Correcting CONUS COLA

Introduction

This guide provides the procedures to correct both In-Range and Out-of-Range CONUS COLA transactions in Direct Access (DA).

References

- (a) Joint Travel Regulations, Chapters 8-10 (Allowances)
- (b) Coast Guard Supplement to Joint Travel Regulations, COMDTINST M4600.17 (series)
- (c) Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series)
- (d) FMR Volume 7A, Chapter 67

In-Range vs. Out-of-Range

If the correction is **In-Range** (the entire affected period is within 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide and all corrections should be processed automatically without manual intervention by PPC.

If the correction is **Out-of-Range** (any part of the affected period is older than 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide. Once all corrections/changes have been approved, all the corrections/changes **MUST** be **reported to PPC Customer Care** to be processed manually.

Audit Standards

Refer to <u>PSC Notice 5402</u> and the USCG <u>Personnel and Pay procedures Manual (3PM), PPCINST M1000.2</u> (series) which address the standard business process for submitting and validating pay transactions. See the following user guides for navigating, identifying, and researching pay transactions:

- Pay Calculation Results
- Element Assignment By Payee (EABP)
- One Time Positive Input (OTPI)

Important Information/ Known Issue

When entering or verifying a zip code for CONUS COLA, the zip code is limited to 5 digits. Do **NOT** add any additional numbers or letters after the initial 5 digit zip code. **Adding more than the 5 digit zip code will result in non-payment of CONUS COLA**.

It is important to verify the member's zip code in Direct Access and ensure you are entering the correct zip code when you re-enter the new CONUS COLA rows. The program auto populates the COLA Zip as the member's current zip code.

- If the effective date being entered is prior to the member's current unit, you will need to enter the correct zip code, for the effective date. Check the mismatch box and attach a document (could be the PCS Orders for that time period) before saving.
- If you use a zip code other than what is currently listed without following these steps, DA will populate an error message to do the zipcode mismatch.

Before You Begin

Whenever processing Reserve Orders, ensure **CONUS COLA** is authorized and then started based on the type and duration of the orders.

When Reserve Orders end, the Reservist's pay group is changed from USCG (Actie Duty) back to USCG RSV (Reserve). The CONUS COLA row will remain Active but will not pay until the member is back on Active Duty (AD) Orders. If the member is not authorized to receive CONUS COLA on the new set of orders, you must add a new CONUS COLA row and approve it as INACTIVE to ensure the member is not paid CONUS COLA erroneously. Ensure the member is receiving the correct CONUS COLA entitlement every time they start a new set of AD Orders.

NOTE: A Reserve Component member called/ordered to AD for any "involuntary contingency" (Title 10 or Title 14) operation is authorized primary residence/home-based CONUS COLA rate beginning the first day of the orders.

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Correcting CONUS COLA (In-Range)

Introduction

This section provides the procedures for a SPO to process an In-Range CONUS COLA correction in DA.

CONUS COLA does not allow edits of its rows; therefore, a correction generally involves deleting an existing row(s).

In-Range vs. Out-of-Range

If the correction is **In-Range** (the entire affected period is within 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide and all corrections should process automatically without manual intervention by PPC.

If the correction is **Out-of-Range** (any part of the affected period is older than 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide. Once all corrections/changes have been approved, all the corrections/changes **MUST** be **reported to PPC Customer Care** to be processed manually.

Timing

CONUS COLA does not allow for editing of its rows; therefore, a correction generally requires deleting and re-entering existing CONUS COLA rows. Any deletion must be approved immediately, and a new CONUS COLA row re-entered with the correct dates and entitlements. The new row needs to be approved immediately as well.

THIS COMPLETE PROCESS MUST BE DONE WITHIN THE SAME PAY PERIOD TO PREVENT PAY PROBLEMS! PPC (MAS) RECOMMENDS COMPLETING THE ENTIRE PROCESS WITHIN 10 MINUTES. FAILURE TO COMPLETE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS IN PROPER SEQUENCE AND TIMING MAY RESULT IN OVERPAYMENTS/UNDERPAYMENTS.

First, delete the CONUS COLA row(s) from newest to oldest:

- 1. Delete the NEWEST incorrect CONUS COLA row.
- 2. Approve the deletion.
- 3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the entire affected period is deleted.

Then, add CONUS COLA row(s), from oldest to newest.

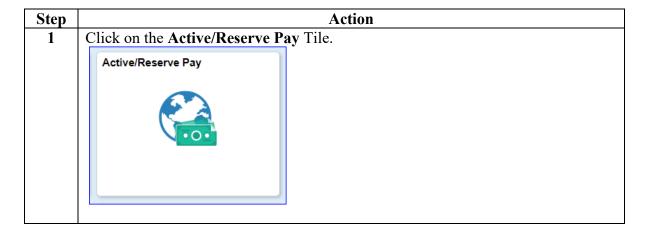
- 1. Add the oldest CONUS COLA row with the correct information.
- 2. Approve the addition.
- 3. Repeat steps 1 & 2 until the entire period is added.

