FAQs General Ledger in mySAP ERP

Solution Management Financials

SAP AG

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- **What is the Maximum Number of Segments in the key of the new totals table FAGLFLEXT?**

  In SL there are 45 object number tables each with 15 key fields.
  The SL totals table can contain max. 45 key fields. These 45 key fields do also contain some fixed standard fields as company code, G/L account, profit centre, and segment.

  In the New GL, fields as company code, account, profit centre, segment are standard in the table key. In addition to that, 2 customer includes are available where the customer can include additional 15 fields (other SAP standard fields as the plant or customer defined fields).

  The point of caution is a high amount of additional fields can result in a high amount of data volume which causes performance problems in processes as reporting, foreign currency valuation, allocation.

- **What are the sizing impacts if New GL is used and impact on the performance issues caused by turning New GL on?**

  The impact depends on the implemented functions. Sizing/ performance remains the same if no additional functions are used (mainly "additional ledgers for parallel accounting" or "document split" would have an impact).

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- **Can line Items and totals be managed together?**

  No, line items on totals are managed in different tables. There is no option to manage all in one table.

- **When table logic has changed (FAGLXX replace GLT0) how does the data source for BW will evolve in turn?**

  The data sources have to be created first. There will be technical name 3FI_GL_xx_TT which is a placeholder (naming convention), where the XX has to be replaced by the ledger description. For a ledger 'LL' the data source would be 3FI_GL_LL_TT supposed it has been created before. The transaction to create own data sources in NewGL is FAGLBW03.

  The only data source for the NewGL which has been delivered by SAP is 0FI_GL_10 which only extract data from the leading ledger. If data from the non leading ledger are requested the above described procedure occurs.

  In some cases an extract structure is required to create a data source. This structure has to be generated using transaction FAGLBW01. This has to be done if the ledger for which the data source is need is not based on the delivered standard totals table FAGLFLEXT.

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- **Extending fields in NewGL tables**

  a) **How is the enhancement with customer fields technically mapped? Can a customer who has enhanced the BSEG using COBL up to now continue to use this in the New General Ledger or is there another procedure?**

     The procedure is identical. Technically, the customer field is inserted using an include (CI_COBL in COBL).

  b) **Does SAP give recommendations on how many customer dimensions with how   many characteristics customers should have?**

     There is no recommendation on this. It must be decided at the project level.The important parameter is performance during data evaluation. It would also be conceivable to work with a few different ledgers, each with one characteristic.

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c) When fields are extended in the New GL tables, does this extension easily allow for things such as reporting (line item detail and balances), SAP processes like year-end balance carry forwards including the extended field, etc?

All customer defined fields are extended within the line item structures and are available within the entry view for general inquiry/reporting. Fields can also be customized for inclusion in the totals table, making them available in the ledger view.
Only fields included in the totals table have balances carried forward.

d) Can only customer-defined extensible fields be included, or can existing SAP fields be included as well (i.e. material number)?

There are a limited number of standard fields that can be included in the New GL totals table via normal customizing. Fields which are not available can be installed as customer fields, however it is necessary to make the derivation in order for the values to be populated.

e) Is there any functionality extending fields in the tables won't allow for?

Customer fields must have substitution/derivation logic and/or be available for input in order to receive values.

f) Is there anything to be considered when extending fields within the New GL tables?

There will be impacts on table growth within summary tables for each extended field. According to Development (please see OSS-note 820495, 5-6 million rows in summary tables are a point at which performance degradation may be apparent for activities including allocations, month-end processes, reporting, and BW extracts. Splitting and zero-balancing on extended fields has impacts to table growth as well.

g) What other considerations will impact system performance as it relates to?

Document splitting functionality and zero-balancing functionality are creating additional line items

Technology

Document Online Split

Comparing Special Ledger with New GL

Parallel Financial Accounting and Ledgers

Segment/ Profit Center/ Business Area/ Customer fields

Integration

Reporting

Miscellaneous

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Document Online Split

- **How is the online split in the New General Ledger different from the online split in FI-SL in SAP R/3 Enterprise?**

  The split function has been enhanced as follows:

  Additional functions from SAPF181, such as post-capitalization of assets and the splitting of follow-up costs (discount, currency differences, and so on).

  The split information is also available for the closing activity in FI (foreign currency valuation, regrouping, and so on, and therefore also at the segment level).

