2017 Year-End Update News

PBS 2017 Year-End Changes
Will be available for PBS v12.03, v12.04 and v12.05 for W-2s

W-2 Forms and W-2 Magnetic Media

New box 12 Code FF. A new box 12 Code FF has been added to report the total amount of permitted benefits under a qualified small employer health reimbursement arrangement (QSEHRA). These new QSEHRAs allow eligible employers to pay or reimburse medical care expenses of eligible employees after the employees provide proof of coverage. The maximum reimbursement for an eligible employee under a QSEHRA is $4,950 ($10,000 if it also provides reimbursements for family members), before indexing for inflation. For more information, see the 21st Century Cures Act, Public Law 114-255, Division C, Section 18001.

The Enter W-2 information screen and Print W-2 information report have both been updated.

1099 Magnetic Media
When producing 1099 Mag Media, PBS now verifies there is data in the vendor address, city and zip code fields as these fields are required. If there is no data in any of those fields, an exception report prints identifying the missing data.

PBS version 12.05

W-2 Forms
Due to the increased length of the name and address fields, the W-2 printing has been expanded to take advantage of these new lengths. With longer names and addresses, the font is printed in compressed mode, allowing for longer names on the single form (two per page). The double laser form, which is already compressed, will also print more characters as space allows.

W-2 Magnetic Media (electronic file)
Employee First, Last and Middle name now print as 15, 15 and 20 characters respectively. In previous PBS versions, the program provided only up to 25 characters for the entire name. The electronic filing maximums are now utilized.

Accounts Payable and Payroll 1099 Forms
For longer names and addresses, compressed printing on the forms allows for more characters to print.

Accounts Payable and Payroll 1099 Magnetic Media (electronic file)
Expanded vendor, employee name and address fields are written to the electronic 1099 forms file. The full vendor name and payroll non-employee name, up to 50 characters, is written to the file.

Affordable Care Act 2017 Year-End Changes

PBS Versions 12.03, 12.04 and 12.05

- The Section 4980H Transition Relief (Part 2, Line 22, Box C), and the related Section 4980H Transition Relief Indicator (Part 3, Column E, Lines 23-35) is now "Reserved" for Tax Year 2017. The indicator was in the PR->Master information->Control information and is no longer available.
- The "Worked After Termination" warning in the 1095-C exception report has been removed.

- In the XML file, the IRS limits the first, middle and last name to a maximum of 20 characters each. With PBS v12.05 expansion of the employee name fields, the program will enforce truncation after 20 characters.
- Enhanced Enter employee ACA info code validation and 1095-C warning/fatal exceptions for Series 1 and 2 Codes, based on other codes, employees FT/PT status, Safe harbor choices and Control information.
- The Health Plan Start Month is now a required field in Enter ACA groups. If any changes are made to a Group and saved, the employee ACA records assigned within the group will be updated with the correct Health plan start month and any 2F/G/2H Line 16 codes will be matched to the chosen Safe Harbor method.
- When the Enter ACA groups Safe Harbor method is changed for the current year, this causes the program to ripple through the employee ACA data and apply a correct matching 2F/2G/2H code.
- There is a new mass update program to alter employee ACA data. A new menu selection accesses a program where you can filter on Group, Department, Starting/Ending employee and FT or PT status. You may also enter the selected month through the end of that year. On the employee ACA data, the program updates Lines 14, 15, 16, the Insurance Eligible flag and the Insurance Offered flag. If using the self-insured option, the months of coverage are updated as well.
- To increase the 1095/1094 forms flexibility by accommodating printer interruptions, you may print employees by Starting Social Security number within a PBS Company. After the "Did the Employee/IRS Copies print OK" message displays for each company, when you select "No" there is now an option to resume printing by entering the Social Security number of the last CORRECTLY printed employee. There is an additional question asking if you wish to print only the one bad form, or the remainder of the run for that company.
- With ACA enabled, when a new employee is added in Employees you will be prompted to create an employee ACA record, however it is no longer a requirement to make the entry at that time. This allows you to use the Generate employee ACA info tool to create the ACA record later.
- Related to the removed enforcement of creating an Enter employee ACA info immediately, the Report 1095-C/1094-C info (finalize 1094-C/1095-C report) has a fatal error in the exception report if it detects any employee who was active that year, but who does not have an Employee ACA record.

State and Local Tax Changes

While we have gathered a lot of city and state tax changes we don't have them all. If you are aware of any changes please let us know so we can better prepare for the upcoming year-end compliance reporting. Please email Adam Miller, Passport HR Compliance Manager at: amiller@pass-port.com.

The release of the 2017 Year-End updates is targeted for the end of October 2017.

Important W-2 Forms Announcement

There is a change in the W-2 forms that Passport supports. The double dot matrix form, as shown below, will not be supported for PBS v12.05. It will be supported for v12.03 and v12.04 for year-end 2017 only. For year-end 2018 this form will not be supported at all.
It is being discontinued due to the difficulty in printing the expanded name and address on the form.

For PBS v12.05 the single (two per page) and the double laser (4 per page) will still be supported for this year-end.