



TAX SYSTEMS



# Alphacat Release Notes

Version 18.0



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# 1. Introduction

## About this Release

Welcome to the version 18.0 edition of Alphacat. This release includes the following features:

- Updates for the latest FATCA and CRS report requirements for supported jurisdictions (UK, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Ireland and Cayman Islands).
- Minor enhancements and changes to resolve customer issues.
- Support for the latest list of reporting jurisdictions under CRS and the latest FFI list.

We are planning some more significant enhancements for version 19.0 of Alphacat to improve your filing experience for 2020. We will be trialling these enhancements in 2019. If you would like to learn more about these enhancements or would like to be involved in the trial, please let us know.

## Technical Support

We provide a technical support help desk for users requiring assistance. The help desk can be contacted by telephone between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

If you require help or further information, please contact the support team on:		
UK:	Tel: +44(0) 1784 777 666	Email: <a href="mailto:support@taxsystems.com">support@taxsystems.com</a>
Ireland:	Tel: +353 (0) 1661 9976	Email: <a href="mailto:support@taxsystems.ie">support@taxsystems.ie</a>

## 2. Important notices

### Windows Server 2008 and SQL Server 2008

Microsoft is preparing to end support for Windows Server 2008/2008 R2 and SQL Server 2008/2008 R2 later this year.

Please be advised that we intend to withdraw support for the above from the 2020 release of Alphacat and updating the minimal requirements for Alphacat to 2012 versions or later.

## 3. Installation

### Installation key

Your 16-digit Alphacat installation key is provided in the email that you were sent announcing the release. The Alphacat installation key is required to both download and install Alphacat.

If you are unable to locate the email containing your 16-digit Alphacat installation key, please contact the support team on 01784 777666 or email [support@taxsystems.com](mailto:support@taxsystems.com).

### Downloading and installing Alphacat

Please download the copy of Alphacat from the releases download site <https://releases.taxcomputersystems.com>, which will require you to enter your email address and your 16-digit Alphacat installation key.

This process will generate an automated email with a unique URL, which will be sent to your email address.

The URL will allow you to download the Alphacat installer along with other applications that you are registered to use, as well as the installation guides and release notes.

Click on '**Alphacat v18.0.exe**' to initiate the installation process for which the Alphacat installation key will again be required. Press the **Enter** key at the prompts.

The installation process will override the old version of Alphacat. For detailed information on the installation process, please refer to the *Alphacat Installation Guide for either Alphacat Professional or Alphacat Enterprise*. These can be retrieved from the user documentation section, of the download screen.

Enterprise users, using the Oracle or MSSQL databases, should also run the database update script from within the Enterprise Manager utility. The database version is now 39.

The Enterprise Manager is automatically extracted from within the Alphacat Installer package.

For detailed information on how to run the database update script, please refer to the *Alphacat Enterprise Administration Guide*. This can be retrieved from the user documentation section of the download screen.

## Templates

The installation will reinstall the standard Alphacat templates to ensure that you have the latest versions.

*Please note: This part of the process may take some time. A progress bar displays the template names as they are being copied.*

If you have created your own versions of these templates, they will now be stored in a new folder called BACKUPCn (where n is a number incremented for each new installation) and you may access them from this folder, once the installation is complete.

Folders called BACKUPCn created in the version 17.0 release, are removed with this release.

## Alphacat platform support

### Operating Systems

Alphacat is supported on Windows 7 and later operating systems.

### SQL Server

Alphacat Enterprise is supported on SQL Server 2008 and later versions.

## 4. Jurisdiction specific changes

### Jersey

#### CRS TIN validation

The Jersey tax authority has advised that they are treating the TIN as a mandatory element in the XML submission. Where a TIN is not known for an account holder, the following defaults must be entered:

- FATCA submissions – AAAAAAAAAA
- CRS submissions – NOTIN

Alphacat already includes "AAAAAAAAAA" as the TIN for FATCA submissions where the **No TIN** flag has been set to **Yes** following changes included in the previous release. For this release, we have now extended this same treatment to apply in returning "NOTIN" in place of the TIN for CRS submissions to Jersey authorities.

