

**2010**  
**ALABAMA BUSINESS**  
**MeF TEST PACKAGE**



**for Alabama Corporate and  
Pass-Through Entity Income Tax Returns/Reports**



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***Important!! Business MeF testing for Tax Year 2010 will open on or after 11/2/2010 and will close on 2/28/2011 with no extensions and no exceptions.***

**The Alabama Business Acceptance Testing System (BATS) supports the following forms for tax year 2010:**

1. Form 20C (Schedules A, B, C, D-1, D-2, E, F, Other Information, and AB).
2. Form 20CC (Schedules AS, B)
3. Form 20S(Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K) with Alabama Schedule K-1 and Alabama Schedule NRA (NRA must also be included as a Binary Attachment)
4. Form 65 (Schedules A, B, C, D,E, K) with Alabama Schedule K-1 and Form NMC if applicable (Form NMC must be included as a Binary Attachment)
5. Form PTEC and Schedule PTE-CK1
6. Other schedules as binary attachments

### **Why Test Prior to Live Processing?**

The purpose of testing prior to live processing is to ensure that:

1. All filers transmit returns in the correct format and meet Alabama Modernized E-File (MEF) electronic filing specifications.
2. Transmitted returns have few validation or math errors/
3. The Alabama Revenue Department can receive and process the electronic returns.
4. Developers should understand and be familiar with the mechanics of electronic filing.

### **Who must Test?**

All Software developers are required to perform their created testes before acceptance into the Department's electronic filing program for the 2011 filing season (tax year 2010). Anyone who plans to transmit returns to the Department must complete communications testing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and be accepted. Prior to testing, all software developers and transmitters must have obtained an Electronic Transmitter Identification Number (ETIN), Electronic Filer Identification Number (EFIN) and password through the IRS application process. Refer to the IRS Publication 3112, IRS E-file Application Package for Form 8633 procedures. For the On-Line application procedures refer to <http://www.irs.gov/efile>.

### **How to Begin the Testing Approval Process:**

Prior to submitting test files you must contact the Business MeF Coordinator. Your ETIN will be used in the element ReturnState/ReturnHeaderState/SoftwareId. After you have completed testing you will use your EFIN. The test Id's will only be used in the test environment. A database consisting of the EFIN of the software developers who have completed testing with the Department will be maintained. If the EFIN transmitted in the element /ReturnState/ReturnHeaderState/SoftwareID is not in the database the return will be rejected.

Our goal is to maintain open lines of communication to assure the success of your software and the electronic filing program for the state of Alabama. You are invited to contact us with

any question or comment you have regarding our Business Modernized Electronic Filing (MeF) Program.

For technical questions regarding:

- The web site
- The XML Schema
- The Summary of the XML Schema (spreadsheet)
- Additional detail of schema elements
- The sample return
- The sample xml instance document
- Software testing and approval
- Missing acknowledgements

### **Contact Information:**

Business MeF Coordinator  
Individual & Corporate Tax Division  
Alabama Department of Revenue  
P.O. Box 327450  
Montgomery, AL 36132-7450

Missy Gillis, Business MeF Coordinator at 334-353-9178  
Email: [melissa.gillis@revenue.alabama.gov](mailto:melissa.gillis@revenue.alabama.gov)  
Fax: 334-353-8068

### **Testing Guidelines for Software Developers:**

Software does not have to provide for all forms or schedules, nor for all occurrences of a particular form or schedule. You must advise the E-File Coordinator of all limitations to your Software package at the time of first contact, before testing begins. You must test the complete form for all forms you plan to support (Forms 20C, 20CC, 20S, 65, and PTE-C) with no field limitations except for the number of occurrences.

### **General Testing Information:**

Each Software Vendor will be required to test on three Department provided test case scenarios and create two of their own test case scenarios (per supported form) to adequately test schedules and return/form types supported by their software.

Software does not have to provide for all forms or schedules, nor for all occurrences of a particular form or schedule. You were previously advised to notify the Business MeF Coordinator of all limitations to your Software package at the time of your first contact, before testing begins. You must test the complete form for all forms you plan to support 20C/20CC/20S/65/PTE-C with no field limitations except for the number of occurrences. Return/form types must be correctly prepared and computed before transmitting the test. The Department strongly recommends each return be run against a parser prior to being transmitted to the Department. The Department will run each return against a parser. Test

returns must be transmitted to the Department by email to the Business MeF Coordinator in a .pdf format prior to submission of the electronic version of that test return.

Every conceivable condition cannot be represented in any test package therefore vendors may test additional conditions they feel are appropriate after they have passed testing, as long as they use the predefined FEINs and Name Controls.

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### **Attachments to the Electronic return:**

The test case scenarios may require non-XML documents, known as “binary attachments”, submitted in PDF format. Approved tax preparation software must provide the necessary instructions for creating and submitting all required attachments. These attachments include items from the following sources:

- Required by the return. Example – a line on the form states “attach itemized schedule”
- Required by the form instructions. Example – instructions state “attach a statement to line XX...”

Alabama programming will verify transmission, receipt, and attachment naming and attachment location. The content of the binary attachment will not be validated.

### **Formatting Information:**

Refer to XML efile Types for proper formatting for the business name lines and address. No commas or periods are allowed. Example:

Test Scenario:

HELP  
2300 MCCLELLAN AVE SUITE 450  
PENNSAUKEN, NJ 08109-4613

XML Format

HELP For All Inc (BusinessNameType)  
2300 MCCLELLAN AVE SUITE 450 (Address Type)  
PENNSAUKEN (Address Type)  
NJ (Address Type)  
08109-4613 (Address Type)

### **Populating Data in the Test Cases:**

Do not transmit blank or zero data elements. For example, if you have no NOL Carry forward, do not enter a zero for that data element. It should be left blank and not transmitted in the XML return data.

## **Electronic Signatures:**

As with any corporate/partnership income tax return submitted to the Department on paper, an electronic corporate/partnership income tax return must be signed by an authorized corporate officer/partner and the paid preparer, if applicable.

The Form AL8453-C "Corporate/Partnership Income Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing" authorizes the origination of the electronic submission of the return prior to the transmission of the return. The Declaration includes the taxpayer's declaration that the return is true, correct and complete, as well as the taxpayer's Consent to Disclosure. The Consent to Disclosure authorizes the Department to disclose information to the taxpayer's Authorized IRS e-file Providers. Intermediate Service Providers, Transmitters and EROs are authorized by taxpayers to receive acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the electronic return from IRS. If the electronic return data on a corporate income tax return is changed after the taxpayer has signed the Declaration, the taxpayer must sign a new declaration if the amounts differ.

**The Form AL8453-C must be completed and signed by all required parties and retained along with a copy of the electronic return for a period of three years.**

**Do not submit this form to the Alabama Department of Revenue unless requested to do so.**

See <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/corpefilemain.htm> for the AL8453-C.

## **Reviewing BATS Test Files and Making Corrections:**

You may transmit as many test returns as necessary until you receive no error messages; all "Business Rules" violations must be corrected in order to pass BATS testing. Software will only be passed upon error free transmission of all tests.