

2018 Texas Franchise Tax Software Filing Process Schedule

Who Needs to Apply

Software vendors (tax software developers) or qualified entities must be approved for report year 2018. The approval allows for the submission of current report year (2018) and past report years (2008-2017).

Approval for 2018

March 31, 2018 is the deadline for vendors and qualified entities to obtain final approval from the Comptroller's office to transmit returns via Texas Franchise Tax Return Filing System.

Annual Approval Required

Due to legislative, forms and coding changes, there is a need to reapply each report year. Vendors or qualified entities can continue to transmit for prior report years if previously approved.

What are the steps for participation?

Interested vendors and qualified entities must complete the questionnaire <https://comptroller.texas.gov/web-forms/developer/> (Only required with the initial request for approval.)

Once the questionnaire is received and reviewed, the Comptroller's office will provide a Letter of Intent from XMLBusiness@cpa.texas.gov. This email address will be used for all correspondence. The Letter of Intent must be signed and returned each year. Interested parties wanting to ping or submit test returns must provide an IP address(s) to the Comptroller's office at XMLBusiness@cpa.texas.gov.

What are the Timelines

Test and Enrollment Period –December 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018

During this period, vendors or qualified entities can submit tests for approval with Comptroller's office. Tests must correctly pass Comptroller business rules and edits. The Comptroller's office will have personnel available to respond to inquiries and provide assistance with individual tests. Also, electronic approval is contingent on approval for paper submission. Concurrent testing for both is allowed and encouraged.

The Comptroller's office will provide you the following for testing:

- User ID
- Password
- Test taxpayer numbers and WebFile numbers
- Test packet (*instructions and test data*)

Please note that if you are a returning vendor, your logon credentials will not change. Please provide any updated or new origination IP addresses. *Our test endpoint URL is:*

<https://ourcpa.cpa.state.tx.us/FranchiseefileAppWeb/services/FranchiseServicePort>

Schema Changes for 2018 Report Year

The only revision to the 2017 schema format for 2018 is a threshold increase on the No Tax Due (05-163) Form. It is now \$1,130,000. Tax rates remain the same and the EZ Computation (05-169) threshold remains \$20,000,000.

For reports due on or after January 1, 2016, No Tax Due filers must file electronically.