  CO-relevant valuation postings (for example, expense from exchange rate differences) can be transferred to CO in split form.

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Document Online Split

- **What is the impact and use of activating/defining the "Define Document Splitting Characteristics for Controlling" in the customizing settings?**

  This concerns characteristics supplied by SAP and the characteristics of the customer.

  Characteristics that are stored here can be transferred in split from Controlling in connection with the determination of the follow up cost (foreign currency valuation, realized exchange rate difference, discount etc. Precondition is that the GL account has been created as a cost element. However the point to be remembered is the characteristics cannot disserve for balancing.

- **Are there any concerns regarding document splitting and zero balancing functionality on financial postings generated by highly-customized applications?**

  All cost flows require analysis to determine derivation logic or data entry requirements. Any mandatory field not derived or entered will create throughout errors.

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Document Online Split

- **For Balance Sheet-only entries, how does profit center and/or segment splitting occur?**

  The value for profit center/segment must be entered or derived in order to produce an offsetting split or zero-balancing transaction item in the G/L-view of the document. Splitting rules can be configured to assist with this, provided the process is clearly defined and appropriate accounts/document types are consistently used.

- **Are there any considerations/cautions as it relates to document splitting on residual postings? I.e. What happens if the profit center or segment is changed in the system prior to a residual posting being completely cleared?**

  All clearing postings utilize a passive split, whereby the original split information about the item is used as the basis for the clearing update.
  For migration purposes only: Customers must assign each open item to a single characteristic for conversion.

- **Assuming segment is assigned via standard SAP (from profit center), can the segment assignment be over-ridden by the user on a financial posting? How is this accomplished?**

  During data entry it is possible to over-type/override the segment relationship. This may/may not be desirable. A substitution routine can enforce the relationship if this should not be permitted.

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Comparing Special ledger with the New General Ledger.

- **Is there ledger selection in the New General Ledger like there is in FI-SL?**

  Ledger selection like there is in FI-SL does not exist in the New General Ledger, because New GL is now dealing with general ledgers that are used for legal reporting! The validation function can be used for validation checks (such as profit center 1 can only be assigned with account 5).

- **What is the future role of Special Purpose Ledger?**

  If the customer uses the New General Ledger, FI-SL again assumes its original role as an additional internal reporting tool. All customers who have used FI-SL as a general ledger substitute up to now should be able to do without FI-SL by changing over to the New General Ledger. However each customer should evaluate individually if he want to stay with FI-SL for "special purposes".

  The ledger approach for mapping parallel financial reporting introduced with SAP R/3 Enterprise (as an alternative to the accounts approach) is replaced by the complete parallelism in the New General Ledger. Customers who upgrade to mySAP ERP and do not want to implement the New General Ledger can, however, use the classic approach.

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Parallel Financial Accounting and Ledgers

- **What strategy does SAP recommend with regard to the technical mapping of parallel financial reporting (parallel ledgers in general ledger, account solution, company code solution)?**

  Customer requirements determine whether parallel general ledgers or the account solution is more appropriate with only one leading general ledger. The use of parallel company codes is not recommended by SAP. SAP will not develop this solution further due to the significant disadvantages caused by the high proportion of manual postings.

- **Are the parallel ledgers already defined for mapping of parallel financial accounting when they are shipped, or do customers have to create them in their entirety themselves?**

  The standard ledger / leading ledger 0L is shipped. Customers themselves will create further ledgers.

Parallel Financial Accounting and Ledgers

- **Can separate currencies be assigned to the different parallel ledgers?**

  No. You cannot create new currencies in the parallel ledgers if they are not defined in the leading ledger.

- **If a customer decides to use the New GL but only initially uses a single parallel ledger (the leading Ledger). The customer then processes some transactions for a few months and then decides to use an additional ledger on the system. Is there a program that you can run to enable retrospective posting to a new non-leading ledger?**

  SAP offers a service called SAP General Ledger Migration. For detail please see chapter "Miscellaneous".

- **When a New Leading Ledger is created for e.g. Lx without any posting can we delete the Ledger 0L?**

  If it is really necessary, you can delete ledger 0L. But it could be possible that SAP deleivers ledger 0L again and than the customer would have it again (but in this case not as leading ledger so it should not cause significant problems).

