of time required to allow a receiving Service Providers and Subscribers to post the file's contents with the safest of margins (e.g., 60-90 days).

License Plate Validation List Record Header Format					
Description	Type	Max Length	Delimiter	Req'd	Comment
Record Code	Character	4	,	Y	This field will always be "LH01"
Originating Authority	Character	8	,	Y	Operating Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTRMA – Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority • HCTRA - Harris County Toll Road Authority • IOPHub • NTTA - North Texas Toll Authority • TTA [TXDOT – Texas Department of Transportation]
Date-Time Created	Character	15	,	Y	GMT Date-time file was created. 'YYYYMMDD-HH24MISS'
Record Count	Number	10	,	Y	Number of records not including the header record to follow in this file.
Batch ID	Number	10	,	Y	Batch ID for the file. This field is a number between 0 and 4,294,967,295.
Update Type	Character	10	,	Y	Status update type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "FULL" = Complete list of all owned license plates. ▪ "INCR" = Incremental list of license plates, a periodic update.
File Name	Character	60	CR&LF	Y	Original file name for this file as created by the originator.



2.5.2 License Plate Validation List Record Format

The License Plate Validation List Record (Record Code "LT01") contains information about the individual License Plates associated with accounts by a Service Provider.

License Plate Status Validation Record Format					
Description	Type	Max Length	Delimiter	Req'd	Comment
Record Code	Character	4	,	Y	This field will always be "LT01"
Tag ID	Character	20	,	N	Must be NULL
Status	Character	1	,	Y	Current status recorded at HIA: G – Good B – Low Balance I – Invalid L – Lost N – Negative Balance R – Returned S – Stolen
Vehicle Classification	Numeric	3	,	Y	Classification of the vehicle based on the axle count, listed on the license plate record. 2 – Two axle vehicle 3 – Three axle vehicle 4 – Four axle vehicle 5 – Five axle vehicle 6 – Six plus axle vehicle (other)
Revenue Type	Numeric	1	,	Y	1 = full-fare 2 = non-revenue
License Plate State	Character	3	,	Y	Three characters indicate the state code.
License Plate Number	Character	15	,	Y	License Plate Number
Alternate License Plate ³ State	Character	3	,	N	Three characters indicate the state code.
Alternate License Plate Number	Character	15	,	N	Alternate License Plate Number associated with the primary License Plate
License Plate Effective Date	Character	15	,	N	GMT Date-time License Plate Effective Date. 'YYYYMMDD-HH24MISS'
License Plate Expiration Date	Character	15	,	N	GMT Date-time License Plate Expiration Date. 'YYYYMMDD-HH24MISS'
Attribute_3	Character	50	,	N	This field will have additional Authority specific data, if necessary
LVL Home Authority	Character	50	,	Y	LVL Home Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTRMA – Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority • HCTRA - Harris County Toll Road Authority • NTTA - North Texas Toll Authority • TXDOT – Texas Department of Transportation
Home Authority Account ID	Character	50	,	N	Home Authority Account ID

³ Alternate License Plate State and Plate Number shall be implemented in later release. Until then, these fields shall be blank.



2.6 Sample Data

Three sample LVL files are shown below. Each LVL file contains a record header and license plate validation list records. The Carriage Return & Line Feed characters are shown as a “`\r\n`”.

a) LVL File from TTA to IOPHUB

```
FFFFFFFF,000078602478\r\nLH01,TTA,20070617-070010,1460597,204973,FULL,IOP_TTA_IOPHUB_20070617_070010_000119035.LTA\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,017FPXX,,,20070617-070010,,148375,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,I,2,1,TX,V50YDJ,,,20070617-070010,,127048,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,I,2,1,TX,AMTECH,,,20070617-070010,,1075,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,773HBJ,,,20070617-070010,,134014,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,L,2,1,TX,1HDN31,,,20070617-070010,,170866,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,P73NZD,,,20070617-070010,,96346,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,264WVG,,,20070617-070010,,847895,,,,,\r\n
```

