

ALMIS Database/ACINet Licensing Table Update

National Crosswalk Service Center

Background

The NCSC has been involved with providing licensed occupation information on the Internet since 1998, first through the operation of the Licensed Occupation Information System (LOIS), and now as the database manager for the licensing tables used in ACINet. The table structures were originally based on those found in the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) Occupational and Labor Market Information Database (OLMID) structure. Those structures were incorporated into the initial version of the ALMIS Database. The ACINet structures have evolved over time and have never been entirely in synch with the ALMIS Database tables. ACINet is moving to a table structure based on Version 2.3 of the ALMIS Database.

Database Issues

The problem – Older licensing structures have trouble dealing with occupationally broad licenses – those that can relate to multiple occupations. Examples include engineers, teachers and physicians. In their databases, some states have included multiple records in their LICENSE table, one for each occupation that can relate to the license. Other states choose to include only one record in the LICENSE table and relate that to only one occupation, usually a residual occupation for the group. Neither solution presents an adequate portrayal of the relationships between licenses and occupations.

The solution – ACINet and the ALMIS Database structure committee both were aware of the issue and came up with identical solutions independently. The solution involves adding a license-to-occupation crosswalk table, LICXOCC in the ALMIS Database and LICXONET in ACINet. Now, a single record in the LICENSE table can relate to multiple occupations in the crosswalk table.

NCSC Services

States always face a number of issues during a database version conversion. The NCSC is prepared to offer a variety of services that should make that transition easier, at least for the licensing tables.

NCSC services designed with that in mind include:

- ◆ Database translation: The NCSC will translate the ALMIS Database files states furnished into the format used in ACINet. This includes creation of a LICXONET table based on the content of the state LICENSE table and identification and removal of redundant license tables. All tentative changes to the tables are returned to the state for review and revision. (**see structure document**)
- ◆ LICXONET enhancement: NCSC staff will modify the content of the LICXONET table to ensure that the contents reflect the crosswalks listed in the **Sample LICXONET Configurations** document. Similar enhancements can be developed for other licenses upon request.
- ◆ LICENSE enhancement: NCSC staff will modify the LICENSE table to remove records for specialties, e.g., replace CHEMICAL ENGINEER, MECHANICAL ENGINEER, etc. with PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER.

Questions

Contact the NCSC at ncsc@iowa.gov or by telephone at 515-242-5034.

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