



# ***Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR)***

*Working Group Meeting  
October 18, 2016*

Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Program



# Today's Topics

- Changes to Publication 5164 for Tax Year (TY) 2016
- Changes to Publication 5165 for Tax Year (TY) 2016
- Demonstration of ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS) Scenarios
- Q & A
  - September Questions and Response Appendix
- General AIR Mailbox and e-Help Desk Information



# Changes to Publication 5164 for TY 2016



# Changes to Publication 5164 for TY 2016

## **Changes to the following sections/table:**

- Section 2.1 Who Must Test
- Section 3.0, Table 3-1 When Do I Apply for a TCC (table)
- Section 3.3 Software Developers TCC
- Section 4.1 Overview of AATS Customer Experience
- Section 4.3 Validating Manifest Elements in Test Transmissions
- Section 4.5 Acknowledgement Files
- Section 6.2 Submission Narrative and Associated Test Scenarios



# Changes to Publication 5164 for TY 2016

## Section 2.1 Who Must Test

- Software Developers, who passed AATS for Tax Year 2015, will not have to retest for Tax Year 2016. New participants will need to comply with software test requirements for Tax Year 2016
- ***This is a one time exception***

## Section 3.0, Table 3-1 When Do I Apply for a TCC (table)

- The same actions are still performed

## Section 3.3 Software Developers TCC

- The Software Developer TCC is permanently assigned to Test Status



# Changes to Publication 5164 for TY 2016

## **Section 4.1 Overview of AATS Customer Experience**

- New to the Tax Year 2016 schema, inclusion of blank tags, empty tags or null tags will result in rejection of the transmission

## **Section 4.3 Validating Manifest Elements in Test Transmissions**

- For information on the AIR Manifest, refer to the AIR Submission Composition & Reference Guide on the AIR Program Overview page
- For technical assistance in resolving manifest errors, contact the AIR Mailbox

## **Section 4.5 Acknowledgement Files**

- Error messages will be more detailed

## **Section 6.2 Submission Narrative and Associated Test Scenarios**

- Predefined Scenarios and Criteria-Based Scenarios



# Changes to Publication 5165 for TY 2016



# Changes to Publication 5165 for TY 2016

## **Prior Year Returns – AIR will accept ACA Information Returns for the Tax Year 2015**

- Select the applicable form type on the AIR Schemas and Business Rules page located on the AIR Program page
- Use the schemas and business rules that are in effect for Tax Year 2015
- Do not use the Tax Year 2016 schemas or rules
- Do not mix or combine tax years within the same submission or the same transmission



# Changes to Publication 5165 for TY 2016

## **Effective January 2017, the AIR schemas will not allow empty or null values within schema tags**

- All data elements present by virtue of an opening and a closing tag must contain a value
- Empty or null tags will result in a transmission rejection
- Do not include tags for optional data elements that are empty



# Changes to Publication 5165 for TY 2016

**Beginning with Tax Year 2016 submissions, Error Data Files returned to Transmitters will show exactly which Business Rules were violated by the transmission rather than displaying which error codes were triggered**

- Business Rules will have a one-to-one relationship to the rules posted on the AIR Program page
- The following error information will be returned to the Transmitter when IRS identifies errors associated with a Business Rule for TY2016 and beyond:
  - Header level: HEADER-XXX-XX
  - Manifest level: MANIFEST-XXX-XX
  - Form level: 1094B-XXX-XX, 1095B-XXX-XX, 1094C-XXX-XX, 1095C-XXX-XX

**Note: first “XXX” is sequential numbering of Business Rule; second “XX” is version number of the Business Rule (as needed; left off for first version)**



# Changes to Publication 5165 for TY 2016

## **The Error Message Detail (Error Data File) in the Acknowledgement File has been modified for TY 2016 to include the “XPath Content”**

- Error Message Code (Business Rule number)
- Error Message Text (Business Rule Description)
- XPathContent (link to schema error AIRSHXXX location within the transmitted Form Data File.) Note: The XPath identifies the specific data element and instance in an enumerated group, if applicable, causing the violation.
  - An example of the Error Data File is shown on the next slide



