

2014

AL4164: ALABAMA BUSINESS MeF SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS AND TRANSMITTERS GUIDELINES AND SCHEMAS



**For software developers and transmitters of Alabama
Business Tax Returns/Reports electronically filed via the
Federal/State MeF System for forms:
20C, 20CC, 20S, 65, PTEC, 41, CPT and PPT**



Alabama Department of Revenue
Business Tax MeF Program
Publication AL4164: Updated (2/3/2015)

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Introduction & General Information

Alabama Department of Revenue Mission Statement

The Alabama Department of Revenue will efficiently and effectively administer the revenue laws in an equitable, courteous and professional manner to fund governmental services for the citizens of Alabama.

Overview of Modernized e-file Program (MeF):

The Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR), in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), is accepting the following tax forms for 2014/2015 by using the IRS' Modernized E-File system (MeF):

1. 20C - Alabama Corporate Income Tax
2. 20CC - Alabama Consolidated Corporate Income Tax
3. 20S - S Corporation Information/Tax
4. 65 - Alabama Partnership/LLC
5. PTEC - Non-Resident Composite Return
6. 41 - AL Fiduciary Income Tax Returns
7. CPT - Alabama Business Privilege Tax Return and Annual Report For C-Corporations
8. PPT - Alabama Business Privilege Tax Return and Annual Report For Pass-Thru Entities

The transmission method will be a Web Service using Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) with attachments messaging. The return data will be formatted using Extensible Markup Language (XML). Authorized E-File providers, also known as Electronic Return Originators (ERO's) can submit returns to the IRS MeF system for federal and state return processing.

Software developers must test with the ADOR and receive approval prior to submitting live Fed/State or State-Only returns.

General Information:

The Department will accept the following return types:

- Linked (Forms 20C, 20S, 65 and 41)
 - Unlinked (PTEC, 20CC, CPT and PPT)
1. Linked - The E-File Program works best when the Federal and State returns are filed together in one transmission to the IRS (although this is not always possible). Upon receipt, the Internal Revenue Service will validate and verify the federal return data. The IRS will either accept or reject the federal return. The state return is only available to the Department after the federal return is accepted by IRS. If a Fed/State submission is rejected by IRS, the state will not receive the state return portion. The Fed/State submission must be re-submitted.
 2. Unlinked - IRS provides the ability for an ERO or individual to transmit/retransmit a state return through the fed/state system without simultaneously transmitting a federal return. There is no difference in the transmission sequence. State-Only returns are transmitted to the IRS, validated and made available for states to download in the same fashion as with the traditional fed/state transmission. This provides a means for individuals who file multiple state returns to have each participating state's return electronically filed. However, each state return must be transmitted separately. The taxpayer's federal return must be completed, transmitted and accepted by the IRS before transmitting/re-transmitting a State-Only return.

Supported Alabama Forms:

The Department will support the following forms and schedules for business tax processing:

- Alabama Form CPT (Schedules AL-CAR and Schedule G).
- Alabama Form PPT (Schedules AL-CAR, Schedule BPT-E and Schedule BS)
- Alabama Form 20C (Schedules A, B, C, D-1, D-2, E, F, Other Information, AB and BC).
- Alabama Form 20CC (Schedules AS, B)
- Alabama Form 20S (Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, PAB) with Alabama Schedule K-1 and Alabama Schedule NRA (NRA must be included as a Binary Attachment)
- Alabama Form 65 (Schedules A, B, C, D,E, K, PAB) with Alabama Schedule K-1 and Alabama Form NMC if applicable (NMC must be included as a Binary Attachment)
- Alabama Form PTEC and Schedule PTE-CK1
- Alabama Form 41 (Schedules A, B, K) with Alabama Schedule K-1 Form 41, Schedule ESBT, Schedule G, Alabama Form NOL-F85 and NOL-F85A if applicable.
- Other schedules as binary attachments

The **complete** federal return and the necessary supporting schedules (such as Schedule D and Form 4797) as filed with the IRS are required to be submitted in XML format along with the Alabama return for the Alabama return to be considered complete.

Failure to attach the complete federal return with the necessary supporting schedules may result in the imposition of delinquent penalties. Form 20C Filing Status 5 is the **only** return that is not required to submit a copy of the federal return because it will be provided with their parent's Form 20CC return.

Exclusions from the Business Income Tax Filing include:

- Amended returns
- Name Change Returns
- Returns that cannot be e-filed for federal purposes
- Returns for a tax year prior to 2014 (Form PPT and Form CPT)

Alabama will only accept one return each filing season, any subsequent filings such as additional short year returns and amended returns must be filed by paper.

Please note: The Department will generally not approve a request to waive the electronic filing requirement if the software purchased or licensed by a taxpayer or a return preparer does not include all of the features necessary to comply with the Modernized e-File requirements set forth in Department regulations, revenue procedures, publications, and other instructions posted to the <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov> website.

The Department of Revenue encourages electronic filing; however, we neither support nor recommend any software company. You must address technical and support issues with the company whose product you select.

Please see the approved e-file Providers list at the following web address:

<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/corpefilevendors.htm>

Reminders for Tax Year 2014 / Filing Season 2015:

1. **Mandatory e-filing for Corporate/Partnership returns** - Regulations [810-3-39-.12](#), [810-3-39-.13](#), [810-3-28-.07](#), and [810-3-28-.08](#) were approved by the Alabama Department of Revenue's

Research Division and became effective March 4, 2010. **The following forms are under the mandate: 20C, 20CC, 20S, 65 and the form PTEC.**

2. The complete federal return and the necessary supporting schedules and documents as filed with the IRS **are required to be submitted in XML format** with each submission. Failure to submit the **complete** federal return with the necessary supporting schedules in XML format may result in the imposition of delinquent penalties and the return filed will be considered incomplete. *Form 20C Filing Status 5 is the only return that is not required to submit a copy of the federal return because it will be provided with the parent consolidated Form 20CC return.*
3. **All returns must be transmitted through the software vendor. The State of Alabama does not allow independent filing at this time.**
4. The max occurrence for form AS is 500.
5. The maximum size per submission is 300MB. This includes the Alabama return, federal xml data and all attachments.
6. The state of Alabama allows a **10 Calendar** day period to re-transmit the corrected return. **The perfection period starts from the date the State of Alabama rejects the original submission.** The original submission id must be transmitted with the perfected return in the element named OriginalSubmissionID. This way the original submission date can be populated in our system to prevent any late filing penalties being assessed.
7. For a company filing a form 20C who files as part of a consolidated federal return and all form 20CC, Consolidated Corporate Income Tax Returns, the following information is required to be attached:
 - a. Federal Form 851, Affiliations Schedule, please identify all corporations subject to tax in Alabama (Federal851.pdf)
 - b. Pages 1-5 of the consolidated form 1120 (Consolidated1120.pdf)
 - c. Consolidated Income Spreadsheet including the column that identifies any eliminations or adjustments that occur as a result of the federal consolidation rules (ConsolidatedIncome.pdf)
 - d. Consolidated Balance Sheets by separate company for the beginning and end of year (ConsolidatedBalance.pdf)
 - e. Copy of federal Schedule K-1 for each tax entity that the corporation holds an interest in at any time during the taxable year (FederalK1.pdf)
 - f. Federal Schedule UTP (FederalUTP.pdf)
 - g. Federal form M-3 for the entire federal consolidated group (FederalM3.pdf)
8. The max occurrence for K-1s, CK-1s and NRA forms is 5000.
9. **Business Privilege Tax returns are filed separately from Business Income Tax return; therefore, Business Privilege Tax returns will have a separate Submission ID as well as a separate acknowledgement.**
10. If the business entity does not have an FEIN (Federal Employer Identification Number) then report all 9's for the FEIN (Form CPT & PPT, Page 1, Line 3b), check the "FEIN NOT REQUIRED" checkbox and report the BPT Account Number (Form CPT & PPT, Page 1, Line 3d).

