

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



IRS Delay in 6055 and 6056 Reporting for 2017

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), individuals are required to have health insurance, while applicable large employers (ALEs) are required to offer health benefits to their full-time employees. In order for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to verify that (1) individuals have the required minimum essential coverage, (2) individuals who request premium tax credits are entitled to them, and (3) ALEs are meeting their shared responsibility (play or pay) obligations, employers with 50 or more full-time or full-time equivalent employees and insurers will be required to report on the health coverage they offer. Final instructions for the [1094-B and 1095-B](#) and the [1094-C and 1095-C](#) forms were released in September 2016, as were the final forms for [1094-B](#), [1095-B](#), [1094-C](#), and [1095-C](#). The reporting requirements are in Sections 6055 and 6056 of the ACA.

Reporting was first due in 2016, based on coverage in 2015. Reporting in 2017 will be based on coverage in 2016. All reporting will be for the calendar year, even for non-calendar year plans.

On November 18, 2016, the IRS issued Notice 2016-70, delaying the reporting deadlines in 2017 for the 1095-B and 1095-C forms to individuals. **There is no delay for the 1094-C and 1094-B forms, or for forms due to the IRS.**

Original Deadlines	Delayed Deadlines
<p>DUE TO THE IRS: The 1094-C, 1095-C, 1094-B, and 1095-B forms were originally due to the IRS by February 28, if filing on paper, or March 31, if filing electronically.</p>	<p>Deadline to the IRS for all forms remains the same.</p>
<p>DUE TO EMPLOYEES: The 1095-C form was due to employees by January 31, of the year following the year to which the Form 1095-C relates.</p>	<p>DUE TO EMPLOYEES: The 1095-C form is now due to employees by March 2, 2017.</p>
<p>DUE TO INDIVIDUALS/EMPLOYEES: The 1095-B form was due to the individual identified as the “responsible individual” on the form by January 31.</p>	<p>DUE TO INDIVIDUALS/EMPLOYEES: The 1095-B form is now due to the individual identified as the “responsible individual” on the form by March 2, 2017.</p>

Good Faith Effort

The IRS reiterated that for 2016 year reporting, relief is available to employers who make a good faith effort to comply with the information reporting requirements and they will not be subject to penalties for failure to correctly or completely file. This does not apply to employers that fail to timely file or furnish a statement.

Extension Process

Generally, an automatic 30-day extension (for forms due to the IRS) will be given to entities by filing Form 8809, and no signature or explanation is needed. Form 8809 must be filed by the due date of returns in order to be granted the 30-day extension. Waivers may be requested with Form 8508, and are due at least 45 days before the due date of the information returns. This extension relates to the deadline to provide the IRS with the forms, not providing individuals with the forms.

Because the transition relief outlined in Notice 2016-70 only relates to the forms for individuals, employers can still apply for extensions of time for filing returns to the IRS. Formal applications for extensions of time to provide individuals with forms will not receive responses because of the uniform extension given by Notice 2016-70.

Employers that have difficulty meeting the extended reporting deadlines are encouraged to file late, as the IRS will take late filing into consideration when determining whether to reduce or abate penalties for reasonable causes.

Impact on Individuals

The IRS has determined that individual taxpayers may be affected by the extension, as employees are not eligible for the premium tax credit for any month, which an employee is eligible for an employer plan that provides minimum value, affordable coverage.

Taxpayers may rely on other information received from employers about their offers of coverage for purposes of determining eligibility for the premium tax credit when filing their income tax returns need not amend their returns once they receive their Form 1095-C or any corrected Form 1095-C. Individuals do not need to send this information to the IRS when filing their returns, but should keep it with their tax records.

The extensions of due dates provided in the Notice apply only to Section 6055 and Section 6056 information returns and statements for calendar year 2016 filed and furnished in 2017 and do not require the submission of any request or other documentation to the IRS.

11/18/2016

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