# Changes to Publication 5165 for TY 2016

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<ns3:FormBCTransmitterSubmissionDtl
  xmlns="urn:us:gov:treasury:irs:ext:aca:air:7.0" xmlns:ns2="urn:us:gov:treasury:irs:common"
  xmlns:ns3="urn:us:gov:treasury:irs:msg:form1094-1095BCTransmittermessage">
  <ACATransmitterSubmissionDetail>
    <TransmitterErrorDetailGrp>
      <UniqueRecordId>1095B-16-00002116|1|1</UniqueRecordId>
      <ns2:ErrorMessageDetail>
        <ns2:ErrorMessageCd>1095B-055-01</ns2:ErrorMessageCd>
        <ns2:ErrorMessageTxt>Form 1095B 'CoveredIndividualName' and 'SSN'
          within 'CoveredIndividualGrp' must match the IRS database
        </ns2:ErrorMessageTxt>
        <ns2:XpathContent>/Form109495BTransmittalUpstream/Form1094BUpstreamDetail/Form1095BUpstreamDetail/CoveredIndividualGrp[1]/SSN
        </ns2:XpathContent>
      </ns2:ErrorMessageDetail>
    </TransmitterErrorDetailGrp>
    <TransmitterErrorDetailGrp>
      <UniqueRecordId>1095B-16-00002116|1|2</UniqueRecordId>
      <ns2:ErrorMessageDetail>
        <ns2:ErrorMessageCd>1095B-052-01</ns2:ErrorMessageCd>
        <ns2:ErrorMessageTxt>Form 1095B 'BusinessName' and 'EIN' within
          'IssuerInfoGrp' must match the IRS database</ns2:ErrorMessageTxt>
        <ns2:XpathContent>/Form109495BTransmittalUpstream/Form1094BUpstreamDetail/Form1095BUpstreamDetail/IssuerInfoGrp/EIN
        </ns2:XpathContent>
      </ns2:ErrorMessageDetail>
    </TransmitterErrorDetailGrp>
    <TransmitterErrorDetailGrp>
      <UniqueRecordId>1095B-16-00002116|1|2</UniqueRecordId>
      <ns2:ErrorMessageDetail>
        <ns2:ErrorMessageCd>1095B-055-01</ns2:ErrorMessageCd>
        <ns2:ErrorMessageTxt>Form 1095B 'CoveredIndividualName' and 'SSN'
          within 'CoveredIndividualGrp' must match the IRS database
        </ns2:ErrorMessageTxt>
        <ns2:XpathContent>/Form109495BTransmittalUpstream/Form1094BUpstreamDetail/Form1095BUpstreamDetail/CoveredIndividualGrp[1]/SSN
        </ns2:XpathContent>
      </ns2:ErrorMessageDetail>
    </TransmitterErrorDetailGrp>
  </ACATransmitterSubmissionDetail>
</ns3:FormBCTransmitterSubmissionDtl>
```



# Demonstration of AATS Scenarios



# TY2016 AATS

**Software Developers (SWDs) who passed ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS) for Tax Year 2015 are not required to retest for Tax Year 2016.**

- Instead SWDs who have already passed TY2015 AATS will only need to update their ACA TCC Application with the new software packages they will create for TY2016.
- The Software Page on the *ACA TCC Application* must be completed for:
  - Each Tax Year
  - Each Package Type: Online, COTS, In-house
  - Form Type: Form 1094/1095-B or Form 1094/1095-C
  - Transmission Method: ISS-A2A - System Enrolleror  
ISS-UI for ACA Internet Transmitter



# What's New for TY2016 AATS

## AATS Scenario Changes for TY2016

- There are 2 testing options for new participants who will be required to test. Only **one option** must be submitted to pass TY2016 AATS.
  - ***Predefined Scenarios*** which are similar to what was offered in TY2015. This option will provide the exact test data to be entered for each scenario. These scenarios do not allow for data values other than what is listed in the submission narrative and the corresponding Answer Keys.
  - ***Criteria-Based Scenarios*** where the tester will create the data for numerous form lines. Criteria-Based Scenarios identify form lines where data must be present. Some data values the tester will create on their own, some data is specific within the Scenario Narrative and other data such as Name Controls and TINS are within Publication 5164. There are no Answer Keys for Criteria-Based Scenarios since values submitted can vary.



# Predefined Narrative vs Criteria-Based Narrative

## Scenario 3-0

### Part I ALE Information

ALE Name: Selitestthree

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 00-0000301

Address: 6689 Willow Court, Beverly Hills, CA 90211

ALE Point of Contact: Rose Lincoln

ALE Point of Contact Phone Number: 5559876543

There is a total of 1 1095-C included with this transmittal.

This is the authoritative transmittal for Selitestthree.

### Part II ALE Member Information

Selitestthree will have a total of 455 Form 1095-Cs filed by and/or on its behalf.

Selitestthree was a member of an Aggregated ALE Group for all 12 months of the year.

While it is not required to check any boxes on line 22 and more than one method may be applicable for an ALE, Selitestthree qualifies for and is only choosing to use Section 4980H Transition Relief for employers with 100 or more employees for the months January through May.

Signature, title and date can be left blank, as there is no requirement for these elements within TY2016.

### Part III ALE Member Information – Monthly

Selitestthree offered minimum essential coverage (column a) to at least 95% of their Full-Time Employees and dependents from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> (inclusive).

The Section 4980H Full-Time (column b) and Total Employee Count (column c) for all 12 months are as follows:

