



What's New at SSA.....and What's Old Too!

Tyrone Benefield

Employer Services Liaison Officer
Social Security New York Region

Topics

◆ What's New

- Tax Relief Eliminated
- Taxable Wage Base Increase
- No Match Letters
- Elimination of TNEV
- Improvements to W2 Online
- AWR Redesign

Topics

◆ Puerto Rico

- W-2 Online for 2013
- W-2s to Hacienda must be sent electronically
- EFW2 Compatible
- Hacienda Customer Service # (787) 722-0216 option #7
- http://www.hacienda.gobierno.pr/downloads/pdf/publicaciones/PUBLICATION_13-05.pdf

Topics

◆ What's Not New

- Randomization of Numbers
- Business Services Online
- Verification of SSNs
- Info you need to know

2013 Social Security Changes

- For 2013, the employee tax rate for social security is back up to 6.2%
- Social Security taxable wage base for 2014 is \$117,000.00 (There is no limit on the amount of wages subject to the Medicare tax)

Trivia

The Most Misused Social
Security Number of All
Time ?

078-05-1120



Mrs. Whitcher compares the Social Security card "issued by Woolworth" with her own real card of the same number.

Mrs. Hilda Schrader Whitcher



No Match Letters

- “Group” letters - Educational Correspondence - Code V (EDCOR)
 - No longer sent to employers - permanently
- Individual letters sent if the reported name/SSN on a W-2 do not match SSA’s records (DECOR)
 - Temporary Suspension
 - Letters sent to employees with good addresses
 - Letters sent to the employer when the individual’s address is unavailable
 - Letters sent to Self-Employed individuals

Randomization of Social Security Numbers

- Started June 2011
- SSN no longer issue based on geographical area
- SSA no longer will use the concept of the High Group List
- Issue numbers starting with “8”
- Issue all numbers that start with “7”

Other Changes

- Telephone Number Employer Verification (TNEV) Service discontinued
- Redesigned Employer website

Accuware Issues

- Downloading with Internet Explorer
- Alternative Browsers – Google Chrome, Fire Fox, Safari
- Informational Edits
- Employer e-mail address requirement



Social Security

The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

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www.ssa.gov

POPULAR SERVICES

NEW Get your benefit verification letter online

NEW Get your *Social Security Statement* online

[Get or replace a Social Security card](#)

[Apply online for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits](#)

[Appeal a disability decision online](#)

[File W-2s for your employees online](#)

[Get Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs](#)

[Apply for SSI, survivors or family benefits](#)

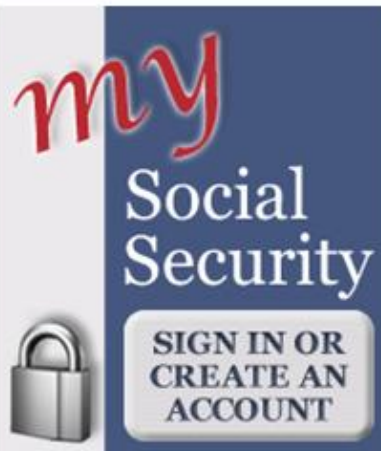
[Estimate your retirement benefits](#)

[Complete a Representative Payee Report](#)

[Check your application status](#)

[Services for people currently receiving benefits](#)

[Learn everything you can do online](#)



Learn what you can do online!

- Apply for benefits
- Estimate your future benefits
- Create an online account

1 2 3 4

INFORMATION FOR

[Attorneys & Representatives](#)
[Congress](#)
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[Wounded Warriors](#)

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USEFUL LINKS

[Name Changes](#)
[Office Closings/Emergencies](#)
[Report Fraud or ID Theft](#)
[Work & Disability Benefits](#)

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ABOUT OUR AGENCY

[Budget & Performance](#)
[Careers With Social Security](#)
[History Of Social Security](#)
[Reducing Improper Payments](#)

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NEWS

- Carolyn W. Colvin Assumes Role of Acting Commissioner
- Commissioner Astrue Returning to Massachusetts
- Social Security Announces New Online Services Available with a

Social Media Hub





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www.ssa.gov/pgm/business.htm

Doing Business With Social Security

Social Security offers online information and services to third parties who do business with us.

Employers

Our business services provide employers access to Social Security's web services using a secure website.

