

QuickAlerts Messages October 2016

QuickAlerts –October 5, 2016

Subject: Publication 5164, Test Package for Electronic Filers of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR) Posted

Publication 5164, Test Package for Electronic Filers of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR) (Processing Year 2017) Rev. 9-2016 has been posted on IRS.gov.

If you have any questions, please send them to the [AIR Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –October 6, 2016

Subject: Affordable Care Act Assurance Testing System (AATS) Information Returns Tax Year 2016/Processing Year 2017

Tax Year 2016 ACA AATS will open for testing on November 7, 2016 for Information Returns that will be processed in 2017. Special instructions about the functionality of AATS will be included on the [AIR Program](#) page.

A2A Channel users: As a reminder, you will need new WSDLs for Tax Year 2016. If you have not received the WSDLs for Tax Year 2016, the Responsible Official, or an official identified as a Contact on the AIR TCC Application, must send an email to airmailbox@irs.gov with "WSDLs for Tax Year 2016" in the subject line. The email request must include your company name and AIR TCC. The WSDLs will be forwarded upon confirmation of the TCC application and contact information. You will also need new WSDLs for AIR production when it reopens for Processing Year 2017.

UI Channel users: UI Channel users are required to log in to the IRS Registered User Portal (RUP) and invoke the appropriate link for AIR. WSDLs are not required for UI Channel users.

QuickAlerts –October 7, 2016

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

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

ATS Cutover October 17, 2016 – October 31, 2016

MeF ATS will be taken off-line from midnight, Monday, October 17, 2016, until 9:00 a.m., Monday, October 31, 2016. The TY2016/PY2017 WSDLs, schemas and business rules will be loaded during this cutover.

Please note: All existing test submissions will be deleted except for those sent in during the thirty days prior to cutover.

A QuickAlerts will be issued announcing IMF/BMF shutdown and start up dates when they become available.

QuickAlerts –October 13, 2016

Subject: ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting on October 18, 2016

The next ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting (webinar) will be held:

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

The conference begins at 3:00 Eastern Time

Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243 Passcode: 0346612# (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 the Registration Process, changes to the Publications 5164 and 5165 and demonstrate the AATS test scenarios. This Webinar will not address Tax Law or Policy issues related to the AIR Program.

You may join the teleconference 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start. 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.

This virtual session will focus on General Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Program topics. At the conclusion of the presentation, there will be a live question and answer period with IRS presenters.

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.

The presentation for this meeting will be posted to the [AIR Program Overview](#) Page prior to the meeting. An additional QuickAlerts message will be issued when the presentation is posted.

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](#).

QuickAlerts –October 13, 2016

Subject: Affordable Care Act Assurance Testing System (AATS) cutover

Effective October 23, 2016, AATS for Filing Season (FS) 2016/Tax Year (TY) 2015, will no longer be available. The only method available to conduct an ACA Communications Test with the IRS will be through AATS for FS17/TY16.

UI Channel users: UI Channel users are required to log in to the IRS Registered User Portal (RUP) and invoke the appropriate link for AIR. The AATS Landing page will only display AATS Next Year. WSDLs are not required for UI Channel users.

A2A Channel users: WSDLs for FS17/TY16 AATS are now available. If you need to test after October 23, 2016, the Responsible Official, or an official identified as a Contact on the AIR TCC Application, must send an email to [AIR Mailbox](#) with "WSDLs for Tax Year 2016" in the subject line. The email request must include your company name and AIR TCC. The WSDLs will be forwarded upon confirmation of the TCC application and contact information.

Please note, the AIR Production Environment for FS16/TY15 will still be available.

QuickAlerts –October 13, 2016

Subject: ACA Information Returns (AIR) Posting Schemas, Crosswalks and Business Rules Tax Year 2016v3.3

Latest versions of Schemas, Crosswalks and Business Rules for Tax Year 2016 have been posted on [IRS.gov](#) for the following forms: 1094-B, 1095-B, 1094-C, and 1095-C.

If you have questions, send them to the [AIR Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –October 13, 2016

Subject: The AIR A2A and UI Transmission Checklists for FS 2017/TY 2016 are available.

The AIR A2A and UI Transmission Checklists are available on the [AIR Program Overview](#) page under the AIR Publications/Guides Tax Year 2016.

The checklists for Software Developers, Transmitters and Issuers were developed to assist with submitting AIR Transmissions to the IRS. The checklists are used for both AATS and Production.

