

# 5330 FAQs

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## Q1: What are the differences between subscription access? (5500 only vs 5330 add on)[Top](#)

### 5500 module subscribers:

- You can use multiple Form 5330s within the 5500 module.
- Draft forms are updated for e-filing, including:
  - Updated address fields for the
    - Filer
    - Sponsor
    - Paid Preparer
    - Schedule C Page 5 Line 5b
  - Extra pages for prohibited transactions and Schedule C entries.

### 5330 Add-On module subscribers, will get additional features, including:

- The ability to attach documents to individual form filings.

- 8822-b
- Amended Return Changes (*template provided*)
- Prohibited Transactions Correction Statement
- Prohibited Transactions No Correction Statement (*template provided*)
- Reasonable Cause Explanation
- The option to lock individual Form 5330s and invite the filer to e-file via the portal.
- E-filing includes:
  - Submission of Form 5330.
  - Automatic creation and completion of Form 8453-TE (required attachment). *The form includes an option to authorize the IRS to withdraw taxes due. If selected, payment info is sent at the time of filing.*
- A status dashboard at the plan level will allow you to track filing details including the pertinent dates, filing status, confirmation number, and the ability to amend filings.

## Q2: Do I need the 5500 module to access 5330 e-filing?[Top](#)

Yes, a 5500 Module subscription is required to access the 5330 Add-On Module. **Only forms created in the 5330 section of the 5500 Module will be available for e-filing.**

## Q3: What is the purpose of the additional pages for the Schedule C P4/5?[Top](#)

Additional pages were included to capture any transactions on Schedule C that didn't fit in the available spaces. Since the Modernized e-Filing (MeF) system only permits certain attachments, these entries must be completely included within the form.

## Q4: Why is the E-file Status Link disabled? [Top](#)

The E-file Status Link is enabled as soon as the e-filing capabilities are live for that specific filing year. *Please Note: the 5330 e-filing options are only available for filing years 2023 and later.*

## Q4a: I can view the E-File Status dashboard, but can't lock or e-file.[Top](#)

The E-file Status dashboard is available to all users, but only those who subscribe to the 5330-Add on module are able to lock filings or submit them for e-file. *Please Note: the 5330 e-filing options are only available for filing years 2023 and later.*

## Q5: If we discontinue access to the 5330 Add-on, will the filing history be lost?[Top](#)

Users that cancel their subscription will be able to see the filing status of the completed 5330 forms.

- Any forms that were filed electronically will be locked down and users will be unable to make changes.
- E-filing will not be available once the module is discontinued. Users will be able to unlock forms that were not e-filed, but after doing so they will remain in an unlocked status and e-filing will be unavailable.

## Q6: What is Form 8453-TE? [Top](#)

The Form 8453-TE, found in the "Final" column of each Form 5330 filing, serves as a declaration of electronic filing with required signatures and details. This non-editable form auto-populates using information from the Form 5330 and user responses during submission. It is a mandatory attachment for all Form 5330 electronic filings.

Key Functions Include:

- **Signature Authorization:** It provides the electronic signature needed to validate the e-filing of Form 5330.
- **Acknowledgment of Filing:** It confirms that the taxpayer has reviewed the form and agrees to its contents.
- **Payment Authorization (if applicable):** It ensures that the IRS has permission from the filer to withdraw the excise taxes owed from the specified account on the agreed date.

## Q7: What years are available for e-file? [Top](#)

E-filing for Form 5330 through [ftwilliam.com](https://ftwilliam.com) is available for **tax years 2023 and forward**. According to [Publication 4163](#), section 1.4.1, the IRS only accepts e-filed Form 5330 for the **current and prior two tax years**, meaning that as of **1/1/2026, only filings for 2023, 2024, and 2025** will be accepted. If you need to file for **2022 or earlier**, you must **file on paper**, and no waiver is required. Users must wait for form years to be available in order to e-file (i.e. **12/31/2026** PYE filings may not be e-filed until the 2026 forms are available).

On the [ftwilliam.com](https://ftwilliam.com) platform, the forms for **2023, 2024, and 2025** are specifically coded for those years. While the **IRS accepts 2022 e-filings**, our software **cannot be used to submit them**. Attempting to enter data for **prior or subsequent years** will result in a **rejected or failed submission**.