Scenario

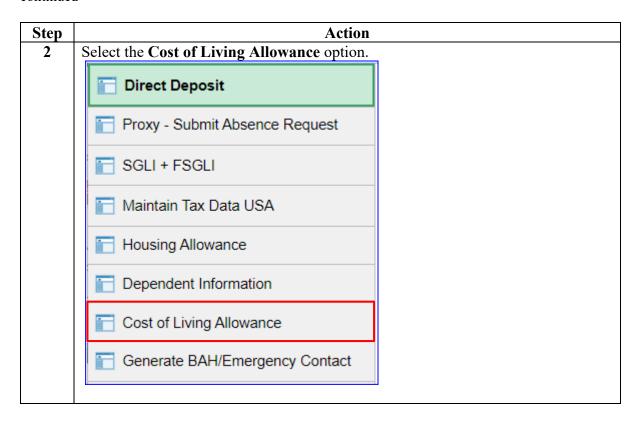
For the purposes of this user guide, the following scenario was used: Member's CONUS COLA was started April 2018 at the 'with Dependent' rate. In October 2022, the member and his spouse divorced, and the member has no other dependents. The SPO was not made aware of the divorce until September 2023. This CONUS COLA correction will be considered In-Range; therefore, it shouldn't require manual intervention by PPC.

To process this correction, any rows with an effective date **after** October 2022 will need to be deleted. Once all the necessary row(s) have been deleted and those deletions have been approved, the first new row to be entered is the divorce row changing the entitlement to CONUS COLA without dependents. As each new row is entered, it will need to be approved before the next row should be entered.

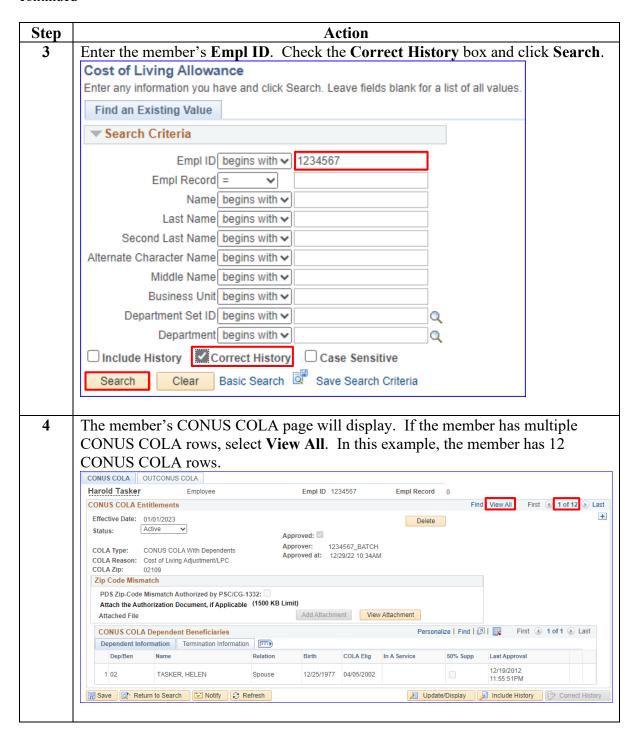
Procedures See below.

