

QuickAlerts Messages November 2014

QuickAlerts – November 3, 2014

Subject: e-file Application URL Registration and Annual Self-Certification

This is a reminder that if you own or operate a Website(s) that collects, transmits, stores or processes taxpayer information, IRS requires you to [register the URL\(s\)](#) on your e-file application. If you have not previously registered, select the URL collection link on the e-file application information page menu to register.

Online Providers must answer the self-certification questions annually beginning October 1 to ensure they comply with [Publication 1345](#) IRS *e-file* security, privacy and business standards.

QuickAlerts – November 4, 2014

Subject: 1040 Modernized e-File (1040 MeF) Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

All times shown in this communication are Eastern Time Zone.

To ensure that all Form 1040 tax returns e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, the following 1040 MeF Production shutdown/cutover and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

1040 MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule - Shutdown begins on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:59 a.m. in order to prepare the system for the upcoming 2015 Filing Season.

Important Note: States who schedule retrieval of their state submissions may have to change their schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements by 11:30 a.m., November 22nd. Anything not retrieved thru MeF by 11:59 a.m., November 22nd, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for 1040 MeF Production for Filing Season 2015.

Shutdown Deadlines on Saturday, November 22, 2014

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal)	10:00 a.m.
Retrieving Acknowledgements	11:59 a.m.

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements	11:30 a.m.
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MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule - ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cutover period.

Important Note: BMF returns are not impacted by this IMF Production Shutdown/Cutover schedule.

Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule - Shutdown is tentatively scheduled to begin on Friday, December 26, 2014 at 12:01 p.m.

A QuickAlerts outlining the exact timeframes to Send Submissions or retrieve federal/state Acknowledgements will be issued in early December and the times will be posted on the [MeF Status Page](#).

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation

QuickAlerts – November 6, 2014

Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Maintenance Build and the Sunday Build Window Extended

The Modernized e-File (MeF) Production environment will be unavailable from 12:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., Eastern on Friday, November 7, 2014.

In addition, the MeF Sunday maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, November 9, 2014. The system will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., Eastern. This extended window impacts the MeF Production Environment only.

Please refrain from sending any service requests during these times. Both builds will deploy critical system updates.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

QuickAlerts – November 7, 2014

Subject: Modernized e-File (MeF) Schema and Business Rules

Schemas and business rules have been posted for use in planning and development for Filing Season 2015. This includes schemas and business rules for the following forms which are located on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Schemas and Business Rules](#) page.

- 1040 - 2014v4.0
- 1041 - 2014v4.0
- 1065 - 2014v4.0
- 1120/1120S/1120-F - 2014v4.0
- 2290 - 2015v3.1

Refer to the version's release memo for a description of the schema and business rule updates.

These schemas and business rules will become operational in the MeF ATS environment on December 16, 2014; they will NOT be operational in the MeF Production environments. We will continue to make updates to schemas and business rules for Processing Year 2015 and they will be posted as they become available. If any issues exist with any schema or business rules, they will be documented in the known issues list and made available on IRS.gov.

Updated [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) XML Standardization](#) workbooks have been posted.

If you have any questions, please send them to the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts – November 7, 2014

Subject: Modernized eFile (MeF) Production and ATS Environment Change

The IRS will soon disable the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) version 3 protocol on the Application to Application (A2A) channel. This change will affect the “la.alt” URL that is currently being used to access the Assurance Testing System (ATS) environment and the “la main” URL that is used to access the Production environment.

Software developers and transmitters should ensure they are using Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.0 or higher rather than SSLv3. SSLv3 will be disabled on November 14, 2014 for the “la.alt” URL that is currently being used to access the Assurance Testing System (ATS) environment. It is recommended that software developers test their software for the upcoming filing season in the ATS environment. The change has already been made to “la1.alt” and “la2.alt” URLs so developers can now test in the ATS environment for the upcoming release.

On December 29, 2014, SSLv3 will be disabled on “la main” URL that is used to access the Production environment. The change has already been made to “la1” and “la2” URLs so developers can now test in the Production environment.

