

**AIR Transmission Checklist (A2A) for Tax Year (TY) 2018**  
**Version 1.0 September 26, 2018**

This checklist covers both AATS and Production Filing for Software Developers, Transmitters and Issuers.

**1. Preparation (Including Registration and Application)**

- Did your company's responsible officials and contacts register with eServices and complete the registration confirmation process?
- Did your company apply for and obtain a valid Transmitter Control Code (TCC)? Software ID(s)?
- Has a responsible official signed the application with the PIN created during e-Services registration and for any subsequent application modifications?
- Has your company followed the Automated Enrollment process?
  - Have you reviewed the [Automated Enrollment for ACA Providers: The Externals Guide](#)?
  - Have you uploaded and registered the certificate in Automated Enrollment for A2A?
    - When registering the certificate, have you taken note of your A2A Client System ID (ASID) for future troubleshooting?
    - Have you authorized the IRS-ACASubmitService?
    - Have you authorized the IRS-ACAckngService?
- Have you reviewed AIR Submission Composition and Reference Guide (CRG), Publication 5164 and 5165? (These documents can be found at [AIR User Guides & Publications](#)).

**2. Pre-Filing – AATS and Production**

- Have you downloaded the latest versions of Schema and Business Rules? (Schemas and Business Rules can be found at: [Affordable Care Act Information Returns Schemas and Business Rules](#))
- Have you ensured that required Business Header data elements are present per the Schema?
- Have you ensured that required Manifest data elements are present per Schema?
  - AIR will accept the Current Tax Year 2018 and the Prior Three Tax Years Returns Forms 1094/1095-B and Forms 1094/1095-C: Manifest element:
    - `<PaymentYr>2015</PaymentYr>` Transmission will be checked and validated against TY2015 schema and business rules
    - `<PaymentYr>2016</PaymentYr>` Transmission will be checked and validated against TY2016 schema and business rules
    - `<PaymentYr>2017</PaymentYr>` Transmission will be checked and validated against TY2017 schema and business rules
    - `<PaymentYr>2018</PaymentYr>` Transmission will be checked and validated against TY2018 schema and business rules
- Have you ensured that required 1094/1095 B/Cs Form file data elements are present per Schema?
  - Transmitters should use latest TY2018 schema version to generate Forms 1094/1095-B or Forms 1094/1095-C Form Data (payload) for TY2018 returns
  - Transmitters should use latest TY2017 schema version to generate Forms 1094/1095-B or Forms 1094/1095-C Form Data (payload) for TY2017 returns
  - Transmitters should use TY2016 schemas to generate Forms 1094/1095-B or Forms 1094/1095-C Form Data (payload) for TY2016 returns
  - Transmitters should use TY2015 schemas to generate Forms 1094/1095-B or Forms 1094/1095-C Form Data (payload) for TY2015 returns
  - Transmitters should use TY2018 schema package and **deploy at their end**
  - Transmitters should use TY2018 WSDL's:
- Are your manifest and data files well-formed eXtensible Markup Language (XML)?
- Is the composition of your XML file in line with the AIR Submission Composition & Reference Guide (CRG)?
- Is your Transmission Form File uncompressed and sized under 100 MB?
- Do you have a certificate from an approved source? (See CRG Section 5.3.2.5)
- Have you ensured that namespaces have been defined and referenced correctly (See CRG Section 5.3.2.4 for samples)?
- Have you ensured test file indicator correctly (See CRG Section 3.4.1 Transmission XML Elements)?
- Have you ensured UTID set correctly per the schema and CRG specification (See CRG Section 5.3.3)?
- Checks to avoid Data Element-driven Portal (TPE) Errors
  - Have you followed the special characters guidance in Pub 5165 that prohibits use of Hash (#) and Double-Dash (--) characters and specifies the use of HTML escaped character equivalents, (e.g., "&amp;" for Ampersand)?
  - Have you removed any commas or periods in the 'BusinessNameLn1' or 'BusinessNameLn2' or in 'AddressLine1' or 'AddressLine2'??

