

QuickAlerts Messages December 2012

QuickAlerts –December 5, 2012

Subject: Extended maintenance window for Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS) and Production environments

The Modernized e-File (MeF) Sunday maintenance build is being extended. The system will be unavailable on **Sunday, December 9th from 1:00am Eastern until 11:00am Eastern**. The extended build window will be used to deploy critical system enhancements for the upcoming filing season.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended downtime. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the ATS and Production systems during this period.

QuickAlerts –December 5, 2012

Subject: Business - MeF Form 8849 Schedule 6 Testing

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs Business Rule F8849-S6-001 is setting incorrectly. A correction is being implemented for the Form 8849 Schedule 6 and will not be available in ATS until December 31, 2012. Please refrain from testing your Schedule 6 (Form 8849) until this time.

Thank you for your patience. We apologize for any inconvenience you may have incurred as a result of this matter.

QuickAlerts –December 7, 2012

Subject: The Form W2-G schema is being updated

The TY2012v4.0 Form W-2G Schema requires an update. We will be reverting back to the W-2G schema found in the TY2012v3.0 Schema package to match the 2012 tax form. Returns using the TY2012v4.0 Form W-2G schema will be rejected, as IRS will only validate the Form W-2G schema against the active validating schema version in TY2012v4.1 in production. This change impacts IMF returns only.

This change will be implemented in TY2012v4.1 and is scheduled to be posted on IRS.gov on December 11, 2012. The schema package will be implemented in ATS on December 31, 2012 and implemented in Production on January 22, 2013.

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –December 9, 2012

Subject: Update: Extended Modernized e-File (MeF) Maintenance Window

The Modernized e-File maintenance build for Sunday, December 9th was scheduled to finish at 11:00 am, Eastern. The build for the Assurance Testing System (ATS) environment completed on time. However, work scheduled for the Production environment will take longer than expected.

The MeF Production environment will be unavailable until 7:00 am, Eastern on Monday, December 10th. We thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the Production system until then.
We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

QuickAlerts –December 9, 2012

Subject: 2nd Update: Extended Modernized e-File (MeF) Maintenance Window

The extended Modernized e-File (MeF) Production build window was completed at 10:00 pm, Eastern on Sunday, December 9, 2012. Please resume transmitting service requests to the Production environment.
We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

QuickAlerts –December 12, 2012

Subject: Shutdown for Business Modernized e-File (MeF)

Attention: (MeF) Participants - Transmitters, Software Developers, Practitioners and States

Shutdown for Business Modernized e-File (MeF)

Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule:

Shutdown is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at 11:59 am, and end on Monday, January 07, 2013 at 9:00 am, Eastern.

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 am, Eastern on December 26th. Anything not retrieved thru MeF by 11:59 am on December 26th, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for Production on January 7, 2013.

Shutdown Deadlines on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 Eastern Time

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal)	10:00 am
Retrieving Acknowledgements	11:59 am

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements	11:30 am
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MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule:

ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cut over period (12/26/2012 - 01/07/2013).

BMF Production Start Up on Monday, January 07, 2013 Eastern Time

Transmitters & States	9:00am
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Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

QuickAlerts –December 12, 2012

Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Downtime

The Modernized e-File Production system will be unavailable from approximately 6:00 am, Eastern Saturday, December 15th until 1:00 am, Eastern Sunday, December 16, 2012 while the IRS conducts scheduled testing and maintenance to their systems.

Please note that the regularly scheduled Sunday build window will take place from 1:00 am to 7:00 am, Eastern on December 16, 2012.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended timeframe. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production System during this period.

If you have any question, please let us know through the MeF Mailbox.

QuickAlerts –December 13, 2012

Subject: 94x XML System Downtime

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs Effective December 17, 2012, at 11:59 p.m. (EST) through January 1, 2013, the 94x XML e-file System will not be available for the filing of Production returns. The system will be open for testing only. The system will reopen for the filing of Production returns on January 2, 2013. Additionally, the 94x XML PIN Registration Process response timeframe will be delayed from December 17, 2012, at 11:59 p.m. (EST) through January 1, 2013. If a registration is received, it will not be processed until the system reopens on January 2, 2013.

During this timeframe, the e-help Desk is open for testing status inquiries only, and status information regarding your PIN Registration cannot be provided.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the downtime.

QuickAlerts –December 17, 2012

Subject: CAF Outage Planned December 26 - January 2, 2013

Attn: Tax Practitioners

The Centralized Authorization File system or CAF will be unavailable beginning Wednesday, December 26, at 6 a.m. EDT through Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at 6:30 a.m. for routine maintenance. Since the Transcript Delivery Service and Disclosure Authorization systems use the CAF to validate authority to act on behalf of a taxpayer, these systems will also be disabled from December 26 through January 2.

