

# QuickAlerts Messages January 2021

## QuickAlerts – January 6, 2021

**Subject:** 2021 Filing Season for Modernized e-File (MeF) Business Returns

The IRS will begin accepting all business tax returns at 9 a.m. Eastern on January 8, 2021.

Please monitor the [MeF Status page](#) on IRS.gov for updates.

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## QuickAlerts – January 7, 2021

**Subject:** New Form 1040, Form 1040-SS/PR and Form 1040-NR Business Rules are 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. A Software Developer provider option with an associated tax type of 1040 may access the files.

**Tax Year 2020/Processing Year 2021, Business Rules Changes are available.**

### Business Rules Only:

- 1040 and 1040-SS/PR 2020v5.0 (Change Pages Only)
- 1040-NR\* 2020v5.0 (Reissued)

*\*The Form 1040-NR 2020v5.0 rules set provided in this delivery supersede the Form 1040-NR 2020v5.0 rules set provided on November 23, 2020.*

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 more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. Messages remain for 30 days then are purged. If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox within 48 hours, please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with tax year needed.

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## QuickAlerts – January 7, 2021

**Subject:** Critical Update for Modernized e-File (MeF) System

The MeF system has tightened cryptographic requirements to conform to government-wide guidance and upgrade from digests using the SHA-1 algorithm in digital and XML signatures. As a result, MeF Production and Assurance Testing System (ATS) environments no longer accept signature and digest methods using SHA-1. An error will be generated if SHA-1 is used, therefore you must switch to SHA-256 or higher.

Additional information can be found on the [MeF Status](#) page on IRS.gov.

We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause..

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## QuickAlerts – January 7, 2021

**Subject:** Modernized e-File (MeF) Business Returns Schema and Business Rules Updates are 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. The Software Developer provider option must have an associated tax type of 94x, 4720.

**Tax Year 2020/Processing Year 2021 Schema and Business Rules updates are available.**

**Current Year Schema (only):**

- Form 4720 (Early Release) TY2020v1.0

**Current Year Business Rules Change Pages (only):**

- Form 94x Annual TY2020v2.0

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 more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. Messages remain for 30 days then are purged. If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox within 48 hours, please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

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## QuickAlerts – January 8, 2021

**Subject:** Business Rule Changes for Processing Year 2021

For Processing Year 2021, business rules were added to the tax types 1120, 1120S, 1041, 1065, 940, 941, 943, 944, 945 that ensures the use of an Electronic Filing Identification Number (EFIN) is obtained for online filing. If you are an Online Provider and did not select Online Provider on your e-file application, then you are not using an EFIN obtained for online filing and your returns will be rejected. Per Publication 4163 “An Online Provider has a variety of responsibilities that include but are not limited to: 1) Ensuring the use of an EFIN or ETIN obtained for online filing.”

Software Developers, Transmitters or Intermediate Service Providers who need to update their e-file application should add the online provider role, sign the terms of agreement, answer the self-certification questions, submit the e-file application and contact the e-Services help desk at 866-255-0654 (6:30 AM to 8:00 PM Central) for an online filer EFIN to be manually assigned.

For more frequently asked questions about your EFIN please see [IRS.gov](#).

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## QuickAlerts – January 13, 2021

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

The AIR AATS environment will be unavailable from 8:00 a.m. Eastern time until 12:00 noon Eastern time on Friday, January 15, 2021.

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.

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### QuickAlerts – January 21, 2021

**Subject:** Publication 3112 updated

The Publication 3112 "<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3112.pdf>" has been updated.

This edition of Publication 3112 replaces the previous edition revised October 2019. This publication provides important information for Tax Professionals and Authorized IRS e-file Providers regarding applying and participating in IRS e-file. All participants should read this publication to become familiar with the requirements for continued participation.

Note: Publications 1345, 3112 and 4557 are only available in a downloadable PDF format.

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