



Rhode Island Department of Revenue Division of Taxation

ADV 2016-22
ELECTRONIC FILING

ADVISORY FOR TAX PROFESSIONALS
NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Annual e-file production shutdown and switchover is November 30 *That is when Rhode Island will stop accepting e-filed returns for tax year 2015*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation’s annual electronic filing shutdown and switchover will occur on November 30, 2016.

Each year, the Division temporarily closes its system to e-filing in order to prepare the system for the upcoming filing season. The Internal Revenue Service, and many other states, follow the same practice. This year, the Rhode Island modernized e-file (MeF) shutdown and cutover will occur on Wednesday, November 30, the same date as the IRS’s.

Schedule for annual e-file production shutdown and switchover November 30, 2016	
<i>Transmission of:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
E-filed personal and business returns*	Transmitters must submit before 10:00 a.m.**
Acknowledgements	Transmitting ends at 11:30 a.m.**

* Rhode Island resident and nonresident Form RI-1040, Form RI-1120C, Form RI-1120S, and Form RI-1065 for tax year 2015 (including fiscal year returns). ** Eastern Time. Note: E-filing resumes in January 2017, but only for tax year 2016 Rhode Island returns.

Transmission schedule

To ensure that all e-filed Rhode Island returns for tax year 2015 on Form RI-1040, Form RI-1120C, Form RI-1120S, and Form RI-1065 are processed in a timely manner, transmitters must abide by the schedule.

All e-filed returns for tax year 2015 will have a transmission deadline of 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. To avoid any last-minute logjams, preparers and taxpayers should get their electronic submissions to their transmitters well in advance of the deadline.

For e-file purposes, Rhode Island accepts only current-year returns. Thus, November 30, 2016, is the deadline for e-filing Rhode Island personal and business tax returns for the 2015 tax year.

When the switchover is complete and the Division of Taxation reopens to e-filing in January 2017, it will be only for returns for the 2016 tax year.

Fiscal year filers

The Tax Division’s current-year e-filing rule means that some fiscal-year filers can e-file, but only if they are willing to e-file early.

For example, a C corporation with a fiscal year ended September 30, 2016, waiting to the original due date in December 2016 to file will have to file a paper return – but that entity can e-file instead if willing to file early (by the November 30, 2016, shutdown and switchover date).

How annual e-file production shutdown affects some fiscal year filers		
<i>Fiscal year end:</i>	<i>Original due date:</i>	<i>E-file by:</i>
August 31, 2016	November 2016	By November 30, 2016
September 30, 2016	December 2016	By November 30, 2016
October 31, 2016	January 2017	By November 30, 2016
November 30, 2016	February 2017	N/A

Reminder: Computer conversion, limited service today

The third phase of the Rhode Island Division of Taxation’s changeover to a new agency-wide computer system continues today, November 14, 2016.

The Division of Taxation, at One Capitol Hill in Providence, will remain open during normal business hours while the computer system conversion occurs, and many services will continue to be available. For example, the agency’s website and email system will remain fully functional, payments will be received, and electronically filed tax returns will be received and acknowledged.

However, a number of services will not be available during the conversion, mainly because the old computer systems and the new system will be tied up with the changeover. For example, during the changeover period, the Division will be unable to issue letters of good standing, unable to release license and registration blocks, and unable to check on a taxpayer’s account balance.

A table on the following page shows some of the services that will continue to be available, and some that will not be available, during the computer changeover period.

Please note: All services will resume in full at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

[Please see table on following page.]

Division of Taxation services for computer conversion period Nov. 7 through Nov. 14

<i>Services available:</i>	<i>Services <u>not</u> available:</i>
Office remains open, sections remain open	Issuing letters of good standing
Phones, emails answered (for general information only, not account-specific)	Releasing license blocks
Letters and other deliveries received by Division	Releasing registration blocks
Payments received by Division (credit card, debit card, ACH debit, ACH credit, checks)	Releasing Collections liens and levies
Employer Tax section (includes state unemployment insurance, TDI)	Checking on taxpayer account status, history
E-filed tax returns received, acknowledged	Answering taxpayer-specific inquiries
Paper-filed tax returns received	Issuing liquor license certificate of good standing
Requests for forms, instructions accepted	
General questions answered	
Website, including online services, open	
Audits and examinations continue	
Division accepting new business registrations (but not issuing permits or licenses)	
Hearings held, legal papers received	

- Conversion period started November 7, 2016, and continues through today, November 14, 2016.
- Office will be open, but services limited, today.
- Requests to release estate tax liens will continue to be processed as usual.
- Acknowledgements of discharges of liens related to sale of Rhode Island real estate by nonresidents will continue as usual.
- Cashier window will be open and can accept payment by check or cash. Payments should be accompanied by appropriate payment coupon.
- During conversion period, there will be general processing delays in areas including billing and refunds due to need to change over computer systems.
- All services resume in full tomorrow, November 15, 2016.
- The list above is not all-inclusive. For more information, call (401) 574-8829. Division is open to public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days.