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| Standard Business ReportingAustralian Taxation Office – Individual Income Tax Return 2019 (IITR.0006) Business Implementation Guide Date: 22 August 2019Final |
|  |
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|  | For further information or questions, contact the SBR Service Desk at SBRServiceDesk@sbr.gov.au  |

VERSION CONTROL

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* Updated to reflect changes in 2019 IITR service
 |

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1. Introduction
	1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide information that will assist digital service providers in understanding the business context surrounding Individual Income Tax Return (IITR) web service interactions. These interactions are performed with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) through the Standard Business Reporting (SBRebMS3) platform.

This document defines the interactions that are available to a tax agent to lodge an IITR and explains any constraints and known issues with the use of the interaction, providing guidance with certain identified issues.

Specifically, this refers to the interactions with the ATO for a user, depending on their role, to:

* Validate entries in an IITR or application for refund of franking credits (RFC)
* Lodge an IITR including schedules where appropriate
* Lodge an amendment to an IITR
* Lodge an RFC
* Lodge an amendment to an RFC
* Lodge an RFC or IITR (original or amended) for a prior year as a SBR ebMS3 message containing the Electronic Lodgment Service (ELS[[1]](#footnote-1)) tag formatted data.

The *IITR.Prefill* interaction is part of the IITR service but is not in the scope of this document. See the Pre-fill IITR Business Implementation Guide for further information on the *IITR.Prefill* interaction. This document applies to the SBR IITR service for 2019 IITRs and the SBR ELStagFormat service for the years 1998-2016.

For 2014 IITRs, see the ATO IITR.0001 2014 Business Implementation Guide.

For 2015 IITRs, see the ATO IITR.0002 2015 Business Implementation Guide.

For 2016 IITRs, see the ATO IITR.0003 2016 Business Implementation Guide.

For 2017 IITRs, see the ATO IITR.0004 2017 Business Implementation Guide.

For 2018 IITRs, see the ATO IITR.0005 2018 Business Implementation Guide.

* 1. Document Context

The ATO IITR Business Implementation Guide forms part of the broader suite of documents used by the ATO to describe or interpret how the technical implementation relates back to the business context and process. This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the ATO SBR documentation suite including the:

* Web service/platform information
* ATO Common Business Implementation Guide
* ATO Service Registry (SR)
* Test information, for example conformance suites
* Message Structure Tables
* Validation Rules.

See the ATO SBR Logical Artefact Map for the relationship of this document with others in the suite.

* 1. Glossary

This table only contains terms that need specific explanation for this document. Other terminology can be found in the [SBR glossary](http://www.sbr.gov.au/software-developers/developer-tools/glossary).

| **Term** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| ABN | Australian Business Number |
| BMS | Business Management Software (also known as Tax Practitioner Practice Management Software) |
| BSB | Bank State Branch number |
| CGTS | Capital Gains Tax schedule |
| DDCTNS | Deductions schedule (new) |
| DIDS | Dividend and Interest Deductions Schedule  |
| ebMS3 | ebXML Messaging Service, version 3.0 |
| ELS | Electronic Lodgment Service - decommissioned for lodgment.(for full definition please see the [SBR Glossary](http://www.sbr.gov.au/software-developers/developer-tools/glossary)) |
| Feature | Functionality that delivers business value |
| Individual | A natural person (that is, a human being) |
| Initiating Party | The type of user performing an SBR request. Could be an intermediary or the reporting party (for example Business) themselves, depending on the service. |
| IITR | Individual Income Tax Return |
| Intermediary | A party that facilitates a transaction between a taxpayer and the ATO |
| IT | Income Tax |
| NRFI | Non Resident Foreign Income  |
| PAYG | Pay As You Go withholding payments. |
| PLS | Practitioner Lodgment Service. |
| PSS | Payment Summary Schedule |
| Reporting Period | The date range applicable for the obligation (for example IITR or RFC), usually aligning to 1 July to 30 June, however some taxpayers have a substituted accounting period with other dates. |
| RFC | Application for refund of franking credits |
| RS | Rental Schedule |
| SAP | Substituted Accounting Period (for example January to December in place of July to June). |
| SBR | Standard Business Reporting(for full definition please see the [SBR Glossary](http://www.sbr.gov.au/software-developers/developer-tools/glossary)) |
| SBR ebMS3 | The current eCommerce platform operated by the ATO. |
| TFN | Tax file number(for full definition please see the [SBR Glossary](http://www.sbr.gov.au/software-developers/developer-tools/glossary)) |
| TT | Tax Time |
| WRE | Work Related Expenses schedule |

* 1. Changes in 2019 IITR service

Tax Time 2019 will see changes to the Individual Income Tax Return pre-lodge and lodge services.