## I. Scenario 9

Authoritative Transmittal Completing 1094-C Parts I-IV. Part III values will be completed on the “All 12 Months” line. An ALE Member’s Authoritative Transmittal where the ALE is a member of an Aggregated Group for all 12 months. This ALE will submit a total of 2 1095-Cs, for 2 of their employees. This ALE will choose one of the options on line 22. This ALE will choose to use line 23 “All 12 Months” when completing Part III ALE Member Information section. At least one member of an Aggregated Group will be listed in Part IV. Additional instructions for form lines that must be completed are listed below.

### 1094-C Submission Narrative Information

#### Scenario 9-0

##### Part I ALE Information

Lines 1-8 Data is created by the filer. Use only the TIN and Name Control Ranges listed in the instructions for the ALE Member name and EIN information. The street address can be generic and created without using a specific range.

Line 18 There are a total of 2 1095-Cs included with this transmittal.

Data must be present on lines 1-8, 18, and 19.

##### Part II ALE Member Information

Data must be present on lines 20 and 21, and 22.

##### Part III ALE Member Information

Data must be present on line 23 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

##### Part IV Other ALE Members of the Aggregated ALE Group

Lines 36-65 Data is created by the filer. Use only the TIN and Name Control Ranges listed in the instructions for the Other ALE Member of Aggregated ALE Group name and EIN.

Minimally, data must be present on line 36.



# Predefined Answer Key Scenario 3-0 vs Criteria-Based Answer Key Scenario 9-0

Version A, Cycle 3 120117

**Test Scenario 3-0**

Form **1094-C** Transmittal of Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage Information Returns  CORRECTED OMB No. 1545-2251  
 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service **2016**  
 Information about Form 1094-C and its separate instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form1094c](http://www.irs.gov/form1094c)

**Part I Applicable Large Employer Member (ALE Member)**

1 Name of ALE Member (Employer) Selftestthree	2 Employer identification number (EIN) 000000301
3 Street address (including room or suite no.) 6689 Willow Court	
4 City or town Beverly Hills	5 State or province CA
6 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code 90211	
7 Name of person to contact Rose Lincoln	8 Contact telephone number 5559876543
9 Name of Designated Government Entity (only if applicable)	10 Employer identification number (EIN)
11 Street address (including room or suite no.)	
12 City or town	13 State or province
14 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code	
15 Name of person to contact	16 Contact telephone number

**For Official Use Only**

17 Reserved . . . . .

18 Total number of Forms 1095-C submitted with this transmittal . . . . . 1

19 Is this the authoritative transmittal for this ALE Member? If "Yes," check the box and continue. If "No," see instructions . . . . .

**Part II ALE Member Information**

20 Total number of Forms 1095-C filed by and/or on behalf of ALE Member . . . . . 455

21 Is ALE Member a member of an Aggregated ALE Group? . . . . .  Yes  No  
 If "No," do not complete Part IV.

22 Certifications of Eligibility (select all that apply):  
 A. Qualifying Offer Method  B. Reserved  C. Section 4980H Transition Relief  D. 96% Offer Method

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying documents, and to the best of my knowledge and belief they are true, correct, and complete.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 61571A Form 1094-C (2016)

Version A, Cycle 3 120117

**Test Scenario 9-0**

Form **1094-C** Transmittal of Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage Information Returns  CORRECTED OMB No. 1545-2251  
 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service **2016**  
 Information about Form 1094-C and its separate instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form1094c](http://www.irs.gov/form1094c)

**Part I Applicable Large Employer Member (ALE Member)**

1 Name of ALE Member (Employer) Helptest Company	2 Employer identification number (EIN) 000000100
3 Street address (including room or suite no.) 1000 Tree Lane	
4 City or town Aliso Viejo	5 State or province CA
6 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code 92656	
7 Name of person to contact John Smith	8 Contact telephone number 5551112222
9 Name of Designated Government Entity (only if applicable)	10 Employer identification number (EIN)
11 Street address (including room or suite no.)	
12 City or town	13 State or province
14 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code	
15 Name of person to contact	16 Contact telephone number

**For Official Use Only**

17 Reserved . . . . .

18 Total number of Forms 1095-C submitted with this transmittal . . . . . 2

19 Is this the authoritative transmittal for this ALE Member? If "Yes," check the box and continue. If "No," see instructions . . . . .

**Part II ALE Member Information**

20 Total number of Forms 1095-C filed by and/or on behalf of ALE Member . . . . . 245

21 Is ALE Member a member of an Aggregated ALE Group? . . . . .  Yes  No  
 If "No," do not complete Part IV.

22 Certifications of Eligibility (select all that apply):  
 A. Qualifying Offer Method  B. Reserved  C. Section 4980H Transition Relief  D. 96% Offer Method

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying documents, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 61571A Form 1094-C (2016)



# Predefined vs Criteria Scenario XML Example

## Scenario 3-0

