

2014 Tax Season to Open Jan. 31

The Internal Revenue Service has announced plans to open the 2014 filing season on Jan. 31. The new opening date for individuals to file their 2013 tax returns will allow the IRS adequate time to program and test its tax processing systems. The annual process for updating IRS systems saw significant delays in October following the 16-day federal government closure.

“Our teams have been working hard throughout the fall to prepare for the upcoming tax season,” IRS Acting Commissioner Danny Werfel said. “The late January opening gives us enough time to get things right with our programming, testing and systems validation. It’s a complex process, and our bottom-line goal is to provide a smooth filing and refund process for the nation’s taxpayers.”



This does not mean you cannot organize your papers and come into our office for an appointment. It does mean that your returns cannot be transmitted to the IRS before January, 31 2014. This in turn means the IRS will not be sending out refunds until around a week after the tax season starts. Most tax software companies are expected to begin accepting tax returns in January and hold those returns until the IRS systems open on Jan. 31.

The IRS cautioned that it will not process any tax returns before Jan. 31, so there is no advantage to filing on paper before the opening date. Taxpayers will receive their tax refunds much faster by using electronic filing.

The April 15 tax deadline is set by statute and will remain in place. However, the IRS reminds taxpayers that anyone can request an automatic six-month extension to file their tax return. The request is easily done with Form 4868, which can be filed electronically or on paper.

IRS systems, applications and databases must be updated annually to reflect tax law updates, business process changes and programming updates in time for the start of the filing season.