

# QuickAlerts Messages December 2017

## QuickAlerts – December 2, 2017

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

MeF will be conducting an emergency extended build on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Both the ATS and Production systems will be unavailable from 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 2, 2017 until 7:00 a.m. Monday, December 4, 2017, Eastern.

This build will deploy critical system updates. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and ATS Systems during this period.

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## QuickAlerts – December 8, 2017

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

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, December 10, 2017. The ATS system will be unavailable from 1:00 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 8, 2017

**Subject:** e-Services Moves to Secure Access Protection December 10

All e-Services users,

Starting Dec.10, 2017, all e-Services users must register through a new, more rigorous identity proofing process called Secure Access.

Any e-Services user who has not previously created a Secure Access account through Get Transcript Online, IP PIN tool, View Balance or by exception processing in recent days must validate their identity through this more rigorous process. This also includes all TIN Matching users and users who received Letter 5903 last December and authenticated by telephone.

This new process is not optional on the part of the IRS or its online users. We apologize for the short notice, but as you know we've been planning this move for more than a year. The IRS must make this change to meet federal information system standards. Additionally, cybercriminals increasingly are targeting tax professionals to steal e-Services usernames and passwords, putting taxpayer data at risk.

In recent years, we authenticated each e-Services user individually. When you registered for e-Services, you were asked for your name, address, social security number, your date of birth, adjusted gross income and filing status. That limited amount of information no longer is enough to meet federal information system standards. Users will continue to be authenticated as individuals.

Here's how Secure Access helps –

- First, it strengthens the initial identity proofing process to make sure the person registering is who they say they are.

- Second, it strengthens security through a two-factor authentication process for returning users that helps prevent account takeover by cybercriminals. Two-factor authentication means you must have your credentials (username and password) plus a security code sent to your mobile phone or generated by your IRS2Go app each time you log in.

Once you have authenticated your identity and established a Secure Access account for e-Services, there is no further action required. Please note: Under Secure Access, you can no longer script the login process.

Learn more about the steps you must take to successfully complete the Secure Access process, alternatives to online processing and how to use the IRS2Go app. See "Important Update about Your e-Services Account" at [www.irs.gov/eservices](http://www.irs.gov/eservices).

Thank you

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### **QuickAlerts – December 11, 2017**

**Subject:** Planned Outage: December 28 - 31, 2017

AIR Production and AATS will be unavailable from approximately 5 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, December 28, 2017, until approximately 10 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, December 31, 2017, due to planned maintenance. Please do not attempt to access the AIR System via the A2A or UI Channels during the maintenance period. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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### **QuickAlerts – December 12, 2017**

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

*All times shown in this communication are in Eastern Time Zone*

**Attention: (MeF) Participants**

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 at 11:59 a.m., Tuesday, December 26, 2017, to prepare the system for the upcoming 2018 Filing Season.

Transmitters can continue to use the other service requests except "Send Submissions" until 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, December 26, 2017.

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 2018.

We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

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### **QuickAlerts – December 14, 2017**

**Subject:** Reminder: register now for e-Services

Reminder: All e-Services users must re-register through a more rigorous identity proofing and two-factor authentication process called Secure Access. This registration is now underway. If you have not already registered through Secure Access, please plan to upgrade your account now.

To get started, please take the following actions immediately:

1. Review Important [Information about Your e-Services Account](#) and [Secure Access: How to Register for Certain Online Self-Help Tools](#). We also have [FAQs about e-Services and Secure Access](#). These pages will help you successfully register online.
2. Access your account by going to your normal login page and entering your e-Services username. You will receive a prompt that will direct you through the new registration process.
3. If you are an existing e-Services user who cannot register online via Secure Access and needs exception processing, call the e-Help desk at 1-888-841-4648 (select your language, then prompt 1 and remain on the line until an assistor picks up) 7:30 a.m. Eastern to 7 p.m. Eastern.
  - a. You must have access to your email account and your tax return information, including related information documents.
  - b. To assist you, on **Saturday, December 16**, we will have assistors available 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern to answer your calls.

