

QuickAlerts Messages January 2022

QuickAlerts – January 3, 2022

Subject: Tax Year 2021 Publication 4163 is Available on IRS.gov

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

Publication 4163, Modernized e-File (MeF) Information for Authorized IRS e-File Providers for Business Returns is now available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) User Guides and Publications](#) page on IRS.gov.

This revision reflects tax returns processed in 2022; this includes 2019, 2020 and 2021 tax returns, and a few 2022 tax year returns.

QuickAlerts – January 5, 2022

Subject: 2022 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 7, 2022.

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

QuickAlerts – January 10, 2022

Subject: Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Production Schedule

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

The **AIR Production Schedule** has been established for the ACA Information Returns electronically filed through the Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) System:

- **Start-up** for Filing Season 2022 AIR Production begins on Friday, January 14, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. Eastern time.

Note: The above information pertains to the AIR Production environment only. Any changes to routine maintenance build windows for the ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS) environment will be communicated in separate QuickAlerts bulletins.

Updates regarding the status of the AIR System will also be noted on the [AIR Operational Status](#) page.

QuickAlerts – January 12, 2022

Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for the Modernized e-File (MeF) Production System

The MeF Production System, currently processing business returns only, will be unavailable on Saturday, January 15, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Please refrain from accessing the MeF Production System during this maintenance window.

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

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

QuickAlerts – January 12, 2022

Subject: 2022 Filing Season for Modernized e-File (MeF) Individual Returns

The Internal Revenue Service announced that the nation's tax season will start on Monday, January 24, 2022, when the tax agency will begin accepting and processing 2021 tax year returns. For more details, please refer to [IR-2022-08](#).

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

QuickAlerts – January 14, 2022

Subject: New Form 1040 Business Rules Change Pages and Schemas 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 and Schemas are available.

Business Rules and Schemas:

- Form 1040 2021v5.1

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 – January 20, 2022

Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for the Modernized e-File (MeF) Production System

The MeF Production system currently processing business returns only is scheduled for maintenance on January 21, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. EST to 3:00 p.m. EST.

During this maintenance period, MeF will accept submissions but will not generate acknowledgements or process any state services such as Get Submissions, Send Acknowledgements or Send Receipts.

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

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

QuickAlerts – January 21, 2022

Subject: Unauthorized Use of an EFIN

As a reminder, once you become an Authorized IRS e-file Provider and receive your Electronic Filing Identification Number (EFIN), you must abide by the policies and procedures in [Publication 3112](#), IRS e-file Application and Participation, and [Publication 1345](#), Handbook for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Individual Income Tax Returns.

Providers must protect their EFINs and passwords from unauthorized use and never share them. This includes accepting payment for the use of an EFIN (e.g. renting/ leasing/purchasing) and/or transferring EFINs to another entity when transferring the business by sale, gift or other disposition. In addition, if you resell software you cannot include the EFIN.

An Electronic Return Originator (ERO) must originate the electronic submission of only returns that the ERO either prepared or collected from a taxpayer.

QuickAlerts – January 21, 2022

Subject: The FIRE System Internal Error Message Issue has been Resolved

The FIRE System internal error message issue has been resolved. If you are still experiencing connection issues, try taking the following actions:

- Connect to the FIRE System using the following links [FIRE](#) or [FIRE Test](#), which are also posted on the [Filing Information Returns Electronically](#) webpage on IRS.gov.
- Check your TLS settings:
 - Go to Tools > Internet Options > Advanced
 - Scroll down and find Security
 - Uncheck both SSL 2.0 and SSL 3.0
 - Check TLS 1.2 and select “Apply”
- Seek assistance, if necessary, from your internal IT department to make sure your browser is configured to the FIRE System Internet Security Technical Standards located in the Publications listed on the [Filing Information Returns Electronically](#) webpage.
- If you are still experiencing issues, contact the Technical Services Operation help desk for assistance at:
 - 866-455-7438 Toll-free
 - 304-263-8700 International
 - 304-579-4827 Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)

Reminders

- Scanned, PDF, PNG, TIF, GIF, JPG, Word, Excel formats will not be accepted.
- The Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE) Production and Test System server no longer supports Secure Socket Layer (SSL) 3.0 as one of the FIRE System’s Internet Security Technical Standards.

- Transmitters using IE 6.0 or lower as their browser may have problems logging in and connecting to the FIRE System.
-

QuickAlerts – January 21, 2022

Subject: FIRE System Login Reminder

Reminder: The Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE) System login now requires additional information. You are required to enter your Transmitter Control Code (TCC), EIN and legal business name **exactly how it is spelled and/or abbreviated in the FIRE System.**

When logging in, if you receive an error message upon entering your legal business name stating the “**Information provided is not correct**”, you can:

- Contact the Responsible Official who submitted Form 4419, Application for Transmitter Control Code to File Information Returns Electronically (FIRE), for the business, and ask for the exact business legal name that was used on the application.
 - Contact the Responsible Official and ask them to provide you the legal business name from the online IR Application for TCC, if your TCC was issued on or after September 26, 2021.
 - Contact the help desk to obtain the exact business name as it appears in the FIRE System. A responsible person for the business must be able to verify they are authorized to receive the information. The Technical Services Operation help desk can be reached at:
 - 866-455-7438 Toll-free
 - 304-263-8700 International
 - 304-579-4827 Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)
 - If your TCC was issued prior to September 26, 2021, and the steps above did not work, contact the Responsible Official and ask them to submit a paper [Form 4419](#) to update your business name.
-

QuickAlerts – January 27, 2022

Subject: FIRE Peak Processing

Reminder: The Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE) System is now in peak processing which means you could experience wait times longer than 48 hours for your file status updates.