## Q7a: What form year should I use for off calendar plan Form 5330 e-filings? [Top](#)

While the Form 5330 is **not a year-specific** form, the IRS requires that **e-filed** returns use a specific schema version tied to a form year. The IRS limits which plan year end dates are allowed for each form version through its e-file [schema and business rules](#).

When e-filing Form 5330, the form year is based on the **year end in which the excise tax applies**. This date may vary depending on the section of Form 5330 being completed, and may be based on the end of the plan year, tax year, or calendar year. When selecting the filing year in the software, choose the year that matches the relevant **year-end** date.

**NOTE:** The IRS groups plan year **end dates** into filing years that run:

- **December through the following November**, not January through December.
- In simplest terms, any Form 5330 with a plan year-end date that falls **before December 31** uses the **prior year's form**

Please see the chart below to help determine the correct year to select in the ftwilliam software.

Year End Date Range of Filing	Form Year to Select
12/31/2023 - 11/30/2024	2023 Filing Schema
12/31/2024 - 11/30/2025	2024 Filing Schema
Year End Date Range of Filing	Form Year to Select
12/31/2025 - 11/30/2026	2025 Filing Schema

**NOTE:** This guidance is intended to help you select the correct year within the [ftwilliam.com software](#) only, and does not impact the due date of the filing. Please refer to the [Excise Due Date Table](#) for specific filing deadlines.

### Q8: Do my clients need to get an additional credentials to use this service? [Top](#)

No, since your client is the filer and authorizes the transmission through the portal, they don't need extra credentials. **Please Note:** Only the employer, individual, or other entity who is liable for the tax may file through the portal.

### Q9: What happens if a filing is rejected? [Top](#)

According to [Publication 4163](#), when a return is rejected, there is a 10-calendar day "Transmission Perfection Period" to fix and resubmit the return electronically.

This period is solely for correcting errors and **does not** extend the filing deadline. The 10-calendar day Perfection Period applies regardless of when the return was filed, whether before, on, or after the due date, including any extended due date. The IRS annual system maintenance (cutover period) **does not** extend the 10-day Perfection Period. **This period is never extended.**

- The chart below shows examples of how the IRS determines received dates, assuming:
  - The first rejection occurred on the transmission date.
  - The second rejection occurred on the re-transmission date.
  - Acceptance occurred on the final transmission date.

**NOTE:** The 10-day Perfection Period is separate from filing deadlines and applies independently of when the return was submitted.

Tax Year End	Due Date	Extension	E-Postmark 1st reject	Original Trans. 1st Reject Date	E-Postmark 2nd Reject	Postmark 2nd Transmission/Reject Date	E-Postmark Accepted Return	Accepted Date/ Final Transmission	IRS Received Date
12/31	3/15	No	3/9	3/10	3/10	3/12	3/29	3/30	3/29
12/31	3/15	No	3/9	3/10	3/10	3/12	3/19	3/20	3/9
12/31	3/15	No	3/14	3/15	3/23	3/24	3/24	3/25	3/14
12/31	3/15	No	3/9	3/10	3/15	3/15	4/3	4/4	4/3
12/31	3/15	No	3/9	3/10	3/14	3/15	3/23	3/25	3/14
		Yes							
12/31	3/15	9/15	8/8	8/10	8/10	8/11	9/17	9/18	9/17
		Yes							
3/31	6/15	12/15	8/10	8/10	12/22	12/23	1/9	1/10	1/9
		Yes							
3/31	6/15	12/15	N/A	8/10	N/A	12/23	N/A	12/28	12/23

		Yes							
12/31	3/15	9/15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/30	10/1	9/30

\* The IRS reviews the **Electronic Postmark of the Accepted Return** in determining the **IRS Received Date**.

- If there is not a rejected return within 10-calendar days of the **Electronic Postmark of the Accepted Return**, then the **IRS Received Date** will be the same as the postmark.
- If there is a rejected return within 10-calendar days of the **Electronic Postmark of the Accepted Return**, the IRS Received Date will be the **earliest** reject date within that 10-day period.