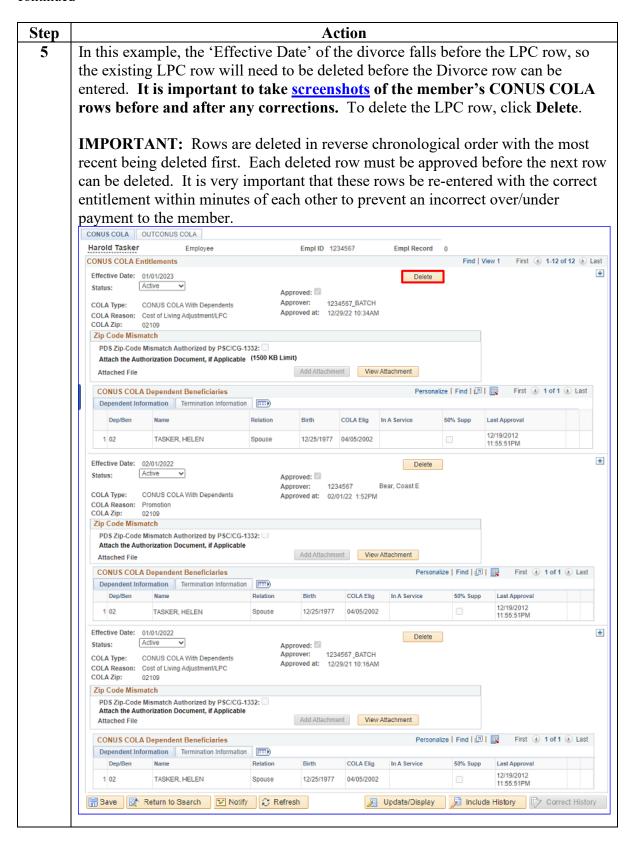


Procedures, continued

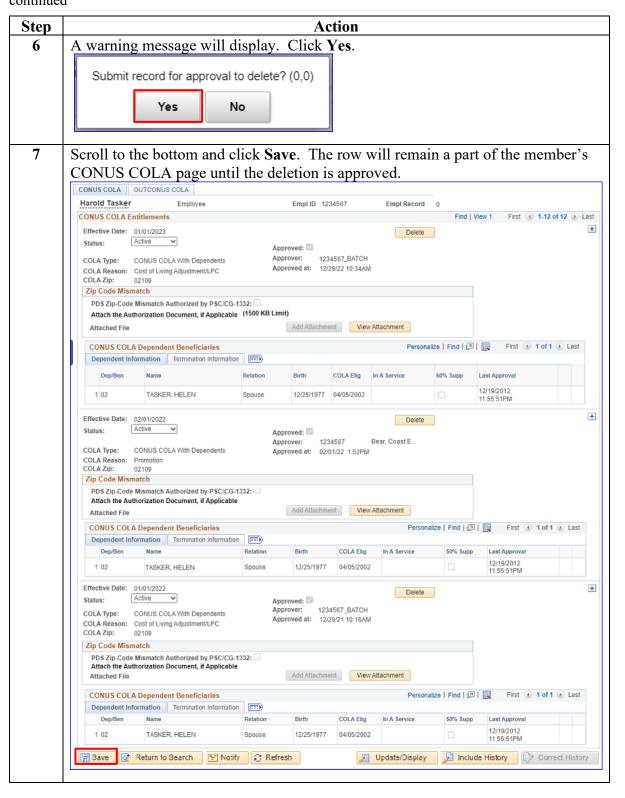


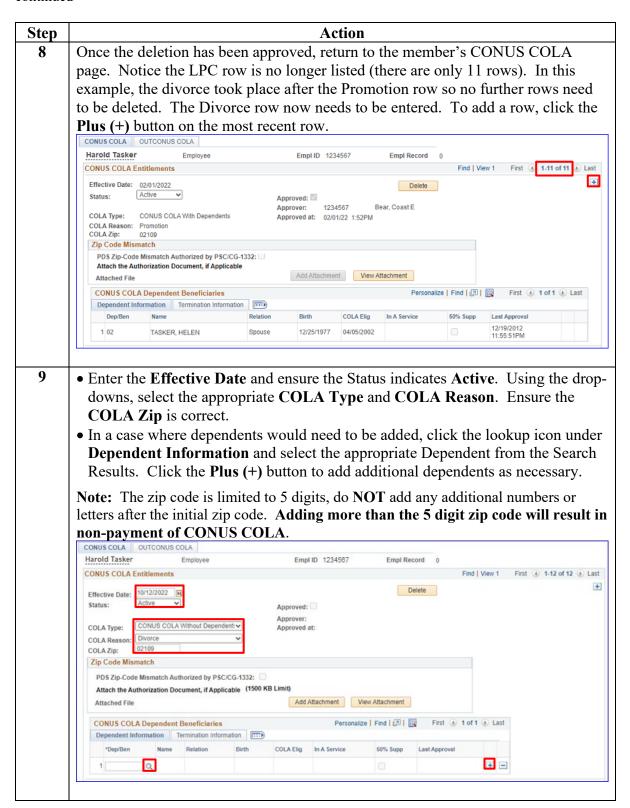
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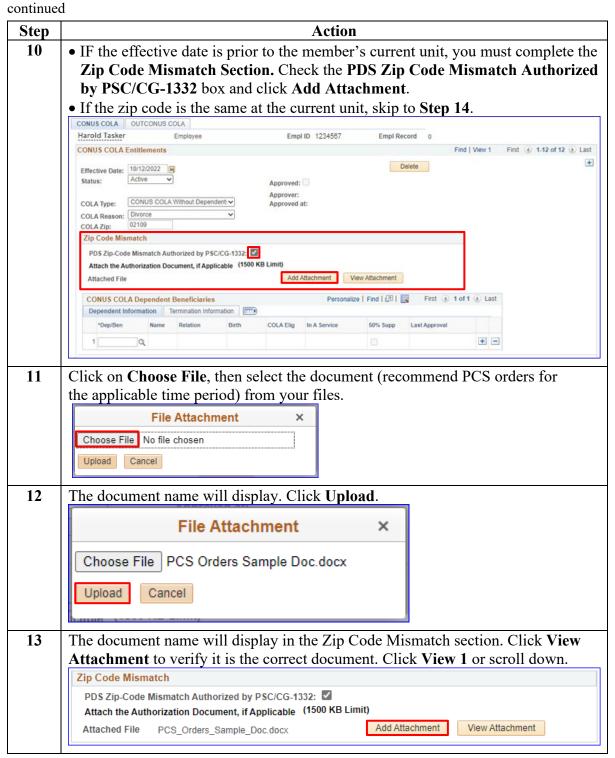