## Greater Detail of information in Schedules for SBR

This is a longer-term change to the processing and information requirements of the IITR and associated schedules. The change will align information requirements across all IITR electronic lodgment channels. By 2020 all schedules will be updated so that a Tax Agent can not only include a greater amount of information for each item in a schedule, but retrieve and amend any of the information previously lodged through to the ATO via the schedules, no matter what channel or BMS software was used.

## Deductions Schedule

The Deductions schedule (DDCTNS) is new to Tax Time 2019. This will be a mandatory schedule where a deduction is claimed on the main IITR form. The Deductions schedule contains additional fields to assist Tax Agents to provide more information on deductions that are being claimed by the client. For example for other work related expenses in the Deductions schedule, there are now additional repeating fields to record the individual descriptions and amounts of the expenses. The details to be provided should be at an appropriate level, that is *stationery expense $x* rather than by individual stationery items.

## Dividend and Interest Deduction Schedule

The Dividend and Interest Deduction schedule has been removed in Tax Time 2019. It will not be able to be used for 2019 year and onwards but can still be used for earlier years.

## MULti-property rental Schedule

The Multi-Property Rental schedule (RNTLPRPTY) is new to Tax Time 2019. Build and use of this schedule is optional for the 2019 year, but will be mandatory for Tax Time 2020.

In 2019 a tax agent BMS will be able to lodge the IITR with the current individual rental schedule for each property for a client, OR the new multi-property rental schedule that will include all properties for the client on the one schedule. You cannot lodge a RS and a RNTLPRPTY schedule at the same time with a client’s IITR.

There will be no change to reporting arrangements for rental details for partnership and trust tax returns. This means that you will need to maintain the current Rental schedule for partnership and trust returns at this point.

## Other Schedules

All other current IITR schedules will be updated to allow for a greater amount of detail to be recorded. To support the transition, a phased approach will be implemented in Tax Time 2019 and Tax Time 2020 as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Schedule** | **Updated Schedule** | **Implementation Date** |
| Capital Gains Tax | Capital Gains Tax | 1/07/2020 |
| PAYG Payment Summary | Income | 1/07/2020 |
| Non-resident Foreign Income | Non-resident Foreign Income | 1/07/2020 |

1. What are the IITR Lodgment Interactions?

The IITR lodgment interactions allow tax agents using SBR-enabled software (known as Practitioner Lodgment Service (PLS)) to interact electronically to validate and lodge their client’s individual income tax obligations. This allows easier and more accurate lodgment of returns.

* 1. Tax return for individuals

The information provided in a tax return allows the ATO to determine a taxpayer’s tax refund or tax debt. Tax returns usually cover the financial year, which ends on 30 June and are due by 31 October for individual taxpayers that prepare their own returns[[2]](#footnote-2). A registered tax agent can lodge later than this, but the taxpayer needs to register with their agent as a client before 31 October to qualify.

Most people need to lodge a tax return each year, but there are some exceptions. If an individual had tax withheld from any payment they received, they almost certainly need to lodge a tax return. For more information on whether a taxpayer needs to lodge a tax return, please see the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Lodging-your-tax-return/Do-you-need-to-lodge-a-tax-return-/).

* 1. Sole traders

The IITR can be used for the lodgment obligation of an individual taxpayer who is also a sole trader to report their taxable income or loss. This includes:

* assessable business income less the business deductions they can claim, and
* other assessable income, such as salary and wages (shown on a payment summary), dividends and rental income, less any allowable deductions against this income.
	1. Application for refund of franking credits

When an individual owns shares or non-share equity interests in a company or when an individual invests in a managed fund, they might receive dividend distributions. Dividends paid to an individual by Australian companies and some New Zealand companies are taxed under a system known as imputation. The tax paid by the company is allocated (or imputed) to the individual as franking credits attached to the dividends the individual receives.