b) LVL File from IOPHUB to CTRMA

```
B77A0658,000085891811\r\nLH01,IOPHUB,20070617-074418,1460597,24326,FULL,IOP_IOPHUB_CTRMA_20070617_074418_000024326.LTA\r\nLT01, ,B,2,1,TX,1ZVZ33,,, 20070617-074418,,,TTA,89128,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,7RGJ74,,,20070617-074418,,,TTA,270062,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,I,2,1,TX,D97TGS,,,20070617-074418,,,TTA,422432,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,J61XBD,,,20070617-074418,,,TTA,193171,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,O2YKC3,,,20070617-074418,,,TTA,531509,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,295PYW,,,20070617-074418,,,TTA,51247,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,185DJW,,,20070617-074418,,,TTA,309112,,,,,\r\n
```

c) LVL File from IOPHUB to HCTRA

```
FFFFFFFF,000082970617\r\nLH01,IOPHUB,20070617-081110,1460597,24326,FULL,IOP_IOPHUB_HCTRA_20070617_081110_000024326.LTA\r\nLT01, ,B,2,1,TX,1ZVZ33,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,89128,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,7RGJ74,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,270062,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,I,2,1,TX,D97TGS,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,422432,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,J61XBD,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,193171,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,O2YKC3,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,531509,,,,,\r\nLT01, ,G,2,1,TX,295PYW,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,51247,,,,,\r\n
```



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LT01, ,G,2,1,TX,185DJW,,,20070617-081110,,,TTA,309112,,,,¶



2.7 Availability

IOPHub shall be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the file exchanges. Exceptions will be for scheduled maintenance activities. All Service Providers and Subscribers should be notified in advance of scheduled maintenance activities and extended downtime periods. When IOPHub is down, the agencies should stop pushing and pulling files. File transfer may continue after the IOPHub is back up and operational.

Bulk License Plate Validation Lists are transferred to receiving Service Providers and Subscribers by 6:00 am (CDT). The actual time is based on the Authority obtaining their response to account re-bills before distributing a new list.

License Plate validation lists are updated by sending incremental files, referred to as License Plate Validation List updates. Incremental files are typically distributed once an hour. Since these lists contain only those license plates whose status has changed, the updated lists may not be generated hourly.



3 License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement File Specification

3.1 Type

This specification defines the general structure of Interoperable License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement. The License Plate Validation List is an ASCII text file. The file contains records with comma-delimited fields, terminated by Carriage Return & Line Feed characters.

3.2 Security

The data files will be written with no special security considerations. The contents of the files are viewable in a standard text editor. The files contain no security-sensitive information.

The IOPHub shall utilize a firewall scheme that will prevent unauthorized access by authorized or unauthorized users. Captive accounts or similar accounts shall be used to prevent unauthorized user from accessing other areas of the IOPHub system and Service Providers and Subscribers computer systems.

Each Service Provider and Subscriber shall utilize a firewall scheme that will prevent access by unauthorized users. Captive accounts or similar accounts shall be used to prevent unauthorized user from accessing other areas of the Service Providers and Subscribers computer systems.

The IOPHub Data Security Guidelines document should be reviewed and implemented where appropriate.

3.3 Processing Guidelines

Files will be exchanged between IOPHub and Service Providers and Subscribers utilizing the protocol described in the document *Interoperable-ICD-01: File Transfer*. The file transfer protocol verifies the size of the file, record count, checksum, and validates the file format.

When a License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement File arrives from a Service Provider, Subscriber or IOPHub, the file size and the header record is examined in order to perform a simple data integrity check. The header contains the number of records in the file and checksum. Additionally the file format is verified to be correct based on the type of file. All four (4) checks must be verified correct before posting of the file occurs. If any one of the four (4) checks fails, the entire file should not be used.

A file noted as incorrect based on the file size, record count, checksum, or file format should be flagged as damaged and notification sent to the appropriate personnel for manual intervention.

If the file size, record count, checksum, and file format are all correct, file processing continues by the receiving Service Provider or Subscriber. As the status file is processed, the receiving Service Provider or Subscriber may encounter an error with a single data record. This specification calls for the



receiving Authority to ignore the errant record and continue processing the remaining records of the file. An indication of the number of exceptions is noted in the acknowledgement transmitted back to the originating Service Provider.