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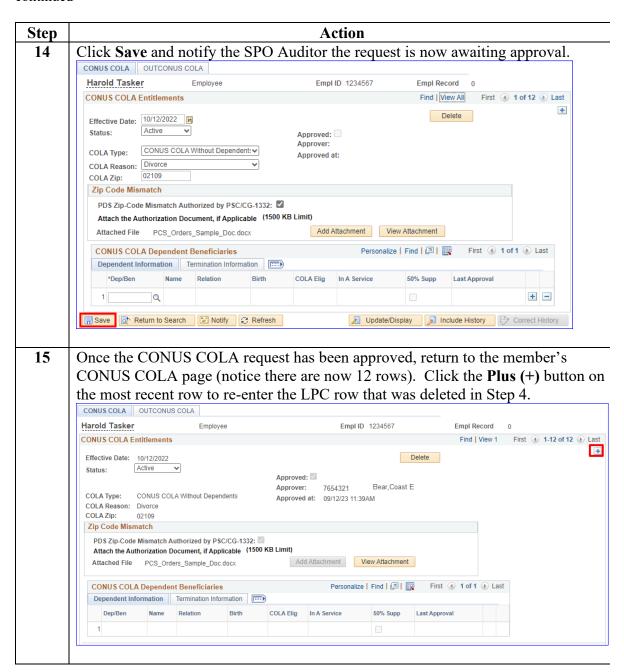




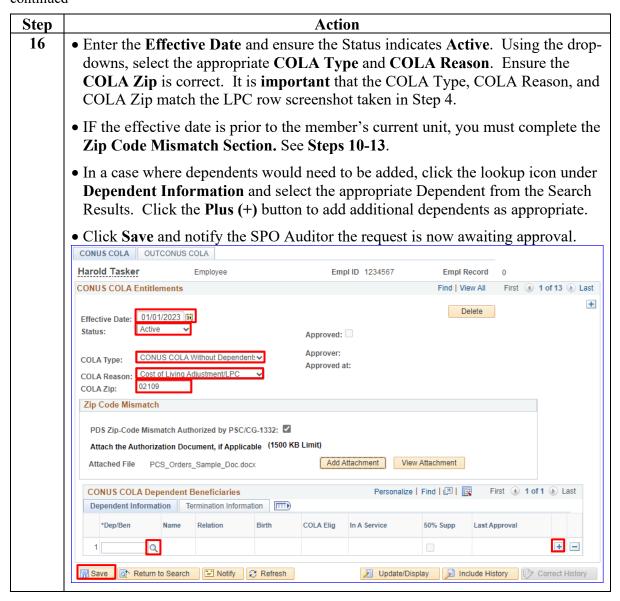
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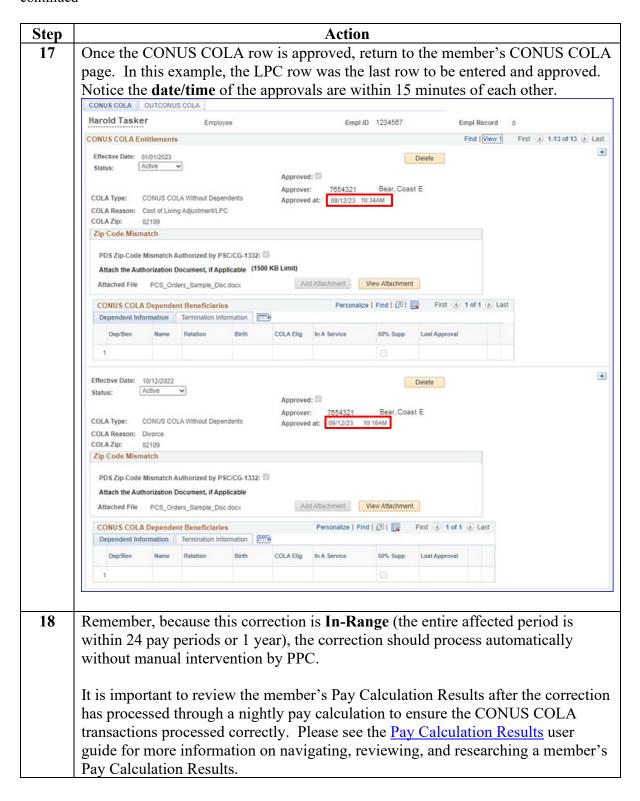


Procedures, continued



Procedures, continued





Correcting CONUS COLA (Out-of-Range)

Introduction

This section provides the procedures for a SPO to process an Out-of-Range CONUS COLA correction in DA.

CONUS COLA does not allow edits of its rows; therefore, a correction generally involves deleting an existing row(s).

In-Range vs. Out-of-Range

If the correction is **In-Range** (the entire affected period is within 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide and all corrections should process automatically without manual intervention by PPC.

If the correction is **Out-of-Range** (any part of the affected period is older than 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide. Once all corrections/changes have been approved, all the corrections/changes **MUST** be **reported to PPC Customer Care** to be processed manually.

Timing

CONUS COLA does not allow for editing of its rows; therefore, a correction generally requires deleting and re-entering existing CONUS COLA rows. Any deletion must be approved immediately, and a new CONUS COLA row re-entered with the correct dates and entitlements. The new row needs to be approved immediately as well.

THIS COMPLETE PROCESS MUST BE DONE WITHIN THE SAME PAY PERIOD TO PREVENT PAY PROBLEMS! PPC (MAS) RECOMMENDS COMPLETING THE ENTIRE PROCESS WITHIN 10 MINUTES. FAILURE TO COMPLETE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS IN PROPER SEQUENCE AND TIMING MAY RESULT IN OVERPAYMENTS/UNDERPAYMENTS.