If the franking credits the individual receives exceed the tax an individual has to pay, they can claim this difference back as a tax refund. This is what is known as a refund of excess franking credits. If the taxpayer does not normally lodge a tax return, they may be entitled to a refund of the excess franking credits. A refund of franking credits (RFC) can only be used to lodge if the client is not required to lodge a full ITR.

A RFC can also be lodged if the taxpayer has had amounts withheld from their dividends because they did not provide their tax file number. The RFC follows the same business process as an original or amended IITR lodgment, as depicted in [figure 1](#Figure1) of Section 2.5 below.

For more information on refunds of franking credits for individuals, please see the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/investing/in-detail/investing-in-shares/refunding-franking-credits---individuals/).

* 1. Early lodgments

A future year return is a return that is lodged by a client before the end of the current reporting period. For example a client lodging their 2018-19 Income tax return before the end of the financial year of 30 June 2019 (not excluding Substituted Accounting Period (SAP).

Clients must meet certain conditions to lodge a future year return, and cannot choose to lodge early solely out of personal preference. Eligibility for individuals to lodge an early return is available on [www.ato.gov.au](https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/International-tax-for-individuals/Going-overseas/Lodging-your-tax-return/Lodging-your-tax-return-early/#Eligibility_lodge_early_Tax_Return).

Generally prefill data will not be available for early lodged returns however client register and prior year return information is available.

Amendments to early lodged returns submitted via SBR in a later financial year will receive an error message. Amendments to early lodge returns will need to be lodged via an alternate channel. Please see Section 4.2.

* 1. Where SBR/PLS fits into individual lodgment obligations

The IITR service provides a number of functions for lodgment of an individual taxpayer’s reporting obligations. These include the lodgment of:

* The taxpayer’s Individual Income Tax Return where appropriate (including schedules)
* An application for the refund of franking credits where appropriate
* Amendments to either of the above.

The pre-lodge and lodge interactions are the core part of the SBR-enabled IITR business process. These are envisaged to take place after a tax agent has checked for their client’s outstanding lodgments, reviewed their pre-fill data, and interviewed the taxpayer. When the agent has gathered all information required (including reviewing information contained in the pre-fill), the agent would then complete the return, validate it, and if required, correct any labels before lodgment.



Figure 1: SBR interactions and IITR lodgment business process

The tax agent could check the status of the lodged IITR at a later date through their BMS.

In addition to initial lodgment, the IITR lodgment interactions also allow a tax agent to amend either the IITR (including accompanying schedules) or the application for refund of franking credits. For guidance on the use of the IITR interactions for an RFC, see section 6 of this guide.

The above scenario could also be used for batch transactions. However, note that *IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge* messages cannot be included in the same batch request.

Refer to the IT Lodgment Status Business Implementation Guide, the Pre-fill IITR Business Implementation Guide, and the IITR Profile Compare Business Implementation Guide for the complete business context descriptions of *LDGLST.List*, *IITR.Prefill, and IITRPRFL.Get respectively.*

* 1. Schedules

An IITR lodgment can include a schedule that contains additional information to assess a taxpayer’s income, where required. Schedules that can be included in the IITR message are:

* Deductions (DDCTNS) schedule (new to 2019)
* Multi-Property Rental (RNTLPRPTY) schedule (new to 2019) OR Rental Schedule (RS) (to be decommissioned for Tax Time 2020 for Individuals)
* Capital Gains Tax schedule (CGTS)
* Payment Summary Schedule (PSS)
* Non Resident Foreign Income Schedule (NRFI)
* Work Related Expense (WRE) schedule.

**2.6.1 Superannuation Lump Sum and Employment Termination Payment schedules**

The Superannuation Lump Sum and Employment Termination Payment schedules have been integrated wholly into the IITR message as they are required by ATO systems to process the IITR.

**2.6.2 ELS Schedule A – Other attachments**

ELS *Schedule A – Other attachments* has also been incorporated into the message as the element *Additional Information* (SBR Alias: IITR31 / ELS tag: AEB).

**2.6.3 Rental schedules**

The current Rental Schedule has a limitation of one property per schedule. Multiple schedules must be used if the taxpayer has more than one property, with a limit of 45 Rental Schedules able to be attached to an IITR. This schedule will still be required into the future for partnership and trust returns.