The **Tax Identification Number (TIN) required** diagnostics that previously appeared in this situation to advise that at least 1 character must be entered – which was in line with previous guidance – will now not display.

## Date of birth

A date of birth for individual account holders is also being treated as mandatory by the Jersey authorities. Where the date of birth is not known, the default to be used in the XML submission is 01/01/1900, however where this applies the reporting FI must explain in writing the reason why this information is not held and what steps are being taken to rectify this.

For this release we have extended the display rule of the existing **Date of birth is required** diagnostics to ensure that a date of birth is entered for all FATCA and CRS reportable individual accounts of a Jersey submission group. Where the date of birth is not entered, a date of 01/01/1900 should be entered manually.

## Cayman Islands

### FATCA TIN validation

The Cayman Islands tax authority has advised that they are relaxing the validation check regarding the use the "AAAAAAAAA" as the TIN when a date of birth is not known for FATCA submissions. Alphacat automatically uses this default TIN for FATCA submissions where the **No TIN** flag is set to **Yes** regardless if a date of birth for the individual was known.

## Isle of Man

### FATCA TIN validation

The Isle of Man tax authority has advised that they are including additional validations in respect of TINs to ensure that a TIN is not included as the same character 9 times, e.g. 111111111. This change is designed to ensure that a valid US TIN is entered.

For this release we have extended the existing **US TIN is not in the expected format** diagnostics to now appear for Isle of Man submission groups where a TIN of nine consecutive characters is entered.

Note that where a TIN is not known, a default of AAAAAAAAAA should be used in the submission. Alphacat applies this treatment automatically where the **No TIN** flag is set to **Yes**.

No changes have been made for CRS submissions.

## 5. Enhancements and resolved issues

### Import Tool - Heading descriptions

Following feedback from our customers, the headings drop down list is now grouped by category in order to make items easier to find.

We have also taken the opportunity to update the narrative of certain headings to ensure that the name matches that of the corresponding input in Alphacat, and to removed headings for certain inputs that are no longer in use.

## Report statements configuration option

For audit purposes, Alphacat prints a PDF version of the accounts detail report as part of the XML creation process. This is intended to provide a useful record of the reportable accounts at the time of submission that supports the XML submission file.

For submissions with a large number of reportable accounts – i.e. tens of thousands or more – the accounts details PDF will run to hundreds of pages and so creating and saving this PDF can take a number of hours. This can represent a significant burden on resource, particularly when close to a submission deadline.

For this release, we have included a new **Suppress jurisdiction reports** flag on the *Configuration options* input statement. Setting this flag to **Yes** will cause Alphacat to switch off those reports in the contents tree that return lists of reportable accounts.

The summary reports and the values returned thereon are unchanged and so details of the number of reportable accounts will still be included, just without the specific details of each account. The effect of this is that the accounts details PDF will be trimmed down to tens of pages, and so the process of creating the XML will take minutes rather than hours.

The XML submission file itself is entirely unaffected by this configuration option.

## Entities with reportable controlling persons

We have addressed a calculation issue that in certain situations would result in an unreconciled amount incorrectly appearing on the *Accounts reconciliation – entity accounts with reportable controlling persons* report statement.

## New Entities with no IN

We have addressed a display issue whereby the diagnostic that appears where a new entity account is created with no IN entered and the **No IN** flag not set to **Yes** was not causing the *Diagnostics* report to display where this was the only diagnostic in the file. Given that this is a rare scenario this has been fixed without an application date.

## 6. CRS Countries and FFI list

### Phased introduction

This release includes support for the latest list of CRS participating jurisdictions for submissions in 2019 as documented on the [OECD website](#).

### Approved FATCA registered FFI list

The IRS publishes a monthly list of all foreign financial institutions (FFIs) and branches with approved FATCA registration.

This list of valid GIINs is held in the `tcslex.ffi` file in Alphacat and **Global Intermediary Identification Number (GIIN)** entries, made on either the *Submitted details* or *Financial institution details* input statements, are validated against this list.

Diagnostics are displayed where a GIIN entered does not appear on the list, or where the name of the institution entered in Alphacat does not match the name for that GIIN on the IRS list.

This edition of Alphacat has been updated to include the list as of January 2019.





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