Contact Information:

******Please always contact your software vendor first for assistance.******

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
- Rejected returns

CONTACT:

Business MeF Coordinator, Corporate and Business Privilege Tax

Forms: 20C, 20CC, CPT and PPT

Individual & Corporate Tax Division

Alabama Department of Revenue

P.O. Box 327450

Montgomery, AL 36132-7450

Nicci Adams, Business MeF Coordinator at 334-353-0685

EMAIL: CORPORATE.EFILE@REVENUE.ALABAMA.GOV OR nicci.adams@revenue.alabama.gov

Business MeF Coordinator, Pass Through and Fiduciary Tax

Forms: 20S, 65, PTEC and Form 41

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: CORPORATE.EFILE@REVENUE.ALABAMA.GOV OR melissa.gillis@revenue.alabama.gov

For Forms Questions regarding:

- Form/schedule development
- Substitute forms approval

CONTACT:

Forms Officer

Individual & Corporate Tax Division

50 N Ripley St, Room 4212

Montgomery AL 36104

Andrea Wyatt, Forms Officer @ 334-353-9447

EMAIL: Andrea.Wyatt@revenue.alabama.gov or ICForms.Officer@revenue.alabama.gov

FAX: 334-242-0064

For Business Privilege Tax questions regarding:

- Business Privilege Tax Laws and Regulations
- Filing requirements
- General correspondence
- Billings
- Refunds
- Name and address changes
- Preliminary and Final Assessments

CONTACT:

Business Privilege Tax Section
Individual & Corporate Tax Division
Alabama Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 327900
Montgomery, AL 36132-7900

TELEPHONE: 334-353-7923

EMAIL: <https://revenue.alabama.gov/contact/>

Select Individual & Corporate Income Tax/Business Privilege Tax: Questions and Forms CPT, PPT, BPT-IN

FAX: 334-242-8915

For Corporate Income Tax questions regarding:

- Corporate Income Tax Laws and Regulations
- Filing requirements
- General correspondence
- Billings
- Refunds
- Name and address changes
- Preliminary and Final Assessments

CONTACT:

Corporate Income Tax Section
Individual & Corporate Tax Division
Alabama Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 327430
Montgomery, AL 36132-7430

TELEPHONE: 334-242-1200

EMAIL: <https://revenue.alabama.gov/contact/>

Select Individual & Corporate Income Tax/Corporate Income Tax Questions

FAX: 334-242-2537

For Pass-Thru Entity Questions (S Corporation, Partnership and Fiduciary Tax) regarding:

- Income Tax Laws and Regulations

- Filing requirements
- General correspondence
- Billings
- Refunds
- Name and address changes
- Preliminary and Final Assessments

CONTACT:

Pass-Thru Entity Unit
Individual & Corporate Tax Division
Alabama Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 327441
Montgomery, AL 36132-7441

TELEPHONE: 334-242-1033

EMAIL: <https://revenue.alabama.gov/contact/>
Select Individual & Corporate Income
Tax/Fiduciary/Estates/Partner/Scorps/Trusts:Pass Thru Entities: Forms
20S, 65, PTEC, 41

FAX: 334-242-1030

Other information:

Alabama's website - www.alabama.gov

Alabama Department of Revenue website – www.revenue.alabama.gov

Corporate Income Tax Electronic Filing Information –
<http://revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/corpefilemain.cfm>

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – www.irs.gov

IRS Modernized e-file (MeF) information website - <http://www.irs.gov/efile/content/0,,id=171945,00.html>

Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA) – www.taxadmin.org

TIGERS (Tax Implementation Group for E-Commerce Requirements Standardization) -
<http://www.statemef.com/>

State of Alabama MeF Program Rules and Regulations

Software Acceptance, Testing and Approval:

Testing of software developed for electronic filing is **mandatory**. The Department is committed to providing software developers with quality feedback during the testing process. Alabama will begin testing as soon as possible after the IRS makes the MeF test system available for 2014 testing. In order to ensure quality service to the software developers during the busy testing season, software developers are encouraged to transmit their first tests as soon as the ADOR test system is available.

Each Software Vendor will create their own test package to adequately test schedules and return/form types supported by their software. This test package must include all Alabama State provided tests. Test returns must be transmitted to the Department in .PDF format for a visual audit of each test return. This should be sent once the electronic return has been accepted with zero error rejections. See Publication AL4162 Alabama Test Package.

Developers must include edits and verifications based on the business rules provided for each element. The Department's state spreadsheet will include information on field type, field format, length, if it can be negative, if it is recurring, and the business rule or other edits and verifications for each field. Developers must closely follow the requirements for each field to insure proper data formatting.

You must advise the Business MeF Coordinator of all limitations to your software package **at the time of first contact, before testing begins**.

Developers will be given formal confirmation when software has been successfully tested. Only approved software may be released and distributed by the developer. Once approved the software vendor name and website will be posted on the ADOR site listing all supported forms, schedules and approval date.

Approval of software for electronic filing **does not** include approval of any form developed/produced for hardcopy submission to the Department. The Individual & Corporate Tax Forms Officer must approve all Alabama tax forms.

Developer & Transmitters Responsibilities:

Electronic Return Originators (EROs) and transmitters must be approved with the IRS in order to submit Fed/State or State-Only returns. EROs and transmitters must maintain a high degree of integrity, compliance, and accuracy to continue participation in the Alabama Electronic Filing Program.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Unauthorized access or disclosure of confidential taxpayer information will result in severe Federal and Alabama criminal and civil penalties. In accordance with §40-2A-10 Code of Alabama 1975, disclosure of confidential information in violation of this statute is a class A misdemeanor.

COMPLIANCE

Alabama participates in the federal/state electronic filing program. Therefore, any software developed must meet **all** federal **and** state requirements. The following guidelines compliment IRS.

- Comply with all federal and state procedures, requirements and specifications as defined in the following publications:
 - IRS Publications 4163 - *Modernized e-File Information for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Forms 1120/1120S*
 - IRS Publication 4164 - *Modernized e-File Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters*

- Alabama Publication AL4163 – *Alabama Handbook for Electronic Filers of Business Income Tax Electronic Filing Income Tax Returns*
 - Alabama Publication AL4164 - *Software Developers and Transmitters Guidelines and Schemas for Business Income Tax Returns*
 - Alabama Publication AL4162 - *Alabama Business Income Tax Electronic Filing Test Package*
- Successfully complete all testing.
 - Develop tax preparation software in accordance with statutory requirements and Department return preparation instructions.
 - Provide accurate Alabama income tax returns in correct electronic format for transmission.
 - Software must be capable of producing a printed copy of the complete filing for the Electronic Return Originator (ERO) and/or taxpayer.
 - Provide data validation, verification, and error detection to prevent transmission of incomplete, inaccurate or invalid return information.
 - Developed software is not to support electronic filing (transmission) of any form not approved for electronic filing by the Department.
 - Developed software must prevent electronic transmission of returns and/or supporting documents or schedules not approved for electronic filing by the Department. This is inclusive of those not supported for electronic filing as well as those supported but not successfully tested and approved by the Department.
 - All software developers are required to test their software with Alabama test data, and only software which has been tested and approved by the Department may be used for Alabama electronic filing. The Department will reject all electronic returns submitted that are prepared using unapproved software.

