

**Assurance Testing System (ATS) Guidelines for Modernized e-File (MeF)
Business Submissions**



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NATURE OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

| Section | Change |
|----------------|---|
| Cover Page | The title of Publication 5078 has been changed to the following: "Assurance Testing System (ATS) Guidelines for Modernized e-File (MeF) Business Submissions" |
| All | This publication was updated to reflect tax information for Tax Year 2017 / Processing Year 2018. |
| Section 3.5 | Added section for 94x On-Line Filing PIN |
| Section 3.7.1 | Revised section for testing Form 7004 scenarios. |

BUSINESS FORMS COVERED BY TEST PACKAGE

| Form | Title |
|-----------------|---|
| 720 | Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Return |
| 94x | On-Line Signature PIN Registration |
| 940 | Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return |
| 940-PR | Planilla para la Declaración Federal Anual del Patrono de la Contribución Federal para el Desempleo (FUTA) |
| 941 | Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return |
| 941-PR | Planilla para la Declaración Federal TRIMESTRAL del Patrono |
| 941-SS | Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) |
| 943 | Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return for Agricultural Employees |
| 943-PR | Planilla para la Declaración Anual de la Contribución Federal del Patrono de Empleados Agrícolas |
| 944 | Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return |
| 945 | Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax |
| 990 | Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax |
| 990-EZ | Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax |
| 990-N | Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) |
| 990-PF | Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation |
| 1041 | U.S. Income Tax Return for Estates and Trusts |
| 1065 | U.S. Return of Partnership Income |
| 1065-B | U.S. Return of Income for Electing Large Partnerships |
| 1120 | U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return |
| 1120S | U.S. Income Tax Return for an S Corporation |
| 1120-F | U.S. Income Tax Return of a Foreign Corporation |
| 1120-POL | U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Political Organizations |
| 2290 | Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax Return |
| 7004 | Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File Certain Business Income Tax, Information, and Other Returns |
| 8849 | Claim for Refund of Excise Taxes |
| 8868 | Application for Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return |
| 9465 | Installment Agreement Request |

PART 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Publication 5078, *Modernized e-File (MeF) Test Package Business Submissions* contains general and program specific testing information for use in completing the Assurance Testing System (ATS) process. The Assurance Testing System is a process to test software and electronic transmissions prior to accepting Software Developers, K-1 Aggregators, Transmitters and Large Taxpayers into the MeF program.

Assurance Testing is an annual process that tests the tax preparation software and/or the electronic transmissions for each Software Developer, Transmitter and Large Taxpayer wanting to participate in the MeF Program. In order to participate in the MeF Program, each Software Developer and Transmitter must pass testing for each form type and each tax year that they support.

1.1 Scenarios

ATS scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

1.2 Employer Identification Numbers (EINs)

In November 2014, ATS implemented a new process for all EINs used in ATS testing for Federal returns. All EINs for Federal business ATS scenarios will begin with "00." Business Rule R0000-148 has been implemented in the ATS environment to reject any Federal business submission without a Filer EIN beginning with "00" in the Return Header. There will be no predetermined name controls. In order to accommodate the expanded range of EINs for business submission testing, the EIN/name control Business Rules will be disabled in ATS.

Note: See Exhibit 4 for a complete list of the Test EINs for BMF Forms.

1.3 ATS Known Issues and Solutions

The Known Issues and Solutions document was developed to identify and provide interim solutions to ATS issues identified with Schema, Business Rules and Stylesheets in the MeF System.

ATS Known Issues and Solutions are posted on the following link:

[Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates Page](#)

PART 2 ATS INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO ALL FORM TYPES

2.1 WHO MUST TEST?

2.1.1 IRS e-file Application and Participation

Prior to testing, all Software Developers and Transmitters must obtain an Electronic Transmitter Identification Number (ETIN) and an Electronic Filing Identification Number (EFIN) through the e-file Application process. If a Software Developer intends to transmit submissions, they must register as both a Software Developer and Transmitter. Refer to Publication 4164, Modernized e-File (MeF) Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters.