```
<p1:SubmissionId>1</p1:SubmissionId>
<p1:TestScenarioId>3-0</p1:TestScenarioId>
<p1:TaxYr>2016</p1:TaxYr>
<p1:CorrectedInd>0</p1:CorrectedInd>
<p1:EmployerInformationGrp>
  <p1:BusinessName>
    <p1:BusinessNameLine1Txt>Selitestthree</p1:BusinessNameLine1Txt>
    </p1:BusinessName>
  <p1:BusinessNameControlTxt>SELI</p1:BusinessNameControlTxt>
  <p2:TINRequestTypeCd>BUSINESS_TIN</p2:TINRequestTypeCd>
  <p2:EmployerEIN>00-0000301</p2:EmployerEIN>
  <p1:MailingAddressGrp>
    <p1:USAddressGrp>
      <p1:AddressLine1Txt>6689 Willow Court</p1:AddressLine1Txt>
      <p2:CityNm>Beverly Hills</p2:CityNm>
      <p1:USStateCd>CA</p1:USStateCd>
      <p2:USZIPCd>90211</p2:USZIPCd>
    </p1:USAddressGrp>
  </p1:MailingAddressGrp>
  <p1:ContactNameGrp>
    <p1:PersonFirstNm>Rose</p1:PersonFirstNm>
    <p1:PersonLastNm>Lincoln</p1:PersonLastNm>
  </p1:ContactNameGrp>
  <p1:ContactPhoneNum>5559876543</p1:ContactPhoneNum>
</p1:EmployerInformationGrp>
<p1:Form1095CAAttachedCnt>1</p1:Form1095CAAttachedCnt>
<p1:AuthoritativeTransmittalInd>1</p1:AuthoritativeTransmittalInd>
<p1:TotalForm1095CAEMemberCnt>455</p1:TotalForm1095CAEMemberCnt>
<p1:AggregatedGroupMemberCd>1</p1:AggregatedGroupMemberCd>
<p1:QualifyingOfferMethodInd>0</p1:QualifyingOfferMethodInd>
<p1:Section4980HReliefInd>1</p1:Section4980HReliefInd>
<p1:NinetyEightPctOfferMethodInd>0</p1:NinetyEightPctOfferMethodInd>
<p1:ALEMemberInformationGrp>
  <p1:YearlyALEMemberDetail>
    <p1:MinEssentialCvrOffrCd>1</p1:MinEssentialCvrOffrCd>
    <p1:AggregatedGroupInd>1</p1:AggregatedGroupInd>
  </p1:YearlyALEMemberDetail>
  <p1:JanALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
    <p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>312</p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>
    <p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>351</p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>
    <p1:ALESect4980HTmstReliefCd>B</p1:ALESect4980HTmstReliefCd>
  </p1:JanALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
  <p1:FebALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
    <p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>312</p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>
    <p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>351</p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>
  </p1:FebALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
</p1:ALEMemberInformationGrp>
<p1:ALESect4980HTmstReliefCd>B</p1:ALESect4980HTmstReliefCd>
```

## Scenario 9-0

