

UNITED NATIONS Department of Management Archives and Records Management Section

Guidelines

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File Classification Scheme for Administrative Functions Common to all UN Offices

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Guideline

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- I. File Classification Scheme for Administrative Functions Common to all UN Offices (FCSAF)
- II. Mapping FCSAF to the Retention Schedule for Records Common to all UN Offices (RCUN)

A. PURPOSE of the FCSAF

- 1. The File Classification Scheme for the Administrative Functions Common to all UN Offices (FCSAF) has been developed by ARMS to provide a detailed framework for the management of administrative records in UN offices.
- **2.** The FCSAF facilitates the management of administrative records that are commonly found in all offices.
- **3.** The FCSAF has been designed to support the use of an approved retention policy for administrative records common to all UN offices (RCUN).

B. SCOPE

- **4.** The FCSAF is to be used by any UN office within the Secretariat.
- **5.** The FCSAF is designed for use in both paper and electronic management systems.
- 6. The FCSAF has been designed to be used by any UN office, regardless of its core or substantive work programme.
- **7.** The FCSAF can be adjusted to meet specific needs of an office.

C. GUIDELINES for using the FCSAF

8. Benefits of the FCSAF

- Enable offices to standardize the arrangement and titling of folders.
- Enables offices to organize administrative records that they create or receive in a standardized and consistent way.
- Enables offices to retrieve administrative records by navigating through the FCSAF hierarchy of functions and activities.
- Supports the office's Records Management programme by linking the FCSAF categories to those in the retention schedule for Records Common to all United Nations Offices (RCUN), thereby facilitating the timely transfer, destruction and archiving of administrative records.

9. Structure of the FCSAF

The FCSF is a hierarchical filing system comprised of two or three levels. The first and second levels have been defined. The first level cannot be changed, however, offices may need to adjust the second and third levels as needed.

10. First Level: Functions¹

Each filing code begins with a three letter alphabetical designator, which collectively represent the first level of business functions.

¹ Business Function: the top or macro level of a business activity in an organization.

Administrative support for the Secretariat's substantive work programmes are grouped in the following functions:

Abbreviation	Title
ASM	Asset Management
BUF	Budget and Finance
FAM	Facilities Management
HRM	Human Resources
INM	Information Management
OVE	Oversight
PRO	Procurement

11. Second Level: Activities²

The second level corresponds to administrative business activities. The numbers are sequentially assigned to activities unique to a function.

For example: BUF-02 is to be used for files relating to Support Account Budget within Budget and Finance function:

Budget and Finance – Support Account – 2011-2012

Or OVE-01 is to be used for files relating to Internal Audits within Oversight function:

Oversight – Internal Audits – Records Management, 2011

12. Third Level: Sub-activities

Occasionally, offices may choose to sub-divide their activities for record-keeping purpose. Example for case files:

Procurement – Purchase of goods and supplies acquisition of goods and supplies under \$4000 – New computers, 2012

Human Resources - Staffing and Recruitment - Consultant (SSA) recruitment files – Mr. Smith, 2011

13. Scope Notes and Folder Title guidance

The FCSAF includes scope notes that define the type of records that fall under the specific activities or sub-activities. This information can be adjusted by the office as needed. In addition, basic instructions for

² Business activities: the actions that are taken in accomplishing a specific function

creating folder titles are provided; however, offices may wish to establish further naming conventions for their file folders.

14. Using the FCSAF

14.1. File Folder Numbers and Titles

Each file folder opened by an office should be assigned and labelled with a unique number which identifies it. This is done by combining the appropriate FCSAF code (e.g. HUM-01) with a chronologically assigned number for the specific folder (e.g. F001). This combined number is called the file folder number. This file folder number is unique within the office's record-keeping system.

For example, an office may need to open a file folder for the records related to the Regular Budget 2010-2012. Accordingly, it would create a folder labelled as follows:

File folder number: BUF-01-F001 **File folder title**: Budget and Finance – Regular Budget – 2010 to 2012

Or an office may need to open a file folder for the records related to and internal audits conducted by OIOS on the office's records management programme:

File folder number: OVE-01-F012 **File folder title**: Oversight – Internal Audits – Records Management programme, 2012

If using a paper filing system, work units may choose to only indicate the user-defined title on the folder. For example:

File folder number: OVE-01-F012 **File folder title**: Records Management programme, 2012

Folders are organized in the cabinets according to the file folder number.