Refer to Publication 3112, *IRS e-file Application and Participation*, and <https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/e-services-online-tools-for-tax-professionals> for Online Application procedures.

Software Developers and Transmitters using Application to Application (A2A) are required to register the system(s) that will be used to conduct business with MeF to obtain a System ID. If the systems are not registered, the Software Developer or Transmitter cannot access MeF.

2.1.2 Software Developers

Software Developers are required to complete Assurance Testing using the applicable scenarios available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage to be accepted into the electronic filing program each filing season.

Software Developers are issued a test ETIN by the IRS to be used for software testing. To allow year round testing, the test ETIN is permanently a test ETIN.

2.1.3 Transmitters

Transmitters are required to complete communication testing to transmit electronic returns to the IRS the first year only. They do NOT need to perform a communications test each year.

Transmitters are issued an ETIN by the IRS to be used for communications testing. The ETIN remains in Test status until the Transmitter passes the required communication testing and then the ETIN is moved to Production status. The Transmitter may request a test ETIN which can be used to continue testing once the original ETIN has been moved to Production status.

The ETIN assigned in the application process must be included in each message. The transmission status (Test or Production) of the ETIN used to transmit must match the Test/Production Indicator in the Message Header or the submission will be rejected. The Production ETIN cannot be used in ATS.

The IRS e-file Application will default the transmission method to Modernized e-File (MeF) Internet XML and the appropriate MeF form types must be checked. Otherwise, the ETIN will be invalid and any MeF submissions will be rejected.

2.1.4 Large Taxpayers

Large Taxpayers are required to complete a communications test the first year only. They do NOT need to perform a communications test each year. Refer to [Publication 4163 Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Information for Authorized IRS e-file Providers for Business Returns](#) for general information on Large Taxpayers.

2.2 WHAT IS TESTED?

All ATS scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage. Each scenario includes a summary sheet that provides all of the information needed to complete the scenario. The tax forms used in the scenarios may not include information on every line. While it may appear that the scenario is incomplete, the absence of the data is intentional. For example, the software should populate any data that is totaled or transferred from another form in the return.

Test returns include a limited number of forms and schedules. It is not possible to represent all possible conditions in these tests.

Test returns must be correctly prepared and computed before transmission. The IRS strongly recommends that each return be run against a parser prior to transmission. IRS processing consists of two steps; Schema validation through a parser and Business Rule validation.

Use a separate Software ID and perform ATS testing for each online software package.

Caution: To protect confidential tax and other sensitive information, do not use actual taxpayer information in the testing environment.

2.2.1 Scenarios by Form Type

The Assurance Testing System (ATS) consists of the following number of scenarios for each form type:

| Form Type | Number of Scenarios |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 94x | 17 |
| 720 | 3 |
| 990 | 3 |
| 990-EZ | 2 |
| 990-N | 4 |
| 990-PF | 3 |
| 1041 | 6 |
| 1065 | 4 |
| 1065-B | 3 |
| 1065 - K-1 Aggregators | 2 |
| 1120 | 4 |
| 1120-F | 1 |
| 1120-POL | 2 |
| 1120S | 4 |
| 2290 | 3 |
| 7004 | 5 |
| 8849 | 6 |
| 8868 | 2 |
| 9465 | 3 |

2.2.2 IP Address

The IP Address for business submissions is located in the ReturnHeader Schema.

Use the following IP Address in the scenarios:

- 192.168.2.1 or
- Any valid public IP Address that meets the correct schema format

2.3 WHEN TO TEST

Software Developers should notify the e-help Desk toll-free at **1 (866) 255-0654** when they are ready to test. An e-help Desk assistor will assist with all preparations needed to begin testing, including the assignment of a Software ID to submit returns.

Note: Software Developers need a new Software ID for each tax year and each tax package they support.

2.4 WHY TEST?

The purpose of testing prior to live processing is to ensure that:

- IRS can receive and process the electronic returns.
- Returns have fewer validation and math errors.
- Transmitters use the correct format according to the IRS MeF electronic filing specifications.
- Transmitters can retrieve responses from MeF, including acknowledgement files, State returns and State status records.
- Filers understand and are familiar with the mechanics of electronic filing.