First, delete the CONUS COLA row(s) from newest to oldest:

- 1. Delete the NEWEST incorrect CONUS COLA row.
- 2. Approve the deletion.
- 3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the entire affected period is deleted.

Then, add CONUS COLA row(s), from oldest to newest.

- 1. Add the oldest CONUS COLA row with the correct information.
- 2. Approve the addition.
- 3. Repeat steps 1 & 2 until the entire period is added.

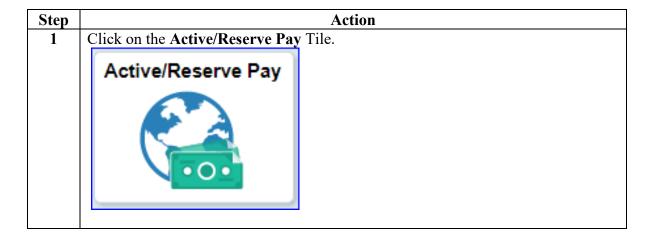
Scenario

For the purposes of this user guide, the following scenario was used:

Member's CONUS COLA was started April 2018 at the 'with Dependent' rate. In January 2022, the member and his spouse divorced, and the member has no other dependents. The SPO was not made aware of the divorce until September 2023. This CONUS COLA correction will be considered Out-of-Range; therefore, screenshots **must** be taken and attached to the PPC Trouble Ticket notifying PPC of the Out-of-Range transaction.

To process this correction, any rows with an effective date **after** January 2022 will need to be deleted. Once all the necessary rows have been deleted and those deletions have been approved, the first new row to be entered is the Divorce row changing the entitlement to CONUS COLA without dependents. As each new row is entered, it will need to be approved before the next row should be entered.

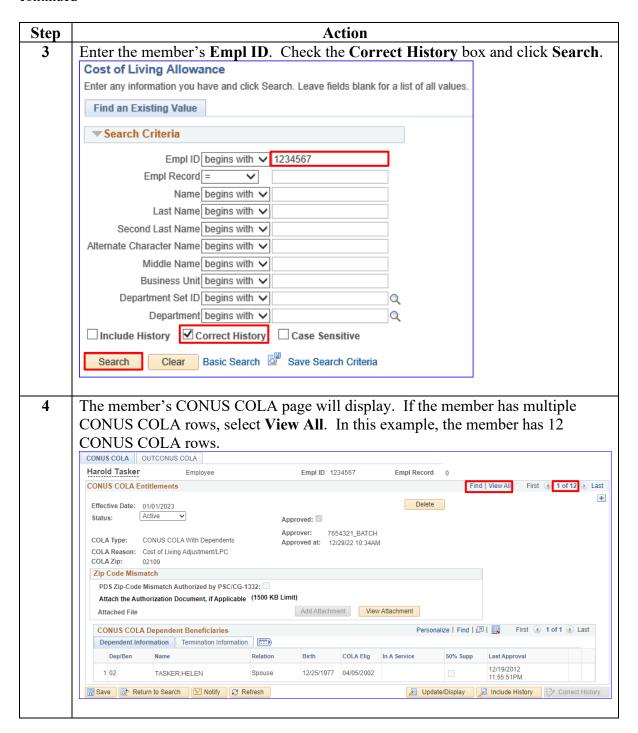
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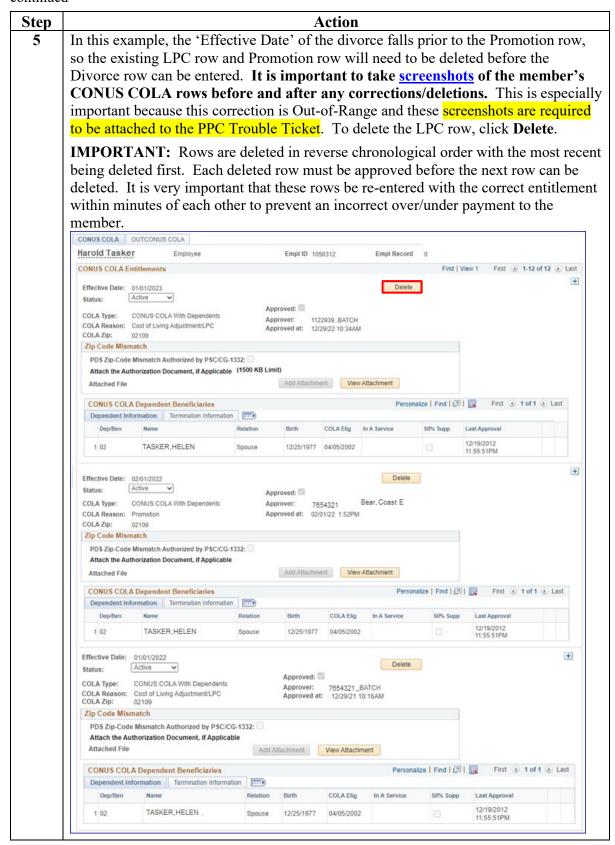


