

IN THIS ISSUE:

- This issue is devoted to important dates pertaining to the ACA reporting deadlines.
-

Upcoming ACA Reporting Deadlines

Affordable Care Act (ACA) reporting under Section 6055 and Section 6056 for the 2018 calendar year is due in early 2019. Specifically, reporting entities must:

- File returns with the IRS by **Feb. 28, 2019** (or **April 1, 2019**, if filing electronically, since March 31, 2019, is a Sunday); and
- Furnish statements to individuals by **March 4, 2019**.

Originally, individual statements were due by Jan. 31, 2019. However, on Nov. 29, 2018, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued [Notice 2018-94](#) to extend the furnishing deadline by 32 days. Notice 2018-94 does not extend the due date for filing forms with the IRS for 2018.

Action Steps

Despite the delay, the IRS is encouraging reporting entities to furnish statements as soon as they are able. No request or other documentation is required to take advantage of the extended deadline.

Section 6055 and 6056 Reporting

Sections 6055 and 6056 were added to the Internal Revenue Code (Code) by the ACA.

- Section 6055 applies to providers of minimum essential coverage (MEC), such as health insurance issuers and employers with self-insured health plans. These entities will generally use Forms 1094-B and 1095-B to report information about the coverage they provided during the previous year.
- Section 6056 applies to applicable large employers (ALEs)—generally, those employers with 50 or more full-time employees, including full-time equivalents, in the previous year. ALEs will

use Forms 1094-C and 1095-C to report information relating to the health coverage that they offer (or do not offer) to their full-time employees.

Generally, forms must be filed with the IRS annually, no later than **February 28 (March 31, if filed electronically)** of the year following the calendar year to which the return relates. In addition, reporting entities must also furnish statements annually to each individual who is provided MEC (under Section 6055), and each of the ALE's full-time employees (under Section 6056). Individual statements are generally due on or before **January 31** of the year immediately following the calendar year to which the statements relate.



Extended Furnishing Deadline

The IRS has again determined that some employers, insurers and other providers of MEC need additional time to gather and analyze the information, and prepare 2018 Forms 1095-B and 1095-C to be furnished to individuals. As a result, Notice 2018-94 provides **an additional 32 days** for furnishing the 2018 Form 1095-B and Form 1095-C, extending the due date from Jan. 31, 2019, to March 4, 2019. The extended deadline is March 4, rather than March 2 as in prior years, because March 2, 2019, is a Saturday.

Despite the delay, employers and other coverage providers are encouraged to furnish 2018 statements to individuals as soon as they are able.

Filers are not required to submit any request or other documentation to the IRS to take advantage of the extended furnishing due date provided by Notice 2018-94. Because this extended furnishing deadline applies automatically to all reporting entities, the IRS will not grant additional extensions of time of up to 30 days to furnish Forms 1095-B and 1095-C. As a result, the IRS will not formally respond to any requests that have already been submitted for 30-day extensions of time to furnish statements for 2018.

Filing Deadline

The IRS has determined that there is no need for additional time for employers, insurers and other providers of MEC to file 2018 forms with the IRS. Therefore, Notice 2018-94 does not extend the due date for filing Forms 1094-B, 1095-B, 1094-C or 1095-C with the IRS for 2018. This due date remains:

- **Feb. 28, 2019**, if filing on paper; or
- **April 1, 2019**, if filing electronically (since March 31, 2019, is a Sunday).

Because the due dates are unchanged, potential automatic extensions of time for filing information returns are still available under the normal rules by submitting a Form 8809. The notice also does not affect the rules regarding additional extensions of time to file under certain hardship conditions.

Employers or other coverage providers that do not meet the due dates for filing and furnishing (as extended under the rules described above) under Sections 6055 and 6056 are subject to penalties under Section 6722 or Section 6721 for failure to furnish and file on time. **However, employers and other coverage providers that do not meet the relevant due dates should still furnish and file.** The IRS will take this into consideration when determining whether to abate penalties for reasonable cause.

Impact on Individuals

Because of the extended furnishing deadline, some individual taxpayers may not receive a Form 1095-B or Form 1095-C by the time they are ready to file their 2018 tax returns. Taxpayers may rely

on other information received from their employer or other coverage provider for purposes of filing their returns, including determining eligibility for an Exchange subsidy and confirming that they had MEC for purposes of the individual mandate.

Taxpayers do not need to wait to receive Forms 1095-B and 1095-C before filing their 2018 returns. In addition, individuals do not need to send the information they relied upon to the IRS when filing their returns, but should keep it with their tax records.

Contact us today to learn about our ACA compliance and reporting services and how we can help you navigate these challenging requirements.

Find Us on Social Media

USEBSG is a division of U.S. Retirement & Benefits Partners. Follow us on social media for industry and company news.



U.S. Employee Benefits Services Group (USEBSG) is the nation's largest independent Employee Benefits firm, providing educational, governmental, corporate and non-profit employers and their employees with comprehensive benefits programs and services.

At USEBSG, we deliver the information and tools you need to simplify the administration of your benefits program. Our technology and consulting capabilities lead the industry. With dedicated leadership and innovative thinking, we've created a new standard in employee benefits administration. Call us today and let us show you how.

Find an office near you at www.usebsg.com.

U.S. Retirement & Benefits Partners U.S. Employee Benefits Services Group

National Office:

99 Wood Avenue So., Suite 501

Iselin, NJ 08830

Ph: (866) 631-8844

The articles and opinions are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. Nothing in this publication shall be construed as providing investment counseling or directing employees to participate in any investment program in any way. Please consult your financial advisor or other appropriate professional for further assistance with regard to your individual situation.

© 2018 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.

Powered by U.S. Retirement & Benefits Partners

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)