Note: In an electronic record-keeping system, the first portion of the file folder title (Budget and Finance – Regular Budget) typically is system-generated. The last portion (2010-2012) is user-defined at the point of folder creation, and adds a level of specificity not necessarily found in the File Classification Scheme.

Note: A work unit need not open a file folder under each FCSAF number; file folders are created only when needed.

14.2. Registry

A registry needs to be developed to manage the creation of folders. The registry is also the inventory of the records and will be an essential tool for the implementation of retention policies.

Staff members need to be assigned with this responsibility. For all new files, registry staff are responsible for creating the file folder, including labelling and registering it. The registry needs to contain, at least, the following information:

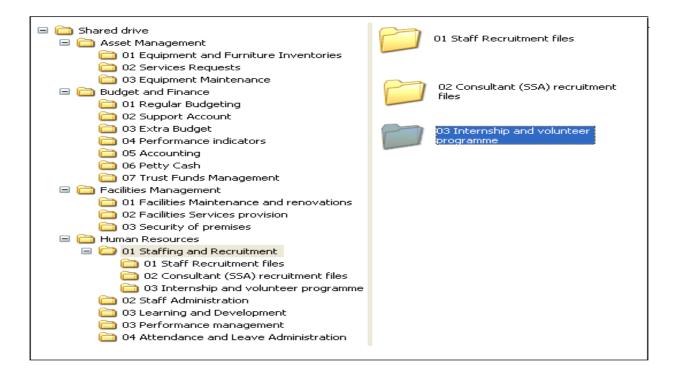
- File Folder number
- File Folder title
- Open date
- Close date
- Retention schedule details
- Home location

14.3 Using the FCSAF to Manage Working Documents on a Shared Drive

In the absence of an UN-approved electronic record-keeping system, offices must manage their records in paper form. Nevertheless, offices may wish to use the FCSAF to manage non-sensitive working documents on shared drives.

The most practical application of the FCSAF on shared drives is:

- 1.) Create a top-level file folder for each function required.
- 2.) Create a second-level folder for each activity required.
- 3.) Create a third-level folder for each sub-activity when applicable.
- 4.) Create one or more uniquely-titled folders under each second or third-level folder.
- 5.) File documents in these unique sub-activity, or 'transaction' folders. In order to ensure consistency of the file structure, more folders should not be added at either the first of second levels.



Note that individual documents may <u>only</u> be filed in transaction folders.

14.4. Problem Area: Filing 'Correspondence'

There is no single place to file 'Correspondence'. Filing decisions should always be based on the function and activity that led to creation of the correspondence. Consideration should also be given to who initiated the correspondence and who performed the action(s) (if any) based on the correspondence. Only certain correspondence meet the criteria of a business record and only business records need to be filed in a folder using the FCSAF.

Many offices retain copies of documents and records in a chronological file. Offices may, if they choose, continue to maintain chronological files, but they must ensure that the official copy of the record is filed according to the FCSAF and that the chronological file contains only duplicates of these records maintained for convenience.

14.5 Problem Area: Filing 'General Records'

If a record is considered 'general' then it likely does not serve as evidence of any business transaction and <u>therefore is not a record</u>. An activity called 'reference' may be added to file these kinds of records when needed.

15. Applying the UN Retention Schedule for Administrative Records Common to All UN Offices (RCUN)

The RCUN is the approved policy for administrative records. The FCSAF has been mapped to the RCUN to facilitate the implementation of retention policies.

Retention schedule information should be applied at folder creation. It is best to set up a records disposal programme as a regular cycle, at least annually.