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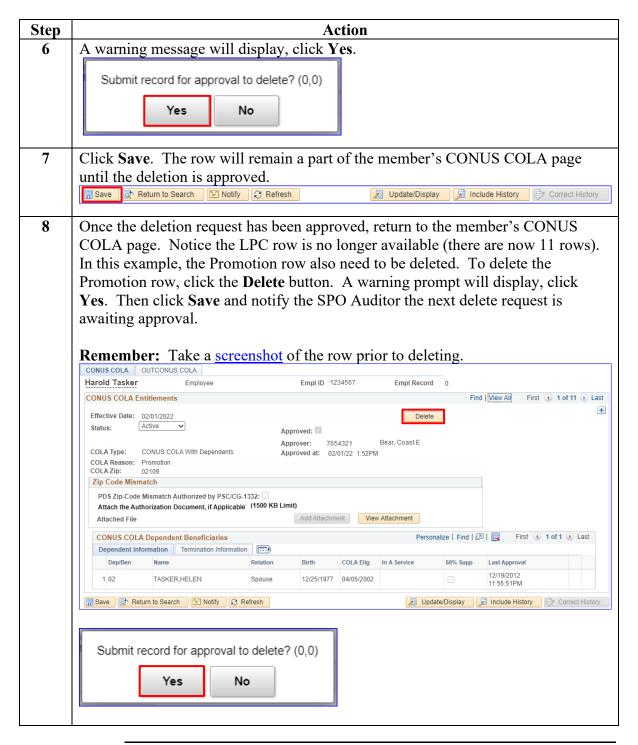


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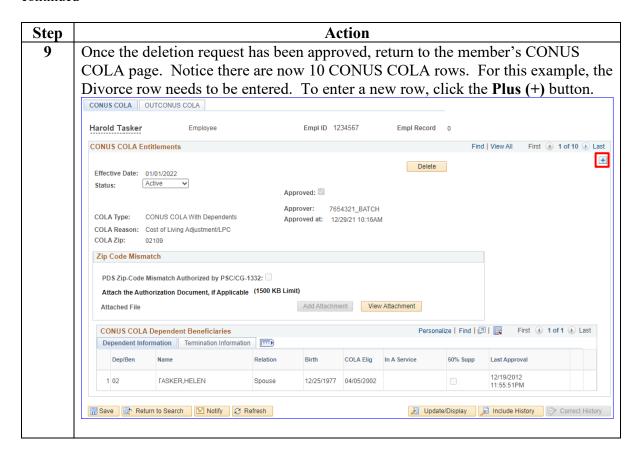