- [Employer W-2 Filing](#) provides guidance to employers and businesses on reporting wages to Social Security.
- Employers can verify the names and Social Security numbers of current and former employees free using the [Social Security Number Verification Service](#) through Business Services Online.
- Businesses can also verify names and Social Security numbers for a fee using the [Consent Based SSN Verification Service](#).



Attorneys And Appointed Representatives

[Attorneys & Appointed Representatives](#) can work with Social Security to view their client's records folders electronically or to receive direct payment.

Government Agencies

[Government-to-Government Services](#) is a suite of applications enabling government organizations and authorized individuals to conduct business with Social Security.

Choose Your Business Group

[Attorneys and Appointed Representatives](#)

[Contractors with the Office of Acquisition and Grants](#)

[Employers](#)

[Employers Who Hire Foreign Workers](#)

[Farmers, Growers and Crew Leaders](#)

[Financial Planners](#)

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[State and Local Government Employers](#)

Additional Resources

[Log In or Use Business Services Online](#)

[Log in or Use Government Services Online](#)



Employer W-2 Filing Instructions & Information

www.ssa.gov/employer/

Register To Use Business Services Online

You must register to use Business Services Online – Social Security’s suite of services that allows you to file W-2/W-2Cs online and verify your employees’ names and Social Security numbers against our records.

File W-2s/W-2Cs Online

This service offers fast, free, and secure online W-2 filing options to CPAs, accountants, enrolled agents, and individuals who process W-2s (the Wage and Tax Statement) and W-2Cs (Statement of Corrected Income and Tax Amounts).

Verify Employees’ Social Security Numbers

The Social Security Number Verification Service allows employers to verify the names and Social Security numbers of current and former employees for wage reporting purposes only.

Social Security also offers the [Consent Based Social Security Number Verification Service](#).

➤ [Online Services for Employers, CPAs, Accountants, Enrolled Agents and Individuals](#)

➤ [Important Information](#)

➤ [Handbooks, Tutorial & Videos](#)

➤ [Publications & Forms](#)

➤ [Newsletters](#)

Business Services Online



[Go To Log In](#)

[Go To Register](#)

[Go To Complete Phone Registration](#)

Business Services Online (BSO)

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday: 5 AM - 1 AM ET

Saturday: 5 AM - 11 PM ET

Sunday: 8 AM - 11:30 PM ET

About W-2 Filing

[Electronic W-2/W-2c Filing Handbook](#)

[Vendor List](#)

[Helpful Government Resources](#)

[FIRE \(1099\) Filing Information Returns Electronically](#)

[Employer W-2 Filing](#)

W-2 Filing Assistance

[Checklist for W-2 Online Filing](#)


[AccuWage](#)

[Specifications for Filing Forms W-2 Electronically \(EFW2\)](#)



Social Security

Official Social Security Website

 Accessibility



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Reti

Join mill
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Manage





Check out your Social Security Statement and manage your benefits.



Online Services

Whether you are applying for or receiving benefits, learn what you can do online.



Retirement Estimator

Calculate your benefits based on your actual Social Security earnings record.

Items of Interest

[Forms](#)[Social Media Hub](#)[Publications](#)[Social Security Update](#)

News

August 9, 2013

[Statement of Carolyn W. Colvin on Social Security, on Payments to Same](#)

May 31, 2013

[Social Security Board of Trustees](#)

Items of Interest

Forms



Social Media Hub



Publications



Social Security Update

Application Status



Office Closings

Baby Names



Open Government



Other Languages



Contact Us



Need information about benefits for same-sex couples?



News

August 9, 2013

[Statement of Carolyn W. Colvin on Security, on Payments to Same](#)

May 31, 2013

[Social Security Board of Trustees of Trust Fund Reserve Depletion](#)

May 9, 2013

[Jacob and Sophia Repeat atop Baby Names List](#)

May 6, 2013

[Social Security Announces New Users](#)

February 19, 2013

[Carolyn W. Colvin Assumes Role](#)

Tons of Paper W-2s



**Wilkes-Barre Data
Operations Center
received 32,000,000
W-2s in 2013**

Is this your report?