16. Example of a folder label

OVE-01-F012	
Records Management programm	ie, 2012
Opened: 1/05/2012 Closed	1:
Home Location: OCSS/OASG – Re Cabinet 1, drawer 3	oom xxx -
Retention: RCUN101	

D. Terms and Definitions

- a) *Activity:* Each function of an organization may be broken down into a number of 'activities', a term used in the sense of a class of actions that are taken in accomplishing a specific function. The activities in turn may be broken down into a number of transactions.
- b) *Administrative Functions:* those functions of a business unit that do not relate to the specific mandate.
- c) Administrative records: administrative records are common to most organizations. Examples include routine correspondence or interoffice communications; records relating to human resources, equipment and supplies, and facilities; reference materials, routine activity reports, work assignments, appointment books, and telephone logs.
- d) *Core Business Function:* those functions of a business unit that specifically relate to its mandate.

- e) *File Classification Scheme:* system that describes standard categories and that is used to organize records with common characteristics.
- f) *Function:* The top or macro level of business activity in an organization.
- g) *Non-record copy*: is the copy of a record which is found in an office other than the office of record. Also referred to as a convenience copy.
- h) Office of record: is the office or administrative unit that has been designated for the maintenance, preservation and disposition of records (official) copies.
- i) *Record (official record):* any data or information, regardless of form or medium, maintained by the UN as evidence of a transaction.
- j) Retention Schedule: a comprehensive instruction covering the disposition of records to assure that they are retained for as long as necessary based on their administrative, fiscal, legal and historic value.

E. Contact

Please, contact the Archives and Records Management Section for information about these guidelines: arms@un.org

F. Help Online

For further information about implementation of a File Classification Scheme, approved Retention policies, and Records Management standards and guidelines, please visit ARMS website at: <u>http://archives.un.org/ARMS/</u>

		File	Classification Scheme for	or Ad	ministrative Functions Co	mmon to all UN Offices	
FUNCTIONS (Level 1)	ABBR.	No	ACTIVITIES (Level 2)	No	SUB-ACTIVITIES (Level 3)	Scope Notes	Title instructions
Assets Management	ASM					Non-record copies related to office management of UN assets.	
		01	Equipment and Furniture Inventories			File here: Copies of FMS inventory.	Title will consist of: Inventory [,] Year
		02	Services Requests			File here: non-record copies pertaining to requests for services from supportive offices, including: janitorial services, locksmith memos, water, office supplies stock requisitions, furniture, moves, FMS or ITSD requests, food services, Lotus Fax requests, translation requests, etc.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		03	Equipment Maintenance			File here: non-records copies pertaining to the maintenance and operations of the office equipment and furnishing (e.g.; copiers, computers, printer, manual warrantees, etc	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
Budget and Finance	BUF					Non-record copies related to the office	
		01	Regular Budget			Budget and Finance activities. <u>File here:</u> Instructions, results-based budgets, allotment advice, redeployment requests, performance reports, Budget Account Code Information (BAC), BAC charge-back information.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		02	Support Account			File here: Instructions, results-based budgets, allotment advice, redeployment requests, performance reports, Budget Account Code Information (BAC), BAC charge-back information.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		03	Extra Budgetary			File here: Instructions, allotment advice, redeployment requests, performance reports, Budget Account Code Information (BAC), BAC charge-back information, special funds (e.g. trust funds, etc.).	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		04	Performance Indicators			File here: Workload statistics.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		05	Accounting			File here: Reports and documentation submitted to Accounts Division/Accounts Payable for the reimbursement of expenses, including: travel incurred by staff while conducting United Nations business; consultants' invoices, SLAs.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		06	Petty Cash Management			File here: Records related to the management of the office petty cash such as petty cash vouchers.	Title will consist of: Year
		07	Trust Funds Management	01	Administration files	File here: records pertaining to the administration of trust funds and the programmatic uses of the fund's assets including allotment advices, cash receipts, interoffice and journal files, expenditure reports, financial statements and current transactions and correspondece.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
				02	Establishment files	File here: Records of authority and purpose for establishing a trust fund, establishment of bank accounts, designation of certifying officers, trust funds policies and procedures	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
Facilities Management	FAM					Non-record copies related to the management of facilities and coordination with FMS.	
		01	Facilities Maintenance and Renovations			File here: Records related to facilities such as construction/design projects, premises inspections, cleaning services, exterminatior and pest control, waste management, etc.	Year
		02	Facilities service provision			File here: Non-record copies of requests to FMS for the assistance on the renovation and adjustment of facilities.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		03	Security of Premises			File here: Records pertaining to safety and security, Disaster Preparedness Plans, emergency focal points, building passes, etc.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year