QuickAlerts –October 14, 2016

Subject: Updates on IRS e-Services and Secure Access

To ensure a smooth transition, the IRS has decided to delay the October 24 date for requiring e-services users to re-register and validate their identities through Secure Access authentication.

In the next few weeks, the IRS plans to have discussions with key stakeholders affected by the e-services changes to discuss security protocols and next steps in this process.

A new implementation date has not been set. When a new date is set, the IRS will share the information widely with e-Services users.

The IRS is strengthening the e-Services registration process as part of a wider effort to ensure the protection of taxpayer data and IRS systems.

QuickAlerts –October 14, 2016

Subject: Update on IRS e-Services and Secure Access

To ensure a smooth transition, the IRS has decided to delay the October 24 date for requiring e-services users to re-register and validate their identities through Secure Access authentication.

In the next few weeks, the IRS plans to have discussions with key stakeholders affected by the e-services changes to discuss security protocols and next steps in this process.

A new implementation date has not been set. When a new date is set, the IRS will share the information widely with e-Services users.

The IRS is strengthening the e-Services registration process as part of a wider effort to ensure the protection of taxpayer data and IRS systems.

QuickAlerts –October 17, 2016

Subject: Update for the ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting on October 18, 2016

The October 18, 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: 0346612# (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 changes to the Publication 5164, Publication 5165 and demonstrate the AATS test scenarios. 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](#).

QuickAlerts –October 18, 2016

Subject: Early look of Publication 5258, The AIR Submission Composition and Reference Guide

An early look of Publication 5258, The AIR Submission Composition and Reference Guide for Processing Year 2017 has been posted to the [AIR Program](#) page.

QuickAlerts –October 23, 2016

Subject: Scheduled Maintenance October 23, 2016 and October 24, 2016

The IRS will conduct systems maintenance on Sunday, October 23, 2016, from 10:00 P.M. ET to 2:00 A.M. ET on October 24, 2016.

The Production environment will be unavailable during the maintenance. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this maintenance periods.

QuickAlerts –October 34, 2016

Subject: 1040 Modernized e-File (1040 MeF) Production Shutdown and Cutover

All times shown in this communication are Eastern Time Zone.

To ensure that all Form 1040 tax returns e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, this year's 1040 MeF Production shutdown/cutover and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

1040 MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

Shutdown begins on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at 11:59 a.m. in order to prepare the system for the upcoming Tax Year 2016 Filing Season.

Important Note: States who schedule retrieval of their state submissions may have to change their schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements by 11:30 a.m., November 30th. Anything not retrieved through MeF by 11:59 a.m., November 30th, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for 1040 MeF Production for Filing Season 2017.

Shutdown Deadlines on Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal)	10:00 a.m.
Retrieving Acknowledgements	11:59 a.m.

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements	11:30 a.m.
-------------------------------	------------

MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cutover period.

Important Note: BMF returns are not impacted by this IMF Production Shutdown/Cutover schedule.

The BMF Production Shutdown/Cutover schedule will be communicated in a QuickAlerts, outlining the exact timeframes, in early December and the times will be posted on the [MeF Status Page](#).

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

QuickAlerts –October 24, 2016

Subject: Affordable Care Act Assurance Testing System (AATS) will be unavailable until November 7, 2016

Effective October 23, 2016, AATS for Filing Season (FS) 2016/Tax Year (TY) 2015, is longer be available. Starting November 7, 2016, the only method available to conduct an ACA Communications Test with the IRS will be through AATS for FS2017/TY2016. Between October 23, 2016 and November 7, 2016, there is no testing method available.

Note: The AIR Production Environment for FS2016/TY2015 will still be available.

If you have any questions, please contact the [AIR Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –October 24, 2016

Subject: (Correction) Affordable Care Act Assurance Testing System (AATS) will be unavailable until November 7, 2016

Effective October 23, 2016, AATS for Filing Season (FS) 2016/Tax Year (TY) 2015, is no longer available. Starting November 7, 2016, the only method available to conduct an ACA Communications Test with the IRS will be through AATS for FS2017/TY2016. Between October 23, 2016 and November 7, 2016, there is no testing method available.

Note: The AIR Production Environment for FS2016/TY2015 will still be available.

If you have any questions, please contact the [AIR Mailbox](#).