The IRS strongly recommends that Software Developers use the ATS system to retest when there are Schema changes.

2.5 TESTING GUIDELINES FOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

The IRS does not require that software provide for all forms or schedules, or for all occurrences of a particular form or schedule.

2.5.1 Questionnaire

To begin testing, Software Developers must contact the e-help Desk toll-free at **1 (866) 255-0654** to:

- Complete and submit a questionnaire indicating software limitations prior to testing.
- Update the questionnaire when modifying software limitations to support additional forms that were not included in the initial testing.
- To avoid delays in responses by using the original questionnaire e-mail throughout the entire testing process.

2.5.2 Submitting and Correcting Tests

Software Developers must test the complete form with no field limitations except for the number of occurrences. In addition, all tax types must be tested if they will be filed in production.

For example, if Forms 1120 and 1120S were initially tested and now an additional Form 1120-F is supported, Form 1120-F must be tested and approved before submitting live versions of the form.

Software Developers may transmit as many test returns as necessary until all scenarios are accepted. All Business Rule rejects must be corrected to pass ATS.

2.6 COMMUNICATIONS TEST FOR THE E-FILE SYSTEM

Transmitters must use accepted software to prepare and transmit returns and must complete a one-time error free communications test. Transmitters who pass the communications test and want to continue testing must request a test ETIN. Further communications testing is not required when adding additional forms. Software Developers, who will not transmit, are not required to perform a communications test.

2.6.1 Transmitting Returns

IRS allows two means of transmission for MeF:

- Internet Filing Application (IFA)
- Application to Application (A2A)

Transmitters must perform communications testing using the same application used to transmit returns.

- When transmitting returns through IFA, perform the communications test through IFA.
- When transmitting returns through A2A, perform the communications test through A2A.
- When transmitting returns through both portals, perform the communications tests through both systems.

2.7 USING YOUR OWN TEST DATA

All forms included in each schema package are available for testing in ATS. Software Developers are not limited to testing only the forms provided in the scenarios. The IRS strongly recommends that Software Developers use the ATS system to test all forms supported by the software prior to the filing season.

After passing ATS testing, Software Developers may test with their own data using the same password and ETIN. Transmitters can continue to use the same password, but will need to get a new test ETIN to continue testing, because the IRS moves the original ETIN to Production status once the communications test is passed. Call the e-help Desk toll-free at **1 (866) 255-0654** to obtain a new Test ETIN.

Use the same taxpayer name and address information that is provided in the scenarios for independent tests. See Exhibit 4, VALID EINS for test EINS for each tax type.

The scenarios on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage have the most current draft forms and schedules available. Late legislation could affect the content of these scenarios and related schemas.

2.8 FEDERAL/STATE TESTING FOR FORMS 1120/1120S, 1065/1065-B, 990/990-EZ/990-PF and 1041

There is not a separate testing program for states. Full ATS for both Transmitters and states will be available on October 30, 2017. Contact applicable or participating states for scenarios for state returns. Transmitters should test Federal scenarios before attempting to test state scenarios.

- Transmit Federal and State returns through A2A or IFA.
- Retrieve State returns through A2A.

Participating States will allow filers to transmit State submissions as either “linked” or “unlinked.”

- IRS forwards the State portion of a “linked” submission to the participating State if the associated IRS return has been accepted. The Federal return and the “linked” State return can be filed at the same time. IRS will process the Federal submission first and determine the accepted or rejected status prior to processing the State submissions.
- IRS forwards the “unlinked” (sometimes referred to as “State stand alone”) State submission to the participating State regardless of whether or not a Federal return has been filed and accepted.
- Each participating State sets its own requirements for when to use a “linked” or “unlinked” submission.

It is the responsibility of each State to determine whether or not software testing is passed. Each State’s requirements and procedures may be found on their website. For further information on State testing procedures, please contact the participating State office.