FUNCTIONS (Level 1)	ABBR.	No	ACTIVITIES (Level 2)	No	SUB-ACTIVITIES (Level 3)	Scope Notes	Title instructions
Human Resources	HRM					Non-record copies related to the office Human Resources activities.	
		01	Staffing and Recruitment	01	Staff recruitment files	File here: Vacancy Announcements, including TVAs, applicants' files, interview notes, written tests results, recommendations for GTA and posts from Galaxy and Inspira.	Title will consist of: Title of Post and/or Applicant's name [,] Year
				02	Consultant (SSA) recruitment files	File here: Terms of Reference, consultants' profile and proposals, selection recommendations.	Title will consist of: Title of Consultancy and/or Consultant's name [,] Year
				03	Internship and Volunteer Programme	File here: Records related to the recruitment of interns and volunteers.	Title will consist of: Intern or Volunteer's name [,] Year
		02	Staff Administration			File here: non-records copies filed for reference purposes related to individual staff members including: contracts, assignments missions, evaluations SPA requests, resignation, termination, retirements, etc [Executives Offices is the Office of Record.]	Title will consist of: Staff member's name [,] Year
		03	Learning and Development	01	Internal training files	File here: Records related to the office staff internal training.	Title will consist of: Type of training and/or Name of staff [,] Year
				02	External training files	File here: Records related to the office attendance and participation in external training.	Title will consist of: Type of training and/or Name of staff [,] Year
		04	Performance Management			File here: Non-record copies of performance documents (e.g. e-PAS, Inspira).	Title will consist of: Name of staff [,] Year
		05	Attendance and Leave Administration	01	Annual leave requests	File here: Requests for annual leave.	Title will consist of: Date of request
					Attendance reports	File here: Monthly and yearly attendance reports.	Title will consist of: Date of report
		06	Travel Administration	02	Travel coordination	File here: Non-record copies of travel authorization, requests, etc. Only the administrative records of travel are filed here.	Title will consist of: Subject [, Year
				01	Laissez-passer requests	File here: Non-record copies of requests for les laissez-passer.	Title will consist of: Date of request
		07	Delegation of Authority			File here: Signed delegations of authority.	Title will consist of: Subject [, Year
		08	Staff Clearances			File here: records related to the clearance of staff members before separation.	Title will consist of: Name of staff [,] Year
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	INM					Records and non-record copies covering the development, maintenance and technical support of ICT systems.	
		01	IT Systems Development			File here: system requirements records, correspondence on system development and implementation	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		02	Request for IT Services	01	Hardware and software services requests	File here: hardware and software service requests.	Title will consist of: title of the request [,] Year
				02	Software licenses	File here: software licenses	Title will consist of: name of the software [,] Year
		03	Request for Communication Services			File here: landlines and mobile phone communication services, Blackberry requests, Phone bills	Title will consist of: Subject [, Year
		04	Documents and Records Management			File here: Retention schedules, accession control reports, Records destruction authorization	Title will consist of: Subject [, Year
		05	Business Continuity Management			File here: documentation to protect staff and records and to resume business activities in the event of a disaster or emergency	Title will consist of: Subject [, Year
Oversight	OVE					Non-record copies related to audits conducted to the office.	
		01	Internal Audit			File here: Notification of audits, recommendations, follow-ups.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year
		02	External Audit			File here: Notification of external audits, recommendations, follow-ups.	Title will consist of: Subject [,] Year

FUNCTIONS (Level 1)	ABBR.	No	ACTIVITIES (Level 2)	No	SUB-ACTIVITIES (Level 3)	Scope Notes	Title instructions
Procurement	PRO					Records and non-record copies related to the office procurement activities.	
		01	Contract Management				Title will consist of: Name of Contractor and/or Type of Contract [,] Year
		-	Purchase of Goods and Supplies	01	and supplies under \$4,000	F	Title will consist of: Name of contractor and/or PO number [,] Year
					goods and supplies over \$4,000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Title will consist of: Name of contractor and / or PO number [,] Year