Important: Software providers must be available to correct any software errors which may occur after production begins and work closely with the Department to follow up on any processing issues that may arise during filing season. If the software providers must re-release corrected software it should be done in a timely manner and proper notification should be made to all customers. Alabama software approval can be revoked if the software produces returns which are not in compliance with these specifications and the software company fails to correct the problem upon receiving notice from the Department. The Department also reserves the right to request a copy of the final version of the Alabama approved software.

Filing Due Date Charts:

All returns should be filed in a timely manner (See Filing Chart below for due dates).

The receipt date of the electronic transmission is based on the electronic postmark date as long as the electronic postmark date is within (3) days of the IRS Received Date. If no electronic postmark date is transmitted or if the Electronic Postmark date is greater than 3 days of the IRS Received Date, the IRS received date will be used. The electronic postmark must be adjusted to the time zone where the taxpayer resides to determine the postmark's actual time.

Any return not acknowledged by the Department as "accepted" is considered not filed.

Return Due Date Chart Forms 20C, 20CC, 20S, and PTEC for 20S Tax Year 2014					
Tax Period Beginning & Ending Dates	Tax Period	*Due Date (Weekends Considered)	6 Month Extension Due Date (Weekends Considered)	Tax Year of Return	
01/01/2014 - 12/31/2014	201412	03/16/2015	09/15/2015	2014	
02/01/2014 - 01/31/2015	201501	04/15/2015	10/15/2015	2014	
03/01/2014 - 02/28/2015	201502	05/15/2015	11/16/2015	2014	
04/01/2014 - 03/31/2015	201503	06/15/2015	12/15/2015	2014	
05/01/2014 - 04/30/2015	201504	07/15/2015	01/15/2016	2014	
06/01/2014 - 05/31/2015	201505	08/17/2015	02/15/2016	2014	
07/01/2014 - 06/30/2015	201506	09/15/2015	03/15/2016	2014	
08/01/2014 - 07/31/2015	201507	10/15/2015	04/15/2016	2014	
09/01/2014 - 08/31/2015	201508	11/16/2015	05/16/2016	2014	
10/01/2014 - 09/30/2015	201509	12/15/2015	06/15/2016	2014	
11/01/2014 - 10/31/2015	201510	01/15/2016	07/15/2016	2014	
12/01/2014 - 11/30/2015	201511	02/15/2016	08/15/2016	2014	
Legal Due Date is the 15 th of each month.					

Return Due Date Chart Form 65 and Form 41 Tax Year 2014

Tax Period Beginning & Ending Dates	Tax Period	*Due Date (Weekends Considered)	5 Month Extension Due Date (Weekends Considered)	Tax Year of Return
01/01/2014 - 12/31/2014	201412	04/15/2015	09/15/2015	2014
02/01/2014 - 01/31/2015	201501	05/15/2015	10/15/2015	2014
03/01/2014 - 02/28/2015	201502	06/15/2015	11/16/2015	2014
04/01/2014 - 03/31/2015	201503	07/15/2015	12/15/2015	2014
05/01/2014 - 04/30/2015	201504	08/17/2015	01/15/2016	2014
06/01/2014 - 05/31/2015	201505	09/15/2015	02/15/2016	2014
07/01/2014 - 06/30/2015	201506	10/15/2015	03/15/2016	2014
08/01/2014 - 07/31/2015	201507	11/16/2015	04/15/2016	2014
09/01/2014 - 08/31/2015	201508	12/15/2015	05/16/2016	2014
10/01/2014 - 09/30/2015	201509	01/15/2016	06/15/2016	2014
11/01/2014 - 10/31/2015	201510	02/15/2016	07/15/2016	2014
12/01/2014 - 11/30/2015	201511	03/15/2016	08/15/2016	2014

Legal Due Date is the 15th of each month.

Return Due Date Chart Forms CPT and PPT (Corporations) Tax Year 2015

Tax Period Beginning & Ending Dates	Tax Period	*Due Date (Weekends Considered)	6 Month Extension Due Date (Weekends Considered)	Tax Year of Return
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	201501	3/17/2015	9/15/2015	2015
2/1/2014 - 1/31/2015	201502	4/15/2015	10/15/2015	2015
3/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	201503	5/15/2015	11/15/2015	2015
4/1/2014 - 3/31/2015	201504	6/16/2015	12/15/2015	2015
5/1/2014 - 4/30/2015	201505	7/15/2015	1/15/2016	2015
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	201506	8/15/2015	2/16/2016	2015
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	201507	9/15/2015	3/16/2016	2015
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	201508	10/15/2015	4/15/2016	2015
9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	201509	11/17/2015	5/15/2016	2015
10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	201510	12/16/2015	6/15/2016	2015
11/1/2014 - 10/31/2015	201511	1/15/2016	7/15/2016	2015
12/1/2014 - 11/30/2015	201512	2/16/2016	8/17/2016	2015

Legal Due Date is the 15th of each month.

Return Due Date Chart Form PPT (LLEs and Qualifying Disregarded Entities) Tax Year 2015

Tax Period Beginning & Ending Dates	Tax Period	*Due Date (Weekends Considered)	6 Month Extension Due Date (Weekends Considered)	Tax Year of Return
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	201501	4/15/2015	10/15/2015	2015
2/1/2014 - 1/31/2015	201502	5/15/2015	11/15/2015	2015
3/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	201503	6/16/2015	12/15/2015	2015
4/1/2014 - 3/31/2015	201504	7/15/2015	1/15/2016	2015
5/1/2014 - 4/30/2015	201505	8/15/2015	2/16/2016	2015
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	201506	9/15/2015	3/16/2016	2015
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	201507	10/15/2015	4/15/2016	2015
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	201508	11/17/2015	5/15/2016	2015
9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	201509	12/16/2015	6/15/2016	2015
10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	201510	1/15/2016	7/15/2016	2015
11/1/2014 - 10/31/2015	201511	2/16/2016	8/17/2016	2015
12/1/2014 - 11/30/2015	201512	3/16/2016	9/15/2016	2015

Legal Due Date is the 15th of each month.

After an electronic return is acknowledged as accepted, it cannot be recalled, intercepted or changed in any manner. If either the ERO or taxpayer wishes to change any entries on an accepted electronic return, an amended paper return must be filed.

Responsibility to Clients:

EROs are entrusted with the task of filing a client’s tax return and must assume the responsibility of ensuring that the return arrives at the Alabama Department of Revenue. In the event that the electronic Alabama return fails to arrive at its destination, EROs must notify their clients of the requirement to file a paper return.

Form Retention Requirements:

The ERO is required to retain an electronic copy of all returns, forms and schedules submitted for a period of **three years from the due date of the return or the date the return was filed**, whichever is later. If the need arises, the Department may request any of the documents, in writing, and the ERO must provide a copy of the document within five working days of the request.

Should an ERO decide to no longer remain in the business, the Department must be notified, in order to, determine the proper resolution of electronic filing program documents and records.

