

VE-PROMS Upgrade

Outside Transitions

Description

An Outside Transition is a reference to a procedure *outside* of the current procedure set. This differs from the Standard Transition type which refers to a procedure within the *same* procedure set. For example, an Emergency Procedure (EOP) might have a transition to an Abnormal Operating Procedure (AOP), which resides in a different procedure set. That reference would be considered an Outside Transition.

Current VE-PROMS

The current version of VE-PROMS does support Outside Transitions but they are handled differently than the Standard Transitions. The list of procedures “outside” the current procedure set is stored in a separate database file. The Outside Transitions reference is to a record in that separate database and NOT to the actual procedure. The updating of these references must be done by running the “Update Outside Transitions Database” function. But in order to run this function, you must lock everyone out of the VE-PROMS System, disrupting ALL of the procedure writers using VE-PROMS. And if more than one procedure set uses Outside Transitions, this function must be run in each of those procedure sets.

Using Referenced Objects Instead

As an alternative to using the Outside Transitions function, a list of procedure numbers and titles can be entered into the Referenced Objects database and then referenced in the procedure text. We have been recommending this method in the current VE-PROMS version (16-bit) for cases such as referencing procedures that are not entered into the VE-PROMS system. This method limits the disruptions to the procedure writers in the VE-PROMS system when that information is updated.

Converting Data for the VE-PROMS Upgrade

There will be no distinction between Outside and Standard Transitions in the VE-PROMS Upgrade. As part of the upgrade installation, all of the Outside Transitions in the current (16-bit) data will be converted to simply be a transition. For the transitions (Standard or Outside) that have missing destinations, we will create an empty procedure or step to resolve the transition. We will also tag the problem transition with a searchable annotation (a Migration Error) describing the problem. Therefore, it is important that we receive a copy of ALL the data in VE-PROMS, including any dummy sets used only for Outside Transitions purposes, so that we can cleanly resolve the transitions and minimize data migration errors.

Note that Outside Transitions entered as Referenced Objects will remain a Referenced Object during the data conversion. Once you are using the new version of VE-PROMS, you can manually convert these Outside Transitions to take advantage of the new, more robust, transition logic.