FUNCTIONS	ABBR.	No	ACTIVITIES	SUB-ACTIVITIES	Scope Notes	Applied retention	Retention / Disposition
(Level 1) ssets Management	ASM		(Level 2)	(Level 3)	Non-record copies related to office	schedule	
	7.0	04	Environment and Evenitors		management of UN assets.		
		01	Equipment and Furniture Inventories		File here: Copies of FMS inventory.	RCUN114	S= Superceded / Destroy
		02	Services Requests		File here: non-record copies pertaining to requests for services from supportive offices, including: janitorial services, locksmith memos, water, office supplies stock requisitions, furniture, moves, FMS or ITSD requests, food services, Lotus Fax requests, translation requests, etc.	RCUN130	T=Service request completed / Destroy
		03	Equipment Maintenance		File here: non-records copies pertaining to the maintenance and operations of the office equipment and furnishing (e.g.; copiers, computers, printer, manual warrantees, etc	RCUN115	T= Equipment no longer maintained or disposed of compliance with UN property Survey Board Guidelines &procedures / Destroy
udget and Finance	BUF				Non-record copies related to the office Budget and Finance activities.		
		01	Regular Budgeting		File here: Instructions, results-based budgets, allotment advice, redeployment requests, performance reports, Budget Account Code Information (BAC), BAC charge-back information.	RCUN103	B+4 / Destroy
		02	Support Account		File here: Instructions, results-based budgets, allotment advice, redeployment requests, performance reports, Budget Account Code Information (BAC), BAC charge-back information.	RCUN102	C+3 / Destroy
		03	Extra Budget		File here: Instructions, allotment advice, redeployment requests, performance reports, Budget Account Code Information (BAC), BAC charge-back information, special funds (e.g. trust funds, etc.).	RCUN103	B+4 / Destroy
		04	Performance Indicators		File here: Workload statistics.	RCUN103	B+4 / Destroy
		05	Accounting		File here: Reports and documentation submitted to Accounts Division/Accounts Payable for the reimbursement of expenses, including: travel incurred by staff while conducting United Nations business; consultants' invoices, SLAs.	RCUN116	B+3 / Destroy
		06	Petty Cash Management		File here: Records related to the management of the office petty cash such as petty cash vouchers.	RCUN121	C+3 / Destroy
		07	Trust Funds Management	Administration files	File here: records pertaining to the administration of trust funds and the programmatic uses of the fund's assets including allotment advices, cash receipts, interoffice and journal files, expenditure reports, financial statements and current transactions and correspondence.	RCUN141	B+5 / Destroy
				Establishment files	File here: Records of authority and purpose for establishing a trust fund, establishment of bank accounts, designation of certifying officers, trust funds policies and procedures	RCUN142	T+5 / Destroy
acilities Management	FAM				Non-record copies related to the management of facilities and coordination with FMS.		
		01	Facilities Maintenance and Renovations		File here: Records related to facilities such as construction/design projects, premises inspections, cleaning services, extermination and pest control, waste management, etc.	RCUN121	C+3 / Destroy
		02	Facilities service provision		File here: Non-record copies of requests to FMS for the assistance on the renovation and adjustment of facilities.	RCUN130	T=Service request completed / Destroy
		03	Security of Premises		File here: Records pertaining to safety and security, Disaster Preparedness Plans, emergency focal points, building passes, etc.	RCUN121	C+3 / Destroy

