February 25, 2004

Publication 1346 Part I – File Specification Changes #9

The changes are identified by two vertical bars in the right margin (||).
Deletions are identified by a hyphen followed by two vertical bars (-||).

These changes are effective immediately.

Section 3 – Acknowledgement File Format

        Subsection 4(e)(1) – How to Batch and Match Returns with Ack Files
        was revised. Subsequent numbers were changed.

Section 3 – Acknowledgment File Format

.04 How to Batch and Match Returns with Acknowledgment Files

    e. CAUTION:

    (1) If using FTP, XMODEM-CRC, XMODEM Checksum, XMODEM-1k, ||
    up to 50 Acknowledgment files are sent in separate files. ||
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    -|
    -|
    -|

    (2) If using YMODEM-Batch, up to 50 Acknowledgment Files are
        sent as separate files within the transmission. Block
        zero ("0") identifies the filename. Data is transmitted
        starting in Block one ("1") up to Block "255" and then rolls
        to Block "0". The last block for the file is padded with
        "Ctrl Z" characters. The next transmission packet should
        be the End of Transmission (EOT) character (ASCII – "cntl d").
        If there is another file, the next block, Block "0" will
        contain the next filename. Otherwise a Block "0" without a
        filename will be followed by the EOT character.

    (3) If using ZMODEM, Acknowledgment Files are sent as separate   -|
        files within the transmission, with "zfile" and "eof"
        in between each file, with a "zfin" at the end of all files.
        Filer's software should read for the "zfile" and "eof" and
        store the file under the IRS File Name in the directory for
        each ACK File within the ACK transmission. The Front-End
        Processing System is set to overwrite when sending ACK Files.

    (4) Sometimes transmitters will use a different protocol if they
        are having problems with one. **Transmitter's software must be**
        flexible to handle the above rules when various file transfer
        protocols might be used in order to parse their individual ACK
        files properly for correct storage in their directories.
        Otherwise, transmitters may not realize they have received more
        than one ACK file and store multiples under one of the ACK File
        Names.

    f. ETD Batching and Matching

        The ETD batching and Acknowledgment File processing follow the
        same patterns as 1040 returns.