```
<p1:SubmissionId>1</p1:SubmissionId>
<p1:TestScenarioId>9-0</p1:TestScenarioId>
<p1:TaxYr>2016</p1:TaxYr>
<p1:CorrectedInd>0</p1:CorrectedInd>
<p1:EmployerInformationGrp>
  <p1:BusinessName>
    <p1:BusinessNameLine1Txt>Helptest Company</p1:BusinessNameLine1Txt>
    </p1:BusinessName>
  <p1:BusinessNameControlTxt>HELP</p1:BusinessNameControlTxt>
  <p2:TINRequestTypeCd>BUSINESS_TIN</p2:TINRequestTypeCd>
  <p2:EmployerEIN>00-0000100</p2:EmployerEIN>
  <p1:MailingAddressGrp>
    <p1:USAddressGrp>
      <p1:AddressLine1Txt>1000 Tree Lane</p1:AddressLine1Txt>
      <p2:CityNm>Aliso Viejo</p2:CityNm>
      <p1:USStateCd>CA</p1:USStateCd>
      <p2:USZIPCd>92656</p2:USZIPCd>
    </p1:USAddressGrp>
  </p1:MailingAddressGrp>
  <p1:ContactNameGrp>
    <p1:PersonFirstNm>John</p1:PersonFirstNm>
    <p1:PersonLastNm>Smith</p1:PersonLastNm>
  </p1:ContactNameGrp>
  <p1:ContactPhoneNum>5551112222</p1:ContactPhoneNum>
</p1:EmployerInformationGrp>
<p1:Form1095CAAttachedCnt>2</p1:Form1095CAAttachedCnt>
<p1:AuthoritativeTransmittalInd>1</p1:AuthoritativeTransmittalInd>
<p1:TotalForm1095CAEMemberCnt>245</p1:TotalForm1095CAEMemberCnt>
<p1:AggregatedGroupMemberCd>1</p1:AggregatedGroupMemberCd>
<p1:QualifyingOfferMethodInd>0</p1:QualifyingOfferMethodInd>
<p1:Section4980HReliefInd>1</p1:Section4980HReliefInd>
<p1:NinetyEightPctOfferMethodInd>0</p1:NinetyEightPctOfferMethodInd>
<p1:ALEMemberInformationGrp>
  <p1:YearlyALEMemberDetail>
    <p1:MinEssentialCvrOffrCd>1</p1:MinEssentialCvrOffrCd>
    <p1:AggregatedGroupInd>1</p1:AggregatedGroupInd>
  </p1:YearlyALEMemberDetail>
  <p1:JanALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
    <p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>312</p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>
    <p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>351</p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>
    <p1:AggregatedGroupInd>1</p1:AggregatedGroupInd>
  </p1:JanALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
  <p1:FebALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
    <p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>312</p1:ALEMemberFTECnt>
    <p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>351</p1:TotalEmployeeCnt>
  </p1:FebALEMonthlyInfoGrp>
</p1:ALEMemberInformationGrp>
<p1:ALESect4980HTmstReliefCd>B</p1:ALESect4980HTmstReliefCd>
```



# Exceptions for AATS Scenarios

## For TY2016 AATS several exceptions will be allowed.

- **B Forms:** If you are a Government Sponsor of Medicaid, CHIP or Medicare or you have developed software specifically for Medicaid, CHIP or Medicare you will only be required to submit Scenario 6 or 8.
  - Include a notation on your *ACA TCC Application* on the Software Developer page, in the comments section, to request an exception for Predefined Scenarios 1 & 2. There are no Criteria-Based Scenario alternatives for the Medicaid and Medicare Scenarios. If no notation is included on your *ACA TCC Application* you will be required to submit all B Form AATS Scenarios.
- **C Forms:** If you do not support Employer Sponsored Self-Insured Coverage and do not want to submit Predefined Scenario 5 or Criteria-Based Scenario 12, you are required to include a notation on your *ACA TCC Application* on the Software Developer page, in the comments section, to request an exception.
- If no notation is included on your *ACA TCC Application* you will be required to submit all C Form AATS Scenarios.



# Helpful Hints for AATS Submissions

- Software Developers should ensure their transmission has been “Accepted” before contacting the help desk for their testing results.
- Make sure to include the element ‘TestScenarioId’ and a proper value for the scenario numbers you are submitting within the AATS environment. (Ex: 1-0, 2-2, 9-0, 10-2)
- Always check the latest version of AATS Known Issues for any system updates.
- **Do not** submit live data into the AATS testing environment.
- The AATS testing environment mimics the production environment, however, it is not meant to process large test files or to be used for performance testing.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
As a software developer who has certified in 2015, are we still allowed to test scenarios for 2016 for our own reference?	Yes
Corrections of 2015 during 2016 should be using the Schema of 2016 or 2015?	TY2015
Is there any design for xml schema validation tool on IRS.Gov? Currently used trial of AltovaSPY but it is \$499 subscription and want to know if IRS is providing a tool to validate using your schema.	No, the IRS does not provide an xml tool to validate schema.
Can we request to retest, even if we tested and passed the test in 2015?	Yes
Are there any plans on changing the 1095 data requirements to match the MMREF requirements? We had a lot of customers who had to change their employee data to fit the 1095 requirements that have always been accepted in the MMREF.	No plans
do we continue to use TY2015 schemas for transmittals related to that tax year? even if we are doing transmissions in calendar year 2017?	Yes, use TY2015 schema for TY2015 transmissions.
Will filing of 2015 Corrections still be available (under 2015 Schema) with IRS/AIR when 2016 environment becomes available? Or must everything be submitted under 2016 rules once it opens?	Yes, use TY2015 schema for TY2015 transmissions.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
How is it going to indicate which individual (covered member) has the TIN error? The 2015 responses only indicates the form that was in error	See example on Slide 16 in the October Webinar - it will indicate which instance within the covered individual group is in error. E.g., [1] will be first name in group.