Additional information regarding States can be found on the [Federation of Tax Administrators](#) website.

2.9 XML RESOURCES

Below are resources that relate to XML Schemas, software tools and parsers. The IRS does not endorse any product and these resources are provided for information only. Any third party parser toolkit can be utilized.

- [Altova XMLSpy XML Editor](#)
- [Apache Project Directory](#)
- [Microsoft XML Core Services](#)
- [W3C XML Home Page](#)
- [W3C XML Schema Home Page](#)
- xerces.apache.org/

2.10 FORMATTING THE ENTITIES

The business entities presented in scenarios are shown in common usage, with commas and periods. Refer to [Publication 4164, Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters](#) for proper formatting of business name lines and addresses using XML efileTypes. No commas or periods are allowed.

Example:

Test Scenario:

Help For All, Inc.
31 Any Street
Anytown, MD 20901

XML Format:

Help For All Inc (BusinessNameLine1Type)
31 Any St (StreetAddressType)
Anytown (CityType)
MD (StateType)
20901 (ZipCodeType)

2.11 LIMITATIONS OF THE ATS SYSTEM

The MeF Assurance Testing System cannot handle stress or load testing. The configurations are similar to the MeF Production System. When testing in the ATS environment, the response time is slower than the Production environment. This is especially true for extremely large returns in one-transmission or concurrent transmissions.

2.12 STRONG AUTHENTICATION

Refer to [Publication 4164, Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters](#) for information on strong authentication.

2.13 PASSWORDS

Refer to [Publication 4164, Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters](#) for information on passwords.

2.14 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Refer to [Publication 4164, Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters](#) for information on electronic signatures.

PART 3 ATS INFORMATION FOR SPECIFIC FORM TYPES

3.1 CORPORATE RETURNS - FORMS 1120, 1120-F and 1120S

- Software Developers supporting clients that file Forms 1120L and 1120PC as subsidiaries must develop their own scenarios including these forms and submit them for testing.
- The e-help Desk assistants do not review Forms 1120L and 1120PC but will ensure that the return passes all validations.

3.1.1 ATS Year for Corporate Returns

ATS testing for Corporation Returns is for Tax Year 2017/Processing Year 2018. Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

3.1.2 Special Instructions for Consolidated Corporate Returns

MeF requires tax preparation software approved for electronic filing to use IRS forms for reporting data for each subsidiary return.

- The consolidated return tax preparation software approved for electronic filing must allow taxpayers to create a separate “stacked return” for the parent and each subsidiary return.
- The tax preparation software must allow taxpayers to report Eliminations and Adjustments as a separate “stacked return.”
- The tax preparation software may also allow taxpayers to use spreadsheets for the internal review of the return, but IRS requires all subsidiary data to be:
 - formatted,
 - transmitted, and
 - viewed by the IRS as “stacked returns”

MeF requires supporting data to be included in tax preparation software (see example provided below) or attached as scanned PDF files.

- The IRS reviews all of the forms and instructions attached to the corporate forms and identifies every instance where taxpayers are required to attach supporting data.
- The IRS provides structured formats to Software Developers or provides instructions to enter supporting data as PDF files (in instances where IRS has not defined a format).

When the IRS has defined structured formats, Software Developers are required to use these formats for developing tax preparation software approved by IRS for electronic filing.

- It is the responsibility of Software Developers to provide appropriate instructions for taxpayers to enter supporting data to meet the IRS guidelines.
- Most Software Developers will allow taxpayers to import/export data from other sources.
- Software Developers should discuss available options with the taxpayer to determine how to prepare supporting data for their electronic return.

When submitting a consolidated return, the software must provide detail for each entity at the entity level and roll data up to the consolidated return. At a minimum, this roll-up

information must be provided on any line where the form requires a statement or schedule to be attached (e.g., Form 1120, Line 10, Other Income (attach schedule), Line 26, Other Deductions (attach schedule)).

