QuickAlerts Messages August 2016

QuickAlerts – August 4, 2016
Subject: Extended Maintenance Window for the MeF Production and ATS Environments

The MeF scheduled maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, August 7, 2016. The system will be unavailable from 12:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., Eastern.

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

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

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QuickAlerts – August 5, 2016
Subject: 1040 Series Schemas and Business Rules are now available

Beginning Tax Year 2016 / Processing Year 2017, Modernized e-File (MeF) Schemas and Business Rules will no longer be available through IRS.gov, and will be delivered with a more secured and controlled process. Distribution will be through the Registered User Portal – eServices Secure Object Repository (SOR) for delivery to the software providers beginning mid-August. Software providers will use their existing eServices account to pick up the Schema and Business Rule packages.

The IRS will send QuickAlerts messages informing users when the Schema and Business Rule packages are in their SOR accounts and ready for pick-up.
The IRS understands the importance of getting the Schemas and Business Rules distributed to the Software community as soon as they are available. Therefore, we will be using a manual process through the MeF Mailbox until the automated solution is available.

The MeF Form 1040 Series Tax Year 2016v1.0 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. Tax Year 2016v1.0 1040 Series Schema and Business Rule packages are not valid in the ATS or Production environments.

Tax Year 2016
- 1040 Series 2016v1.0
- 4868 2016v1.0
- 2350 2016v1.0
- 9465 CUv12.0
- 56 CUv11.0

Note: For Tax Year 2016, Form 1040NR is new to the Modernized e-File Platform.
If you have any questions, please send them to the MeF Mailbox.

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Subject: Update - 1040 Series Schemas and Business Rules are now available

**** Updated with the correct email address ****

Beginning Tax Year 2016 / Processing Year 2017, Modernized e-File (MeF) Schemas and Business Rules will no longer be available through IRS.gov, and will be delivered with a more secured and controlled process. Distribution will be through the Registered User Portal – eServices Secure Object Repository (SOR) for delivery to the software providers beginning mid-August. Software providers will use their existing eServices account to pick up the Schema and Business Rule packages.

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  - 1040 Series 2016v1.0
  - 4868 2016v1.0
  - 2350 2016v1.0
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Note: For Tax Year 2016, Form 1040NR is new to the Modernized e-File Platform.
If you have any questions, please send them to the MeF Mailbox.

Subject: ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting on August 23, 2016

The next ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting (webinar) will be held:

Tuesday, August 23, 2016
The conference begins at 3:00 Eastern Time
Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243 Passcode: 0678349# (Enter the access code on your telephone keypad, followed immediately by the # symbol to bypass system prompts)

This will be a Technical Webinar specifically designed for Developers using the AIR system for the first time. This Webinar will not address Tax Law or Policy issues related to the AIR Program. Subsequent Webinars will cover topics related to changes for 2017. Future Webinar announcements will include an agenda of topics and target audience.

You may join the teleconference 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start. You must register to attend the webinar. Participants should register for the webinar no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the day of the event.

To register for this event, use the following link:
Webinar Registration

If clicking the above link does not work, please copy the entire link and paste it into your web browser. A confirmation email will be sent within 24 hours of registration.

This virtual session will focus on General Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Program topics. At the conclusion of the presentation, there will be a live question and answer period with IRS presenters.

You may use your computer speakers to listen to the webinar or use the teleconference number provided above. To avoid background noise, please do not use both the computer speakers and the teleconference number.

The presentation for this meeting will be posted to the AIR Program Overview Page prior to the meeting. An additional QuickAlerts message will be issued when the presentation is posted.

NOTE: The intended audiences of these meetings are Transmitters, Software Developers and Issuers/Payers.

If you are a business owner, tax manager, employee benefits manager, health coverage provider, or software developer or transmitter, you can access and review the **Affordable Care Act Information Returns Corrections Process** video on the IRS Video Portal.