**Explanation Example from chart:**

- **Row 1:** The Electronic Return Postmark Accepted Return date shows 3/29. As the last rejected electronic postmark was 3/10, this falls outside of the 10-calendar day period, thus the IRS Received Date is recorded as 3/29.
- **Row 2:** The Electronic Return Postmark Accepted Return date shows 3/19. The earliest rejected electronic postmark that falls within the 10-calendar day period is 3/9. As such, the IRS received date is 3/9.

**NOTE:** Corrections must be submitted in the same format as their original filings. If the taxpayer is required to file their original return electronically, then they must also e-File their amended returns. A taxpayer must receive an approved waiver to file those tax years on paper. Information about requesting a waiver can be obtained by contacting the MeF Helpdesk at 1- 866-255-0654 or at IRS.gov.

**Q9a: Known MeF Rejection Errors, Section B and Section E** [Top](#)

There is a known issue with the MeF system when e-filing **Section B** or **Section E** as outlined below.

- **Section B. Taxes that are reported by the 15th day of the 10th month after the last day of the plan year.**

**Section B**, reviews entries in Schedule D, Schedule E, Schedule F, and Schedule L.

When the submission includes entries for **Schedule F, Line 1c**, the value reported should be the greater of Line 1a or Line 1b multiplied by 5%. (As shown in the example below, Line 1b (\$200), is greater than line 1a (\$100). Line 1b \$200\*5%=\$10)

**Schedule F. Tax on Multiemployer Plans in Endangered or Critical Status (Sections 4971(g)(3) and 4971(g)(4)) Reported by the 15th day of the 10th month after the last day of the plan year**

<b>1</b>	Section 4971(g)(3) tax on failure to meet requirements for plans in endangered or critical status.		
<b>a</b>	Enter the amount of contributions necessary to meet the applicable benchmarks or requirements . . . . .	<b>1a</b>	100.00
<b>b</b>	Enter the amount of the accumulated funding deficiency . . . . .	<b>1b</b>	200.00
<b>c</b>	Multiply the greater of line 1a or line 1b by 5%. Enter the result here and on Part I, line 10b . . . . .	<b>1c</b>	10.00

While the system correctly calculates the value on **Line 1c**, the IRS response shows the filing as **Rejected** with the following error message:

**Error:** If 'FailureMeetRqrEndngrCrtclTxGrp' in Form 5330. Schedule F has a value, then 'FailureMeetRqrPlnEndngrCrtclTxAmt' must have a non-zero value equal to the greater of ('ContriMeetBenchmarkOrRqrAmt' and 'AccumulatedFundingDefnAmt).

The IRS is aware of this issue and is working on a correction to suppress the error message and allow the filing. As of

Feb. 2025, the filings are still being rejected. These will need to be paper filed until the IRS updates their software.

- **Section E. Tax that is reported by the last day of the month following the month in which the failure occurred.**

Section E requires users to complete **Schedule J**, where the fee is calculated by multiplying the number of failures listed on **Schedule J, Line 4**, by **\$100**. (As shown in the example below, *Line 4, 30 failures \* \$100= \$3,000.00*)

**Schedule J. Tax on Failure To Provide Notice of Significant Reduction in Future Accruals (Section 4980F) Reported by the last day of the month following the month in which the failure occurred**

1	Enter the number of applicable individuals who were not provided ERISA section 204(h) notice: 30		
2	Enter the effective date of the amendment . . . . . MM <u>12</u> DD <u>31</u> YY <u>2023</u>		
3	Enter the number of days in the noncompliance period: <u>30</u>		
4	Enter the total number of failures to provide ERISA section 204(h) notice. See instructions . . . . .	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>
5	Multiply line 4 by \$100. Enter here and on Part I, line 15 . . . . .	<b>5</b>	<b>3000.00</b>

While the system correctly calculates the value on **Line 5**, the IRS response shows the filing as **Rejected** with the following error message:

*Error: If Form 5330, Schedule J, 'FailProvideNtcRedFutAccrTaxAmt' has a value, then it must be equal to 'TotERISASect204hNtcFailureCnt' multiplied by 100.*

The **IRS** is aware of this issue and is working on a correction to suppress the error message and allow the filing. As of Feb. 2025, the filings are still being rejected. These will need to be paper filed until the IRS updates their software.

