

# QuickAlerts Messages December 2016

## QuickAlerts –December 7, 2016

**Subject:** Form 1041 Business Rules and XML Schema version for Tax Year 2016 Assurance Testing System

The Form 1041 schema and business rule version 2016v4.0 implementation date has been revised to December 29, 2016.

All Form 1041 testing for Tax Year 2016 should utilize schema and business rule version 2016v3.0 through December 28, 2016.

Beginning on December 29, 2016 versions 2016v4.0 and 2016v4.1 will be available for ATS (Production - January 2017).

Questions or comments may be directed to the e-help Desk at 1-866-255-0654.

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## QuickAlerts –December 8, 2016

**Subject:** Extended Maintenance Window for MeF ATS Environment

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, December 11, 2016. The system will be unavailable from 12:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Eastern. The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window affects the MeF ATS Environment.

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

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## QuickAlerts –December 9, 2016

**Subject:** Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

*All times shown in this communication are in 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/cutover and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

### **Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule**

Shutdown for "Send Submissions" only is scheduled to begin on 11:59 a.m., Monday, December 26, 2016, in order to prepare the system for the upcoming 2017 Filing Season.

### **Suggested Deadlines for Monday, December 26, 2016**

- Transmitters: Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal) 10:00 a.m.
- States: Processing and Retrieving Submissions / Sending Acks 10:00 p.m.

Transmitters can continue to use the other service requests except "Send Submissions" until 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 26, 2016.

States can continue to use all the service requests necessary to retrieve and process state submissions until shutdown activities shown above. 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 11:59 p.m. on December 26th cannot be accessed again until MeF opens for production in January 2017.

### **MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule**

ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cutover period. Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. A QuickAlerts will be issued once the BMF startup date for the 2017 Filing Season has been finalized. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

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#### **QuickAlerts –December 9, 2016**

**Subject:** 2017 Filing Season for Modernized e-File (MeF) Individual and Business Returns

The Internal Revenue Service has announced plans to begin accepting Individual tax returns electronically on January 23, 2017.

For additional information please access the press release at the following link: [Tax Season Opens As Planned](#)

Note: The IRS will begin accepting all Business tax returns on January 6, 2017.

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

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#### **QuickAlerts –December 12, 2016**

**Subject:** Update for the ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting on December 13, 2016

The December 13, 2016 (AIR) Working Group Meeting (Webinar) Presentation materials have been posted on the [AIR Program Overview](#) page.

This webinar is schedule to begin at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. As a reminder, 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. You may join the associated teleconference 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start.

Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243

Event ID: 0187967# (Enter the access code on your telephone keypad, followed immediately by the # symbol to bypass system prompts)

This will be a technical Webinar to cover production preparation. This Webinar will not address Tax Law or Policy issues related to the AIR Program.

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.

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.

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### **QuickAlerts –December 13, 2016**

**Subject:** TY2016/2017 Schemas and Business Rules are Available for Download

Software Developers and State organizations can now access and download TY2016/2017 Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. In order to access these files you must have an active e-Services account and be listed on an e-File application with the provider option of Software Developer or State. Your role must be Principal, Responsible Official, or Delegated User with MeF authorities.

#### [Instructions for accessing your e-Services mailbox](#)

The following schemas and business rules are now available:

- Form 1040 Series - 2016v3.1 (Includes Form 1040NR)  
**Note:** F2350v3.0, F4868v3.0, F9465CUv14.0, and F56CUv13.0 remain the same versions as the versions made available on November 10, 2016
- Form 1041 - 2016v4.1
- Form 1065 - 2016v4.1
- Form 1120 - 2016v4.1
- Form 7004 - 2016v3.1
- Form 990X - 2016v3.0
- Form 1120 POL - 2016v2.2
- Form 94X - Annual 2016v3.0  
**Note:** Includes updated Business Rules for Credit Reduction State updates and no changes made to schema
- Form 94X - Quarterly 2017v4.0  
**Note:** Includes updated Business Rules package with no changes to schemas
- Form 720 - 2017v1.2(Q1-Q4)

You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the schema set you would like to download.

We encourage you to review your e-File application at this time to verify you have the appropriate role and to verify you have access to your e-Services account. If you have never registered for e-Services or previously registered and forgotten your password visit [e-Services Online Tools for Tax Professionals](#).

If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

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### **QuickAlerts –December 14, 2016**

**Subject:** Extended Maintenance Window for MeF Production and ATS Environments

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, December 18, 2016. The systems will be unavailable from 12:00 a.m. until 1:00 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 –December 19, 2016**

**Subject:** AIR Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

All times shown in this communication are in Eastern Time Zone

Attention: (AIR) Participants - Transmitters, Software Developers, and Issuers

To ensure that all ACA Information Returns electronically filed through the Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) system are processed timely, the following AIR Production shutdown/cutover has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

#### **AIR Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule**

Shutdown for all transmissions, including corrections and replacements will begin at 11:00 p.m. December 28, 2016, in order to prepare the system for the upcoming 2017 Filing Season. The AIR system will reopen for production for Forms 1094 B/C and Forms 1095 B/C at 9:00 a.m. on January 17, 2017. Forms 1095A will reopen January 18, 2017.

Note: Prior year corrections and replacements can be electronically filed when Production reopens.

#### **AIR Assurance Testing System (AATS) Schedule**

AATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cutover period with the exception of December 28, 2016 11:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m. on December 29, 2016.

Please monitor the [AIR Program page](#) for any updates.

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### **QuickAlerts –December 22, 2016**

**Subject:** Possible Phishing Scam

The IRS is issuing this alert to warn e-Services account holders of an uptick in a previously reported scam designed to capture usernames and passwords.

If you receive and unsolicited email you suspect could be a scam, please forward it unopened to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

If e-services users have already clicked on the fake logo and provided their username and password, they should contact the e-services help desk to reset their accounts.

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**QuickAlerts –December 22, 2016**

**Subject:** Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS)

MeF ATS system will be taken off-line from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

The downtime will be used to deploy critical system updates.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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**QuickAlerts –December 29, 2016**

**Subject:** Filing Season 2017/Tax Year 2016 AIR AATS WSDL Package changeover

The AIR test environment (AATS) was updated on December 28, 2016. Effective December 29, 2016, Transmitters using the AIR A2A channel must use the WSDL package titled, "FS17-TY16 AATS use Jan 2017 Package" for AATS.

Please immediately discontinue using the WSDL package "FS17-TY16 AATS Oct 16 through Jan Package."

Send any questions to [AIRMailbox@irs.gov](mailto:AIRMailbox@irs.gov).

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