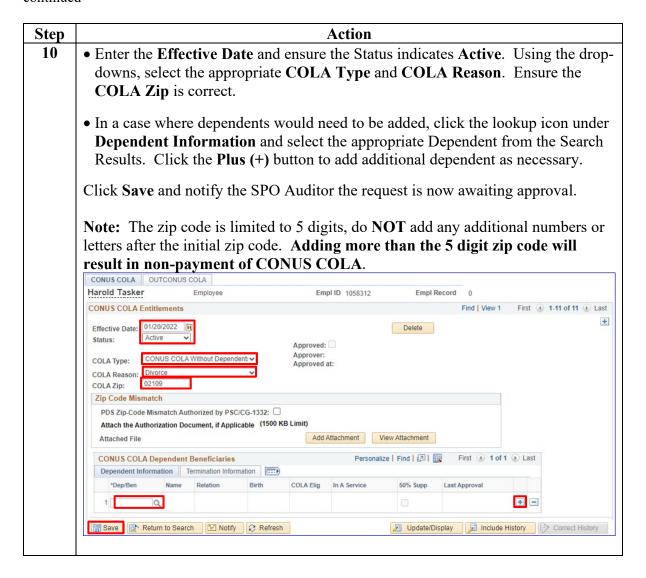
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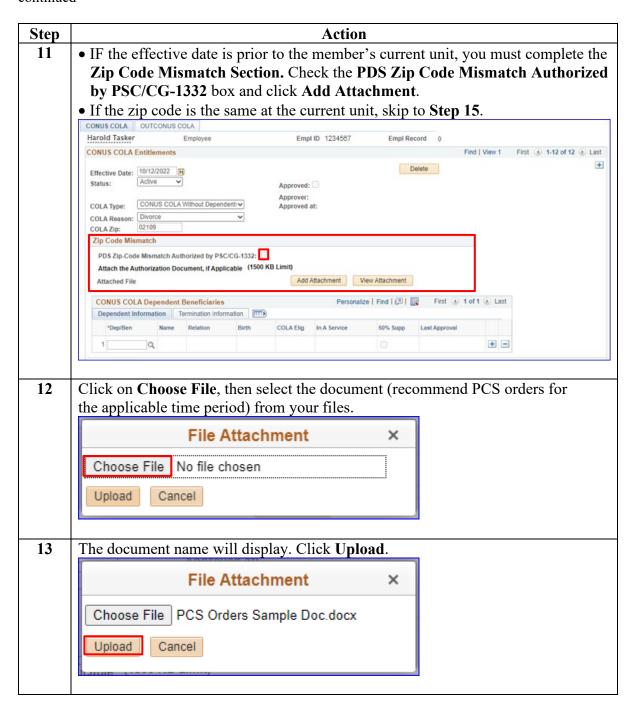
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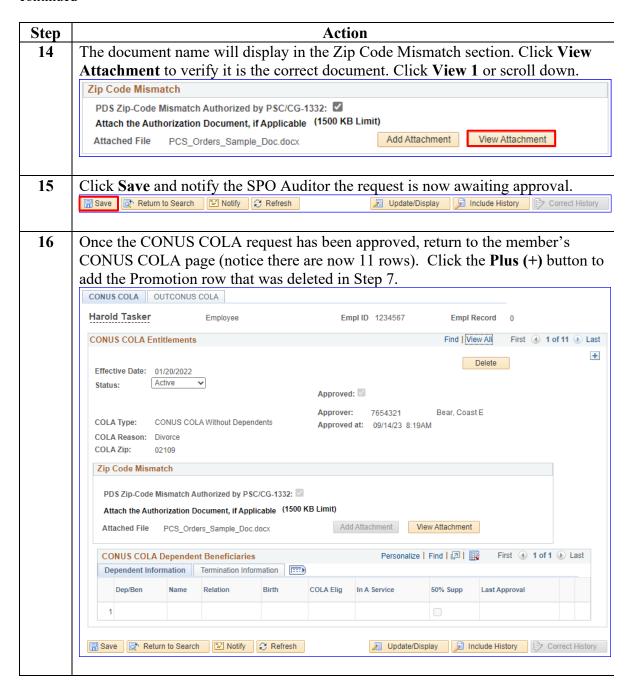
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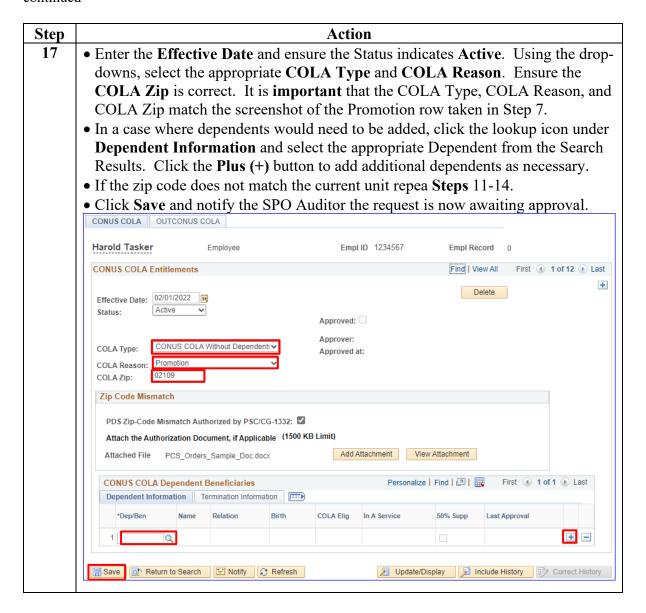
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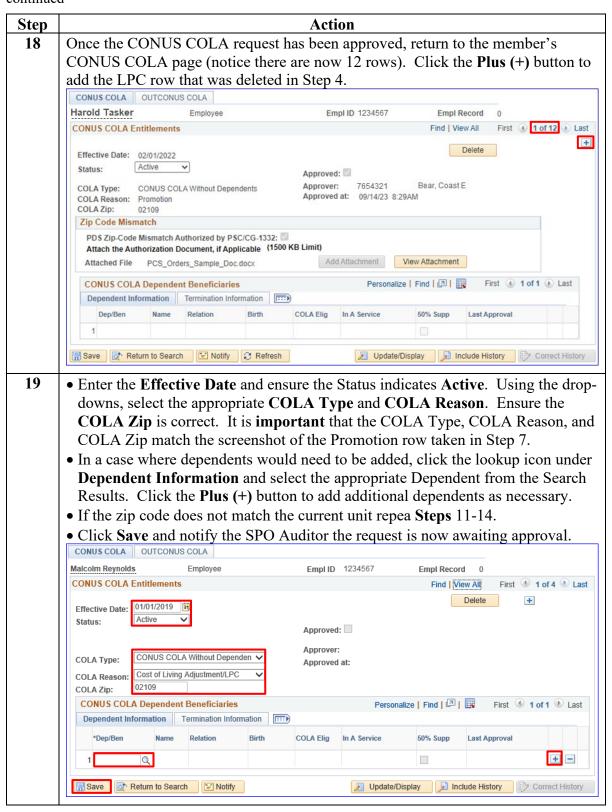
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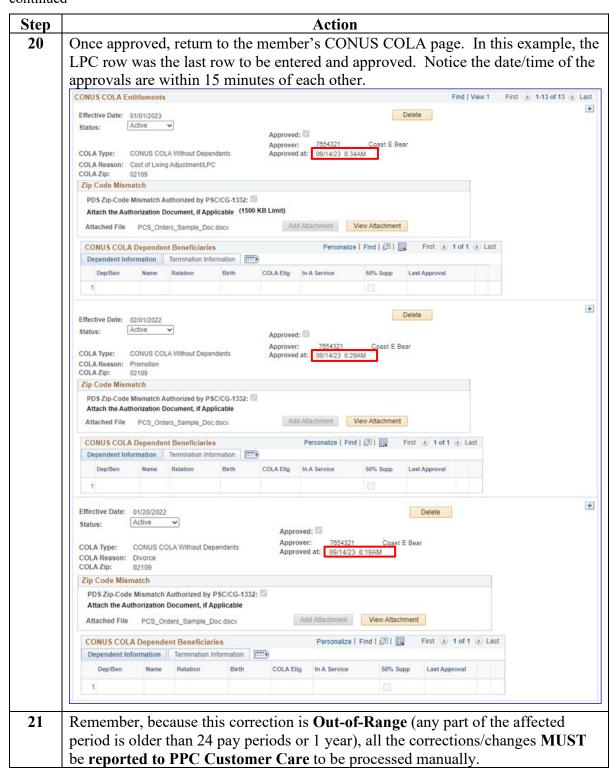


