

2009
ALABAMA BUSINESS MeF
TEST PACKAGE



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



Alabama Department of Revenue
Business Modernized Electronic Filing
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ALABAMA BUSINESS ACCEPTANCE TESTING SYSTEM Forms 20C, 20C-C, 20S, 65 AND PTE-C for TAX YEAR 2009

Purpose Of Testing:

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

1. Filers transmit in the correct format and meet Alabama Modernized e-File (MeF) electronic filing specifications;
2. Returns have few validation or math errors;
3. Alabama Revenue Department (Department) can receive and process the electronic returns;
4. Developers understand and are 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 2010 filing season (Tax Year 2009). 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 IRS Publication 3112, IRS e-file Application Package for Form 8633 procedures. For the On-Line application procedures refer to the <http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=106801,00.html> URL.

Tests:

Each Software Vendor will create their own test package 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 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 20C/20C-C/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 in .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.

Attachments (PDFs):

Test scenarios containing required attachments to be sent in .PDF format must be attached. The purpose of the test is to verify the transmission and receipt of the required attachments not the content.

Formatting the Entities:

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 (AddressType)

PENNSAUKEN (AddressType)

NJ (AddressType)

08109-4613 (AddressType)

Populating Data in the Test Cases:

Do not transmit blank data elements. Do not enter zeros where you have no entry unless the form or instructions specifically instruct you to do so. For example, if you have no NOL Carryforward, do not enter a zero for that data element. It should be left blank and not transmitted in the XML return data.

When You Are Ready To Test:

Prior to submitting test files you must contact either the Corporate Income Tax E-File Coordinator or e-mail corporate.efile@revenue.alabama.gov. 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 Corporate/Partnership Income Tax Electronic Filing Program. For best possible service, please choose the appropriate contact carefully.

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: Corporate Income Tax E-File Coordinator
Individual & Corporate Tax Division
Alabama Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 327450
Montgomery, AL 36132-7450

Jo Ann Ledbetter, Corporate E-File Coordinator @ 334-353-0685

EMAIL: corporate.efile@revenue.alabama.gov

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 20C/20C-C/20S/65/PTE-C with no field limitations except for the number of occurrences.

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/partnership officer and the paid preparer, if applicable.

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

See Appendix I 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.**

Corporation/Partnership Income Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing

For the tax period _____, 20____, through _____, 20____

NAME OF COMPANY, ADDRESS OF COMPANY, FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, TELEPHONE NUMBER

PART I Tax Return Information (Whole Dollars Only)

Table with 6 rows: 1 Alabama taxable income, 2 Total tax liability, 3 Total payments and credits, 4 Refund, 5 Amount you owe, 6 Amount of payment remitted electronically

PART II Declaration of Officer/Partner (Sign only after Part I is completed.)

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I am an officer/partner of the above company and that the information I have given my electronic return originator (ERO), transmitter, and/or intermediate service provider (ISP) and the amounts in Part I above agree with the amounts on the corresponding lines of the company's Alabama income tax return.

- I authorize the Alabama Department of Revenue and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an electronic funds withdrawal...
I authorize a representative of the Department of Revenue to discuss my return and attachments with my preparer.

Sign Here Signature of Officer/Partner Date Title

PART III Declaration of Electronic Return Originator (ERO) and Paid Preparer (See Instructions)

I declare that I have reviewed the above company's return and that the entries on Form AL8453-C are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. If I am only a collector, I am not responsible for reviewing the return and only declare that this form accurately reflects the data on the return.

ERO's signature, Date, Check if also paid preparer, Check if self-employed, ERO's SSN or PTIN, Firm's name, EIN, Phone No.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Paid Preparer's Use Only Preparer's signature, Date, Check if self-employed, Preparer's SSN or PTIN, Firm's name, EIN, Phone No.