Changes to W2 Online

- Added territorial W2 Online for Northern Mariana Islands in addition to American Samoa, Guam & Virgin Islands
 - ✓ Puerto Rico W2 Online in the works
- W2 Online available for Current TY (2012) plus Prior TYs 2011 and 2010
- Offering data entry assist for prior year users
- Increased W2C Online from 5 to 25 per report
- Barcodes on W2 Online PDFs for submission to other entities

Earnings Redesign – Why

- Success of Electronic Wage Reporting (EWR) - Over 86% of W-2s reported electronically
- Tenfold increase in number of EWR submissions in past decade, with resulting performance issues due to an aging system originally designed for processing tapes and diskettes circa 1992-1993
- In 2012 electronic receipts outnumbered paper receipts for the first time

Earnings Redesign

- Need for redesign began as the environment shifted from a paper environment to an electronic environment
- Early planning/brainstorming began in 2007
- Ideas vetted with IRS and the reporting community including APA's Government Affairs Task Force - SSA Wage Reporting Redesign Subcommittee and other organizations

Earnings Redesign – TY 2012

January 2013

- EFW2/EFW2C formats remain backward-compatible
- Military Basic Quarters and Subsistence Pay money field eliminated
- Reject notices sent by email wherever possible. Most preferred email address which passes SSA edits is used (Be sure email addresses in reports and in your online registration are up-to-date)

Earnings Redesign – TY 2013

January 2014

- More behind-the-scenes infrastructure changes
- Add employer contact information to EFW2/EFW2C RE/RCE records:
 - Employer Contact Name
 - Employer Fax Number
 - Employer Phone Number
 - Employer E mail Address – Specs include detailed requirements for email address formatting
- For those preparing upload files (not EDT files), follow specifications on record delimiters – preferred but not required

Earnings Redesign –

Mid-Year TY 2013 May 2014

- All submissions will be checked for formatting errors as soon as possible after receipt.
- SSA will no longer tolerate submissions with invalid Record Identifier Codes.
- Submissions with the following formatting errors will be rejected as quickly as possible:
 - Invalid Record Identifier Codes.
 - Invalid record sequence.
 - Invalid record length.
 - Extraneous data following RF/RCF record.

Earnings Redesign – TY 2014

continued

- Discontinue changing W-2 money, “Medicare edit” and “Nanny Tax edit”, and instead reject electronic and paper reports with the following conditions:
 - W-2 Social Security tax is greater than zero and the sum of Social Security Wages and Social Security Tips is zero.
 - W-2 Medicare tax is greater than zero and Medicare Wages and Tips is zero.
 - W-2 Medicare Wages and Tips is less than the sum of Social Security Wages and Social Security Tips.
 - W-2 is Household and the sum of Social Security Wages and Social Security Tips is below the minimum covered amount for the TY.
 - W-2 is Household and Medicare Wages/Tips is below the minimum covered amount for the TY.

Earnings Redesign – Future

Changes possible for future releases:

- Change foreign address country code value set from FIPS 10-4 to ISO 3166-1
- Perform AccuWage edits in real time during wage file uploads
- Advance AWR batch processing start date to within several weeks of BSO start date
- Self-service online correction facility for correctable errors

ITIN (from IRS)

- ◆ Individual Taxpayer Identification Number
9xx-xx-xxxx
- ◆ 7 or 8 in the 4th position
- ◆ Not valid for U.S. employment
- ◆ *NEVER* issued if the person is authorized to work in the U.S.
- ◆ Non-citizen ID number for income tax filing
- ◆ Apply for ITIN on IRS Form W-7

ITIN or “Bad” SSN on W-4?

- ◆ Request correct SSN from employee
- ◆ If no SSN available by W-2 time
 - Do *not* change the number to zeroes
 - Enter the number in W-4 “SSN” box on the on W-2 (including E-File)
- ◆ File W-2c (E-File preferred) if SSN becomes available later

Filing Extension or Waiver

- ◆ Time Extension
 - Copy A to SSA: Form 8809 to IRS MCC
 - Employee Copies: Letter to IRS MCC
- ◆ Waiver of electronic filing requirement
 - 8508 to IRS MCC

HELP!

- ◆ [*www.socialsecurity.gov/employer*](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer)
- ◆ Videos, Webinars, Tutorials
- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions & Answers
- ◆ Employer 800#
 - (800) 772-6270
Mon.- Fri. 7am-7pm Eastern





Remain Calm!



ESLOs!

Employer Services Liaison Officers



Retirees:

Bill Brees: 12/2010

Frank O'Brien: 12/2011

Tim Beard: 11/2012

Deborah Forsythe: End of May 2013

Pat Hayes: End of may 2013 (Not Pictured)

Carolyn Sykes: January 2014

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