The new Multi-Property Rental schedule will allow up to 45 properties to be reported for one client. For clients with more than 45 properties, consolidation of the additional records will be required.

**2.6.4 Non-Resident Foreign Income schedule**

The Non-Resident Foreign Income schedule reports foreign income of non-residents with a Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) or Trade Support Loan (TSL) debt.

**2.6.5 Work Related Expense (WRE) schedule**

Agents will only be required to submit the Work Related Expense (WRE) schedule when specifically requested by the ATO. The WRE schedule will share some fields with the new Deductions schedule (which is mandatory) but also additional fields that are required as part of the program.

**2.6.6 General business guidance for schedules**

* Schedules must not be attached to the IITR submission when an application for refund of franking credits (RFC) is submitted.
* Information recorded in schedules must match the composite information recorded in the IITR. For example where multiple other work related expenses have been recorded in the Deductions (DDCTNS) schedule the total other work related expenses recorded in the IITR must match the total of all of the other work related expenses recorded in the Deductions schedule. There are new validation rules to cover this type of scenario.
* Order line items in the schedule in descending $value order where applicable.
* Where more items need to be included in a schedule and the schedule’s item limit has been reached, consolidate the additional records.

For more information on the validation rules and circumstances that determine when a schedule should be used, refer to the ATO Service Registry, the IITR message structure table and schedule structure tables and the IITR validation rules.

An IITR schedules Frequently Asked Questions and Answers document is available via <https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/PLS>.

* 1. Interactions

The IITR lodgment process could consist of the following interactions:

| **Service** | **Interaction** | **Detail** | **Single** | **Batch** | **Optional** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LDGLST (Lodgment List) | *LDGLST.List* | Request the list of a client’s expected and received lodgments | Y | Y | Y |
| **IITR** | *IITR.Prefill* | See the Pre-fill IITR Business Implementation Guide for further information | Y | Y | Y |
| *IITR.Prelodge* | Validate IITR or RFC message before lodgment  | Y | Y | Y |
| *IITR.Lodge* | Lodge IITR or RFC  | Y | Y | N |
| IITRPRFL | *IITRPRFL.Get* | Request Profile Compare response message from the ATO | Y | N | Y |
| ELStagFormat | *ELStagFormat.Lodge* | Lodge IITR or RFC for prior years as SBR message using ELS tag format | N | Y | Y |

Table 1: Interactions available in IITR lodgment process

1. Authorisation
	1. Intermediary relationship

The SBR services that an intermediary such as a tax agent, can use on behalf of their clients depending on the activity being undertaken and whether the tax agent has a relationship with the client. That is, a tax agent has the appropriate authorisation for the interaction being performed on behalf of the taxpayer recorded in ATO systems.

For the IITR lodgment interactions, a tax agent must be linked at the whole of client level in ATO systems.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| attention_pms | The tax agent to taxpayer relationship is a fundamental precondition to interacting with SBR for IITR interactions. |

**Note:** If the relationship does not exist, the Client Update Relationship services can be used to establish a relationship between the tax agent and the taxpayer. See the Client Update Relationship Business Implementation Guide and ATO Service Registry for further information.

* 1. Access Manager

AUSkey, which provides authentication of identity in combination with Access Manager is used to manage access and permissions for SBR services. The initiating parties authorised to use each service and the access manager permissions required for a business or intermediary are shown below.

For further information on AUSkey, see the [Australian Business Register website](https://abr.gov.au/AUSkey/). For more information on Access Manager, see the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/General/online-services/access-manager/).

* 1. Initiating Parties

ATO systems will check that the initiating party is allowed to use the interaction that is received through the SBR channel. The initiating party is subject to restrictions on the clients account based on their Access Manager permissions.