However, there are forms and schedules that are transactional or informational in nature and cannot be mathematically consolidated or reported on the consolidated return. The transactional data flows to the consolidated return via a different form or schedule and the informational data attached to the consolidated return.

For example, the Form 6252, *Installment Sale Income*, results for each transaction flow to the Form 4797, *Sales of Business Property* and subsequently, the data on the Form 4797 flows to the consolidated return. The Form 8883, *Asset Allocation Statement Under Section 338*, provides informational data only and does not flow to any other schedule, form or a consolidated return.

Below is an example based on the data provided in ATS, Form 1120, Scenario 2 for a consolidated return.

| Attachment 1, F1120, line 10, Other Income (ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule) | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Consolidated Schedules | TOTAL | Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc. | The Greek Playhouse | Acme Food Corp. |
| Sales | 217,441 | 208,671 | | 8,770 |
| Exchange Gain/Loss Realized | -2,321,468 | -2,229,104 | | -92,364 |
| Partnership Income/Loss | 50,559,438 | -59,869 | 220,747 | 50,398,560 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 149,354 | 156,146 | | -6,792 |
| Interco Consulting Fees | 1,448,935 | 1,448,935 | | |
| TOTAL | 50,053,700 | -475,221 | 220,747 | 50,308,174 |

The first subsidiary (Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc) will provide the following data on the *ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule*:

| Corporation Name | Corporation EIN | Other Income Type | Other Income Amount |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc. | 00-0000002 | Sales | 208,671 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Exchange Gain/Loss realized | -2,229,104 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Partnership Income/Loss | -59,869 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Miscellaneous Income | 156,146 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Interco Consulting Fees | 1,448,935 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Total | -475,221 |

The second subsidiary (The Greek Playhouse) would provide the following data on the *ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule*:

| Corporation Name | Corporation EIN | Other Income Type | Other Income Amount |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| The Greek Playhouse | 00-0000012 | Partnership Income/Loss | 220,747 |
| The Greek Playhouse | 00-0000012 | Total | 220,747 |

The third subsidiary (Acme Food Corp) will provide the following data on the *ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule*:

| Corporation Name | Corporation EIN | Other Income Type | Other Income Amount |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Sales | 8,770 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Exchange Gain/Loss realized | -92,364 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Partnership Income/Loss | 50,398,560 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Miscellaneous Income | -6,792 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Total | 50,308,174 |

The consolidated return should have an attachment for Other Income and the following data must be provided in one of the following formats:

Format 1 - The *ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule* for the consolidated return contains a roll-up of the detail for each entity.

| Corporation Name | Corporation EIN | Other Income Type | Other Income Amount |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Sales | 208,671 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Exchange Gain/Loss realized | -2,229,104 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Partnership Income/Loss | -59,869 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Miscellaneous Income | 156,146 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Interco Consulting Fees | 1,448,935 |
| The Greek Playhouse | 00-0000012 | Partnership Income/Loss | 220,747 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Sales | 8,770 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Exchange Gain/Loss realized | -92,364 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Partnership Income/Loss | 50,398,560 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Miscellaneous Income | -6,792 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc. | 00-0000002 | Total | 50,053,700 |

Note: Dependencies should be attached at the entity level and also rolled up to the consolidated return.

Format 2 - The *ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule* for the consolidated return contains a roll-up of the total from each entity.

| Corporation Name | Corporation EIN | Other Income Type | Other Income Amount |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc. | 00-0000002 | Total Other Income | -475,221 |
| The Greek Playhouse | 00-0000012 | Total Other Income | 220,747 |
| Acme Food Corp | 00-0000013 | Total Other Income | 50,308,174 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc. | 00-0000002 | Consolidated Total | 50,053,700 |

Note: Dependencies should be attached at the entity level and also rolled up to the consolidated return.