Monitoring and Suspension of Electronic Submission Policy:

The Department will monitor the quality of electronic transmissions. If the quality is unacceptable, The Department will contact the ERO, software developer or transmitter. The Department will also monitor complaints about electronic filers and issue warning or suspension letters as appropriate. **The Department reserves the right to suspend the electronic filing privilege of any electronic filer, software developer or transmitter who varies from the requirements, specifications and procedures stated in this guide or any corresponding administrative rules, or who does not**

consistently transmit error-free returns. When suspended, the electronic filer, software developer, or transmitter will be advised of the requirements for reinstatement into the program.

E-File Waiver Policy:

Software Limitations: The Department will generally not approve a request to waive the electronic filing requirement if the software purchased or licensed by a taxpayer or a return preparer does not include all of the features necessary to comply with the Modernized e-File requirements set forth in Department regulations, revenue procedures, publications, and other instructions posted to the www.revenue.alabama.gov website.

Alabama Electronic Filing Regulations:

Please visit the following website for the most current Alabama E-File regulations:
<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/celfmandate.cfm>

Information Applicable to All Forms

Transmitting the Returns:

Authorized E-File providers can transmit returns to the IRS MeF system for Federal and State return processing. State submissions can be made as a Federal return with a State Return attached, called a Fed/State return, or just a State return, known as a State Only submission. Each return (Fed/State or State Only) must be in a separate submission. Multiple submissions can be contained in a single message payload.

Packaging of data and transmission payload must be in the proper format.

Returns filed in XML format with SOAP attachments allow for binary attachments to the submission. These attachments may consist of Signature documents, balance sheets, statement records, or other types of documentation. The allowed file type for attachments is file extension .PDF. The file order of attachments and procedures must follow IRS requirements for binary attachments as found in IRS publication 4163. The Department will allow for binary attachments to the state return. Send data elements only if they contain data values. Do not send empty data elements (i.e., zero financial fields, unused elements, etc.)

Other Packaging Guidelines:

- A submission contains either an IRS return or a state return
- Each submission is a separate file.
- Each federal return must be submitted in the agreed upon IRS XML format.
- Each state return must be submitted in the XML format specified and agreed to by IRS, state agencies, transmitters, and software developers.
- Each state return must include a copy of the FEDERAL RETURN as submitted to the IRS and any attachments associated with that federal return in XML. **If the taxpayer is included in the federal return of a consolidated group, a copy of the pro-forma FEDERAL RETURN for the company must be included along with the first four pages of the consolidated federal return.**
- If the IRS rejects a Fed/State submission, the state will NOT receive the state return portion. The Fed/State submission must be resubmitted.

- Each submission must be in Zip Archive format.
- No nesting of Zip archive files or returns will be allowed. (i.e. one submission, one zip.)
- The SOAP message itself must not be compressed or zipped.
- The message contains a header, a body, and an attachment. See Modernized E-File Logical ICD Model for message layout and message technical specifications.
- ERO's and transmitters must be approved with the IRS in order to submit Fed/State or State Only returns.
- The Department will produce an acknowledgement of acceptance or rejection for each state submission. The transmitter may then retrieve the Department's acknowledgement from the IRS.

Transmitting Consolidated Corporate Income Tax Returns:

The Consolidated Form 20CC will be packaged independently in a submission. The Form 20C Filing Status 5 subsidiary will be packaged independently in a submission. Separate submissions may be packaged in the same transmission therefore the Forms 20CC and 20C Filing Status 5 proforma returns may be transmitted together. The Form 20C Filing Status 5 return is the **only** return that is not required to submit the complete federal return and attachments as submitted to the IRS.

Attachments to the Electronic return:

The tax return may also include non-XML documents, known as "binary attachments", submitted in PDF format. This allows taxpayers to provide requested documentation that include required signatures and third party documents as required by forms and instructions (signed copy of lease, signed appraisal statement, etc). **The maximum total size for all pdf attachments transmitted with a return is 60MB.**

Approved MeF tax preparation software should provide the necessary instructions for creating, scanning or exporting documents in PDF format and submitting these documents as attachments that are required by Alabama and IRS Publications, Code, and/or Regulations.

Alabama programming will validate binary attachments by proper location and required title.

Also, the number of attachments will be verified. If the total number of binary attachments in the XML does not match the number of pdf attachments the return will be rejected.

See charts below.

```
<BinaryAttachment>
<Reference>ALNRA</Reference>
<DocumentType>PDF</DocumentType>
<Description>ALNRA</Description>
<AttachmentLocation>ALNRA.PDF</AttachmentLocation>
</BinaryAttachment>
```

Conditional Binary Attachments for forms 20C, 20CC, 20S, 65 and PTEC	Required Binary Attachment Title
Consolidated 1120 Pages 1-5 (If applicable)	Consolidated1120.pdf
Federal Form 851 (if applicable)	Federal 851.pdf
Signed Schedule NRAs – Non-resident Agreements (if applicable) (20S)	ALNRA.pdf

Alabama 20CCRE – Election to File Consolidated Income Tax Return (if applicable)	AL20CCRE.pdf
If the Multistate Corporation Separate Accounting checkbox (MultiStateCorpSepAcct) is checked. A copy of the Separate Accounting Approval letter signed by the Commissioner of Revenue must be attached	SeparateAccountingApproval.pdf
If the taxpayer is a member of an affiliated group which files a consolidated federal return the parent company's current Federal Income Tax Deduction Election (1552) letter must be attached along with the Federal Income Tax Deduction Calculations	1552ElectionCalculations.pdf
.PDF copy of each Alabama corporate income tax return (page 1 only) where the Net Operating Loss listed on Schedule B that is more than six years old	NOLYYYYAL20CPg1.pdf
Alabama 20C/20S/65 additional depreciation allowed by Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (computation for the difference)	Section179AddBack.pdf
Alabama Form 2220AL Underpayment of Estimated Tax for Corporations (if applicable)	Form2220AL.pdf
Enterprise Zone Capital Credit calculations (if applicable) - This PDF should include Schedule EZ, Certificates and all calculations.	EnterpriseZoneCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf if combined with other credit statements
Basic Skills Education Credit – The approved certification notice issued by the Alabama Department of Education must be attached.	BasicSkillsCert.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf if combined with other credit statements
Income Tax Credit calculations (if applicable) - This PDF should include certificate/document of approval, computation of income generated from project, support for amount paid, and computation of the credit.	IncomeTaxCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf if combined with other credit statements
Tax Increment Fund Payment Credit calculations (if applicable) - This PDF should include the document of approval along with proof of payment(s) into the fund relative to corporate income tax and a detailed schedule computing income generated from the project.	TaxIncrementFundPymtCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf if combined with other credit statements
Coal Tax Credit calculations (if applicable) - This PDF should include a detailed schedule computing the coal tax credit.	CoalCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf if combined with other credit statements
Other Reconciliation Items (20S if applicable)- This PDF must clearly explain the nature and amounts of the reconciling items.	OtherReconciliationItems.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
Other Separately Stated Items (20S if applicable)- This PDF must clearly explain the nature and amounts of the other separately stated items.	OtherSeparatelyStatedItems.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
Separate Non-Business Income/Loss (20S/65 if applicable) This PDF must identifying the nature and amounts of the separately stated non-business items.	SeparateNonBusiness.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements

Other Expense Portfolio Income (20S/65 if applicable)- This PDF must identify the nature and amounts of the other expenses related to portfolio income.	OtherExpenses.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
If there is Tax Due on the 20S return - A PDF with a computation schedule must be submitted.	StateIncomeTaxSCorp.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
Form NMC must be completed by each qualifying nonresident member of certain affordable rental housing developments	ALNMC.pdf
If QIPIndicator is populated then a .pdf attachment named "ScheduleQIPC.pdf" must be attached (for forms 65 and PTEC)	ScheduleQIPC.pdf
Consolidated Income Spreadsheet including the column that identifies any eliminations or adjustments that occur as a result of the federal consolidation rules.	ConsolidatedIncome.pdf
Consolidated Balance Sheets by separate company for the beginning and end of year.	ConsolidatedBalance.pdf
Copy of federal Schedule K-1 for each tax entity that the corporation holds an interest in at any time during the taxable year.	FederalK1.pdf
Federal Schedule UTP	FederalUTP.pdf
Federal form M-3 for the entire federal consolidated group	FederalM3.pdf
If Depreciation Adjustment is greater than \$500 on 20S or 65.	DepreciationAdjustment.pdf
If claiming the foreign tax credit a detailed schedule of computations must be attached.	ForeignTaxPaidCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf
Heroes for Hire Credit Act of 2011 – attach a detailed schedule of computations including a copy of veteran form DD214 must be attached.	HeroesHireCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf
Full Employment Act of 2011 (if applicable) - attach an itemized list of qualifying employees and computations.	FullEmploy2011Credit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf
Alabama New Markets Development Act – detailed schedule of computations for credit	NoticeofCert.pdf.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf
Irrigation Credit – attachment should include computations and information regarding when the qualified reservoir was placed into service.	IrrigationCredit.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf
Foreign Taxes Paid Credit – to qualify for this credit a copy of the foreign tax return must be attached.	ForeignTaxReturn.pdf
Capital Docks Credit – attachment should include additional project names, if applicable.	DockProjectName.pdf or CreditStatements.pdf
Alabama Historic Credit - please attach a copy of the tax certificate issued by the commission	HistoricRehabCrdt.pdf
State Proforma – If StateProforma is populated a copy of the subsidiary's separate 1120 proforma (prepared for Alabama State purposes) must be attached named AL1120Proforma.pdf.	AL1120Proforma.pdf

If StateAndLocalIncomeTaxes and TaxRefunds are populated then a pdf showing a detailed schedule of taxes from the federal form 1120, Line 17.	OtherTaxes.pdf
NonSeparately Stated Non-Business Income/Loss (20S/65 if applicable) This PDF must identifying the nature and amounts of the nonseparately stated non-business items.	NonSeparateNonBusiness.pdf or Statements.pdf
Conditional Binary Attachments for forms CPT and PPT	Required Binary Attachment Title
If type of taxpayer is Insurance Company then a pdf including the Annual Statements of Liabilities, Surplus, and Other Funds must be attached.	liability.pdf and
If type of taxpayer is Insurance Company then a pdf including the Schedule T (Premiums and Annuity Considerations) must be attached.	scheduleT.pdf
If type of taxpayer is Insurance Company then a pdf including pages 1-8 of the Federal Return (Form 1120PC or 1120L) must be attached.	federal.pdf
A complete schedule AL-Car must be attached if the entity is a corporation registered to transact business in Alabama.	alcar.pdf
Book Value of Investments – This pdf should include a listing for each separate investment, the name of the taxpayer, the taxpayer’s FEIN, the taxpayer’s address and the book value of the investment.	investment.pdf
Book Value of Investments (Financial Institution exclusion) – This pdf should include a listing for each separate investment, name of entity, entity’s FEIN, entity’s address and book value of the investment.	fininsinvestment.pdf
Amount Adjusted Net Worth Exceeds 6% - This pdf should include the computation of the amount claimed.	adjustednetworth.pdf
Goodwill – This pdf should include for each direct purchase the goodwill originally acquired, the date the direct purchase occurred, accumulated amortization, the name and location of the business acquired and the name and FEIN of the entity that acquired the business and goodwill.	goodwill.pdf
Unamortized Post-Retirement benefits – This pdf should include a description of benefits, amortization schedule, and the line detail of the post-retirement benefits on the balance sheet.	unamortizedproperly.pdf
Apportionment Factor – If TypeOfTaxpayer is Financial Institution Group Member "F" then Form ET-1-showing the apportionment factor calculations should be attached.	apportionmentfactor.pdf
Net Investment in Bonds – This pdf should include the net amount invested, issuing agency, issuance date, and how the investment is reported on the taxpayer’s balance sheet.	bondsecurity.pdf

Net Investment in Pollution Control – This pdf should include supporting documentation.	pollutioncontrol.pdf
Reserves In Alabama – This pdf should include the applicable law or regulation that establishes the taxpayer’s liability, computation of that liability, and identify the location of the plant, facility, mine or site in Alabama.	alabamareserves.pdf
Investment in Housing – The pdf should include the name of the project, the FEIN of the project, the site of the project, the net amount invested in the project and it must identify how the investments are reported on the taxpayer’s balance sheet.	housingproject.pdf
Enterprise Zone Credit – The pdf should include documentation from ADECA (Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Affairs) reporting the amount of credit the taxpayer is entitled to claim.	alenterprisecrdt.pdf
Consolidated Return Indicator is checked on Schedule G then a pdf worksheet that lists Form CPT information (lines 1-20 of page 2) for each member included in the financial institution group must be attached.	fininsconsol.pdf
CONDITIONAL : Form 41	BINARY ATTACHMENT TITLE
Line 7a, If taking a credit for income tax paid to another state.	OtherStateRtn.pdf
Line 7e, If claiming multiple composite payments please attach a list.	MultiplePmt.pdf
Line 7e, if claiming a composite payment a copy of the K-1s reporting the payment amounts must be attached.	CompositePmt.pdf
If Other Adjustments are reported on the Schedule A, then a pdf must be attached with detailed information explaining all adjustments.	OtherAdjustments.pdf
For all items reported on Schedule B, column B (Alabama Adjustments) please attach one pdf which clearly explains all computations for each item of income or deductions included in column B.	ALAdjustments.pdf
If a capital gain or loss is reported on Schedule B please include a pdf with a complete explanation and computation for the total amount of gains and losses reported, specifically identify those amounts not allocated to trust corpus.	ALCapGainOrLoss.pdf
If other income is reported on Schedule B, please attach a document listing the various sources of other income and the amounts.	OtherIncome.pdf
On Schedule K, if any nonresident beneficiary Alabama source income is reported then an attachment should be provided which includes the following information: detailed explanation and computation for the amount reported on this line as well as the entire amount of Alabama source income allocated to nonresident beneficiaries.	NonResALIncome.pdf

On Schedule K, if any nonresident non-beneficiary Alabama source income is reported then an attachment should be provided which includes the following information: detailed explanation and computation for the amount reported on this line as well as the entire amount of Alabama source income allocated to nonresident beneficiaries.	NonResNonALIncome.pdf
On Schedule K if depreciation is reported then a pdf must be attached with the following information: detailed explanation and computation for the amount reported on this line.	SchKDepreciation.pdf
On Schedule K, if Depletion is reported then a pdf must be attached with the following information: detailed explanation and computation for the amount reported on this line.	SchKDepletion.pdf
On Schedule K, if Amortization is reported then a pdf must be attached with the following information: detailed explanation and computation for the amount reported on this line.	SchKAmortization.pdf
For all K-1 Items a statement must be attached showing the beneficiary's share of income and directly apportioned deductions from each business, rental real estate, and other rental activity.	BeneficiaryShare.pdf
On the K-1 if nonresident beneficiary/grantor Alabama source income is reported please attach a document which includes the following: computation for the amount reported on this line as well as the entire amount of Alabama source income allocated to nonresident beneficiaries.	BenShareIncome.pdf
For any item reported on Part I of the Form NOL-F85 please attach one document listing the description and explanation of items claimed.	NonBusDeductions.pdf
On the K-1 if nonresident beneficiary/grantor non-Alabama source income is reported please attach a document which includes the following: computation for the amount reported on this line as well as the entire amount of Alabama source income allocated to nonresident beneficiaries.	NonResSourceIncome.pdf
If the Type of Entity is Bankruptcy Estate Ch.7 or Ch.11 then a copy of the Alabama Form 40 and Federal 1040 must be attached.	ALForm40.pdf and FedForm1040.pdf
Capital Credit – If claimed then the form KRCC must be attached	KRCC41.pdf

For all other binary attachments, the tax preparation software must provide the taxpayer the ability to enter a meaningful name. The following table provides a few examples of meaningful names.

