



***2025 Wage Withholding API
Technical Overview Package***

Wage Withholding Tax

Tax Year 2025

**Version 2
December 17, 2025**

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What's New

We have updated the testing endpoint in this document to reflect the correct address. Please use <https://DORWebServicesTest.mt.gov/Staging/WebBulkUpload/>.

Overview

The bulk upload service allows vendor-to-agency XML transmissions of W2 and MT Withholding (MW3) files for tax filing purposes. The service is a synchronous solution that accepts a transmission and returns an acknowledgement.

Files

The bulk upload service accepts two different file types used by the Montana Department of Revenue. These files are W2s and MW3s.

File Structure Guidelines	W2 File Type	MW3 File Type
Naming Convention	File name must end with " _EAFW2.xml " and cannot be over 50 characters including the extension.	File name must end with: Prior to tax year 2021: *MW3P16.xml Tax Year 2021-Present: *MW3P21.xml File name cannot be over 50 characters including the extension.
XML Structure	W2 files are formatted in XML with no namespaces and based off the Employer Annual Filing v2.0 schema package found at https://www.stategef.com/ .	MW3 files are formatted in XML and based off MT DOR's FSET Withholding schema package.
Inner XML Structure – Transmission Header	Must contain a unique Transmission ID in the Transmission Header.	Must contain a unique Transmission ID in the Transmission Header.
Inner XML Structure - Submissions	Currently can contain only one Employer submission.	Can contain multiple return submissions.
File Size	Maximum file size 20MB	Maximum file size 20MB

Transmissions

The service is a synchronous solution that accepts and processes single XML transmissions and then returns an acknowledgement for each transmission received. Transmissions are a set of submissions. W2 transmissions can contain only one employer submission and MW3 transmissions can contain multiple return submissions. Transmissions are sent over HTTPS connections from vendor to agency. Encryption of these data transits is provided by SSL Certificate (SHA256RSA). Vendors will also be assigned username and password credentials by the MT DOR for an extra level of security. A vendor will have two sets of credentials. One for the testing interface and one for the production interface.

Connecting to the Service

The service will have URLs for testing and production interfaces that MT DOR will provide for vendor service reference configurations. There is only one operation, BulkUpload, that expects a file name, filename string, and W2 or MW3 xml data, returnData base64binary. The response will be the appropriate acknowledgment string. Please reference the following image for more detail.

Testing connection endpoint <https://DORWebServicesTest.mt.gov/Staging/WebBulkUpload/>

Web Service: WebBulkUploadInterface

Web Service: WebBulkUploadInterface

Target Namespace: <http://tempuri.org/>

Port **BasicHttpBinding_WebBulkUploadInterface_soap**

Location: Depends on Testing or Production

Protocol: SOAP

Transport protocol: SOAP over HTTP

Operations:

1. BulkUpload

Operations

Port type **WebBulkUploadInterface**

1. BulkUpload

Style: document

Operation type: Request-response. The endpoint receives a message, and sends a correlated message.

SOAP action: <http://tempuri.org/WebBulkUploadInterface/BulkUpload>

Input: WebBulkUploadInterface_BulkUpload_InputMessage (soap:body, use = literal)

```
parameters type BulkUpload
  ▪ fileName - optional; type string
  ▪ returnData - optional; type base64Binary
```

Output: WebBulkUploadInterface_BulkUpload_OutputMessage (soap:body, use = literal)

```
parameters type BulkUploadResponse
  ▪ BulkUploadResult - optional; type string
```

Acknowledgements

For each transmission, the service replies with a single acknowledgement. There are two tiers of validation a transmission can go through and one of three acknowledgement types that can be returned. The acknowledgement types are PrevalidationAck's, EmployerW2Acknowledgement's and MW3Acknowledgement's. The type of acknowledgement returned to the vendor depends on the file type and how far along the transmission is processed through the tiers.

Pre-Validation Acknowledgement

In the first tier of validation, there are various pre-validation checks that examine basic transmission details. Transmissions that fail in the first tier of checks receive a PrevalidationAck acknowledgement type. The table below outlines the pre-validation checks.

Pre-Validation Check	Error Message	File Type Checks...
Inner XML Structure	XML upload error. Review the XML formatting of the file stream transmission.	W2/MW3
Transmission Header	Transmission Header node missing or malformed.	W2/MW3
Transmission ID Null/Empty	Transmission has no Transmission ID	W2/MW3
Transmission Duplicate	Transmission is a duplicate of a prior transmission.	W2/MW3
Transmission Process Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Test file in production environment: Transmission is indicated as a test file.Prod file in a testing environment: Transmission is indicated as a production file.	W2/MW3
File Naming Convention	Incorrect file naming convention for file *.	W2/MW3
Employer Count	There is more than one Employer record in the transmission.	W2

It is important the Transmission Header XML structures are valid to avoid most of the pre-validation errors that can occur.