Parallel Financial Accounting and Ledgers

- **Are direct postings to a Parallel Ledger readily identifiable in New GL? What is the best means of doing this?**

  The easiest way would be via the ledger group.

- **Does the Operating Chart of Accounts (CoA) and Statutory CoA automatically apply to the Parallel Ledgers or can a different Operating CoA be utilized in Parallel Ledgers? What about the Group CoA (i.e. if Parallel Ledgers are not applicable to SAP Consolidations functionality, is it correct that Group CoA functionality in SAP is not applicable to Parallel Ledgers)?**

  If the country-specific or group chart of accounts is required for reporting within the totals table, these would be realized by the implementation of customer-specific fields. The standard Financial Statement Version allows for output according to the alternative chart (country specific) at run-time. This generally satisfies local reporting requirements without the requirement to include them in the summary table. Advantages of run-time determination are that assignments are flexible and can be retroactively adapted.

Parallel Financial Accounting and Ledgers

- **Can FI allocations, assessments or distributions be performed directly within a Parallel Ledger?**

  Yes it is possible to do this in a parallel ledger. They won't flow to CO.

  In ECC 5.0 this is possible only on a percentage or amounts basis - not statistical key figures (SKF). SKFs are possible with release ECC 6.0.

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Segment/Profit Center/Business Area/Customer Fields

■ **On what level is the segment defined?**

Segments are maintained at the client level, that is, they are valid throughout the entire group and do not depend on the controlling area.

■ **What procedure is used to derive the segment in posting transactions?**

In mySAP ERP, segments can only be used with profit centers. In FI postings, where profit centers information is not relevant, the segment can be derived using a BAdI or it can be entered manually.

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Segment/Profit Center/Business Area/Customer Fields

- **Business area or profit center – what is the future status of the business area?**

  For installed base customers: The business area will be retained in its present form. Data and functions will still be available in the future.

- **Why is the segment derived from the profit center? Why not from the business area? Why does the segment not stand alone? Is there a particular reason for this or is it a technical issue?**

  The segment is derived from the profit center, because the derivation rules of the MM and SD "feeder systems" are based on the profit center and not on the business area.

Segment/Profit Center/Business Area/Customer Fields

- **Business area vs. segment**
  When will the segment be better than the business area? Should business area customers retain the business area for now or is the tendency moving toward the segment? Or, should they run both in parallel during the transition period?

  There are different recommendations for new customers and installed-base customers:

  - **SAP recommends that new customers start with the segment straight away, because this corresponds with our development strategy.**

  - **Installed-base customers who work with highly specific business areas should retain them for now, because existing derivation rules/substitutions for determining the business area can still be used.**

- **In the New GL can the customer- specific fields be picked up from transactions initiated in other modules?**

  If a customer wants to insert his own dimension, he first has to extend the coding block (as before) and then he can use it in New GL.This means he has to insert it to the specific New GL Ledger in which it will be a key field. Feeder systems have to deliver this field.

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Segment/Profit Center/Business Area/Customer Fields

- **What is the situation for allocations and settlement in CO with respect to the additional fields, like for example customer defined fields?**

  CO doesn't keep the additional fields in their totals. So allocations which are based on those totals cannot take into consideration additional fields. Settlements based on single items keep the additional field, because additional fields are kept in the CO-items.

- **What is the logic behind greying out the Segment field in the profit centre master after it is saved?**

  A change of the allocation of the profit centre to segment is very critical after the data have been posted. To check if a profit centre already has been posted to, is extremely performance critical. Therefore the Segment field in the profit centre master is greyed out and therefore not editable anymore after it has been saved.

Segment/Profit Center/Business Area/Customer Fields

- **SAP Business Area functionality continues to exist in New GL**
  - **Has SAP enhanced the functionality? If yes, in what ways?**

    No, the functionality is the same.

  - **Does SAP provide a general recommendation regarding the use of Business Areas as part of New GL functionality if it is not currently being used in Classic GL?**

    No general recommendations either way other than the functionality is not being enhanced. If there is a business requirement that cannot be met via other alternatives, SAP says business area can be considered since it is a native field (i.e. in cost centers and assets) and it crosses company code boundaries.

  - **Are there certain applications where using Business Areas in addition to New GL functionality or where it may be a better alternative to Profit Center and/or Document Splitting and Zero-balancing functionality?**

    SAP recommends to analyze within the frame of the New GL implementation project which way is the appropriate one.