The table below displays the interactions available to each initiating party via SBR for IITR and ELStagFormat:

| **Service**  | **Interaction** | **Activity** | **Tax agent** | **BAS agent** | **Business** | **Business Intermediary** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LDGLST (Lodgment List) | *LDGLST.List* | Request the list of a client’s expected and received lodgments | ✓ | \* | \* | \* |
| **IITR** | *IITR.Prefill* | Request taxpayer data held by the ATO, mainly provided by third party information providers | ✓ |  |  |  |
| *IITR.Prelodge* | Validate data inputted into IITR, including an amendment or RFC before submitting for processing | ✓ |  |  |  |
| *IITR.Lodge* | Lodge IITR, including an amendment or RFC for processing | ✓ |  |  |  |
| IITRPRFL | *IITRPRFL.Get* | Request Profile Compare response message from the ATO | ✓ |  |  |  |
| ELStagFormat | *ELStagFormat.**Lodge* | Lodge IITR or RFC for prior years as a SBR message using ELS tag format | ✓ |  |  |  |

Table 2: Initiating Parties

**\*Note:** The Lodgment List service is available to other entity types, but is not applicable for the purposes of a tax agent lodging IITRs on behalf of an individual.

* 1. Permissions

A user must be assigned the appropriate authorisation permissions to use the IITR service. The below table references the SBR service to the relevant permission in Access Manager:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Service** | **Access Manager Permission** |
| Lodgment List (*LDGLST.list*) | View client reports*Client.LodgmentCalendar.View* |
| IITR (*IITR.Prefill*) | Individual Income Tax Return* *Prepare* check box
 |
| IITR (*IITRPRFL.Get*) | Individual Income Tax Return* *Lodge* check box
 |
| IITR (*IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge*) | Individual Income Tax Return* *Lodge* check box
 |
| ELStagFormat | **Not Applicable** – the ELStagFormat service does not utilise Access Manager, however an ELS approval number must be provided. |

Table 3: Access Manager Permissions

1. Constraints and Known Issues
	1. Constraints when using the IITR lodgment interactions

The *IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge* interactions have the following constraints:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **#** | **Constraint** |
|  | The *IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge* interactions can only be used for IITR or RFC lodgments for the 2013-14 reporting period and onwards in the SBR format. |
|  | The IITR.0006 message can only be used for the 2018-19 reporting period. |
|  | IITR.0001 (2014), IITR.0002 (2015), IITR.0003 (2016), IITR.0004 (2017) and IITR.0005 (2018) messages cannot be included in the same batch. |

Table 4: Constraints when using IITR interactions

* 1. Known issues

When a future year return is lodged electronically, ATO systems are unable to process amendments to that return automatically if submitted in a later year. Amendments to early lodged returns submitted via SBR in a later financial year will receive an error message. Amendments to early lodged returns will need to be lodged via an alternate channel, for example via [phone](https://www.ato.gov.au/tax-professionals/services-and-support/phone-services/tax-agent-phone-services-%28fast-key-code%29-guide/#Lodgment).

1. Taxpayer Declarations

Each time an intermediary lodges an approved form on behalf of a taxpayer, the law requires the intermediary to have first received a signed written declaration from that taxpayer.

Developers of SBR-enabled software products may elect to provide a printable version of the taxpayer declaration within their products to assist intermediaries.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| attention_pms | A taxpayer declaration must be obtained by the intermediary for all lodgment obligations performed on behalf of their client. |

These declarations apply, not just for original lodgments, but when lodging amendments to an IITR or RFC.

For information on the retention of declarations and frequently asked questions, please refer to the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/tax-professionals/prepare-and-lodge/managing-your-lodgment-program/client-declarations-and-lodgment-online/#Answerstofrequentlyaskedquestions).

* 1. Suggested wording

|  |
| --- |
| **Privacy**The ATO is authorised by the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* to request the provision of tax file numbers (TFNs). The ATO will use the TFNs to identify you in our records. It is not an offence not to provide the TFNs. However, lodgments cannot be accepted electronically if the TFN is not quoted.Taxation law authorises the ATO to collect information and to disclose it to other government agencies. For information about your privacy go to ato.gov.au/privacy.**Declaration**I declare that:* All of the information I have provided to the agent for the preparation of this document is true and correct
* I authorise the agent to give this document to the Commissioner of Taxation.
 |

1. IITR Lodgment Interactions Guidance
	1. Channel warnings

Where applicable, the *IITR.Prelodge* interaction will return a ‘warning’ message to review certain labels for accuracy prior to submitting the IITR for lodgment. Warning messages will not prevent lodgment through the *IITR.Lodge* interaction.

For a complete list of warnings please refer to the IITR validation rules.

An example is provided in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Business Rule ID | CMN.ATO.IITR.00061 |
| Severity Code | Warning |
| English Business Rule | Check account name where field contains numerics. |

Table 5: Example of channel warning

Requests to the *ELStagFormat* service will not provide warnings at the channel.