The receiving Service Providers and Subscribers must note the time of file receipt and the activation time of the License Plate Validation List. The determination of “activation time” is Service Provider or Subscriber -specific, based upon internal system implementations. The Interoperability Business Requirements for computing activation time must be agreed upon among all Service Providers and Subscribers and are beyond the scope of this document.

The License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement File must be named by the receiving Service Providers and Subscribers. File names will be constructed according to the following convention:

IOP_{Originating-Authority}_{Destination-Authority}_YYYYMMDD_HH24MISS_{XXXXXXXXXX}.LTA_ACK

The License Plate Validation List naming convention description:

- “IOP” is the designation abbreviation for Interoperability files.
- {Origination-Authority} is name of the Authority creating the file. The Authority can be Service Provider, Subscriber or IOPHub.
- {Destination-Authority} is name of the Authority receiving the file. The Authority can be Service Provider, Subscriber or IOPHub.
- YYYYMMDD is the GMT date where YYYY is the year in four-digit format (i.e. 2002), MM is the month in numerical format (i.e. October would be 10) and DD is the day of the month.
- HH24MISS is the GMT time where HH24 is the 2-digit hour in 24-hour format, MI are the minutes, and SS are the seconds. The time used to create this external file name is the GMT time.
- {XXXXXXXXXX} is an arbitrary region of up to 9 characters to be used by the Origination Authority to allow unique file names to be generated. Any combination of alphanumeric characters is allowed in this portion of the name.
- “LTA_ACK” is the file extension appended to the file name. This extension helps serve to identify the content type of the file.

For example, a file created and sent from TTA to IOPHUB on March 13, 2003 at 5pm GMT might be named:

IOP_TTA_IOPHUB_20070313_170000_002222.LTA_ACK

Once zipped, the file name of the zipped file would be named:

\$IOP_TTA_IOPHUB_20070313_170000_002222.ZIP



3.4 File Format

The file format conforms to the general structure described in the document *Interoperable-ICD-01: File Transfer*. The files are in ASCII format, comprised of a file header and record header, followed by data records. The file header is constructed at the Sender's system as described in *Interoperable-ICD-01: File Transfer*. This portion of the file is shown in gray in the figure below.

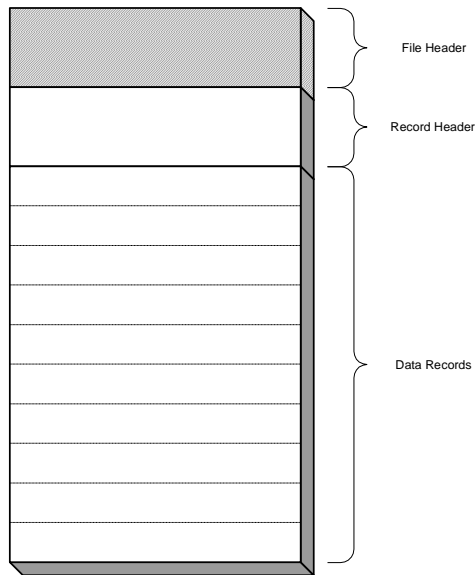


Figure 2. Interoperable File Structure.

The record header and data records are created by the Sender's system. The record header, as well as each data record, will be terminated by a Line Feed or Carriage Return & Line Feed (hex '0D 0A') character combination. Fields in a record header and data records are variable length and comma-delimited. Section 2.5 describes the format of the record header and data records.

The License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement File consists of a single Record Header and may or may not contain Data Records. It will contain Data Records when there are LVL Rejected Records.

The structure of the Record Header is contained in the following section.



3.5 Record Formats

The first portion of all record types is similar. Each record begins with a record code composed of a two-digit alpha code and a two-digit version code. The remaining fields in the record vary based upon the record type. All fields are ASCII alphanumeric characters, variable length and comma-delimited.

3.5.1 License Plate Validation List Acknowledgement Record Header Format

The Record Header contains information about the acknowledging Authority and time of creation. This record serves as an acknowledgement of a License Plate Validation List received from a Service Provider.