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- Have you scanned your document for commented out element names, e.g., <!--urn2:ACABusinessHeader?> Note that any occurrence of double dash will trigger a potential threat error and rejection
- To avoid error "TPE1105 Message not formatted properly and/or cannot be interpreted,"
  - Have you verified HTTP Post method is used when calling web service?
  - Have you tested your sample SOAP message via a web service testing tool (e.g. SoapUI)?<sup>1</sup>
- To avoid "TPE1112 Request must be sent using HTTP compression," Is your Transmission Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)- compressed via gzip for A2A? (See CRG, Section 4.1)
  - Is your file attachment SOAP Message Transmission Optimization Mechanism (MTOM) encoded?
  - Have you downloaded the latest versions of Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)?
- To avoid "TPE1122 Invalid WS security header," Have you ensured all Security Header elements are present per Schema and CRG? (See CRG section: 5.3.1.4 - SOAP Header Examples showing Security Header and related elements)
  - Have you digitally signed your Transmission for all Message Types?
    - Timestamp
    - ACABusinessHeader
  - Have you followed the format for timestamp? E.g., Added colons (:) to the timestamp and removed the milliseconds  
Ex: 2015-08-28T20:08:45Z
  - Have you digitally signed the following Header elements for Message Type - ACAGetTransmitterBulkRequestService?
    - ACABusinessHeader
    - ACATransmitterManifestReqDtl
    - Timestamp
  - Have you digitally signed the following Header elements for Message Type - ACAGetTransmitterBulkRequestStatus?
    - ACABusinessHeader
    - ACABulkRequestTransmitterStatusDetailRequest
    - Timestamp
  - Have you set CanonicalizationMethod Algorithm to <http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#WithComments>?
  - Have you set SignatureMethod Algorithm to <http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmldsig-more#rsa-sha256>?
  - Have you set each DigestMethod Algorithm to <http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmenc#sha256>? Have you set each Transform Algorithm to <http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#>?
  - Have you included your Base64-encoded certificate in a KeyInfo element?
  - Have you regenerated Timestamp for every request to avoid expiration?
- To avoid "TPE 1106 Request message violates WSDL schema specification,"
  - Do you have the latest version of Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) files describing the web services? (Send email request to [airmailbox@irs.gov](mailto:airmailbox@irs.gov). Include your ACA TCC and Company Name)
  - Do you have ACAGetTransmitterBulkRequestService.wsdl to transmit TY2015, TY2016, TY2017 and TY2018 transmissions?
  - Do you have ACAGetTransmitterBulkRequestStatus.wsdl to check the status of TY2015, TY2016, TY2017 and TY2018 transmissions?
    - TY2018 WSDL capable to generate SOAP envelope for TY2015, TY2016, TY2017 and TY2018 transmissions
    - SOAP envelope generated by TY2017 WSDL's contained: ACA Header, WS-Security, ACA Business header and Manifest information which are same for TY2015, TY2016, TY2017 and TY2018 transmission (namespaces are different in payload)
  - Have you verified that each value conforms to the appropriate schema version?
- If your Transmission has been rejected, have you updated your UTID? – Note that UTIDs are checked for uniqueness.
- Have you run your header and manifest and form file through an XML Schema validator (e.g. SoapUI)?<sup>2</sup>
- Do you have the AIR endpoints for Transmission and status request?
- Is your Transmission Form File encoded as UTF-8 without the Byte Order Mark (BOM)?** (See CRG section 5. 5.4.1 -Message Attachment File Format)
- Have you included your ASID in the UserId element within the ACASecurityHeader? (See CRG section 5.3.1.4)

**3. Transmitting to IRS – AATS**

- Did you use the correct TCC, Software Developer for AATS testing and Transmitter and/or Issuer for Communication Testing?

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- Did you establish a connection with ISS-A2A?
- Have you saved the 'ReceiptId' along with your copy of the Transmission as sent?
- Have you obtained a status?
- If the status for all your required test submissions is "Accepted," did you contact the help desk for confirmation and update of the TCC and/or Form Status? (Telephone Number 1-866-937-4130)
- If the status is "Accepted with Errors," Have you checked against the Scenarios and Pub 5164 and resubmitted?
- If the status is "Rejected," Have you checked against the scenarios / Pub 5164 as well as guidance above and resubmitted?

**4. Transmitting to IRS – Production Environment**

- Have you passed the AATS A2A Communications Test?
- Is the software you are using approved through the AATS testing process?
- Did you establish a connection with Information Submission Service (ISS)-A2A?
- Have you submitted all Transmissions?
- Do you have Forms 1094/1095-B and Forms 1094/1095-C in separate transmissions?
- Have you saved the 'ReceiptId' along with your copy of the Transmission as sent?
- Have you obtained a status?
  - If the status is "Accepted," No action required.
  - If the status is "Accepted with Errors," Have you reviewed the Error Data File to identify and correct errors?
  - If the status is "Rejected," Have you reviewed the Error Data File to identify and fix errors?
    - Did you resubmit the Transmission using the Replacement Process?
    - Have you provided the 'OriginalReceiptId' of the first-rejected Transmission?
    - Was your Replacement Accepted? – If not, have you fixed and resubmitted?
  - If the status is "Partially Accepted, Have you reviewed the Error Data File to identify and fix errors?
    - Did you resubmit the Rejected Submission(s) using the Replacement Process?
    - Have you provided the 'OriginalUniqueSubmissionId' of the first-rejected Submission?
    - Was your Replacement Accepted? – If not, have you fixed and resubmitted?

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<sup>1</sup> IRS recommends that external users validate their XML files against the schemas provided by the IRS prior to submitting them to the IRS. Taking this step will help avoid discovering errors after the XML file is submitted. Performing this validation on the user end makes it easier and faster to identify and locate schema types of errors. Any tool which allows the external user to validate their XML files against the schemas, such as "Altova XML Spy" or "SoapUI" should be suitable.

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<sup>2</sup> See previous footnote.