* 1. Lodgment of IITR or RFC where CLIENT information does not match ATO records

When an original IITR or RFC is lodged, the surname, and date of birth fields must be the same as stored in ATO systems. If this data does not match when it reaches ATO systems, the lodgment will be rejected and error message returned to the user.

Changes of demographic, address and contact information on amendments are not advised as this will cause processing of the amendment to cease. ATO systems will not inform the user during processing when the amendment data differs from client records but will indicate via SBR that the amendment has been accepted successfully. The demographic, contact and address information will then be validated manually by an ATO officer (including contacting the tax agent) before the processing of the amendment can continue.

Software developers should consider whether these fields could be made un-editable or ‘read-only’ when presenting the information to a user when preparing to lodge an amendment through their BMS product.

The report labels that should not differ from ATO records when submitting amendments are:

| **Report Label** | **SBR Alias** | **ELS tag**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year of return | IITR10 | ABB |
| Tax file number | IITR15 | AAD |
| Title | IITR21 | ABE |
| Family name | IITR22 | ABF |
| Suffix | IITR23 | BAW |
| First name | IITR24 | ABG |
| Other given names | IITR25 | BBB |
| Has name or title changed since last tax return lodged | IITR26 | BFG |
| Current postal address - Address line 1 | IITR33 | ABH |
| Current postal address - Address line 2 | IITR34 |
| Current postal address - Suburb/Town | IITR35 | AME |
| Current postal address - State | IITR36 | AMF |
| Current postal address - Postcode | IITR37 | APE |
| Current postal address - Country code | IITR38 | KGD |
| Postal address changed | IITR39 | BFH |
| Home address - Address line 1 | IITR41 | ABK |
| Home address - Address line 2 | IITR42 |
| Home address - Suburb/Town | IITR43 | AXQ |
| Home address - State | IITR44 | AXR |
| Home address - Postcode | IITR45 | APH |
| Home address - Country code | IITR52 | KGE |
| Date of birth | IITR29 | ABQ |
| Date of death | IITR28 | ARH |
| Your mobile phone number | IITR48 | KGR |
| Daytime phone area code | IITR579 | BOC |
| Daytime phone number | IITR50 | BOD |
| Reporting Party Declarer Telephone area code | IITR580 | Not applicable |
| Reporting Party Declarer Telephone number | IITR553 | Not applicable |
| Intermediary Declarer Telephone area code | IITR581 | Not applicable |
| Intermediary Declarer Telephone number | IITR541 | Not applicable |
| Contact E-mail address | IITR51 | FLW |

Table 6: Data elements that should not be altered when lodging an amendment

To avoid delays in the processing of an original or amendment lodgment of either the IITR or RFC, it is recommended that the Pre-fill (*IITR.Prefill*) interaction be called prior to completing an IITR, to ensure the tax agent has the latest information held on the taxpayer as recorded in ATO systems.

For more information on pre-fill, please see the Pre-fill IITR Business Implementation Guide. For information on updating individual taxpayer demographic, address, contact and bank account information, see the Client Update 2018 Business Implementation Guide, [section 6.9](#sec69) below or the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number/update-your-details/update-your-contact-details-or-nominated-representative/).

* 1. Interactive validation

Interactive validation is a feature available via SBR for *IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge* messages within ATO processing systems. For an IITR message to be able to reach the stage where interactive validation can be invoked, it needs to first pass channel validations. If warnings are received at the channel using *IITR.Prelodge*, this will not prevent interactive validation occurring as the message will still be routed to ATO systems.

If errors are received during channel validation, the message will not reach ATO systems and interactive validation will be unable to be performed.

Once the message has passed channel validation, the ATO systems will receive the message, and where errors are encountered on the IITR, these will be returned to the tax agent. This enables the tax agent to correct any errors discovered and avoid delays in processing. Interactive validation is the default mode for IITR validation.

Interactive validation will be performed for both *IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge* interactions only. Interactive validation cannot be performed for *ELStagFormat.Lodge* interaction requests.