**Q9b: Known MeF Rejection Error: "PaymentAmt must not be greater than 200% of TaxDueAmt." [Top](#)**

Although **Form 8453-TE** allows filers to report **Form 5330** tax amounts in **dollars and cents**, the **IRS payment processing center only accepts whole dollar amounts**. This discrepancy has not yet been resolved in the IRS systems to accommodate returns where the tax due may be **less than \$1.00**

**How the Error Occurs:**

- When the **reported tax on Line 19** is **between \$0.01 and \$0.49**, during the payment process, the system rounds the amount to **\$1.00**.
- Since **\$1.00** is **more than 200%** of any amount below **\$0.50**, the IRS rejects the filing under their payment validation rules.

**IRS Guidance:**

According to IRS representatives from the **Modernized e-File (MeF)** team, filers have **two options** to resolve this issue:

**1. Round Up the Tax Amount**

Adjust the tax reported on **Line 19** of Form 5330 to **at least \$1.00**, then submit the payment electronically.

**2. Decline Payment During E-Filing**

Submit the return **without payment**. If the IRS later issues a letter requesting payment, the filer can:

- Pay the amount at that time.
- Include an explanation for why payment was not submitted with the return.
- Attach the **IRS rejection notice** as supporting documentation.

## Q10: Do filers have to physically print and sign the Form 5330? [Top](#)

Filers are required to retain copy of the Form 5330 for their records, but a copy of a manually signed 5330 does not need to accompany the filing. For subsequent steps to be completed in the Portal, the filer must first select the Print 5330 button.

## Q11: Do filers have to physically print and sign the Form 8453-TE? [Top](#)

Filers must include a signed Form 8453-TE with each filing. This can be done using a digital/electronic signature or by printing and wet signing the form and uploading it as a PDF within the signing process. For details on digital/electronic signatures, refer to IRS Electronic Signature Program (Section [10.10.1.6.2](#) and [Exhibit 10.10.1-2](#)).

## Q11a: Does the 8453-TE signer need to be the same individual as the 5330 filer? What should be done if the Officer is different from the person responsible for the tax? [Top](#)

The filer listed on Form 5330 does not have to be the same person as the officer listed on Form 8453-TE.

- **Form 5330:** The filer on Form 5330 is typically the person or entity responsible for filing the form, which could be the organization itself or a tax professional.
- **Form 8453-TE:** The individual who signs the 8453-TE must be either the **person responsible for the tax or an officer of the tax-exempt entity**.
  - If signing as an **Officer**, that person must be someone who has the authority to sign on behalf of the organization (like the president, vice president, or treasurer).
  - Again, the signer does **NOT** have to be the same person who is listed as the filer on Form 5330.

The distinction is made in Part II paragraph 3 on the 8453-TE by selecting the applicable check box:

### **Part II Declaration of Officer or Person Subject to Tax**

- 11a**  I authorize the U.S. Treasury and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an Automated Clearing House (ACH) electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) entry to the financial institution account indicated in the tax preparation software for payment of the federal taxes owed on this return, and the financial institution to debit the entry to this account. To revoke a payment, I must contact the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent at 1-888-353-4537 no later than 2 business days prior to the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the financial institutions involved in the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to answer inquiries and resolve issues related to the payment.
- b**  If a copy of this return is being filed with a state agency(ies) regulating charities as part of the IRS Fed/State program, I certify that I executed the electronic disclosure consent contained within this return allowing disclosure by the IRS of this Form 990/990-EZ/990-PF (as specifically identified in Part I above) to the selected state agency(ies).

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that  I am an officer of the above named entity or  I am the person subject to tax with respect to (name of entity) \_\_\_\_\_, (EIN) \_\_\_\_\_,

and that I have examined a copy of the 2023 electronic return and accompanying schedules and statements, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. I further declare that the amount in Part I above is the amount shown on the copy of the electronic return. I consent to allow my intermediate service provider, transmitter, or electronic return originator (ERO) to send the return to the IRS and to receive from the IRS **(a)** an acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the transmission, **(b)** the reason for any delay in processing the return or refund, and **(c)** the date of any refund.