Record Header Format					
Description	Type	Fixed Length	Delimiter	Req'd	Comment
Record Code	Character	4	,	Y	This field will always be "LA01"
Acknowledging Authority	Character	8	,	Y	Abbreviation for the Authority generating the acknowledgement file. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTRMA – Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority • HCTRA - Harris County Toll Road Authority • IOPHub • NTTA - North Texas Toll Authority • TXDOT – Texas Department of Transportation
Date-Time Created	Character	15	,	Y	GMT Date-time acknowledgement file was created. 'YYYYMMDD-HH24MISS'
Record Count	Number	10	,	Y	Number of records, not including the header record, to follow in this file.
Original-Batch ID	Number	10	,	Y	Batch ID for the file received. This field is a number between 0 and 4,294,967,295.
Processing Status	Character	1	,	Y	Processing status of file received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "A" – All records processed successfully ▪ "R" – Processing failed, bad record count ▪ "X" – Processed with exceptions, not all records valid. ▪ "B" - File Header invalid ▪ "C" - Bad Record Header (Other)
Date-Time Received	Character	15	,	Y	GMT Date-time Authority received file 'YYYYMMDD-HH24MISS'.
Date-Time Activated	Character	15	,	Y	GMT Date-time Authority activated the status file received 'YYYYMMDD-HH24MISS'.
Valid Record Count	Number	10	,	Y	Count of valid records processed in the status file received.
Invalid Record Count	Number	10	CR&LF	Y	Count of records with exceptions in the status file received.

3.5.2 License Plate Validation List Rejected Record Format

Rejected license plate status records are currently only sent to Service Providers and Subscribers requesting this report.



License Plate Status Rejected Record Format						
Description	Type	Max Length	Delimiter	Req'd	Comment	
Record Code	Character	4	,	Y	This field will always be "LR01"	
Original Tag ID	Character	20	,	N	The values received in the original License Plate Validation List Record are repeated here in the License Plate Validation List Rejected Record.	
Original License Plate Status	Character	1	,	Y		
Original Vehicle Classification	Numeric	3	,	Y		
Original Revenue Type	Numeric	1	,	Y		
Original License Plate State	Character	3	,	Y		
Original License Plate Number	Character	15	,	Y		
Original Alternate License Plate State	Character	3	,	N		
Original Alternate License Plate Number	Character	15	,	N		
Reject Reason Code	Character	2	CR&LF	Y		The reason the original validation record was rejected: A – License Plate blocked by receiving Authority D – Invalid Data Record

3.6 Sample Data

Three sample LVL ACK file is shown below. These are the acknowledgement files created for the LVL files contained in Section 2.6. The Carriage Return & Line Feed characters are shown as a "¶".

a) LVL-ACK File from IOPHUB to NTTA

```
FFFFFFFF,000000000103¶
```

```
LA01,IOPHUB,20070617-074416,0,204973,A,20070617-070010,20070617-074416,1460597,0¶
```

b) LVL-ACK File from CTRMA to IOPHUB

```
A9A28CFE,000000000330¶
```

```
LA01,CTRMA,20070617-083710,5,24326,A,20070617-083218,20070617-083710,1460597,5¶
```

```
LR01, ,G,2,1,TX,WSY07P,,,A¶
```

```
LR01, ,G,2,1,TX,X18VSY,,,A¶
```

```
LR01, ,G,2,1,TX,WHT38J,,,A¶
```

```
LR01, ,G,2,1,TX,Y96TSS,,,D¶
```

```
LR01, ,S,2,1,TX,WQG68,,,A¶
```

c) LVL-ACK File from HCTRA to IOPHUB



FFFFFFFF,000000000101¶

LA01,HCTRA,20070617-093636,0,24326,A,20070617-084136,20070617-093636,1460597,0¶

3.7 Availability

IOPHub shall be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the file exchanges. Exceptions will be for scheduled maintenance activities. All Service Providers and Subscribers should be notified in advance of scheduled maintenance activities and extended downtime periods. When IOPHub is down, the agencies should stop pushing and pulling files. File transfer may continue after the IOPHub is back up and operational.