

**Effective August 1, 2010, the following changes were made to the *General Records Schedule GS1-SL for State and Local Government Agencies*.**

The title and descriptive language were revised on the following item (previous title: *Electronic Mail*) to account for public records created and transmitted using emerging communications technologies.

***ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS***

There is no single retention period that applies to all electronic messages or communications, whether they are sent by e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging (such as SMS, Blackberry PIN, etc), multimedia messaging (such as MMS), chat messaging, social networking (such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.), or any other current or future electronic messaging technology or device. **Retention periods are determined by the content, nature, and purpose of records, and are set based on their legal, fiscal, administrative, and historical values, regardless of the format in which they reside or the method by which they are transmitted.** Electronic communications, as with records in other formats, can have a variety of purposes and relate to a variety of program functions and activities. The retention of any particular electronic message will generally be the same as the retention for records in any other format that document the same program function or activity. For instance, electronic communications might fall under a CORRESPONDENCE series, a BUDGET RECORDS series, or one of numerous other series, depending on the content, nature, and purpose of each message. Electronic communications that are created primarily to communicate information of short-term value, such as messages reminding employees about scheduled meetings or appointments, might fall under the "TRANSITORY MESSAGES" series.

Descriptive language was revised on the following item to clarify the meaning and intent of "transitory."

**TRANSITORY MESSAGES**

**Item #146**

This record series consists of records that are created primarily to communicate information of short-term value. **"Transitory" refers to short-term value based upon the content and purpose of the message, not the format or technology used to transmit it.** Examples of transitory messages include, but are not limited to, reminders to employees about scheduled meetings or appointments; most telephone messages (whether in paper, voice mail, or other electronic form); announcements of office events such as holiday parties or group lunches; and recipient copies of announcements of agency-sponsored events such as exhibits, lectures, workshops, etc. Transitory messages are not intended to formalize or perpetuate knowledge and do not set policy, establish guidelines or procedures, certify a transaction, or become a receipt.

**RETENTION:**

- a) Record copy. Retain until obsolete, superseded, or administrative value is lost.
- b) Duplicates. Retain until obsolete, superseded, or administrative value is lost.