Will the test environment allow for 2015 and 2016 files?  In order to test against the different business rules per year.	Tax Year 2015 and 2016 can both be tested in the Processing Year 2017 AATS environment. Change the Payment Year in the manifest to indicate which one.
Have the production schemas been updated? I tried submitting corrections and received a TPE1106 Error - The message did not match our current WSDL and/or schema. Attribute 'Id' is not allowed to appear in element 'wsse:SecurityTokenReference'. What schema version should we be using for corrections to 2015 forms?	Use version 8.0 schema for 2015.
The crosswalks help many of our team members who are not familiar with XSDs. Last year, however, they were not updated when the schemas were modified. Can you elaborate on how the crosswalks are created/generated (e.g., do you use XSL or is it a manual process)? If there is a program for doing so, such as an XSL file for example, are there any plans for posting this in the event that the crosswalks are not updated when the schemas are? Thanks.	This is done manually. We will update the crosswalks as required, but use the schemas for programming.
Just wanted to confirm when filing 2015 corrections in 2016 they need to be in the 2015 schemas?	Yes



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
Is 2016 Schema back ward compatible? Could I use 2016 Schema to submit corrections for 2015 submitted data?	The 2015 corrections will be validated against the 2015v8.0 schema.
Will you be offering the ability to explicitly void a 1095-C? Last year, this field was commented out in the schema.	No void capability for TY2016.
Will <PersonNameControlTxt> continue to be optional for Tax Year 2016? Will employee records continue to pass TIN Validation if a <PersonNameControlTxt> is not provided?	While PersonNameControl is optional in the schema, it must be included for the TIN Validation process.
when referring to "more specific information that needs to be corrected", will the error file be able to differentiate between covered individuals who failed SSN Validation (TY2015 AIRTN500)?	Yes
In the example XL provided with the TY2016 V1.0 schema (IRS-Form1094-1095CTransmitterUpstreamMessage.xml is shows Indicators as true / false not 0 / 1. Has this changed?	0/1 are being used. Schema is being updated to show 0/1.
if we don't have the field for a previously optional item that is now required, the XML Validation will notify us if using the correct Schema?	Yes
For those that have passed ACA testing for 2015 do you RECOMMEND they retest or not?	We do recommend testing your software to verify that it works properly with any changes made for the upcoming Filing Season. However, you do not need to pass testing again.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
If we are not required to test again in 2016, can we still optionally test with the new scenarios?	Yes
Do Software Developers for COTS packages need to pass the testing if they passed last year or not?	Software Developers must update their ACA TCC Application on an annual basis. Once updated they will receive new SoftwareIDs for the TY2016 software package. Slide 16 only states that only new participants who did not pass TY2015 AATS will need to pass AATS this year.
For Software Developers - once the 2016 Software ID is issued, there is no need to create and submit test files again. Correct?	Correct. If you passed TY2015 AATS AND you are not creating software for forms not supported/tested/passed in TY2015 AATS there is no need to retest for this year.
If issuers tested last year, do they need to test again using the scenarios in this presentation? Or is testing just for new issuers?	Just new participants need to pass TY2016 AATS. If you passed TY2015 AATS AND you are not creating software for forms not supported/tested/passed in TY2015 AATS there is no need to retest for this year.
Can you submit both the Criteria based and the predefined test scenarios?	Yes
Can the Form to Schema Crosswalks be published in EXCEL instead of just PDF?	It is our practice to only post PDF documents onto IRS.gov.
Is there one page at irs.gov that has links to all the relative information for ACA reporting, e.g. schema, business rules, known issues, error codes, and publications. If not, could that be looked into? It is hard to find some items.	<a href="#">AIR Program Page</a>



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
I downloaded schemas and business rules for 2016 but do not see .DIF file. Exactly where is the file?	DIF file is in the schema package zip file.
Since the schemas have changed for TY 2016, why are we not required to test before submitting to you? I would think you want us to test before we transmit to Production. Each year we will get new software numbers?	You may test the new schema if you want for your purposes. SWDs must update their ACA TCC Application on an annual basis. Once updated they will receive new SoftwareIds for the TY2016 software package.
We had consistent "errors" when a social security number started with a zero. They were accurate per the SSAdmin and were submitted with the leading zeros on our 2015 transmission. Should we be handling differently in 2016? We had the same issue with birthdates being submitted when no SS# was available but they were also shown as errors. Should we change our submissions in this area?	SSNs with leading 0s should be accepted. If this continues send issue to AIR Mailbox.
