

Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release
Sept. 2, 2003

Alabama Business Taxpayers to File “Paperless” Returns in November

*ADOR Implements New Paperless Filing Program for State
Sales, Use, Lodgings, and Rental Taxpayers*

Montgomery, Sept. 2, 2003—October 1 marks a new fiscal year for the Alabama Department of Revenue, but even more importantly, according to State Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle, October 1 marks a milestone in the department’s customer service area by opening the door to a new way of doing business.

Business taxpayers filing state and local sales, lodgings, use, and rental tax returns with the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) will no longer file “paper” returns, beginning with the October 2003 return, due Nov. 20, 2003.

Business taxpayers will choose either to file their taxes electronically using the Internet or file their taxes by telephone using the department’s new telephone-based filing system.

Both business tax-filing systems are free to filers. There are no filing or transaction fees that must be paid before a return is electronically filed, and, according to Carlisle, since the telephone-based filing system is accessed by a 1-800 telephone number, no long-distance service charges apply to filers who prefer the telephone-based filing system over the Internet-based filing system.

“This move to a paperless filing system totally changes the way we do business on a daily basis within the ADOR,” said Carlisle. “Our ultimate goal is to implement a paperless filing system for all business taxes administered by the ADOR; however, right now we are concentrating on the most commonly filed business tax returns—state sales, lodgings, seller’s use, consumer’s use, and rental tax returns, as well as local tax returns for state-administered city and county sales, lodgings, seller’s use, consumer’s use, and rental

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taxes. The bottom line will be significant cost-savings for both the ADOR and the business taxpayer, coupled with easier tax return filing and payment processes," said Carlisle.

The first state and local business tax returns filed under the new paperless filing system will be the October 2003 returns due Nov. 20, 2003. For tax reporting periods beginning after October 1, the ADOR will no longer accept paper-filed returns for certain business taxes, unless prior approval is given by the ADOR.

Charles McDonald, president of the Alabama Retail Association, whose membership represents Alabama's retail business community, supports the ADOR's paperless filing initiative. "Paperless filing will make the tax paying process easier, more efficient, and more economical for the taxpayer. Ultimately, it will save both the state and the filer precious bottom-line dollars."

For more information concerning ADOR's paperless filing system for business taxes, contact the department's Sales, Use and Business Tax Division at (334) 242-1490 or visit the department's Web site at www.ador.state.al.us.

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