Schema Validation Acknowledgements

In the second tier of checks, the service compares the transmissions to the Employer Annual Filings v5.2 (EAF) or MT DOR Withholding schemas in real-time. This is where most of the processing or think-time occurs in the transmission processing.

EmployerW2Acknowledgement types returned by the service utilize the structure as defined in the EAF schema package.

MW3Acknowledgements types returned by the service use an agency-specific structure that is modeled after a MeF Acknowledgement.

Only transmissions that pass all validation will be inserted into MT DOR's tax system for processing.

Transmissions that have any fails in the second tier are entirely rejected. MT DOR does not accept partial transmissions or keep any XML of the transmission data.

However, all acknowledgements that are returned to the vendor are also saved on MT DOR's servers and logged.

All transmissions that fail, in either validation tier, will require new and unique Transmission IDs before re-transmitting.

Acknowledgement Examples

PrevalidationAck

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-16"?>
<PrevalidationAck xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <TransmissionID>2019-12-29T09:30:46Z.2108</TransmissionID>
  <TransmissionTimestamp>2019-12-26T02:30:47-07:00</TransmissionTimestamp>
  <TransmissionStatus>R</TransmissionStatus>
  <PrevalidationErrors fileName="Test_File_EAFW2.xml" errorCount="1">
    <Error errorId="1">
      <Message>Transmission is a duplicate of a prior transmission.</Message>
    </Error>
  </PrevalidationErrors>
</PrevalidationAck>
```

MW3Acknowledgement

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-16"?>
<MW3Acknowledgement xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <TransmissionId>222222222222222222</TransmissionId>
  <ETIN>12345</ETIN>
  <TaxYr>2019</TaxYr>
  <Jurisdiction>MT</Jurisdiction>
  <AcceptanceStatusTxt>A</AcceptanceStatusTxt>
  <StatusDt>9-5-2019_10_04_01</StatusDt>
  <TaxPeriodEndDt>2019-12-31</TaxPeriodEndDt>
  <MW3Errors fileName="Test_File_MW3P16.xml" errorCount="0">
  </MW3Acknowledgement>
```

2 - MW3 Acknowledgement without errors

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-16"?>
<MW3Acknowledgement xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <TransmissionId>33333333333333331</TransmissionId>
  <ETIN>1234567005WTH</ETIN>
  <TaxYr>2019</TaxYr>
  <Jurisdiction>MT</Jurisdiction>
  <TransmissionStatus>R</TransmissionStatus>
  <StatusDt>9-11-2019_12_46_54</StatusDt>
  <TaxPeriodEndDt>2019-12-31</TaxPeriodEndDt>
  <MW3Errors fileName="Test_File_MW3Pl6.xml" errorCount="7">
    <Error errorId="1">
      <Message>The 'DateFinalWagesPaid' element is invalid - The value '01052019' is
      invalid according to its datatype 'DateType' - The Pattern constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
    <Error errorId="2">
      <Message>The 'StateEIN' element is invalid - The value '401160600WTH' is invalid
      according to its datatype 'String' - The Pattern constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
    <Error errorId="3">
      <Message>The 'TaxRemittedPaymentDate' element is invalid - The value '011519'
      is invalid according to its datatype 'DateType' - The Pattern constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
    <Error errorId="4">
      <Message>The 'TaxRemittedPeriodEnd' element is invalid - The value '01012019'
      is invalid according to its datatype 'DateType' - The Pattern constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
    <Error errorId="5">
      <Message>The 'TaxRemittedTaxPaid' element is invalid - The value '-101.00'
      is invalid according to its datatype 'USDecimalAmountNNTType' - The MinInclusive constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
    <Error errorId="6">
      <Message>The 'TaxRemittedTaxWithheld' element is invalid - The value '-100.00'
      is invalid according to its datatype 'USDecimalAmountNNTType' - The MinInclusive constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
    <Error errorId="7">
      <Message>The 'TaxWithheldYear' element is invalid - The value '-1212.00'
      is invalid according to its datatype 'USDecimalAmountNNTType' - The MinInclusive constraint failed.</Message>
    </Error>
  </MW3Errors>
</MW3Acknowledgement>
```

EmployerW2Acknowledgements

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-16"?>
<EmployerW2Acknowledgement xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" acknowledgementVersion="W22017V01">
    <AcknowledgementHeader>
        <Jurisdiction>MT</Jurisdiction>
        <AcknowledgementTimestamp>2019-09-09T13:10:01.5650608-06:00</AcknowledgementTimestamp>
        <AcknowledgementCount>1</AcknowledgementCount>
        <ProcessType>T</ProcessType>
    </AcknowledgementHeader>
    <W2TransAcknowledgement>
        <TransmissionId>2019-12-31T09:30:46Z.7764</TransmissionId>
        <TransmissionStatus>A</TransmissionStatus>
        <EmployerCnts>
            <AcceptedCnt>1</AcceptedCnt>
        </EmployerCnts>
        <EmployeeCnts>
            <AcceptedCnt>5</AcceptedCnt>
        </EmployeeCnts>
    </W2TransAcknowledgement>
    <EmployerStatus>
        <TaxYear>2019</TaxYear>
        <EmployerDocumentId>AaBbCc123654-zZa</EmployerDocumentId>
        <EmployerAcceptanceStatus>A</EmployerAcceptanceStatus>
        <EmployerErrorList errorCount="0" />
        <EmployeeStatus>
            <EmployeeDocumentId>Doc 1</EmployeeDocumentId>
            <EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>A</EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>
            <EmployeeErrorList errorCount="0" />
        </EmployeeStatus>
        <EmployeeStatus>
            <EmployeeDocumentId>Doc 2</EmployeeDocumentId>
            <EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>A</EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>
            <EmployeeErrorList errorCount="0" />
        </EmployeeStatus>
        <EmployeeStatus>
            <EmployeeDocumentId>Doc 3</EmployeeDocumentId>
            <EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>A</EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>
            <EmployeeErrorList errorCount="0" />
        </EmployeeStatus>
        <EmployeeStatus>
            <EmployeeDocumentId>Doc 4</EmployeeDocumentId>
            <EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>A</EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>
            <EmployeeErrorList errorCount="0" />
        </EmployeeStatus>
        <EmployeeStatus>
            <EmployeeDocumentId>Doc 5</EmployeeDocumentId>
            <EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>A</EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>
            <EmployeeErrorList errorCount="0" />
        </EmployeeStatus>
    </EmployerStatus>
</EmployerW2Acknowledgement>
```