Do we need to resubmit test scenarios to AATS again this year even though we did last year and passed through that?	Do not need to resubmit if passed in TY2015.
Are we required to factor in building an infrastructure to support different schemas for different year ?	Schemas will change for different years.
Can you elaborate again on the process required for a software developer who passed TY2015 testing to be production ready in TY2016, having already adjusted for business rule and schema changes?	Software Developers must update their ACA TCC Application on an annual basis. Once updated they will receive new SoftwareIds for the TY2016 software package. If they passed AATS in TY2015 and are not supporting new forms for TY2016 they will not need to retest in AATS this year.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
When will the X-Path reference be available in Production? We plan to submit corrections next month. Will we see specific error messages then?	XPath will be for TY2016 production.
Will testing be required for transmitters to submit in 2017?	If this is the first year a Transmitter is filing then yes, they will be required to pass the Communication Test. If the Transmitter passed the Communication Test for Tax Year 2015, then they are not required to test again.
Do you have an anticipated Pub 5165 draft release date?	The Tax Year 2016 Publication 5165 is currently available on the AIR Program Page.
For software developers who transmitted in 2015, will we have an all new Software ID for TY2016? If so, will TY2015 corrections continue to be filed under the 2015 Software ID, while the 2016 transmissions use the new ID? Or can we just use the TY2016 Software ID for both 2015 and 2016 transmissions?	Yes, a new Software Id will be needed for TY 2016. Yes, TY2015 corrections will need to be filed under the 2015 Software Id and the TY 2016 transmission will use the new TY2016 Software Id.
Are middle names required for submitting employee forms?	No, Middle Names are not required, the element PersonMiddleNm is optional.
You mentioned that the Endpoints for TY2015 and TY2016 are the same whereas the WSDL for TY2015 and TY2016 are different. If someone is correcting the TY2015 ACA Returns, how does IRS know which WSDL to use to validate the XML?	In January you will use the TY2016 WSDLs. If you are correcting a TY2015 you would indicate this in the Payment Year of the manifest. You would use the same endpoints for TY2015 or TY2016.
Will there be plans to provide what is required for 2016 filing that was optional in 2015?	The schema to Form Crosswalk for each form shows which elements are required and which are optional. The AIR Composition and Reference Guide section 3.4.1 provides that information for the Manifest file. This information is also available in the Schemas.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
Since we passed the AATS testing last year and don't need to test this year, can we create a file (with dummy data) and submit for testing purposes?	Yes, you can still test in AATS using your Software Developer AIR TCC.
Will the IRS continue to validate our submission with errors due to incorrect dependents/spouse SSN?	Yes
What is the significance of the element <PaymentYear> in the Manifest?	The PaymentYear represents the Tax Year of the form. Currently, that field should be populated with "2015". For year 2016 forms, the field should be populated with "2016".
Will TIN Validation errors be able to determine which dependents has the error in particular this year?	Yes, the error data file will include which instance has the error.
Will the BusinessNameControlTxt and PersonNameControlTxt be required attributes this year?	This information needs to be included in the submission.
Will name control be required for AATS for responsible and covered individuals?	Yes, name control will be required for AATS.
We had a few cases where our clients business name contained an ampersand, and they were rejected (TIN validation error @ comp level). In these cases, we used the escape key and the client confirmed the name and EIN with the IRS business specialty line. These have been escalated, but we still don't have a resolution. Are you aware of this issue/ do you have any recommendations to fix?	The procedure for allowable characters such as BusinessNameLine1Txt" and "BusinessNameLine2Txt" is located in Publication 5165 Section 4.6.3.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
When you hover the current production link on the AIR main page on the left, it says it is for 2014. Is that an error in the label?	Thank you for bringing this to our attention. There is an error in the label and we will remove the "2014" reference.
For the other types of AIRMF, AIRBR errors which will be identified with much more specific codes, when will a list or guide of these codes be made available to developers?	The AIR Submission Composition and Reference Guide, providing more information regarding errors, will be posted before the end of October.
Is the Plan Start Month on Form 1095-C required or optional for tax year 2016?	The Plan Start Month for Form 1095-C is an Optional Element.
So to clarify, those tags are not optional? CoveredIndividualAnnualInd, CoveredIndividualMonthlyIndGrp, JanuaryInd- DecemberInd.	These elements are optional.
what is the acronym AATS	Affordable Care Act Assurance Testing System (AATS).
When filing a 2015 tax year correction (processing year 2016) in processing year 2017, do we use the software vendor ID relative to the original filing, or the software vendor ID for the year we are processing the prior year correction?	You would use the software vendor ID relative to the original filing.