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- **Is Business Area balancing in New GL automatic by function of document splitting functionality (assuming Business Area can be pulled in as a field to split on) – or is this still performed via program?**

  Yes, Business area balance sheets are available by customizing splitting rules and real-time zero-balancing when posting within the New GL.
  Subsequent program runs like SAPF180/ 81 are no longer used.

- **What drives the zero-balancing for a profit center during profit center posting? Is this configuration where it sends the difference to an inter-company balancing account?**

  This logic is very similar to current company code functionality. Before posting the document is checked if the balance of the profit center is zero. If it is unbalanced, additional clearing items are created if zero-balancing is required for profit centers in the customizing settings of New GL. Therefore clearing account(s) must be determined in the customizing settings too.

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Integration

- **Integration New GL – SAP Consolidation:**

  How does New GL Parallel Ledger functionality work in relation to SAP Consolidations functionality?

    - **Can SAP Consolidations take into account New GL Parallel Ledgers or does it only consider the New GL Leading Ledger?**

    - **If only the Leading Ledger is used in SAP Consolidations, then is it correct to assume that the Leading Ledger must be maintained in a single corporate accounting principle in order to allow for appropriate consolidations to take place under one accounting principle, and that the Parallel Ledgers must be utilized for local accounting principles?**

  SAP's experience thus far is that companies using SAP Consolidations treat the Leading Ledger the corporate accounting ledger and that local accounting GAAP is performed in Parallel Ledgers. The primary reason for this is the Leading Ledger integration throughout SAP (i.e. such as CO) whereas Parallel Ledgers are only associated with FI.

  SAP: Recommendation is to configure the Leading Ledger according to corporate GAAP standards and Parallel Ledgers in accordance with local GAAP.

Integration

- **<u>Integration New GL- Asset Accounting:</u>**

   a) Can certain transactions/types of postings in the Leading Ledger be blocked from flowing to any one or more Parallel Ledgers (i.e. depreciation postings)? If yes, how is this accomplished?

   Parallel ledgers are assigned to ledger groups and ledger groups to a depreciation area. Typically, a different Parallel Ledger would be set up for each country. Therefore, in effect this setup can prevent 01 depreciation area postings from being represented in a parallel ledger if this is desired.

   The asset transactions from the leading area (01) are posted to all ledgers. In general, asset transactions are posted without a ledger group. If the valuation of an asset acquisition is different in an additional ledger, then a manual posting must be made for this area.   During APC posting, the derived area (30 or 31) is calculated and the difference is posted to the additional ledger.

➔ In general most automated processes (depreciation, FX revaluation, etc.) are controlled by the mechanism of ledger group. In assets, the chart of depreciation is the level at which depreciation areas are assigned to ledger groups. For other processes, a valuation area is assigned to an accounting principle, which in turn is assigned to a ledger group.

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b) How do depreciation areas work in the New GL Parallel Ledger functionality?

- **Depreciation Area 01 is assigned to the Leading Ledger and Leading Ledger postings flow to the Parallel Ledgers. How is a different depreciation area for localized accounting requirements accounted for in the Parallel Ledger functionality? Can depreciation for a non-01 depreciation area be run independently within a Parallel Ledger?**

Yes. Non-01 depreciation areas can updated specific parallel ledgers.

c) How is it assured that depreciation is not double counted in the Parallel Ledger when depreciation area 01 postings would theoretically flow from the Leading Ledger to the Parallel Ledger but accounting principles in a Parallel Ledger require depreciation to be run using another depreciation area?

Delta depreciation areas are used to capture the differences between corporate and local GAAP. These are derived areas which are used to post differences to the local GAAP ledgers only.

Integration

- **Integration GL-CO, Allocations**

  a) Is the only way to get allocations, assessments and distributions postings to the Parallel Ledgers via the FI functionality in New GL (assuming Parallel Ledgers are not updated with CO information)? Do New GL FI allocations/assessments/distributions postings flow to the Parallel Ledgers?

