

2015

AL4162: ALABAMA BUSINESS MeF TEST PACKAGE



**For the Following Form Types:
20C, 20CC, CPT, PPT, 20S, 65, PTEC and 41**



Alabama Department of Revenue
Business Modernized Electronic Filing
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Important!! Business MeF testing for Tax Year 2015/2016 will open on 1/19/2016 and will close on 2/29/2016 with no extensions and no exceptions. Fiduciary MeF testing for Tax Year 2015/2016 will open on 1/26/2016 and remain open until 9/1/2016.

The Alabama Business Acceptance Testing System (BATS) supports the following Corporate forms for tax year 2015:

1. Form 20C – Corporate Income Tax Return (Schedules A, B, C, D-1, D-2, E, F, Other Information, AB and BC).
2. Form 20CC – Consolidated Corporation Income Tax Return (Schedules AS, B)
3. Other schedules as binary attachments

The Alabama Business Acceptance Testing System (BATS) supports the following Business Privilege forms for tax year 2016:

1. Form CPT – Business Privilege tax return and annual report (C-Corporation and other specified entities)
2. Form PPT - Business Privilege tax return and annual report (Pass-Through Entities)
3. Schedule G – Financial Institution group Computation Schedule
4. Schedule AL-CAR - Secretary of State Corporation Annual Report
5. Schedule BPT-E – Family Limited Liability Entity Election
6. Schedule BS – Balance Sheet Schedule
7. Other schedules as binary attachments

The Alabama Pass Through Acceptance Testing System (PATS) supports the following Pass Through Entity forms for tax year 2015:

1. Form 20S – S-Corporation Information/Tax Return (Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K and PAB) with Alabama Schedule K-1 and Alabama Schedule NRA (NRA must also be included as a Binary Attachment)
2. Form 65 – Partnership/Limited Liability Company Return of Income(Schedules A, B, C, D,E, K and PAB) with Alabama Schedule K-1 and Form NMC if applicable (Form NMC must be included as a Binary Attachment)
3. Form PTEC – Nonresident Composite Payment Return (including the schedule PTE-CK1)
4. Other schedules as binary attachments

The Alabama Fiduciary Acceptance Testing System (FATS) supports the following Fiduciary Tax forms for tax year 2015:

1. Form 41 – Fiduciary Income Tax Return (Schedules A, B, K) with Alabama Schedule K-1 for Form 41, NOL-F85 (Computation of Net Operating Loss Fiduciary Return) and NOL-F85A (Application of Net Operating Loss Carryback or Carryforward)
2. 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 tests before acceptance into the Department's electronic filing program for the 2016 filing season (tax year 2015 / 2016 (Business Privilege Tax)). 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>.

There is no separate application process for the Alabama Department of Revenue

Products Using the Same Engine

The Alabama Department of Revenue fully tests every product. "Marketing versions" (products that use the same engine) are not exempt from this rule. If you have multiple products using the same engine, we request that you first complete testing on one product until passed, then submit tests for the other versions.

How to Begin the Testing Approval Process:

Prior to submitting test files you must contact the Business MeF Coordinators at Corporate.Efile@revenue.alabama.gov.

Please fill out the vendor application found on our website at:

http://revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/software_vendors.cfm

All applications and test submissions for final review should be sent to the following:

Corporate.Efile@revenue.alabama.gov

Be aware that a database consisting of the Software Developer Codes for each vendor who has completed testing with the Department will be maintained. If the Software Developer Code in the element /ReturnState/ReturnHeaderState/SoftwareID, is not in the database the return will be rejected.

Testing Guidelines for Software Developers:

1. Each Software Vendor will be required to test all Department provided test case scenarios to adequately test schedules and return/form types supported by their software.
2. Please 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/CPT/PPT/41 with no field limitations except for the number of occurrences. Return/form types must be correctly prepared and computed before transmitting the test.
3. 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.
4. After all test returns have passed the electronic review with no errors, the test returns must be transmitted to the Department by email to the Business MeF Coordinator in a .pdf format along with the accepted submission ids. After the tests have passed the electronic review then they will be manually reviewed by a Revenue Examiner for any additional issues. All problems found by the examiner must be corrected and the return retransmitted before the vendor can be approved.

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.

The software vendor will need to email the Business MeF Coordinator (corporate.efile@revenue.alabama.gov) with all submission ids for the test returns submitted for final review. Please submit the submission ids by form type. Under no circumstances should the vendors directly contact the ADOR programmers. All communications with ADOR must be done through the Business MeF Coordinators (Nicci Adams and Missy Gillis)***

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.

Populating Data in the Test Cases:

1. All vendors will be assigned a set of FEINs for their test returns. Once you are ready to send in test returns please send in a request to corporate.efile@alabama.revenue.gov. This will help prevent overlaps in FEINs used by different vendors and insure that test returns are reviewed as soon as possible.
2. 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.
3. All test data should be run through your software. Do not force any figures to match the test return. If there are slight differences in calculations due to rounding please send the ADOR your system calculated figures.
4. If you do not support a particular field, schedule, etc on a test return just adjust your return accordingly and notify the ADOR.
5. The examiner review requires that all data on the pdf provided matches the XML data sent in.

Reviewing BATS/PATS/FATS 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/PATS/FATS testing. In addition, all issues found during the revenue examiner review must also be corrected. Software will only be passed upon error free transmission of all tests and no errors during the examiner review.

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.

Contact Information:

****Please DO NOT contact any of the ADOR Developers or Examiners directly. All communication should go through the Business MeF Coordinators****

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