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-16"?>
<EmployerW2Acknowledgement xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" acknowledgementVersion="W22017V01">
    <AcknowledgementHeader>
        <Jurisdiction>MT</Jurisdiction>
        <AcknowledgementTimestamp>2019-09-09T13:10:39.3002294-06:00</AcknowledgementTimestamp>
        <AcknowledgementCount>1</AcknowledgementCount>
        <ProcessType>T</ProcessType>
    </AcknowledgementHeader>
    <W2TransAcknowledgement>
        <TransmissionId>2019-12-29T09:30:46Z.2108</TransmissionId>
        <TransmissionStatus>R</TransmissionStatus>
        <EmployerCnts>
            <RejectedCnt>1</RejectedCnt>
        </EmployerCnts>
        <EmployeeCnts>
            <RejectedCnt>5</RejectedCnt>
        </EmployeeCnts>
    </W2TransAcknowledgement>
    <EmployerStatus>
        <TaxYear>2019</TaxYear>
        <EmployerDocumentId>AaBbCc123654-zZa</EmployerDocumentId>
        <EmployerAcceptanceStatus>R</EmployerAcceptanceStatus>
        <EmployerErrorList errorCount="3">
            <Error errorId="1">
                <XPath>/EmployerW2Transmission[1]/Employer[1]/REEmployer[1]/EmployerAgentIdNum</XPath>
                <ErrorMessage>The 'EmployerAgentIdNum' element is invalid - The value '12345' is invalid according to its datatype 'EINType' - The Pattern constraint failed.</ErrorMessage>
                <Severity>Error</Severity>
                <DataValue>12345</DataValue>
            </Error>
            <Error errorId="2">
            <Error errorId="3">
        </EmployerErrorList>
        <EmployeeStatus>
            <EmployeeDocumentId>Doc 1</EmployeeDocumentId>
            <EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>R</EmployeeAcceptanceStatus>
            <EmployeeErrorList errorCount="2">
                <Error errorId="1">
                    <XPath>/EmployerW2Transmission[1]/Employer[1]/Employee[1]/RWEmployeeWages[1]/WagesTipsOtherCompensation</XPath>
                    <ErrorMessage>The 'WagesTipsOtherCompensation' element is invalid - The value '-1000' is invalid according to its datatype 'W2USAmountNNTType' - Value '-1000' was either too large or too small for NonNegativeInteger.</ErrorMessage>
                    <Severity>Error</Severity>
                    <DataValue>-1000</DataValue>
                </Error>
                <Error errorId="2">

```

5 - Partial piece of W2 Acknowledgement with errors