

# QuickAlerts Messages October 2017

## QuickAlerts – October 4, 2017

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

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

### **ATS Cutover October 16, 2017 – October 30, 2017**

MeF ATS will be taken off-line after 11:59 p.m., Sunday, October 15, 2017, until 9:00 a.m., Monday, October 30, 2017. The TY2017/PY2018 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.

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## QuickAlerts – October 4, 2017

**Subject:** AIR ISS-A2A WSDL for Filing Season 2018/Tax Year 2017 AATS is now available

If you would like to request the AIR AATS WSDL for Filing Season 2018/Tax Year 2017, the Responsible Official or an official identified as a Contact on the ACA Application for TCC must send an email to the [AIR Mailbox](#) with "AATS WSDL for Tax Year 2017" in the subject line. The email request must include your company name and your ACA TCC. The Tax Year 2017 AIR AATS WSDL will be emailed to you from the AIR Mailbox upon confirmation of the contact information in the ACA Application for TCC.

• **“FS18-TY17 AATS WSDL Package”** is a complete package used to support AATS, which begins on October 30, 2017.

This WSDL is used only for the ISS-A2A communication channel, and is not used for the ISS-UI channel.

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## QuickAlerts – October 5, 2017

**Subject:** Affordable Care Act Assurance Testing System (AATS) Information Returns for Filing Season 2018/Tax Year 2017

Tax Year 2017 ACA AATS will open for testing on October 30, 2017 for Information Returns that will be processed in 2018.

Effective October 29, 2017, AATS for Filing Season 2017/Tax Year 2016 will no longer be available. The only method available to conduct an ACA Communications Test with the IRS will be through AATS for Filing Season 2018/Tax 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.

**A2A Channel users:** The AATS WSDL for Filing Season 2018/Tax Year 2017 is now available. If you plan to test on or after October 30, 2017, the Responsible Official, or an official identified as a Contact

on the ACA Application for TCC, must send an email to [AIR Mailbox](#) with "AATS WSDL for Tax Year 2017" in the subject line. The email request must include your company name and ACA TCC. The AATS WSDL will be emailed to you upon confirmation of the contact information in the ACA Application for TCC.

**Filing Season 2018/Tax Year 2017 AATS:**

- Tax Year 2016 will be considered a prior year return in AATS on October 30, 2017.
- All transmissions to AATS, beginning October 30, 2017, must use the 2017 Manifest, including prior year returns 2015 and 2016.

**Filing Season 2017/Tax Year 2016 Production is still available.**

- Tax Year 2016 is still considered a current year return in the Production environment.
- Tax Year 2015 returns are still accepted as Prior Year returns in the Production environment.

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**QuickAlerts – October 10, 2017**

**Subject:** e-Services Update

e-Services users,

Unfortunately, the migration of e-Services to a new platform is taking longer than anticipated. We know this is causing issues for some of you, and we apologize.

We are working hard to get this technology upgrade in place and hope to have applications back online within the next two weeks.

We will provide weekly updates until we are ready to launch.

Meanwhile, TDS, TIN Matching, SOR and Registration are functional.

Again, we apologize for the delay.

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**QuickAlerts – October 10, 2017**

**Subject:** e-Services Scam Alert

The IRS today warned all e-Services users to beware a new phishing scam that tries to trick tax professionals into "signing" a new e-Services user agreement.

The phishing scam seeks to steal passwords and data.

All tax professionals should be aware that as e-Services begins its move later this month to Secure Access authentication and its two-factor protections, cybercriminals likely will make last-ditch efforts to steal passwords and data prior to the transition. Don't take the bait!

The scam email claims to be from "e-Services Registration" and uses "Important Update about Your e-Services Account" in the subject line. It states, in part, "We are rolling out a new user agreement and all registered users must accept its revised terms to have access to e-Services and its products." It asks you to review and accept the agreement but takes you to a fake site instead.

If you have clicked onto this link, you should perform a deep scan with your security software, contact your office's IT/cybersecurity personnel and contact the IRS e-Help Desk.

To read more about what the IRS is doing to protect your accounts with Secure Access authentication, go directly to the main e-Services landing page on IRS.gov.

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#### **QuickAlerts – October 12, 2017**

**Subject:** AIR Extended Maintenance October 19 - October 22, 2017

The IRS will conduct extended AIR System maintenance from 11:59 p.m. EST October 19, 2017 until 10:00 a.m. EST October 22, 2017. The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during the maintenance. Please do not attempt to access the AIR System via the A2A or UI Channels during the maintenance period.

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#### **QuickAlerts – October 19, 2017**

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

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, October 22, 2017. The system will be unavailable for accepting submissions from 12:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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

Thank you in advance for refraining from submitting any returns to the MeF Production System during this period.

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#### **QuickAlerts – October 20, 2017**

**Subject:** Updated AIR Extended Maintenance October 19-22, 2017

The AIR AATS and Production environments will be unavailable from approximately 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, October 19, 2017, until approximately 2:00 p.m. Eastern time on Sunday, October 22, 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 – October 27, 2017**

**Subject:** Update about your e-Services account

Here's a quick update on critical issues currently affecting e-Services users. Because the IRS is still reviewing its contract options for an identity-proofing vendor, the move of e-Services to Secure Access authentication will be delayed. The transition was originally planned for later this month. As of today, we do not have a new date. We will communicate via Quick Alert as soon as a new launch date is set.

Also, the technology upgrade of moving e-Services to a new platform continues. This means you are unable to take certain actions, like requesting an EFIN, viewing or updating an application. We recognize this is creating a hardship for some of you. Once the applications become available, which should be soon, we will have additional personnel available for the e-Help Desk to assist you and process your requests and applications as a priority.

Please continue your organizational activities to prepare for Secure Access migration. We apologize for the inconvenience. Please know that we are doing our best to provide you with a series of upgraded services that will not only will make e-Services easier to use but also make it more secure for you and your clients

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### **QuickAlerts – October 30, 2017**

**Subject:** Update about e-File/TDS applications

Most user applications for e-File, Transcript Delivery Systems and the AIR Transmitter Control Code are now available. The transition of e-Services to a new platform was completed this weekend. This technology upgrade will mean an improved look and feel to the applications.

All users except for state users may now submit new or change existing applications. Restoring state access to applications and to extracts is a priority. Meanwhile, states may submit critical changes by contacting their IRS Government Liaison.

This technology upgrade took longer than anticipated. The IRS apologizes for the inconvenience this has caused. The IRS also has added additional personnel to the e-Help Desk to assist with applications questions and processing.

As a reminder, we announced on Friday that the move of e-Services to a new identity proofing process called Secure Access currently is on hold while we review vendor options.

Please know that we are doing our best to upgrade our systems to make e-Services easier to use and more secure for you and your clients

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### **QuickAlerts – October 31, 2017**

**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 Saturday, November 18, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. in order to prepare the system for the upcoming Tax Year 2017 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 p.m., November 18th. Anything not retrieved through MeF by 11:30 p.m., November 18th, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for 1040 MeF Production for Filing Season 2018.

#### **Shutdown Deadlines on Saturday, November 18, 2017 Transmitters:**

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

**States:**

Transmitting Acknowledgements 11:30 p.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.

Please see new release [IR-2017-183](#), issued Oct. 31, 2017 for disaster victims and paper returns information.

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