FUNCTIONS (Level 1)	ABBR.	No	ACTIVITIES (Level 2)	SUB-ACTIVITIES (Level 3)	Scope Notes	Applied retention schedule	Retention / Disposition
Human Resources	HRM				Non-record copies related to the office Human Resources activities.		
		01	Staffing and Recruitment	Staff recruitment files	File here: Vacancy Announcements, including TVAs, applicants' files, interview notes, written tests results, recommendations for GTA and posts from Galaxy and Inspira.	RCUN135	T+1 = Position filled / Destroy
				Consultant (SSA) recruitment files	File here: Terms of Reference, consultants' profile and proposals, selection recommendations.	RCUN135	T+1 = Position filled / Destroy
				Internship and Volunteer Programme	File here: Records related to the recruitment of interns and volunteers.	RCUN135	T+1 = Position filled / Destroy
		02	Staff Administration		File here: non-records copies filed for reference purposes related to individual staff members including: contracts, assignments missions, evaluations SPA requests, resignation, termination, retirements, etc [Executives Offices is the Office of Record.]	RCUN133	T+1 = transfer of separation of employee / Destroy
		02	Learning and Development	Internal training files	File here: Records related to the office staff internal training.	RCUN133	T +1 = transfer of separation of employee / Destroy
				External training files	File here: Records related to the office attendance and participation in external training.	RCUN133	T +1 = transfer of separation of employee / Destroy
		03	Performance Management		File here: Non-record copies of performance documents (e.g. e-PAS, Inspira).	RCUN133	T+1 = transfer of separation of employee / Destroy
	04	Attendance and Leave Administration	Annual leave requests	File here: Requests for annual leave.	RCUN139	C+1 / Destroy	
				Attendance reports	File here: Monthly and yearly attendance reports.	RCUN139	C+1 / Destroy
		05	Travel Administration	Travel coordination	File here: Non-record copies of travel authorization, requests, etc. Only the administrative records of travel are filed here.	RCUN140	T+1 = Trip completed / Destroy
				Laissez-passer requests	File here: Non-record copies of requests for les laissez-passer.	RCUN140	T+1 = Trip completed / Destroy
		06	Delegation of Authority		File here: Signed delegations of authority.	RCUN113	S= Superceded / Destroy
		07	Staff Clearances		File here: records related to the clearance of staff members before separation.	RCUN133	T+1 = transfer of separation of employee / Destroy
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	INM				Records and non-record copies covering the development, maintenance and technical support of ICT systems.		
		01	IT Systems Development		File here: system requirements records, correspondence on system development and implementation	RCUN108	T+1= system no longer installed / Destroy
		02	Request for IT Services	Hardware and software services requests	File here: hardware and software service requests.	RCUN130	T= Service request completed / Destroy
				Software licenses	File here: software licenses	RCUN131	T+3 = software no longer installed / Destroy
		03	Request for Communication Services		File here: landlines and mobile phone communication services, Blackberry requests, Phone bills	RCUN130	T= Service request completed / Destroy
		04	Documents and Records Management		File here: Retention schedules, accession control reports, Records destruction authorization	RCUN128	S= Superceded / Destroy
		05	Business Continuity Management		File here: documentation to protect staff and records and to resume business activities in the event of a disaster or emergency	RCUN104	S= Superceded / Destroy
Oversight	OVE				Non-record copies related to audits conducted to the office.		
		01	Internal Audit		File here: Notification of audits, recommendations, follow-ups.	RCUN101	T+2 = Resolution of issues raised in audit / Destroy
		02	External Audit		File here: Notification of external audits, recommendations, follow-ups.	RCUN101	T+2 = Resolution of issues raised in audit / Destroy

FUNCTIONS (Level 1)	ABBR.	No	ACTIVITIES (Level 2)	SUB-ACTIVITIES (Level 3)	Scope Notes	Applied retention schedule	Retention / Disposition
Procurement	PRO				Records and non-record copies related to the office procurement activities.		
		01	Contract Management		File here: Case folders for non-record copies of contracts, leases and institutional or corporate agreements. Records related to the management of the contract, including correspondence with the vendor.	RCUN125	T+1 = Procurement completed, contract expires, services complete / Destroy
				Files for the acquisition of good and supplies under \$4,000	File here: Records relating to Requisitions and purchases including bids, proposals, quotations, invoices payment records, etc	RCUN124	T+5 = Procurement completed, contract expires, services complete / Destroy
				Files for the acquisition of goods and supplies over \$4,000	File here: Non-record copies relating to Requisitions and purchases including bids, proposals, quotations, invoices payment records, etc	RCUN125	T+1 = Procurement completed, contract expires, services complete / Destroy