CONDITIONAL: Forms 20C, 20CC, 20S, 65 and PTEC	BINARY ATTACHMENT TITLE
If the regulations require you to attach a merger agreement.	1120 Merger Agreement for XYZ Corporation or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
If required to attach a detailed schedule of Other Income.	OtherIncome.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
If required to attach a schedule of Other Property for Schedule C (Forms 20S/65).	SchedCOtherProperty.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
If required to attach a schedule of Other Property for Schedule D1 (Form 20C).	SchedD1OtherProperty.pdf or Statements.pdf if combined with other statements
If shareholder notes are more than 40 characters (20S/65 – K-1)	ShareholderNotes.pdf or K1Statements.pdf
If state notes are more than 20 characters (20S/65 K-1)	StateAdditionalInformation.pdf or K1Statements.pdf

CONDITIONAL : Forms CPT and PPT	BINARY ATTACHMENT TITLE
If required to attach a balance sheet.	balancesheet.pdf
If file a consolidated corporate tax return.	ConsolidatedIncome.pdf
If file a consolidated corporate tax return.	ConsolidatedBalance.pdf

Electronic Return Signature

(AL8453-B/AL8453-C/AL8453-FDT/AL8453-PTE):

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

Business Privilege Tax: The Corporation/Partnership (taxpayer) must designate an officer/partner responsible for signing the income tax return. **The officer/partner must sign and date the AL8453-B “Business Privilege Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing” to authorize 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 business privilege tax return is changed after the taxpayer has signed the Declaration, the taxpayer must sign a new declaration if the amounts differ.**

Corporate Tax: - The Corporation (taxpayer) must designate an officer/partner responsible for signing the income tax return. **The officer/partner must sign and date the AL8453-C “Corporate Income**

Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing” to authorize 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.**

Fiduciary Tax: The Fiduciary or Officer responsible for the Estate or Trust must sign the income tax return. **The Fiduciary/Officer must sign and date the AL8453-FDT “Fiduciary Income Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing” to authorize 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 fiduciary income tax return is changed after the taxpayer has signed the Declaration, the taxpayer must sign a new declaration if the amounts differ.**

Pass Through Tax: - The S-Corporation/Partnership (taxpayer) must designate an officer/partner responsible for signing the income tax return. **The officer/partner must sign and date the AL8453-PTE “S-Corporation/Partnership Income Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing” to authorize 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 an S-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-B/AL8453-C/ AL8453-FDT/AL8453-PTE must be completed and signed by all required parties. Do not submit this form to the Alabama Department of Revenue unless requested to do so. The ERO is required to retain a copy of this form along with an electronic copy of all returns, forms and schedules submitted for a period of three years from the due date of the return or the date the return was filed, whichever is later. If the need arises, the Department may request any of the documents, in writing, and the ERO must provide a copy of the document within five working days of the request.

Electronic Payment/Refund Options:

Corporate/Partnership taxpayers who file their 20C, 20CC, 20S, 65 and PTEC returns electronically must also pay the tax liability electronically. Forms CPT, PPT and 41 can elect to pay via check or electronically at this time.

*Any liability due should be remitted no later than the original due date of the return. For forms CPT, PPT and 41 payments of \$750 or more must be made electronically. Non-electronic Business Privilege Tax payments must be remitted with Form BPT-V. **DO NOT MAIL FORM BPT-V IF THE PAYMENT IS REMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.**

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT. Section 41-1-20 requires electronic payments for all single business tax payments of \$750 or more. Substantial penalties will be assessed for noncompliance.

The balance can be paid or refund received in the following ways:

1. Direct Debit/Direct deposit at the time of filing the electronic return through the Software Provider.
2. PAY THROUGH MAT, MY ALABAMA TAXES, ([HTTP://MYALABAMATAXES.ALABAMA.GOV](http://MYALABAMATAXES.ALABAMA.GOV))

In My Alabama Taxes (MAT), you can make a single payment for a specific account for a specific tax period. There is no limit to the number of payments that you can make in a single logon session.

MAT accepts payments in the form of ACH withdrawals from your bank account. Payments must be made from US banking institutions. AT THIS TIME MAT DOES NOT ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS.

3. Official Payments
https://www.officialpayments.com/pc_entry_standard.jsp?clientId=23636316302394527894597934066170040 The Department will accept electronic check (e-check) and credit/debit card payments through Official Payments Corporation on the Internet. Visit www.officialpayments.com/echeck. A convenience fee may be charged for the use of this service and will be automatically calculated, if applicable. The fee is based on the amount of the tax payment and is paid directly to Official Payments Corporation.

Business Privilege Tax: Return, Invoices, Assessments, Extensions: ePay: Credit Card, eCheck

Corporate Income Tax: ePay: Credit Card, eCheck

Pass-Thru Entities: ePay: Credit Card, eCheck

4. Value Payment Systems - <http://www.payaltax.com/>
The Department will accept credit and debit card payments through Value Payment Systems. Value Payment Systems does not accept the American Express card but has a program called BillMeLater. There is a convenience fee for this service. The fee is based on the amount of the tax payment and is paid directly to Value Payment Systems.

Corporate Income Tax: Return, Invoices, Assessments, Extensions: ePay: Credit Card (BillMeLater, Discover/Novus, MasterCard, Visa)

Pass-Thru Entities: Form 20S, Form 65, Form PTEC: Return, Invoices, Assessments, Extensions: ePay: Credit Card (BillMeLater, Discover/Novus, MasterCard, Visa)

Business Privilege : Return, Invoices, Assessments, Extensions: ePay: Credit Card (BillMeLater, Discover/Novus, MasterCard, Visa)

5. For those tax types not mandated to e-pay you can submit a paper check with a voucher. Please see requirement above*
 - a. PPT and CPT voucher (Form BPT-V): [click here](#)
 - b. 41 voucher (FDT-V): [click here](#)

6. ACH Credit: <http://revenue.alabama.gov/eft/eftindex.cfm>

The Department will allow taxpayers to use the ACH Credit payment method only if certain qualifying conditions are met. A taxpayer must request permission from the Department to use the ACH Credit method and submit a written request, accompanying the EFT001 form, which demonstrates the existence of a valid business operational reason for using the ACH Credit payment method in lieu of the ACH Debit payment method. Taxpayer requests to use the ACH Credit method will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A taxpayer who is already using the ACH Credit method to pay taxes for other states is deemed to have a valid business reason for using the ACH Credit method to make payments for Alabama taxes.

