Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

FILE REF: [**G052**]

UNEXPECTED OTHERCONTRIBUTIONSAMOUNT TUPLES

PURPOSE

This document provides guidance in relation to the handling of unexpected tuples within a batch of SuperStream Contributions.

BACKGROUND

The Contributions standard for allows for an amount in the SuperannuationContributionOtherAmounts tuple.

The Message Implementation Guide (in 6.4.7) includes guidance on how this field must be used indicating that employers should only populate these tuples as directed by funds.

SuperStream Guidance Note (G019) provides guidance for contributions to defined benefit funds. This guidance note defines standard tuples to be used for defined benefits. Columns for each of these standard tuples are included in the SuperStream Alternative File Format (SAFF).

If an employer has submitted contributions using a SAFF and they have populated one of the defined benefits amounts, this information should be passed to the fund in the CTR along with the corresponding total amount of contributions in the message.

ISSUE

We are aware of some situations where a fund has received a contributions message containing an unexpected amount in the SuperannuationContributionOtherAmounts tuples and has rejected the entire message and refunded the full payment.

Where this has been part of a batch contributions message this results in no allocation of any member contributions within that message. This not only impacts allocation of money to a members account but can also have significant impact on employer's compliance with superannuation guarantee obligations.

Although this is not experienced that often, the impact of this is significant in terms of affected members and resolution.

Although employers should not include information in a tuple unless directed it is very easy for an employer to inadvertently populate one of these fields.

The Fund Validation Service does not provide visibility to sending solutions on whether a fund has an agreement to accept tuples containing other amounts from an employer, unless they have been advised directly by the employer, or the fund, which is not always the case.

RECOMMENDED GUIDANCE

All funds should be able to process a message with populated tuples, which includes those amounts from the tuples when checking message and payment totals.

Funds should action any unexpected tuples as an exception and where necessary contact the employer to resolve.

The current standard allows for batching of messages which may include a message with SuperannuationContributionOtherAmounts tuple populated.

Where there is no agreement between the employer and the fund to accept these tuples that cannot be processed, the fund should reject only those records with the unexpected SuperannuationContributionOtherAmounts tuple.   Any refunded amount can be processed as per the existing standard for the total amount of the rejected records.

The remainder of the batch should be accepted and processed by the fund.

Release notes	
Guidance note	**G052** – **Unexpected OtherContributionsAmount Tuple**
Message pattern	Contributions using SuperStream Alternate File Format
Relevant Schedules	Schedule 4a - Data and Payments Standards – Contributions Message Implementation Guide v2.0.
Due date	**This guidance applies immediately from the date of issue.**
Sending solutions	Sending solutions should continue to use their current process for processing contributions.
Receiving solutions	Receiving solutions should only reject those records and payments that cannot be processed.
Future action	The business rules in this guidance note will be incorporated in the next applicable version of the Contributions MIG and Error Code Management schedules after v2.0. As these business rules they will not be incorporated into Schematron.