Please plan to request transcripts through e-Services' Transcript Delivery Service or new Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative or Form 8821, Tax Information Authorization, through the Disclosure Authorization system, no later than midnight, December 25, or hold your requests until systems are restored on January 2.

If you need to contact the IRS for help with a client and you have an established power of authority on file, be prepared to provide a faxed copy of that authorization. Our Customer Service Representatives will not have access to the CAF and will have limited research capability during the outage. New authorizations submitted for this purpose will be forwarded to the CAF for processing. You will not need to re-submit it through the Disclosure Authorization function of e-Services.

Please contact the Practitioner Priority Service at 866-860-4259 if you have any questions.

QuickAlerts –December 17, 2012

Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production and Assurance Testing System (ATS) Downtime

The Modernized e-File Production and ATS system will be unavailable from approximately 6:00 am, Eastern Saturday, December 22nd until 7:00 am, Eastern Sunday, December 23rd, 2012 while the IRS conducts scheduled testing and maintenance to their systems.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended timeframe. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and ATS Systems during this period.

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –December 19, 2012

Subject: **Update-**Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production and Assurance Testing System (ATS) Downtime

The Modernized e-File Production and ATS system will be unavailable from approximately 6:00 am, Eastern, Saturday, December 22nd until 12:00 pm, Eastern, Sunday, December 23rd, 2012 while the IRS conducts scheduled testing and maintenance to their systems.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended timeframe. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and ATS Systems during this period.

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –December 19, 2012

Subject: Important Update Concerning Form 1040 Schema Versions

The IRS will deploy the Form 1040-series schema package 2012v4.1 (minor version) into the Modernized e-File (MeF) ATS environment on 12/31/12, and into Production at Startup on 1/22/13. We will also deploy schema package 2012v4.0 (major version) into Production on 1/22/13.

Important note: The 2012v4.1 package contains significant changes that should have been released as a major (required) schema change affecting all software vendors. However, in light of this late date and the impending filing season startup, the IRS decided to support the versions noted above and asks all software developers to immediately review the "Diff" files embedded in the 2012v4.1 schema package, and use that version if your clients will potentially be impacted. For example, the 2012v4.1 package includes a critical Form W2 change making the Employee Social Security Number a required rather than an optional field (removed minOccurs="0"). We also added a new Form 8949 Paper Indicator in the Return Header in 2012v4.1. If your client continues to use the 2012v4.0 package, they will not have that option. The IRS uses the 2012v4.1 schema to validate both packages, so any element name change will also reject as a schema error if they mismatch.

We highly recommend that all software developers use the 2012v4.1 schemas (if you have not done so already) to prevent unnecessary rejects.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Please note that the IRS will be issuing a separate QuickAlerts concerning business returns (BMF) once we assess the impact. Thank you for your continued support.

QuickAlerts –December 28, 2012

Subject: Critical Update Concerning Form 1040 Schema Versions

As communicated on December 21, 2012, the IRS will deploy the Form 1040-series schema package 2012v4.1 into the Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS) environment on December 30, 2012, and into Production at Startup on January 22, 2013.

Important update: The 2012v4.1 package contains significant changes that should have been released as a major (required) schema update affecting all software vendors. However, to minimize external impact, we previously stated that MeF would support both the 2012v4.0 and the 2012v4.1 packages.

After additional analysis and testing, the IRS has decided to support only the 2012v4.1 schema package. This action will prevent a number of schema validation errors and potential processing delays that may be encountered when using the 2012v4.0 package.

Effective Sunday, December 30, 2012, the 2012v4.1 schema package should be used for ATS. Schema package 2012v4.0 will not be deployed into Production and will reject as a mismatch.

Although we strongly encourage software companies with approved software to retest using the 2012v4.1 schemas, you will not be required to do so.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

We will host a call at 4:00 pm, Eastern on Friday, December 28, 2012, to address concerns. The call in number is 1-866-606-4717 access code 9412199.

Thank you for your continued support.

QuickAlerts –December 28, 2012

Subject: E-Services portals out until January 6

In addition to the previously announced CAF outage from December 26 to 6:00 AM January 2, the e-Services' Transcript Delivery System, Disclosure Authorization and Electronic Account Resolution systems will be out three additional business days. They should return to operation Sunday, January 6, 2013.

During this time, you will be unable to request transcripts, submit a new Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, Form 8821, Tax Information Authorization or use the Electronic Account Resolution. We encourage users to hold their transactions until the system is operational.

As a reminder, if you choose to fax Forms 2848 and 8821 during the outage period, please do not re-submit it through e-Services. Your forms will be processed manually.

The Practitioner Priority Service at 866-860-4259, is available if you have additional questions.