Acknowledgement Types:

The Department will generate an acknowledgement for all returns received. The acknowledgement record/XML schema format is included in this publication.

The Alabama acknowledgement types are:

1. ACCEPTED: This acknowledgement indicates the electronic return was received and successfully completed the pre-entry validation process. No further action is required regarding the transmission. **Any return not acknowledged by the Department as “accepted” is considered not filed.**

2. REJECTED: This acknowledgement indicates the electronic return was received and failed to successfully complete the pre-entry validation process. **The acknowledgement will contain an error rejection code number followed by a message indicating the error causing the rejection, or in the case of a schema validation error only the schema error message will be displayed.** The error conditions must be corrected and the return can then be re-transmitted as a “State-Only” return. If a rejection occurs on the due date of the return it will be considered timely filed if it is corrected and re-transmitted **within the 10 Calendar day perfection period.** Only after all attempts to correct the return and re-transmit have failed may the return be filed as a paper return. In order for the paper return to be considered timely it must be filed by the later of the due date of the return or ten (10) calendar days after the date Alabama gives notification the return is rejected. The paper return should include (1) an explanation of why the return is being filed after the due date, (2) a copy of the reject notification from Alabama to avoid late filing penalties and interest and (3) a signed copy of the AL8453-C in lieu of a signature on the paper return.

Returns prepared with software that is not approved by the Department will be rejected. Unless authorized by the taxpayer to discuss the return with the preparer, the Department will communicate directly with the taxpayer if additional information is needed to correct a return. EROs and transmitters will only be given limited information about the tax return, including acknowledgment of receipt by the Department through the IRS and the reason for any processing delay. See AL4165PTE, AL4165F, AL4165C and AL4165B for Alabama Error Reject Codes. Also see the business rules document for field length specifications and other business rules including **Validation Error Codes** and descriptions on the department’s web site at <http://revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/corpefilemain.cfm>.

EROs and Transmitters should allow 5 business days to receive the State acknowledgement before contacting the Department.

Error Categories:

All MeF business rules are divided into 12 error categories. The first eight categories validate the XML data:

1. Missing Document – a tax return document is required but was not included in the tax return.
2. Data Mismatch – the data in two fields should be the same but is not. For example, if MultiSateCorpPercentage is checked on AL Form 20C, Lines 1-14 should be blank; Line 15 (StateIncomeTax) shall equal Schedule D-2 Line 4 (TaxDueOnGrossReceipts). If MultiSateCorpPercentage is checked and StateIncomeTax is not equal to TaxDueOnGrossReceipts then you will receive error message: MultiSateCorpPercentage was checked, Lines 1-14 should be blank and Line 15 (StateIncomeTax) shall equal Schedule D-2 Line 4 (TaxDueOnGrossReceipts).
3. Duplicate Condition – the tax return or the transmission file was previously received and accepted by the Department.
4. Math Error – results when a computation is incorrect.
5. Incorrect Data – data violates a business rule even though it is syntactically correct. That is, the data values for elements must conform to the format specified and the data type. Also, the data values for elements must contain only values allowed for them in the schema.
6. Missing Data – data is not provided for a required field.
7. Database Validation Error – data provided does not match the IRS database or the data provided should be present in the IRS database but is not. (e.g. the SoftwareID in the Return Header must be listed in the MeF database and in accepted status.)
8. XML Error – the data violates Schema specification. The return and transmission documents must conform to the version of the XML schema they specify.
9. System Error – a return encounters a problem with the IRS systems that prevents the return from being processed electronically.
10. Unsupported – a submitted item(s) is sent to a location that does not accept it or an unusual condition is encountered in the data.

Schemas / Transmission Specifications

Schemas

The Department will use the TIGERS overall schema structures for the return and the schemas for common components such as headers and binary attachments developed by various states in partnership with the IRS and Software Developers. Each state develops data content schemas based on the state's own forms, schedules, and worksheets. Alabama's forms based schemas can be found at <http://revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/corpefilemain.cfm>.

There are schemas for each return type that can be transmitted to the Department. There are also business rules documents for each return:

ALCPT	AL_CPT_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas)
	AL_CPT_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls

ALPPT	AL_PPT_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_PPT_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL20C	AL_20C_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_20C_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL20CC	AL_20CC_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_20CC_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL20S	AL_20S_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_20S_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL65	AL_65_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_65_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
ALPTEC	AL_PTEC_BusinessReturnDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_PTEC_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL41	AL_41_EstateTrustDataState.xsd (with forms schemas) AL_41_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls

THE SCHEMAS FOR ALL ALABAMA RETURNS WILL BE INCLUDED IN ONE ZIP FILE. THE ZIP FILE WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

DIRECTORY STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS:

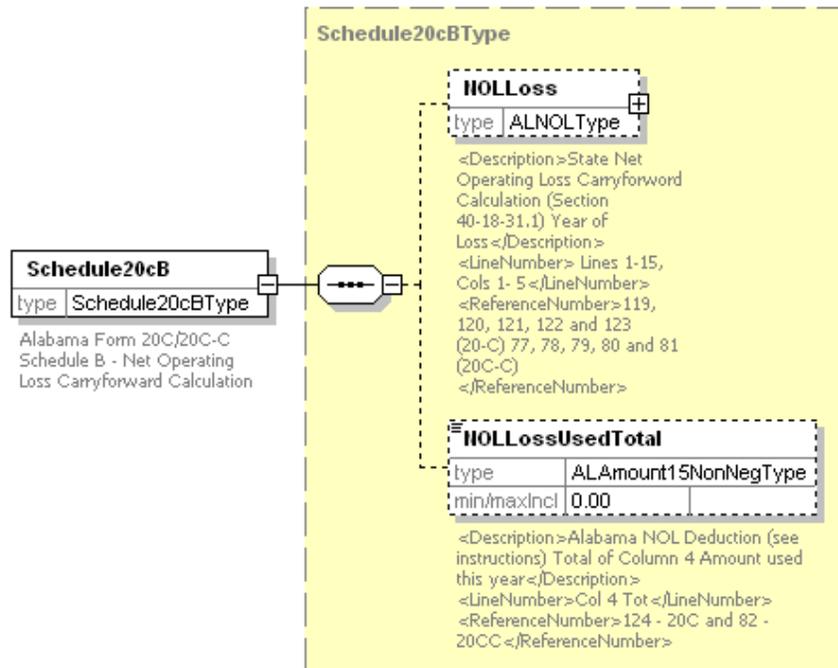
\\ALBusiness2014V1.0\Common	Contain the xsd files that make up the Common Schema set as issued by FTA/TIGERS.
\\ALBusiness2014V1.0\StateBusiness	Contain the return structure for each type of Business filing as issued by FTA/TIGERS.
\\ALBusiness2014V1.0\ALCommon	Contain the xsd files common to the Alabama returns.
\\ALBusiness2014V1.0\ALBusiness	Contain the xsd files specific to the Alabama Forms 20C, 20CC, CPT, PPT, 20S, 65, and PTE-C
\\ALBusiness2014V1.0\ALBusiness\ALForms	Contain the xsd files for the forms and schedules related to the Alabama Forms 20C, 20CC, CPT, PPT, 20S, 65, and PTE-C.
\\ALEstateTrust2014V1.0\Common	Contain the xsd files that make up the Common Schema set as issued by FTA/TIGERS.
\\ALEstateTrust2014V1.0\StateEstateTrust	Contain the return structure for each type of Fiduciary filing as issued by FTA/TIGERS.
\\ALEstateTrust2014V1.0\ALCommon	Contain the xsd files common to the Alabama Fiduciary Returns.
\\ALEstateTrust2014V1.0\ALEstateTrust	Contain the xsd files specific to the Alabama Form 41.