  CO-only postings (allocations, etc) can be set up to flow to a parallel ledger via Ledger group assignments. CO-only postings can flow to parallel ledgers through the ledger group assignments but they have also to flow to the leading ledger as well. Its not possible to set the CO postings up to flow only to the parallel ledger and not the leading ledger.

  b) How is the FI allocations functionality different than CO in New GL, i.e. is it more limited and if yes, in what way? Can you run allocations between balance sheet and P&L accounts? Can you run them specifically for balance sheet reclasses between profit centers?

  In some ways, the New GL has more functionality than CO and in some ways less. As an example, Statistical Key Figures don't exist in ECC 5.0 (only in ECC 6.0) – therefore, FI allocations based on statistical key figures is not possible; however it is possible to do allocations on a percentage base or absolute amount basis. Another option to consider is recurring entries or account assignment templates. GL doesn't use secondary cost elements.

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c) Does something similar to CO assessments/distributions functionality exist in New GL FI? If yes, in what ways is it different?

It is possible to do FI allocations using extended fields. It is important to note that it is not possible to do cross-company FI allocations in New GL.

d) Will secondary cost element postings (such as WIP settlements and labor transfers for Editorial costs to the Balance Sheet) still post to PCA now that PCA is part of FI? Secondary cost elements reside in CO but PCA is now in FI so do settlements need to be performed separately in both New GL and CO now? How does New GL impact these processes?

There are no changes from the current functionality other than that updates are   automatically performed into FI in New GL . No Reconciliation Ledger is used anymore. The integration is now on a real-time basis. CO integration is   customized using a variant. All defined cost flows must be configured for the complete integration to work properly. Secondary cost elements are not taken into consideration in New GL.

e) Are the FI and CO allocations now broken out/separated in New GL?

e1) Do you have to run allocations/distributions separately now - once in FI and once in CO?

No, you don't need to run two allocations in New GL. Co – allocations cover costs. FI allocation are not ment to cover costs. Here you "can" allocate values for example of default posted profit centers for internal profit center reporting purposes. CO is not updated.

e2) How is it assured that data is kept in synch since Reconciliation Ledger no longer exists?

Automatic. Technically the same internal structure is used to track cross-characteristic cost flows originating in CO. Only the posting update has been enhanced to allow real-time integration (if desired).

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Reporting

■ **Is standard reporting in New GL available as in Profit Centre accounting?**

The New GL is reportable for all standard reporting tools (Drill Down; painter BW). SAP delivers some example standard reports for Drill down and BW reports. There a selection for Profit Centre is possible.

■ **Can Profit Centre groups be used in the New GL reports?**

In Drill Down reports you can use profit centre groups in the display list. You cannot use them as a selection criterion.

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Reporting

- **Is it possible to fairly readily/easily use customizing to create an effective-dated hierarchy structure for Segment reporting (similar to the standard and alternate hierarchy concept in PCA)?**

  SAP recommends that if hierarchy reporting of segment is needed, that this is performed within BW

- **Is it difficult to implement the Segment functionality at a later date after New GL go-live?**

    If segment were implemented later, you would only get segment information for go-forward transactions after activation – it would not be retroactive to historical postings. In any case this is not a push button solution and has to be done within the framework of a separate project.

c) Why isn't Segment set up similar to the PCA standard and alternate hierarchy structure for reporting purposes?

It's intended to be a flat, non-dimensional field

d) Is SAP considering or would they be willing to consider setting up Segment hierarchies?

Not as of ERP2004/2005.

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Reporting

- **Can the PCA profit center hierarchy (both standard and alternate hierarchies) be used in New GL for Balance Sheet reporting now that PCA is in the FI module of New GL?**

  PCA profit center hierarchies are not applicable to FI – meaning that reporting is available only at the profit center level not at the node level for FI reporting in New GL. Profit center is available in some SAP standard reports (such as the Financial Statement Version) but node reporting is not possible in standard reports. SAP indicates that this may be possible through custom reports and Report Painter. SAP also indicates that it is possible to do this in BW.
  Note: Hierarchies are available in G/L drill down reports. If functional area is used in the Financial Statement Version for P&L reporting, drill down reporting (vs. standard delivered) reports must be used.

- **Is there a way in SAP to run a query, report, or variant of only postings directly to a Parallel Ledger vs. those postings flowing from the Leading Ledger vs. all postings affecting the Parallel Ledger?**

  It is possible to obtain a line-items report for direct parallel ledger posting by document number (separate document number range for parallel ledger entries) or via other means if the ledger group is part of the document header.