Format 3 - The *ItemizedOtherIncomeSchedule* for the consolidated return contains a total of all subsidiaries by category.

| Corporation Name | Corporation EIN | Other Income Type | Other Income Amount |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Hide 'N Seek Foods, Inc. | 00-0000002 | Sales | 217,441 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Exchange Gain/Loss realized | -2,321,468 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Partnership Income/Loss | 50,559,438 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Miscellaneous Income | 149,354 |
| Hide 'N Seek Foods | 00-0000002 | Interco Consulting Fees | 1,448,935 |

Note: Dependencies should be attached at the entity level and also rolled up to the consolidated return.

3.2 PARTNERSHIP RETURNS - FORMS 1065 and 1065-B

3.2.1 ATS Year for Partnership Returns

ATS testing for Partnership Returns is for Tax Year 2017 / Processing Year 2018. Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

3.2.2 Form 1065 - K-1 Aggregators

K-1 Aggregators are required to complete Assurance Testing using the applicable scenarios available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage to be accepted into the electronic filing program each filing season.

3.3 EXEMPT ORGANIZATION RETURNS - FORMS 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, 990-N, and 1120-POL

Although test scenarios for Form 1120-POL may be intermingled with other Exempt Organization forms when testing, a separate Software ID is required for Form 1120-POL. The same Software ID may be used for Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, 990-PF and 8868.

3.3.1 ATS Year for Exempt Organization Returns

ATS testing for Exempt Organization Returns is for Tax Year 2017/Processing Year 2018. Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

3.4 EXCISE TAX E-FILE AND COMPLIANCE (ETEC) RETURNS - FORMS 720, 2290 and 8849

Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

3.4.1 ATS Year for Form 720

ATS testing for Form 720 is for Tax Year 2019/Processing Year 2019.

- The scenarios for Form 720 are for the first quarter. If additional quarters need to be tested, we will notify the Software Developers.

3.4.2 ATS Year for Form 2290

ATS testing for Form 2290 is for Tax Year 2018/Processing Year 2019.

3.4.3 ATS Year for Form 8849

ATS testing for Form 8849 is for Tax Year 2019/Processing Year 2019.

3.5 EMPLOYMENT TAX RETURNS - FORMS 940, 940-PR, 941, 941-PR, 941-SS, 943, 943-PR, 944, 945

Software Developers supporting the 94x MeF Forms must use the MeF developed ATS Scenarios in order to pass ATS Testing. Separate Software IDs are required for 94x Annual and 94x Quarterly Forms.

3.5.1 ATS Year for Employment Tax Returns

For Processing Year 2018, the Employment Tax Return (94x) ATS Scenarios were developed for the following tax years:

- Tax Year 2017

Twelve ATS Scenarios were developed and they include the following forms:

- Form 940
- Form 940-PR
- Form 941
- Form 943
- Form 943-PR
- Form 944
- Form 945

Note: Scenario #17 for the 94x Online e-Filer Signature PIN will be posted on the Annual and Quarterly pages.

- Tax Year 2018
(Quarterly Forms Only)

Five ATS Scenarios were developed for the following forms:

- Form 941
- Form 941-PR
- Form 941-SS

Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

3.6 ESTATE AND TRUST RETURNS - FORMS 1041

Software Developers supporting the 1041 MeF Forms must use the MeF developed ATS Scenarios in order to pass ATS Testing.

1041 MeF ATS testing includes:

- Form 1041
- Form 7004
- Form 8868

Software Developers supporting the extension Forms 7004 and/or 8868 will complete the test scenarios for these forms in addition to the Form 1041 scenarios.

3.6.1 ATS Year for Estate and Trust Returns

ATS testing for Estate and Trust Returns is for Tax Year 2017/Processing Year 2018. Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

The test data for the extensions are designed for returns other than Form 1041. If the software is restricted to 1041 returns only, the Software Developer can send in the test extension with 1041 data. For example, Form 8868 Return Code can be changed to "08".

