

QuickAlerts Messages December 2021

QuickAlerts – December 1, 2021

Subject: Update - ACA Information Returns (AIR) Production Environment Shutdown/Cutover

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

In order to prepare for Filing Season 2022/Tax Year 2021, the **AIR Production environment Shutdown/Cutover** for all transmissions, including corrections and replacements, will begin on **Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 12 a.m. Eastern time**. Please do not attempt to access the Application to Application (A2A) and User Interface (UI) Channels during the Shutdown/Cutover period.

We'll provide the **AIR Production environment Start-up** date/time at a later date, via a QuickAlerts bulletin. An Alert will also be posted on the [AIR System Operational Status](#) page.

Note: The AIR Assurance Testing System (AATS) environment will remain open throughout the Production Shutdown/Cutover, except during the routine maintenance windows that occur each Sunday. Information on the routine maintenance windows can be found on the [AIR System Operational Status](#) page.

QuickAlerts – December 1, 2021

Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for Affordable Care Act Information Return (AIR) Assurance Testing System (AATS)

The AIR AATS environment will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance from Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 12:00 a.m. Eastern time until Monday, December 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Please do not attempt to access the AIR AATS environment via the Application to Application (A2A) and User Interface (UI) Channels during the maintenance period.

Please monitor the [AIR System Operational Status page](#) for any updates.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

QuickAlerts – December 2, 2021

Subject: Business Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Shutdown

To prepare the system for the upcoming Filing Season for Tax Year 2021 and ensure that all Business Returns for the Tax Year 2020 e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, the following MeF Production shutdown and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established.

Business MeF Production Shutdown Schedule

Shutdown for "Send Submissions" only is scheduled to begin at 11:59 a.m. (noon) Eastern time, Sunday, December 26, 2021.

Transmitters can continue to use the other service requests except "Send Submissions" until 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Eastern time, Sunday, December 26, 2021.

States can continue to use all the service requests necessary to retrieve and process state submissions in accordance with shutdown activities stated 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. Eastern time on December 26th cannot be accessed until MeF opens for production in January 2022.

Please note: MeF ATS (Assurance Testing System) will be operational during this cutover.

Please monitor the [MeF Operational Status](#) page for any future updates.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

QuickAlerts – December 6, 2021

Subject: Publication 3112, IRS e-file Application and Participation Revised

[Publication 3112, IRS e-file Application and Participation](#) is available on IRS.gov.

This edition of Publication 3112 replaces the previous edition revised December 2020. This publication provides important information for Tax Professionals and Authorized IRS e-file Providers applying and participating in IRS e-file. Applicants and participants should read this publication to become familiar with the requirements for acceptance or continued participation.

QuickAlerts – December 10, 2021

Subject: New Form 1040 and 1040-NR Business Rules Change Pages are Available

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs

Software Developers and State organizations may download Modernized e-File (MeF) schemas and business rules from their e-Services mailbox. To access these files, you must have:

- An active e-Services account
- An e-file application with the Software Developer or State provider option with the associated tax type of 1040, 2350, 4868, 56 or 9465

Tax Year 2021 / Processing Year 2022 Business Rules Change Pages are available.

Business Rules Only:

- 1040 and 1040-NR 2021v5.0 (Change Pages Only)

Please visit the [Modernized e-file \(MeF\) Schemas and Business Rules](#) page on IRS.gov for more information about MeF Schemas and Business Rules.

You may have several messages in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. After 30 days the messages are purged. If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download within 48 hours, please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

QuickAlerts – December 10, 2021

Subject: E-file Application Processing Time

The IRS is experiencing delays affecting the processing of e-file Applications. You do not need to take any actions. In lieu of calling the e-help desk, continue to monitor your e-file application through e-services on IRS.gov.

We are working diligently to ensure e-file applications are processed in time for participation in the upcoming filing season.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

QuickAlerts – December 17, 2021

Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS) Environment.

The AIR AATS environment will be unavailable on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. Eastern time until 7:00 p.m. Eastern time due to scheduled maintenance.

Please do not attempt to access the AIR AATS environment via the Application to Application (A2A) and User Interface (UI) Channels during the maintenance period.