VALEstateTrust2014V1.0\ALEstateTrust\ALForms Contain the xsd files for the forms and schedules related to the Alabama Form 41.

Annotations

Each Alabama return schema includes annotations for each element indicating the description of the element, Schedule and Line numbers on the return, and reference numbers to the Business Rules Spreadsheet.

Example from BusinessReturnAL20C.xsd/ Schedule20cB.xsd:



Generated by XMLSpy

www.altova.com

Software developers should apply data from the spreadsheet or tax forms to the appropriate data element from the XML schema.

All XML data must be well formed.

Special Characters

DECIMAL PLACES FOR RATIOS AND PERCENTAGES:

Ratios and percentages will use one position in front of the decimal and up to 6 decimal places.

Examples: 100% = 1.000000
37.3% = 0.37300

All dollar amounts should be reported in whole dollars. Please see the below regulation for specific rules.

810-3-40-.02 Whole Dollar Reporting.

(1) Whole Dollar Reporting Mandatory. Effective December 31, 1998, all tax forms, declarations, statements or other documents submitted to the Individual and Corporate Tax Division shall be completed using whole dollar amounts only.

(2) Rounding to Nearest Whole Dollar Amount. Amounts of 49 cents or less shall be rounded down to the nearest whole dollar amount. Amounts of 50 to 99 cents shall be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar amount.

Author: Judy A. Robbins
Authority: §§40-2A-7(a)(5) and 40-18-40, Code of Alabama 1975
History: New rule: Filed May 3, 2000, effective June 7, 2000.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS:

Many business names include special characters such as the ampersand “&”. The ampersand is strictly illegal inside an XML element and will generate an error. Illegal XML Characters must be replaced by entity references.

There are 5 predefined entity references in XML:

<	<	less than
>	>	greater than
&	&	ampersand
'	'	Apostrophe
"	"	quotation mark

Note: Only the characters "<" and "&" are strictly illegal in XML. Apostrophes, quotation marks and greater than signs are legal, but it is a good habit to replace them.

For example: The following example for “Pack & Move Incorporated” would create an XML error:

```
<HdrName>  
  <CorporationName>  
    <BusinessNameLine1>PACK & MOVE INCORPORATED</BusinessNameLine1>  
  </CorporationName>  
</HdrName>
```

The following is a valid XML statement for “Pack & Move Incorporated”:

```
<HdrName>  
  <CorporationName>  
    <BusinessNameLine1>PACK & MOVE INCORPORATED</BusinessNameLine1>  
  </CorporationName>  
</HdrName>
```

Version Control for Schemas and Business Rules

Each tax return transmission file, and acknowledgement file has a corresponding XML schema and a respective set of business rules that are used to validate the filed tax return. Each XML transmission file schema, XML schema, and business rule document has a separate version number. It is important to note the following principles regarding version numbers:

The transmission file's schema version (number) and the tax return(s) schema version number may be different. The tax return's schema version number and its associated business rule number will be the same. This ensures that a set of rules enforce the appropriate schema version.

Each business rule document's version number identifies the version of the business rule. The version number on the set of rules dictates the schemas for which the rules are enforced and the version number on the schemas dictates which rules should be invoked for that schema version.

The "Active Validating Schema Version" specifies the business rule and schema version that will be used to validate a tax return that has been received by the IRS during a timeframe. This provides a mechanism for different versions to be accepted at the same time. It also enables an older version to be validated against a newer version's set of schemas and business rules. The IRS will publish all valid schema/business rule versions and the versions that will be used to valid it.

VERSION NUMBERING SCHEME:

The version number includes the tax year for which the schema and business rule document applies (YYYY), the version initial (v), and the four-digit version number (NN.NN). Note: The version initial is case sensitive. The version number of MeF business rules that are invoked for the MeF XML schemas will always have the same version number as the schema version, thereby, providing a mechanism that aligns the various versions of schemas with their applicable business rules. The structure of the version number and a few examples are given below:

AL 2014v1.0
AL 2014v1.1
AL 2015v1.0
AL 2015v1.1

The version number will change with each new tax year and each tax year's subsequent changes. New versions are generated with changes to the tax return's XML schema structure, content, and business rules. These changes will increase the version number when the new version is published. Major changes will increase the left digit and minor changes increase the right digit. This includes the following:

- A new tax year. The tax year part of the version number will change with each subsequent tax year and the version number is reset to 1.0.
- Additions, deletions, and updates to a schema's data elements. This includes any schema modification to a form and/or attachment. Even if the tax return's business rules were not affected by the additions, deletions, and updates to the tax return's schemas, the business rule's version number will be changed to maintain the alignment between the MeF schemas and the applicable business rules.
- Additions and deletions to the business rules. Even if the business rule change(s) did not affect the tax return's schema, the tax return's schema version will be changed to maintain the alignment between the tax return's schema and the applicable business rules. The valid versions for all MeF tax return schemas and business rules may differ since each tax return represents a separate schema-business rules combination. A schema and/or business rule change to a tax return may not affect another tax return. In this case, the other tax return types may not need to be changed.

How does MeF use Versions?

The return data shall contain the return version used to compose it. The IRS shall publish the schema

version that will be used to validate the return, called 'active validating schema version', at any point in time during the processing year. The returns can be filed using any published schema version. They will be validated against the 'active validating schema version' at the time the return is processed. If the return data conforms to the rules enforced by the 'active validating schema version', it will be accepted.

Expected Values:

EXPECTED VALUES FOR SUBMISSION TYPES IN STATE MANIFEST:

Form CPT Returns:	CPT
Form PPT Returns:	PPT
Form 20CC Returns:	20CC
Form 20C Returns:	20C
Form 20S Returns:	20S
Form 65 Returns:	65
Form PTE-C Returns:	PTEC
Form 41 Returns:	41

EXPECTED VALUES FOR SUBMISSION CATEGORY IN STATE MANIFEST:

Form CPT Returns:	CORP
Form PPT Returns:	PART
Form 20C Returns:	CORP
Form 20CC Returns:	CORP
Form 20S Returns:	CORP
Form 65 Returns:	PART
Form PTE-C Returns:	CORP/PART- based on if the Entity Type is SubChapterK-PART, 20S-CORP
Form 41 Returns:	ESTRST

Income Tax Form Specifications

For complete form specifications for all tax types please refer to the Business Rules documents and schemas for complete details, validations and error codes. The business rules documents are located on our website at <http://revenue.alabama.gov/incometax/corpefilemain.cfm>. Also listed are Publication AL 4165BPT, AL4165PTE, AL4165F and AL4165C Error Reject Codes for each form.

Business Rule Documents by form type:

ALCPT	AL_CPT_BusinessRules 2015v1.0.xls
ALPPT	AL_PPT_BusinessRules 2015v1.0.xls
AL20C	AL_20C_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL20CC	AL_20CC_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL20S	AL_20S_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL65	AL_65_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
ALPTEC	AL_PTEC_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls
AL41	AL_41_BusinessRules 2014v1.0.xls