3.7 EXTENSIONS - FORMS 7004 and 8868

Extensions are included in testing under specific form families. Software Developers who support extension forms should identify Form 7004 and/or 8868 in the questionnaire as supported forms. Testing for extensions is required once per filing season. For example, Software Developers who support Forms 1120, 1065 and 1041 must complete Form 7004 testing once.

| Extension | Form Family |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 7004 | 1120, 1065 or 1041 |
| 8868 | 990 or 1041-A |

3.7.1 Form 7004, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File Certain Business Income Tax, Information, and Other Returns

Beginning November 2017, for tax year 2017 and future tax years, a separate software ID will be required for Form 7004. Form 7004 extensions are no longer included in the testing for Forms 1120, 1065, or 1041. Software Developers who support the Form 7004 extension should test the 7004 scenarios independently from the aforementioned forms.

3.7.2 Form 8868, Application for Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return

Individuals needing an extension of time to file Form 4720 using an SSN (Return Code 03) must file in paper format. Corporations electronically extending Form 4720 should continue to enter Return Code "09" and their EIN.

Form 8868, Application of Extension of Time to File an Exempt Organization Return, does not require a signature if it is not submitted with a payment. If providing a payment, you may use the Practitioner PIN or the scanned Form 8453-EO method to submit the extension application and payment. The automatic 3-month extension with an optional additional 3-month extension, and Parts I and II have been removed from Form 8868. An automatic 6-month extension is now the only option available.

3.8 INSTALLMENT AGREEMENT REQUEST - FORM 9465

Installment agreement requests are included in testing under specific form families for out-of-business sole-proprietors. Software Developers who support installment agreement requests should identify Form 9465 in the questionnaire as a supported form. Form 9465 will only be accepted as a stand-alone for these business tax types.

| Installment Agreement Request | Form Family |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 9465 | 720, 94x or 2290 |

PART 4 MODERNIZED E-FILE (MeF) SCHEMAS AND BUSINESS RULES RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

A new secured and controlled process for obtaining the Modernized e-File (MeF) Schemas and Business Rules was implemented beginning with Tax Year 2016/Processing Year 2017. This information is no longer available on IRS.gov, and is distributed to software providers through the Registered User Portal – eServices Secure Object Repository (SOR).

4.1 eServices Account

Software providers use their existing eServices account to pick up the Schema and Business Rule packages. The IRS sends QuickAlert messages informing users when the Schema and Business Rule packages are in their SOR accounts and ready for pick-up.

4.2 MeF Mailbox

The MeF Schema and Business Rule packages are available to Authorized Users listed on e-File applications for Software Developers and States. Please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, your Authorized User role and ETIN to request these packages.

PART 5 EXHIBITS

5.1 EXHIBIT 1 - STANDARD POSTAL SERVICE STATE ABBREVIATIONS AND ZIP CODES

Standard Postal Service State Abbreviations and ZIP Codes are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) User Guides & Publications](#) webpage.

5.2 EXHIBIT 2 - FOREIGN COUNTRY CODES LISTING

Foreign Country Codes are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) User Guides & Publications](#) webpage.

5.3 EXHIBIT 3 - ATS SCENARIOS

ATS Scenarios are available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) webpage.

5.4 EXHIBIT 4 - VALID EINS

Use "00" as the pre-fix for all Federal and State business return EINS. The EIN ranges are designated for each tax type. The "00" is enforced by a Business Rule for Federal returns. The EIN ranges for State returns are recommended and but are NOT enforced by a Business Rule. For example:

00-0000001 through 00-0999999 is used for 1120 Series
00-1000000 through 00-1999999 is used for ETEC
00-2000000 through 00-2999999 is used for 1065
00-3000000 through 00-3999999 is used for 94x
00-4000000 through 00-4999999 is used for 1041
00-9000000 through 00-9999999 is used for TE/GE

The ranges can be separated between IRS and State usage. The States would determine their specific ranges. As an example:

00-0000000 through 00-0199999 is used for 1120 Federal returns
00-0200000 through 00-0255555 is used for 1120 Alabama State Testing
00-0256666 through 00-0260000 is used for 1120 Arkansas State Testing

The States (TIGERS) could divvy up the EINS between XX-X200000 thru XX-X999999 for externals to use for State Testing.

Please contact the e-help Desk toll-free at 1 (866) 255-0654 to provide any comments or feedback about this Publication.