**Sign  
Here**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of officer or person subject to tax

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title, if applicable

## Q11b: Does Part III of the Form 8453-TE need to be completed by the Paid Preparer (or ERO)? [Top](#)

No, when using the [ftwilliam.com](https://ftwilliam.com) software and filing Form 5330 through the portal, Part III of Form 8453-TE does **not** need to be completed by the **ERO or the paid preparer**. Even if a paid preparer or ERO helped prepare the form, the actual filer is the one submitting it electronically, so this section does not apply.

## Q12: Do clients have to provide banking information?[Top](#)

Filers have the option to opt out of submitting payment at the time of e-filing. If they choose this option, they will be responsible for providing payment outside of the [ftwilliam.com](https://ftwilliam.com) software.

**Update (February 2026):** Based on customer feedback, the 5330 ACH debit will debit the client's bank account as: **IRS USATAXPYMT**.

**Update (May 2025):** Based on customer feedback, filers who either choose not to submit payment at the time of filing, or whose payment is declined due to inaccurate information will need to send a check or money order with the following information:

**Payable to:** The United States Treasury

**Include:**

- Your Tax ID (EIN or SSN).
- Tax form number.
- Tax period
- Mail to:
  - Internal Revenue Service
  - PO Box 1211
  - Charlotte, NC 28201-1211

**NOTE:** We are only able to provide the following information and cannot offer additional guidance beyond these details.

## Q13: Is banking information stored?[Top](#)

Banking information is not stored. After a filing is submitted, payment details are deleted, leaving only a **Yes** or **No** indicator of whether payment information was sent. Filers are encouraged to carefully verify banking details before submitting.

## Q14: Will Batch processing be available?[Top](#)

In the second release phase (TBD) users will be able to batch edit check, lock, and invite portal users to e-file as well as review the status of filings within the batch. More details to come.

## Q15: Can I file on behalf of my client through the portal?[Top](#)

Only the employer, individual, or other entity who is liable for the tax may file the 5330 through the portal. Please see Q16/17 pertaining to filing on behalf of clients.

### Q16: Will we be able to file on behalf of clients in the future?[Top](#)

We are investigating options pertaining to users filing on behalf of their clients but do not have an ETA on if or when this will be available. If implemented, the functionality will be similar to the 5500 module sign on behalf of feature. More details to come.

### Q17: Are additional credentials needed to file on behalf of clients?[Top](#)

Yes, **if implemented in the future**, all electronic filers filing on behalf of clients, must register as an [Electronic Return Originator \(ERO\)](#).

**Please note that the application process may take up to 45 days for approval.**

The IRS outlines this process in 3 steps:

**STEP  
1**

#### **Access IRS e-file Application to Become an Authorized IRS e-file Provider**

To access the e-file Application, you must sign in with an existing account or create a new account. Once you can sign in, you will be able to complete and submit an e-file Application.

**STEP  
2**

#### **Complete and Submit Your IRS e-file Application**

An individual representing the firm can begin the IRS e-file application after creating a Secure Access account. The application process is necessary to protect the integrity and security of the electronic filing system.

Plan accordingly, as the **IRS may take up to 45 days to approve an application**. The e-file application prompts for missing information to ensure that applicants submit only complete applications to the IRS.

**Note: Before submitting the application, all Principals and Responsible Officials must create an e-Services account and enter information on the application.**


**STEP  
3**

#### **Processing the e-file Application**

During the processing of the e-file application, the IRS conducts a suitability check on the firm and on other Principals and Responsible Officials listed on the application.

*Suitability checks may include the following:*

- A tax compliance check
- A check for prior non-compliance with IRS e-file requirements

We have also included a detailed tutorial on the application process: [Creating Your Application to Become an Authorized IRS e-file provider.pdf](#) 

### Q18: What time zone is used when the IRS reviews submissions for timeliness?[Top](#)

The IRS Received Date is initially set by the electronic postmark in the Transmitter's time zone (Central Time for

ftwilliam.com). If there's a question about timeliness and the Transmitter is in a different time zone, the taxpayer's time zone will determine the received date.

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