What does "exact instance of the element" mean? It will identify the individual with the TIN error?	The TIN validation errors will have the exact instance of the element in XPath within the Error Data File, records that have the error will be included in the Error Data File, which is available through the Download button on the Transmission Status page. For example, 1095C-16-XXX1234 1 15 means 1095 record #15 has the error.



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
<p>I would like to get more information on the OriginalUniqueSubmissionId element. Its current description is, "Global type for the Original Unique Submission Identifier. The UniqueSubmission Identifier for 1094-C is a follows:ReceiptId:SubmissionId". My questions regard when to actually send this element. Is it required when sending another original transmission(10,000+ members). Do we use the receipt id from the first original transmission if it was rejected? Or do we use the receipt id of the first transmission that is accepted/accepted with errors? If this element is not sent with a subsequent original transmission, what happens?</p>	<p>The OriginalUniqueSubmissionId is used when you are replacing the entire submission because it was previously rejected. This field is not used in an original transmission; it is only valid in a replacement transmission. Use the receipt id of the first original transmission that was rejected.</p>
<p>When filing a 2015 tax year correction (processing year 2016) in processing year 2017, do we use the software vendor ID relative to the original filing, or the software vendor ID for the year we are processing the prior year correction?</p>	<p>You would use the software vendor ID relative to the original filing.</p>
<p>What does "exact instance of the element" mean? It will identify the individual with the TIN error?</p>	<p>The TIN validation errors will have the exact instance of the element in XPath within the Error Data File, records that have the error will be included in the Error Data File, which is available through the Download button on the Transmission Status page. For example, 1095C-16-XXX1234 1 15 means 1095 record #15 has the error.</p>



# September Webinar Questions and Responses

Question	Response
Just wanted to confirm when filing 2015 corrections in 2016 they need to be in the 2015 schemas?	Yes
How is 1095C-TH-036-01 different than the former business rule? The only difference seems to be that is that it says "reject"?	This is being removed in next business rule package.
Why are you removing the SSN validation business rule?	SSNs will be schema validated in TY2016.
Why when I open up the new schemas there are about 12 more files in the MSG folder and also there is a new SRV folder. Also when I open up a sample xml file (IRS-form1094-1095BTransmitterUpstreamMessage.xml) file the tags look like they have been redone and also there is a air7.0 before most tags	The SSN validation business rules were not removed; they have been renumbered for each specific form and SSN validation. For example: Business Rule 1095C-010-01 is the SSN validation for 1095-C Part I Employee. Business Rule 1095C-039-01 is the SSN validation for Form 1095-C Part III Covered Individual.



# General Information



# General AIR Information

**The purpose of the AIR mailbox is to provide technical assistance with the transmission of data to the IRS related to:**

- Publication 5164
- Publication 5165
- The AIR Submission Composition and Reference Guide
- Automated Enrollment Guide
- WSDLs
- Schema
- Transmission File review
- Transmission errors

**Note:** The AIR Mailbox does not support Tax Law, refer to [IRS.gov/aca](https://www.irs.gov/aca) [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) Tax Provisions](#)



# General AIR Information

## The Help Desk provides customer support for the following:

- Registration and confirmation process for e-services for Responsible Officials and Contacts
- ACA Application for a Transmitter Control Code (TCC) process
  - Navigation of the ACA Application for a TCC
  - Modification / Updates of the ACA Application TCC
  - Production / Test Status
- Assurance Testing for Software Developers and Transmitters
  - AATS Testing review and feedback
- Transmission / Acknowledgement status
- Business Rules / Error Code resolution
- Move TCC from Test to Production, and to retrieve Receipt IDs when they are lost or not returned

**Note:** The Help Desk does not support Tax law, refer to [IRS.gov/aca](https://www.irs.gov/aca) [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) Tax Provisions](#)



# General AIR Information

## Help Desk Reminders:

- All Responsible Officials and Contacts need to Register and confirm your registration in e-Services before the application for TCC can be submitted.
- Ensure your ACA Application for TCC is kept up to date.
- Software Developers should ensure their transmission has been Accepted before contacting the help desk for their testing results.
- **Review the answer key located on IRS.gov before submitting your test scenarios. The answer keys are provided for your convenience, **Important!** if your test does not contain all of the information shown in the answer key, your submission has not passed AATS testing.**
- Once you have passed AATS testing and your Software Package is placed in Production, allow 48 hours before transmitting into the AIR Production environment.
- When submitting to Production, be sure to use your Transmitter or Issuer TCC, as appropriate.
- Review Publication 5164 and Publication 5165 for Acknowledgement Status and actions needed.