Please remember that you must make an attempt to register online before contacting the help desk. Here are a few other caveats:

- If you require an activation code by mail, it may take up to 10 business days to receive this code, which will enable you to complete the registration process.
- If you previously registered through Secure Access (via Get Transcript, IP PIN, etc.) you need only to enter your e-Services username and your Secure Access password. Do not make more than 2 attempts. If you can't remember your password, use the "forgotten password" feature.
- If you have obtained a new mobile phone number, the vendor may not be able to validate it and you should request an activation code by mail.

After you have requested an activation code by mail either online or through an assistor, do not continue attempts to registration online.

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### QuickAlerts – December 15, 2017

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

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, December 17, 2017. The Production system will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Eastern.

The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window affects the MeF Production Environment.

Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production system during this period.

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### QuickAlerts – December 15, 2017

**Subject:** New Schemas and Business Rules Available

Software Developers and State organizations may access and download Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. 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.

The following schemas and business rules were updated:

- Form 990X\_2017v2.2
- Form 990X Business Rule Changes for TY2016v3.1 and 2015v3.0
- Form 990N Business Rule Changes for TY2017v1.1, TY2016v2.1 andTY2015v1.1
- Form 1120POL Business Rule Changes for TY2017v1.1, TY2016v2.3 and TY2015v2.1
- Form 8868 Business Rule Changes for TY2017v1.1 and TY2016v2.1
- Form 1120\_2017v6.0
- Form 1065\_2017v5.0
- Form 1040 Series\_2017v6.0
- Form 4868\_2017v3.
- Form 2350\_2017v3.0
- Form 9465\_CUv17.0

**Note:** Form 56 CUv15.0, Business Rules and Schemas remain unchanged as those currently operational in ATS on October 30, 2017 therefore are not duplicated for this publication

Please check IRS.gov for ATS and Production Availability. You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. Messages will be purged after 30 days.

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 22, 2017**

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

MeF ATS system will be taken off-line from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon, Eastern, Friday, December 29, 2017. The downtime will be used to deploy critical system updates.

Please refrain from accessing the MeF ATS system during this timeframe.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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### **QuickAlerts – December 22, 2017**

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

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 Schedule 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 approximately 5 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, December 28, 2017, in order to prepare the system for the upcoming 2018 Filing Season.

A QuickAlerts Bulletin will be issued once a Production opening date has been finalized.

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 that AATS will be unavailable from approximately 5 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, December 28, 2017, until approximately 10 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, December 31, 2017, due to planned maintenance

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#### **QuickAlerts – December 27, 2017**

**Subject:** New Schemas and Business Rules Available

Software Developers and State organizations may access and download Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. 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.

The following schemas and business rules were updated:

TY 2016:

- 1041 TY2016v4.2 Business Rule Updates
- 1120 TY2016v4.2 Business Rules Updates
- 940-940PR TY2016v3.0 Business Rule Updates
- 944 TY2016v3.0 Business Rule Updates
- 945 TY2016v3.0 Business Rule Updates
- 943-943PR TY2016v3.0 Business Rule Updates

TY 2017:

- 1040series TY2017v6.1 Schemas and Business Rules\*
- 1041 TY2017v3.0 Business Rule Updates
- 1120 TY2017v6.0 Business Rules Updates
- 94x Annual TY2017v3.1 Schemas and Business Rules
- 941 TY2017v4.0 Business Rule Updates
- 941SS(PR) TY2017v4.0 Business Rule Updates

TY 2018:

- 94x Quarterly 2018v2.1 Schemas and Business Rules

**\*Note:**

- Extension Forms 2350 and 4868, 2017v3.0, schemas remain unchanged as those currently operational in ATS on December 29, 2017; therefore are not duplicated for this publication.

- Continuous Use Form 56 CUv15.0, business rules and schemas remain unchanged as those currently operational in ATS on October 30, 2017; therefore are not duplicated for this publication.
- Continuous Use Form 9465 CUv17.0, business rules and schemas remain unchanged as those currently operational in ATS on December 29, 2017; therefore are not duplicated for this publication.

Please check specific form pages on IRS.gov for ATS and Production Availability.

You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. Messages will be purged after 30 days.

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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