

QuickAlerts Messages December 2014

QuickAlerts – December 4, 2014

Subject: Extended Maintenance Window for the Modernized e-File (MeF) Production and ATS Environments

The MeF Sunday maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, December 7, 2014. The system will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., Eastern.

The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window impacts the MeF Production and ATS Environments.

Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and ATS Systems during this period.

QuickAlerts – December 11, 2014

Subject: Extended Maintenance Window for the Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS) Environment

The MeF Sunday maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, December 14, 2014. The system will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., Eastern.

The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window impacts the MeF ATS Environment only.

Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF ATS System during this period.

QuickAlerts – December 12, 2014

Subject: Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule

All times shown in this communication are Eastern Time Zone

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

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

Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule

Shutdown is scheduled to begin on Friday, December 26, 2014 in order to prepare the system for the upcoming 2014 Filing Season. A QuickAlerts will be issued once the BMF startup date for the 2015 Filing Season has been finalized.

Shutdown Deadlines on Friday, December 26, 2014

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal) 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 27, 2014

Transmitters:

Retrieving Acknowledgements 2:00 a.m.

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements 1:30 a.m.

Transmitters can continue to use the other service requests except "Send Submissions" after 1:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

States can continue to use all the service requests necessary to retrieve and process state submissions between 2:00 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. MeF recommends that states adjust their processing schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements.

Any acknowledgements not retrieved by 2:00 a.m. on December 27th cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for Production in January 2015.

MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule

ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cut over period (12/26/2014 - 01/2015). Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

QuickAlerts – December 15, 2014

Subject: Reminder - The Electronic Management System (EMS), 94X Shutdown Dates and PY 2015 URL Link

To ensure that all 94X tax returns e-filed through EMS are processed timely, the following EMS Production shutdown dates have been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

Monday, December 15, 2014 Eastern Time at 11:59 p.m.

Cut-off of 94X Submissions
(94x PIN Registration/LOA will remain operational)

Friday, December 26, 2014 Eastern Time at 11:59 p.m.

Cut-off of 94x PIN Registration/LOA and EMS shutdown

Business Acceptance Testing System (BATS)

BATS will remain open. However, for BATS submissions between Monday, December 29, 2014, and Thursday, January 8, 2015, acknowledgements will be sent on January 9, 2015.

A QuickAlerts will be issued once the BMF startup date for the 2015 Filing Season has been finalized.

[PY 2015 URL Chart](#)

QuickAlerts – December 15, 2014

Subject: ACA Information Return System Working Group Meeting December 16th 2014

The Affordable Care Act Information Return (AIR) Working Group will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm Eastern Time. The Conference Line is 1-888-331-8226: Access Code 3600320. A QuickAlerts will be sent the morning of December 16th with a link to IRS.gov for the presentation material.

NOTE: The intended audiences of these meetings are Transmitters, Software Developers, and Issuers/Payers. This will be a technical discussion about the programming to electronically file the ACA information returns. We will not be discussing tax law and taxpayer responsibilities.

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

QuickAlerts – December 16, 2014

Subject: Update - ACA Information Return System Working Group Meeting December 16th 2014

Update: The presentation material is available on the [Affordable Care Act Information Returns \(AIR\) Program Overview page](#)

The Affordable Care Act Information Return (AIR) Working Group will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm Eastern Time. The Conference Line is 1-888-331-8226: Access Code 3600320.

NOTE: The intended audiences of these meetings are Transmitters, Software Developers, and Issuers/Payers. This will be a technical discussion about the programming to electronically file the ACA information returns. We will not be discussing tax law and taxpayer responsibilities.

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

QuickAlerts – December 22, 2014

Subject: Use of Forms 8453-FE and 8453-F

This is a reminder that **Form 8453-FE**, U.S. Estate or Trust Declaration for an IRS e-file Return is a signature document only and may not be used as a paper transmittal document to send additional information, i.e. stock transaction statements, etc. in support of an electronically filed Form 1041 return.

All information in support of a Form 1041 return for Tax Year 2013 and subsequent years filed via the Modernized Electronic Filing System (MeF) must be submitted electronically either with the original or amended return.

Information submitted by methods other than an electronically filed return will be returned to the Fiduciary or Electronic Return Originator, as appropriate. Additional information and technical guidance can be found in Publication 4163 and Publication 4164.

Form 8453-F, U.S. Estate or Trust Income Tax Declaration Signature for Electronic Filing, used as a signature and paper transmittal document for the Form 1041 Legacy e-file system only, is obsolete for Tax Years 2014 and subsequent years.

QuickAlerts – December 29, 2014

Subject: 2015 Filing Season for Modernized e-File (MeF) and Electronic Management System (EMS) Individual and Business Returns

The Internal Revenue Service has announced plans to begin accepting Individual tax returns electronically on January 20. Paper tax returns will begin processing at the same time. For additional information please access the press release at the following link. [Tax Season Opens As Planned Following Extender Legislation](#)

Important Note for Business Filers: The IRS will begin accepting Business tax returns on January 9, 2015. For information on draft Tax Forms access the following link. [2015 Draft Tax Forms](#)

Please continue to monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for updates.
