QuickAlerts Messages May 2017

QuickAlerts –May 2, 2017
Subject: e-Services Update

Update: We currently are working to improve e-Services applications and security for e-Services.

This summer – the tentative date is June 18 – the e-Services' platform will move to a more modern technology. One result will be an improved look and feel of applications, including the e-File application. Use of e-Service products <u>will not</u> be affected. There are no changes to the log-on process.

State users only will experience some minor functionality issues from June through October. State users will be unable to submit new or update existing state e-file coordinator applications or file new or update existing TDS applications during this time. Generally, this time of year is a low activity period with few e-file coordinator or TDS application changes being made by the states. However, states should plan accordingly and make any changes prior to mid-June.

Unrelated to this upgrade is another item of interest, which is Secure Access authentication. Secure Access is a two-factor authentication process. This is the identity authentication process we discussed last year.

We recognize the need to strengthen the authentication process for e-Services. We are exploring what possible options, within our resources, are available to address feedback we heard last year. We will share information as it becomes available.

QuickAlerts –May 10, 2017
Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The AIR System will be offline for scheduled maintenance during the following time periods:

- May 20, 2017 starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on May 21, 2017.
- June 10, 2017 starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on June 11, 2017.

Critical system updates will be deployed during these outages to both the AATS and Production environments. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during these time periods.

QuickAlerts –May 17, 2017
Subject: Extended Maintenance Window - MeF Production and ATS Environments

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, May 21, 2017. The systems will be unavailable for accepting submissions from 12:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Eastern.

The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window affects both the MeF Production and ATS Environments.

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

QuickAlerts –May 18, 2017
Subject: UPDATE for Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The AIR System will be offline for scheduled maintenance during the following time periods:

- May 19, 2017 starting at 5.p.m. Eastern through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on May 21, 2017.

- June 10, 2017 starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on June 11, 2017.
Critical system updates will be deployed during these outages to both the AATS and Production environments. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during these time periods.

QuickAlerts –May 19, 2017
Subject: TY2015/2016/2017 Schemas and Business Rules are Available for Download

Software Developers and State organizations can now access and download TY2015/2016/2017 Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. In order 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. Your role must be Principal, Responsible Official, or Delegated User with MeF authorities. Instructions for accessing your e-Services mailbox

The following schemas and business rules are now available:

- Form 1040 Series - 2016v3.3 (Includes Form 1040NR)*
- Form 1041 - 2016v4.2**Form 1065 - 2016v4.2**
- Form 1120 - 2016v4.2**
- Form 1065 - 2016v4.2**
- Form 990X - 2016v3.1
- Form 1120 POL - 2016v2.3
- Form 720 - 2017v1.4(Q2-Q4)
- Form 2290 - 2015v5.0
- Form 2290 - 2016v4.0
- Form 2290 - 2017v1.0
- Form 8849 - 2017v3.0

*Note: F2350v3.0, F4868v3.0, F9465CUv14.0, and F56CUv13.0 remain the same versions as those made available on 12-12-2016

**Note: Form 8975 and Form 8975 Schedule A have been added to the F1041, F1065 and F1120 schema packages. In order to identify, process, and ensure timely automatic exchange of CbC data with other tax administrations, these forms can only be attached in XML format. Do not file the forms as binary attachments. Refer to the draft Form 8975 Country-by-Country Report Instructions and CbC web page for additional filing requirements, special rules, and guidelines.

You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the schema set you would like to download. Messages only remain in accounts for 30 days before they are purged. It is very important to download the ones you need during that timeframe.

We encourage you to review your e-File application at this time to verify you have the appropriate role and to verify you have access to your e-Services account. If you have never registered for e-Services

or previously registered and forgotten your password visit [e-Services Online Tools for Tax Professionals](#).

If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

QuickAlerts –May 19, 2017
Subject: Early look Processing Year 2018 Schemas and Business Rule Updates are Available or Download

Software Developers and State organizations can now access and download Processing Year 2018 early look Schemas and Business Rules updates from their e-Services mailbox. In order 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. Your role must be Principal, Responsible Official, or Delegated User with MeF authorities.

[Instructions for accessing your e-Services mailbox](#)

The following early look schemas and business rules updated are now available:

- Form 1040 Series - 2017v1.0 (Includes Form 1040NR)
- Form 1041 - 2017v1.0
- Form 1120 - 2017v1.0
- Form 94x Annual - 2017v1.0
- Form 941x Quarterly - 2018v1.0
- Form 720 - 2016Q1v3.0, Q2-Q4v2.0 Business Rule update
- Form 720 - 2017Q1v1.3, Q2-Q4v1.4 Business Rule update
- Form 720 - 2018v1.0 (Q1-Q4)
- Form 2290 - 2015v5.0 Business Rule update

Please check the [IRS.gov](#) site for ATS and Production Availability.

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 only remain in accounts for 30 days before they are purged. It is very important to download the ones you need during that 30 day window.

We encourage you to review your e-File application at this time to verify you have the appropriate role and to verify you have access to your e-Services account. If you have never registered for e-Services or previously registered and forgotten your password visit [e-Services Online Tools for Tax Professionals](#).

If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

QuickAlerts –May 19, 2017
Subject: IRS conducts routine Memorial Day maintenance

The IRS will conduct its annual Memorial Day systems maintenance beginning Friday, May 26, 2017, at 6 p.m. EDT and ending on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, at 5 a.m. EDT.

E-Services Transcript Delivery System, TIN Matching, e-file and ACA applications will not be available during this timeframe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE:

E-Services also will be unavailable Thursday, June 15 at 6 p.m. through Monday, June 19 at 6 a.m. as it moves to a different platform as part of a technology upgrade.

All e-Services applications – including e-file and ACA applications, Transcript Delivery System and TIN Matching – will be offline during this timeframe. Applications will be available starting Monday, June 19.

QuickAlerts –May 19, 2017
Subject: Form 2290 (Heavy Highway Use Tax) ATS Date for Tax Years 2017v1.0; 2016v4.0 and 2015v5.0

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

Due to IRS internal testing of Form 2290, Assurance Testing System (ATS) for Tax Years 2017v1.0; 2016v4.0 and 2015v5.0 will begin on June 11, 2017.

The test scenarios for Tax Years 2017v1.0; 2016v4.0 and 2015v5.0 are posted to the [Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS) Updates page](#) on IRS.gov.

The Business Rules and Schemas for Tax Years 2017v1.0; 2016v4.0 and 2015v5.0 can be accessed and downloaded from your e-Services mailbox.

Questions or comments may be directed to the e-help Desk at 1-866-255-0654.

QuickAlerts –May 22, 2017
Subject: Modernized e-File (MeF) Systems Shutdown for Memorial Day Weekend

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

IRS will conduct the annual Memorial Day Systems Shutdown beginning Friday, May 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. and ending on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 6:00 a.m. The Modernized e-File Systems (both Production and ATS) will not be operational during this timeframe. Please refrain from accessing the MeF Systems to transmit business/individual/state tax returns, retrieve acknowledgements or submit any other service requests.

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

QuickAlerts –May 24, 2017
Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The AIR System will be performing scheduled maintenance starting at 5:00 p.m. Eastern on May 26, 2017, through 8:00 a.m. Eastern on May 30, 2017. These builds will deploy critical system updates.

The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during the maintenance. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this time period.