Figure 2: Interactive error flow of events

* 1. Prior year IITR or RFC lodgment through SBR

In order to support prior year lodgments before 2017 via SBR, lodgment of IITR or RFCs is possible using the *ELStagFormat* service. *ELStagFormat* can be used for prior year IITR lodgments from 1998-2016. Electronic Lodgment Service (ELS) formatted data can be submitted as an SBR ebMS3 message using the ELS tag, which encapsulates the legacy ELS message. *ELStagFormat* is only available as a batch lodgment.

Please refer to the A06\_DIS\_SBR specification from the ELS suite of artefacts, available from the ATO [software developer website](http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/ELSspecification).

* 1. IITR Message as application for refund of franking credits

Where an individual does not need to lodge an income tax return for a financial year, but has received franking credits for dividend earnings, they may seek a refund of these credits. This can be done using an application for refund of franking credits (RFC) for individuals via the *IITR.Prelodge* and *IITR.Lodge* interactions.

A RFC would use the *Income Tax Return Type* (SBR alias: IITR13 / ELS tag: JAZ) data element in the IITR message. The value to use in this field is ‘Short’. This would inform ATO systems that this message is a RFC, not an IITR, and that only fields required for a RFC should be validated.

The following fields must be used when the IITR is a RFC ‘short’ form, as described in validation rule VR.ATO.IITR.200003:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Label** | **SBR alias**  | **ELS tag**  |
| Dividends - Unfranked amount | IITR118 | AGF |
| Dividends - Franked amount | IITR119 | AGG |
| Dividends - Franking credit | IITR120 | AGH |
| TFN amounts withheld from dividends | IITR121 | ADI |

Table 7: Data elements that must be completed for a ‘short’ IITR (RFC) in addition to the mandatory fields

Please see the IITR message validation rules and message structure table for further details.

If there is the situation that an IITR needs to be submitted after the lodgment of an application for refund of franking credits, the IITR needs to be submitted as an amendment. Lodgment of the IITR as an original after the application of RFC will result in a rejected lodgment.

* 1. Using the additional Information free text field

The IITR message contains a free text field, *Additional information* (SBR alias: IITR31 / ELS tag: AEB), to enable appropriate information to be added to a return for assessment. While validation cannot control what information is provided in the additional field as it currently stands, below is some advice users can follow to ensure returns lodged with the field are processed without unnecessary delays:

* Free text content should be clear, concise and necessary to determine the outcome of the assessment for the return being lodged, and should only be used under the correct circumstances. Information entered that does not meet these criteria will cause processing delays.
* Software developers should consider whether a ‘help’ or informational message concerning use of this field would be beneficial for tax agents.

The following are key examples of where the field should be used, the type of business information that should be included, and the quality, tone and language of the information.

**Examples of helpful scenarios:**

| **Scenario** | **Additional free text field content** |
| --- | --- |
| The client is electing to withdraw from Primary Production averaging provisions. | My client hereby elects to withdraw from the primary production averaging provisions from the 2018 financial year. |
| The client is in receipt of a lump sum payment in arrears in the current year. | My client received a lump sum payment for $xx for financial year 20xx. This is to be calculated as a tax offset.  |
| The health insurer ID code of ‘other’ has been entered as the fund cannot be identified in the dropdown menu. | The name of the health fund is ABC healthy 123 Ltd. |

Table 8: Examples of helpful free text scenarios

The use of the additional information schedule should be avoided wherever possible unless the information being provided is relevant to the outcome of the assessment. Unnecessary use of the additional free text field will delay processing of the return with the need for the ATO to manually review the information.

For further information on the additional information field, see the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/Tax-professionals/Prepare-and-lodge/Tax-Time-2019/Before-you-lodge/Prevent-delays-in-processing-returns/).

* 1. IITR thresholds and calculations

IITR thresholds and calculations can be found on the ATO software developer’s website: <http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/list/tax-preparation/statement-formula-rates-and-thresholds>.

* 1. TFN and ABN algorithm validation

To obtain access to the algorithm to validate TFNs in a BMS product, refer to the ATO software developer page on this topic: <http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/obtainTFNalgorithm>.

For information on ABN validation see this page:<http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/ABNformat>.

* 1. Taxpayer data updated from lodgment

As part of the lodgment process for an original IITR or RFC, a number of fields concerning contact details, residency status and bank account details can be updated in ATO systems where they do not match ATO records. Amendments will not update the ATO client register.

