

# Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

July 9, 2004

## ADOR Regulation Sets Stage for Increased E-filing in 2005

*Montgomery*— The 2004 individual income tax filing season closed with over 740,000 Alabama households electronically filing their annual individual income tax returns, but in January 2005 when the tax-filing season officially gets underway, the ADOR hopes to see state e-filing numbers increase even more.

“Building on the success of the IRS e-file program, the Free File Alliance, and the support of Alabama’s tax practitioner community, our state e-file numbers have significantly increased with each filing season,” said ADOR Commissioner Tom Surtees, “and in 2005 we look forward to even greater participation.”

The ADOR will rely on a newly-implemented regulation to drive state e-file numbers up next filing season. Administrative Rule 810-3-27-.09, effective July 9, 2004, directs certain tax preparers and practitioners who use tax preparation software to electronically file their clients’ returns.

Specifically, the new ADOR regulation directs tax preparers who prepared 250 or more Alabama individual income tax returns during 2004 or who expect to prepare 100 or more returns during 2005 to electronically file their clients’ current year tax returns, beginning Jan. 1, 2005. The e-filing mandate threshold is decreased to 50 or more returns, beginning Jan. 1, 2006.

Although the ADOR is committed to advancing the use of electronic filing, the new ADOR regulation adopts a measured approach to mandatory e-file, according to Surtees.

“The taxpayer still makes the final decision regarding his or her filing choice—electronic or paper filing. Additionally, if for some reason, an electronically-prepared return cannot be filed or electronically transmitted by the tax preparer, then a paper return can be prepared even if the preparer meets the e-filing requirement.

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“Our filing statistics indicate that Alabama taxpayers have become more and more comfortable with electronic filing. Once they try e-filing, they never seem to go back to paper-filing,” explained Surtees.

For more information concerning ADOR’s electronic filing programs, visit the department’s Web site at [www.ador.state.al.us](http://www.ador.state.al.us).

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