If you have any questions please send them to the [MeF Mailbox](#)

QuickAlerts – November 17, 2014

Subject: 1040 Modernized e-File (1040 MeF) Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

All times shown in this communication are Eastern Time Zone

Pending shutdown for Individual 1040 Modernized e-File (MeF) - this is a reminder that the shutdown for 1040 MeF begins Saturday, November 22, 2014.

To ensure that all Form 1040 tax returns e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, the following 1040 MeF Production shutdown/cutover and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

1040 MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule - Shutdown begins on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:59 a.m. in order to prepare the system for the upcoming 2015 Filing Season.

Important Note: States who schedule retrieval of their state submissions may have to change their schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements by 11:30 a.m., November 22nd. Anything not retrieved thru MeF by 11:59 a.m., November 22nd, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for 1040 MeF Production for Filing Season 2015.

Shutdown Deadlines on Saturday, November 22, 2014

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal) 10:00 a.m.

Retrieving Acknowledgements 11:59 a.m.

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements 11:30 a.m.

MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule - ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cutover period.

Important Note: BMF returns are not impacted by this IMF Production Shutdown/Cutover schedule.

Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule - Shutdown is tentatively scheduled to begin on Friday, December 26, 2014 at 12:01 p.m.

A QuickAlerts outlining the exact timeframes to Send Submissions or retrieve federal/state Acknowledgements will be issued in early December and the times will be posted on the [MeF Status Page](#).

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

QuickAlerts – November 17, 2014

Subject: ACA Information Return System Working Group Meeting November 18, 2014

The Affordable Care Act Information Return (AIR) Working Group will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET. The Conference Line is 1-888-331-8226; Access Code 3600320.

NOTE: The intended audience of these meetings is software developers. This will be a technical discussion about the programming. We will not be discussing tax law, taxpayer responsibilities or the Forms 1094 B, 1095 B, 1094 C, and 1095 C.

Please forward agenda items for the next Working Group meeting to wi.air.mailbox@irs.gov

QuickAlerts – November 18, 2014

Subject: Publications 1345 & 3112 Web content updates

Web versions of Publications 1345 and 3112 have been updated.

Publication 1345 "[Handbook for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Individual Income Tax Returns](#)" has been updated in Web content to include:

- Electronic signature information for signing Forms 8878 and 8879
- The requirement to provide the device id from the equipment used to prepare the electronic return

Publication 3112 "[IRS e-file Application and Participation](#)" has been updated to reflect changes made to include sanctions specific to Identity Theft. The Table of Contents will show (Updated 11/6/2014) next to all items changed.

The PDF versions of both publications will be similarly updated as soon as possible.

QuickAlerts – November 23, 2014

Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Maintenance Build and the Sunday Build Window Extended

The Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Sunday maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, November 23, 2014. The system will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., Eastern.

This extended window impacts the MeF Production Environment only.

Please refrain from sending any service requests during these times. Both builds will deploy critical system updates.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

QuickAlerts – November 23, 2014

Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Maintenance Build Update

The Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Sunday maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, November 23, 2014. The system will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until **2:00 p.m.**, Eastern.

This extended window impacts the MeF Production Environment only. Please refrain from sending any service requests during these times.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

QuickAlerts – November 25, 2014

Subject: 94x XML 2015 Final Schemas for Legacy

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs

The [Final 94x XML 2015 Schemas \(Version 5.3\)](#) are now posted to the IRS.gov website. The new schemas are available for testing only. We strongly encourage that you test for all new changes.

For more information, see Publication 3823, Employment Tax e-file System Implementation and User Guide, found on the [94x XML User Guides and Publications](#) webpage.

QuickAlerts – November 26, 2014

Subject: Electronic Management System (EMS) - Upcoming System Downtimes

The Electronic Management System (EMS) located at Memphis, Tennessee will be unavailable during the following time periods:

- Monday, December 1, 2014 from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern
- Monday, December 8, 2014 from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern
- Wednesday, December 10, 2014 from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.