In the case where a taxpayer has deceased, an IITR lodgment for the deceased taxpayer can be used to notify the ATO of the taxpayer’s death. The date of death will be updated in ATO records if this field is completed and the title field will be changed to ‘Executor for’.

Data that can be updated in ATO records can include:

* Postal Address data:
* ‘Address Line 1’
* ‘Address Line 2’
* ‘Suburb or town’
* ‘State’
* ‘Postcode’
* ‘Country’ (if not Australia).
* Residential Address data:
* ‘Address Line 1’
* ‘Address Line 2’
* ‘Suburb or town’
* ‘State’
* ‘Postcode’
* ‘Country’ (if not Australia).
* Residency status
* Electronic addresses:
* Telephone number (daytime)
* Mobile phone number
* Email Address.
* Financial Institution Account Details
* BSB number
* Financial Account Number
* Account Name.

**Note**: As described above, the taxpayer surname, and date of birth of the taxpayer must match ATO records to allow the IITR or RFC to be processed. These can be updated by the taxpayer or their nominated representative, see the [ATO website](https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number/update-your-details/update-your-contact-details-or-nominated-representative/) for more information.

* 1. Domain tables

Domain tables are used to provide an enumerated list of codes and descriptions where a prescribed value is expected in a field.

The domain tables are specified as part of the interactions validation rule spreadsheet. They can be consumed within products to assist tax agents in applying valid codes.

The domain tables applied to the IITR are:

* Title codes
* Suffix codes
* Country codes
* Health insurer ID codes
* Salary and occupation codes
* Exemption-rollover codes
* Tax loss codes
* Organisation type codes
* ANZSIC codes.

[2019 Salary and wage occupation codes](https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/salary-and-wage-occupation-codes-2019/) are available for tax agents on the ATO website.

Please note that where the IITR Pre-fill interaction has been called prior to the preparation of the taxpayer’s IITR, the salary and occupation code may not be returned. To avoid the lodgment being rejected, the valid code from the domain table must be selected.

* 1. Tax estimates

It is possible that the tax estimation provided through the BMS differs from the final refund or tax bill, for example the taxpayer’s account balance is different to the outcome of their assessment.

This can happen when:

* The taxpayer incurred a penalty or general interest charge
* The ATO credited interest amounts to the taxpayer
* The ATO offset credits to other tax debts (or debts the taxpayer has with other government agencies)
* Other ATO corrections
* The taxpayer has an account opening balance that is not zero
* Returns for multiple financial years were lodged for the taxpayer in close proximity.
	1. Telephone number Area Codes

The original Aliases IITR49, IITR552 and IITR540 (ElectronicContact.Telephone.Area.Code) enforced a 2 digit area code. These have now been replaced with IITR579, IITR580 and IITR581 respectively (ElectronicContact.Telephone.Country.Code), which now has a limit of 4 digits. A new validation rule has been introduced for each Alias to ensure this limit is not exceeded. As a result, Norfolk Island telephone numbers are now catered for, allowing the single digit area code and 5 digit phone number.

**Examples of helpful scenarios:**

| **Scenario** | **Guidance for area codes** |
| --- | --- |
| The entity has an Australian telephone number  | The area code is to be entered the same (for example 02, 03, etc.). The country code is not required in this scenario. Enter the phone number into the ElectronicContact.Telephone.Minimal.Number field. |
| The entity has a telephone number from Norfolk Island | The area code can now contain a single digit area code (for example 3). The country code is not required in this scenario. Enter the phone number into the ElectronicContact.Telephone.Minimal.Number field. |
| The entity has an overseas telephone number | The area code for overseas telephone numbers should consist of the country code + region code. Where this exceeds 4 digits, enter the number across both the ElectronicContact.Telephone.Country.Code and the ElectronicContact.Telephone.Minimal.Number. For example, where the country code is 86 and region code is 131, enter 8613 into the ElectronicContact.Telephone.Country.Code field, and 1 followed by the phone number in the ElectronicContact.Telephone.Minimal.Number field. |

Table 10: Examples of telephone number area codes

1. The Electronic Lodgment Service was, until the provision of the Practitioner lodgment service (PLS) the primary electronic channel for agents to lodge tax forms electronically with the ATO. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Majority of self-prepared individual income tax returns are lodged using the ATO’s *myTax* service accessible via ATO Online. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)