  It would not be possible to get a balance report for direct parallel ledger postings, because the document type is not included as a characteristic in the standard totals table.

Reporting

- **Can data be as easily extracted out of SAP Parallel Accounts as Parallel Ledgers for the purposes of loading into another application? For example, is it possible to extract from SAP tables only postings directly made to a Parallel Ledger as well as both Leading Ledger and flow-through postings? How is this best accomplished?**

  It depends on the volume of parallel accounts that would be created. It would be possible either way but most easily if using parallel accounts. SAP offers various document selection reports that allow detailed selection. Create a flat output file and transfer this info into the target system.

  As part of the migration scoping and blueprint it has to be determined to use a parallel ledger versus parallel accounts approach.

Technology

Document Online Split

Comparing Special Ledger with New GL

Parallel Financial Accounting and Ledgers

Segment/ Profit Center/ Business Area/ Customer fields

Integration

Reporting

Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous

■ **How to proceed if a customer wants to perform a migration of the data from the Classic General Ledger to the New General Ledger?**

The path for migration will differ from customer to customer. To achieve a high degree of safety in this respect, SAP accompanies each migration project with the "SAP General Ledger Migration" service. This technical service relates to standard migration scenarios and is provided in the form of migration packages. More Information regarding "SAP General Ledger Migration" can be accessed using the quick link 'GLMIG' on the SAP Service Marketplace (http://service.sap.com/GLMIG). Please also see OSS-note 812919.

Miscellaneous

- **Can customers continue with Classic General Ledger accounting in mySAP ERP?**

  Implementation of the New General Ledger is not compulsory. If a customer decides to use the New General Ledger, the data must be migrated from the Classic General Ledger.

- **If customers upgrade to mySAP ERP 2004, can they work in parallel in the different company codes with the classic General Ledger and the New General Ledger?**

  This is not possible with mySAP ERP 2004. Customers must use the New General Ledger either for all or none of the company codes.

- **Can an upgrade to mySAP ERP 2004 and migration to the New General Ledger be combined without risk in one project or should they follow on from each other in two projects?**

  SAP recommends two projects: first the technical upgrade to mySAP ERP then migration to the New General Ledger.

Miscellaneous

- **Is Transfer pricing available in New GL?**

  It is not available in ERP 2004 but in ERP 2005.

- **Can average balancing be done for banks to calculate the money flow and average balance based on the balance of Assets and liability?**

  This function is available. See note 848111

- **How can I stop an update in PCA?**

  If an update in classic PCA anymore is not required the customizing of the basic settings of PCA can be deactivated.

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Miscellaneous

- **Can the reconciliation ledger simply be switched off once the New GL is in use?**

  If the New General Ledger is active, the reconciliation ledger is not available so the customer does not need to take any extra steps.

- **Is the Account Group function available in New GL?**

  There is no change in the Account group function. So it can be used in New GL.

Miscellaneous

■ **How many currencies are available in a Parallel Ledger**

It is the same functionality as in classic GL: There are up to 4 currencies available within the Leading Ledger:

Transaction currency

Company code/local currency

Up to two parallel reporting currencies as assigned in FI

Parallel ledger can only use at maximum the same or if sufficient only some of the currencies defined in the leading ledger.

- **Is it possible to get gross margin reports out of New GL extensible fields rather than using the component "Profitability Analysis" (PA).**

  The New GL should be used to produce a full compliment of financial statements. It is not intended to be used for detailed analysis. New GL is not designed and ment to be a replacement for PA.

Miscellaneous

- **Which are important OSS notes concerning New General Ledger (NewGL) in mySAP ERP?**

    - **741821 Release limitations concerning SAP ERP 2004**

    - **756146 mySAP ERP NewGL: General information**

    - **779251 mySAP ERP NewGL : Parallel accounting**

    - **862523 mySAP ERP NewGL : new functions as of SP 10**

    - **890237 New GL with document splitting: Legacy data transfer**

    - **891144 New GL/document splitting: Risks of subsequent changes**

    - **918675 Basic architecture of the NewGL accounting**

    - **812919 mySAP ERP NewGL : migration**

    - **826357 Profit Center Acc. and NewGL in mySAPERP**

    - **852971 SEM-BCS: Integration with the NewGL**

    - **820495 mySAP ERP New GL: Data volume and parallel ledgers**

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