Please monitor the AIR System Operational Status page for any updates.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

QuickAlerts – December 19, 2021

Subject: Reminder - Business Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Shutdown

To prepare the system for the upcoming Filing Season for Tax Year 2021 and ensure that all Business Returns for the Tax Year 2020 e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, the following MeF Production shutdown and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established.

Business MeF Production Shutdown Schedule

Shutdown for "Send Submissions" only is scheduled to begin at 11:59 a.m. (noon) Eastern time, Sunday, December 26, 2021.

Transmitters can continue to use the other service requests except "Send Submissions" until 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Eastern time, Sunday, December 26, 2021.

States can continue to use all the service requests necessary to retrieve and process state submissions in accordance with shutdown activities stated 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. Eastern time on December 26th cannot be accessed until MeF opens for production in January 2022.

Please note: MeF ATS (Assurance Testing System) will be operational during this cutover.

Please monitor the [MeF Operational Status](#) page for any future updates.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

QuickAlerts – December 21, 2021

Subject: New Form 1040 and 1040-NR Business Rules Change Pages are Available

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs

Software Developers and State organizations may download Modernized e-File (MeF) schemas and business rules from their e-Services mailbox. To access these files, you must have:

- An active e-Services account
- An e-file application with the Software Developer or State provider option with the associated tax type of 1040, 2350, 4868, 56 or 9465

Tax Year 2021 / Processing Year 2022 Business Rules Change Pages are available.

Business Rules Only:

- 1040 and 1040-NR 2021v5.0 (Change Pages Only)

Please visit the [Modernized e-file \(MeF\) Schemas and Business Rules](#) page on IRS.gov for more information about MeF Schemas and Business Rules.

You may have several messages in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. After 30 days the messages are purged. If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download within 48 hours, please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

QuickAlerts – December 21, 2021

Subject: Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE) File Status Change

Effective January 1, 2022, the “Good, Not Released” file status and the “Good, Released” file status will be combined, so users will only see a “Good” status change. This will improve system response time and streamline customer file status reporting.

Additionally, on the Test System “Good, Federal Reporting” status has been changed to “Good” while the Combined Federal State Reporting status of “Good, Federal/State Reporting” remains unchanged.

IRS.gov and the associated publications will be updated to reflect this change.

QuickAlerts – December 21, 2021

Subject: Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE) User

Attention: Filing Information Returns Electronically Users.

Effective January 1, 2022, FIRE Account User ID format will change.

Your new User ID must contain,

- a minimum of 8 to 25 characters
- both alpha and numeric characters, with
- no special characters or no spaces.

If your current User ID does not meet these criteria, you will be prompted to create a new User ID. At that point, the system will log you out and place you back on the logon page. You will then be able to logon using your newly created User ID.

QuickAlerts – December 27, 2021

Subject: New 1065 Schedules K-2 and K-3 Schema Available

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs

Tax Year 2021/Processing Year 2022 Schemas are available.

Current Year Schema (only):

- Form 1065 Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Early Release) TY2021v4.2

An early look draft of the Tax Year 2021 / Processing Year 2022 Form 1065 Schedules K-2 and K-3 is available.

The early look of the 2021 Form 1065 Schedules K-2 and K-3 schema will not be operational in the ATS environment or Production. A subsequent schema package will be used in ATS and Production.

As this is an early draft, there may be additional changes in subsequent schema package(s).

Tax Year 2021 Form 1065 Schedules K-2 and K-3 related stylesheets and business rules will be made available at a later date.

Please visit the [Modernized e-file \(MeF\) Schemas and Business Rules](#) page on IRS.gov for more information about Schemas and Business Rules.

Software Developers and State organizations may download schemas and business rules from their e-Services mailbox. To access these files, you must have:

- An active e-Services account
- The Software Developer or State provider option on an e-file application with the associated tax type of 720, 94x Annual, 94x Qtrly, 94xPINReg, 990, 990-T, 1041, 1065, 1120, 1120-POL, 2290, 4720, 7004 or 8849.

You may have several messages in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download.

After 30 days the messages are purged. If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download within 48 hours, please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.