Procedures, continued



Procedures, continued





Approving CONUS COLA

Introduction

This section provides the procedures for a SPO Auditor to approve a CONUS COLA request in Direct Access (DA).

In-Range vs. Out-of-Range

If the correction is **In-Range** (the entire affected period is within 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide and all corrections should process automatically without manual intervention by PPC.

If the correction is **Out-of-Range** (any part of the affected period is older than 24 pay periods or 1 year): follow the steps in this guide. Once all corrections/changes have been approved, all the corrections/changes **MUST** be **reported to PPC Customer Care** to be processed manually.

For guidance on how to take and attach screenshots (required) when submitting a Customer Care ticket, see the <u>Submitting Trouble Tickets</u> <u>with Supporting Images</u> user guide.

Timing

CONUS COLA does not allow for editing of its rows; therefore, a correction generally requires deleting and re-entering existing CONUS COLA rows. Any deletion must be approved immediately and a new CONUS COLA row re-entered with the correct dates and entitlements. The new row needs to be approved immediately as well.

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First, delete the CONUS COLA row(s) from newest to oldest:

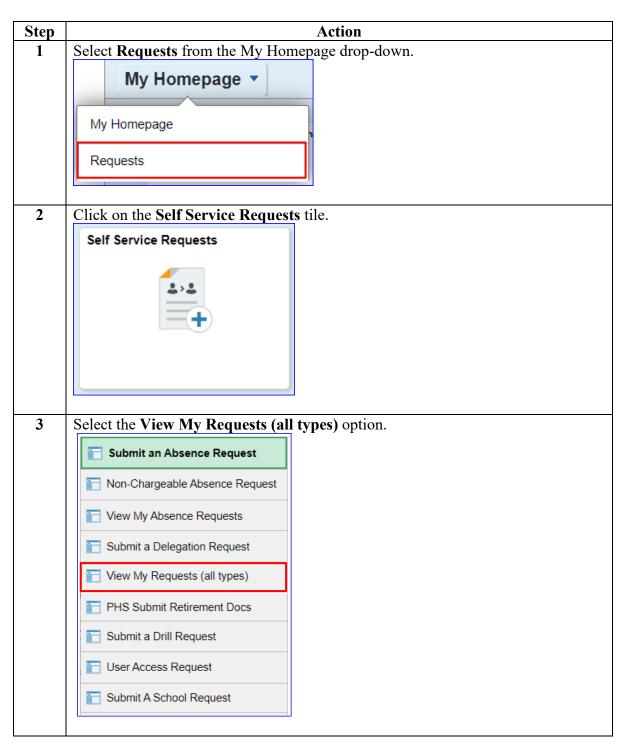
- 1. Delete the NEWEST incorrect CONUS COLA row.
- 2. Approve the deletion.
- 3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the entire affected period is deleted.

Then, add CONUS COLA row(s), from oldest to newest.

- 1. Add the oldest CONUS COLA row with the correct information.
- 2. Approve the addition.
- 3. Repeat steps 1 & 2 until the entire period is added.

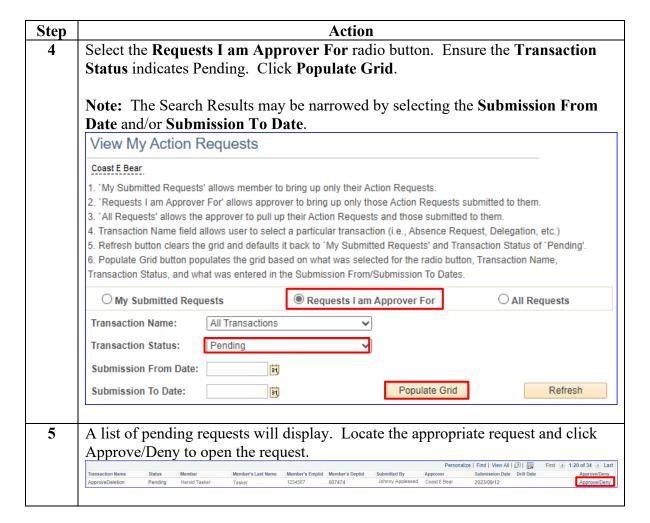
Approving CONUS COLA, Continued

Procedures See below.



Approving CONUS COLA, Continued

Procedures, continued



Approving CONUS COLA, Continued