QuickAlerts – August 11, 2016
Subject: ACA Information Returns (AIR) Posting Schemas, Crosswalks and Business Rules Tax Year 2016v1.0

Schemas, Crosswalks and Business Rules for Tax Year 2016 have been posted on IRS.gov for the following forms: 1094-B, 1095-B, 1094-C, and 1095-C.

If you have any questions, please send them to the airmailbox@irs.gov

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QuickAlerts – August 12, 2016
Subject: Draft of Publication 5164, Test Package for Electronic Filers of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR)

Posted on IRS.gov is an Early Look (Draft) of Publication 5164, Test Package for Electronic Filers of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR).

If you have any questions, please send them to the AIR Mailbox.

QuickAlerts – August 15, 2016
Subject: Form 1065/1065B/1120/1120S/1120F/7004 Schemas and Business Rules for Filing Season 2017

Starting TY2016/PY2017 Modernized e-File (MeF) schemas and business rules will be no longer be available through IRS.gov and will be delivered with a more secure and controlled process.

Distribution will be through the Registered User Portal - eServices Secure Object Repository (SOR) for delivery to the software providers starting in mid-August. Software providers will use their existing eServices account to pick up the schema and business rules packages.

The IRS will send QuickAlerts messages letting users know that the schema and business rule packages are in their SOR accounts and ready for pick-up.

The IRS understands the importance of getting the schemas and business rules distributed to the Software community as soon as they are ready so we will be using a manual process through the MeF mailbox until the automated solution is available.

The 1065/1065B/1120/1120S/1120F/7004 schemas and business rules 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, ETIN, and Schema package(s) you would like to receive. These schemas and business rules are not valid for MeF ATS or Production environments.

QuickAlerts – August 16, 2016
Subject: Form 1041 Schemas and Business Rules for Filing Season 2017

Starting for TY2016/PY2017 Modernized e-File (MeF) schemas and business rules will be no longer be available through IRS.gov and will be delivered with a more secure and controlled process.

Distribution will be through the Registered User Portal - eServices Secure Object Repository (SOR) for delivery to the software providers starting in mid-August. Software providers will use their existing eServices account to pick up the schemas and business rules packages.

The IRS will send QuickAlerts messages letting users know that the schemas and business rule packages are in their SOR accounts and ready for pick-up.
The IRS understands the importance of getting the schemas and business rules distributed to the Software community as soon as they are ready so we will be using a manual process through the MeF mailbox until the automated solution is available.

The 1041 schemas and business rules 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 Form 1041 version 2016v2.0. These schemas and business rules are not valid for MeF ATS or Production environments.

QuickAlerts – August 23, 2016
Subject: Update for the ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Meeting August 23, 2016
The August 23, 2016 Working Group Meeting (webinar) presentation materials have been posted on the AIR Program overview page.

The webinar is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. As a reminder, you must be register to attend the webinar. To access this event please use the following link: Webinar Log In

You may join the associated teleconference 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start.
- Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243
- Passcode: 0678349#

This virtual session will focus on General Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Program topics. At the conclusion of the presentation, there will be a live question and answer period with IRS presenters.

NOTE: The intended audiences of these meetings are Transmitters, Software Developers and Issuers/Payers.

QuickAlerts – August 24, 2016
Subject: Modernized e-File (MeF) Power Outage for Labor Day Weekend

All times shown in this communication are in Eastern Standard Time
IRS will conduct its annual Labor Day power outage beginning Saturday, September 3, 2016, starting at 8:00 p.m. and ending Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 6:00 a.m. The Modernized E-File Systems (both Production and ATS) will not be operational during this timeframe.
Please refrain from accessing the MeF Systems to transmit business/individual/state tax returns, retrieve acknowledgements or submit any other service requests. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.
Please monitor the MeF Status Page for updates

QuickAlerts – August 24, 2016
Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The AIR System will be performing scheduled maintenance starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern on August 27, 2016, through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on August 28, 2016.

The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during this maintenance period. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this period.