



Excise Tax Commitments – 2019-2020

Below is the proposed schedule for Excise Tax Commitments for the remainder of this year and for 2020. We have noted below the transition for ALARS to ATLAS and some other changes that are the result of undertaking the process of designing and configuring ATLAS.

Transition from ALARS to Atlas:

- The last commitment from ALARS will be produced on 11/8/2019, with files available on Tuesday 11/12/2019. This commitment will include everything that was billable as of 11/8/2019, essentially insuring that no 2019 excise tax billings are outstanding to be carried over into ATLAS.
- The first commitment in ATLAS will be produced on 12/16/2019 and will only have vehicles that have been registered between 11/9/2019 and 12/16/2019. This will be a small commitment. We are undertaking this run to insure we have configured ATLAS correctly and to identify any issues prior to the first commitment for 2020. We are looking for a few municipalities (10-20) who are interested in assisting us with this effort. The RMV would be asking you to commit to obtaining the commitment file, quickly processing the bills on your end and mailing them right away. And then as problems and issues arise, we would work with you to identify whether or not they are system issues. We will maintain the current web site and report any significant issues to everyone via this mechanism. If you are interested in participating please contact Atlas.municipalities@dot.state.ma.us

What is New?

- **Timing:** In the past, the RMV has always paired the prior and current year commitments. However, we are proposing to split them apart, largely to accommodate the new recommitment process (see below under Recommitments). The proposal is to run the last excise commitment for 2019 on March 7th and the regular 2nd commitment for 2020 later in March. This will result in two distinct files (Year 2019, Run 7 and Year 2020, Run 2) on separate days rather than the old process of these two files being available on the same day.
- **Recommitments:** With the advent of ATLAS, the RMV will be offering a portal based re-commitment process. Since all commitments are tax year based, we need to collectively decide how far into the next year we want to go to support the prior year's re-commitments that are processed via this automated process. The RMV is proposing March 7th. This means any re-commitments that are processed via the portal for 2019 tax year (and these would have to be for bills generated in ATLAS) would have to be entered in the portal by COB March 6, 2020. Our thinking on this is as follows:
 - The commitments, in order of volume, generally decline as the tax year goes along, the first commitment being the largest
 - Our assumption (knowing that we are not in the tax billing business) is that the majority of the issues that require re-commitments are identified with 60 days of the excise tax bill being issued
 - Previously, when the prior tax year was held open until well into the following summer (largely over vehicle valuations), it resulted in very small commitments that seemed to be more problem than solution
 - In ATLAS, the only reason to keep the prior year open beyond January will be for this re-commitment process.
 - The current ongoing schedule for 2020 has the sixth commitment scheduled for late November. The next and final commitment would be in March of 2021. Any bills from this file (any new vehicle purchased in December) would have to be manually re-committed.



- As a result, we should have processed 99+% of the bills that are going to be re-committed by March 1st of the following year, and once the calendar year closes, it makes sense to only run one more commitment to close out the year (see small commitment comment).
- Availability: All files will be available on the Monday after the file is generated.

2019 Excise Tax Commitment Schedule:

Seq	For	System	Generated In	Run
First	2019	ALARS	January/2019	Year 2019, Run 1
Second	2019	ALARS	March/2019	Year 2019, Run 2
Third	2019	ALARS	May/2019	Year 2019, Run 3
Fourth	2019	ALARS	July/2019	Year 2019, Run 4
Fifth	2019	ALARS	September/2019	Year 2019, Run 5
Sixth	2019	ALARS	Friday November 8, 2019 (last run in ALARS)	Year 2019, Run 6
Seventh	2019	ATLAS	December 16, 2019 (first run in ATLAS) NOTE: Represents excise bills and recommits added in ATLAS between November 12 th and December 16 th .	Year 2019, Run 7
Eighth (last)	2019	ATLAS	March 7, 2020 NOTE: Represents recommits for tax year 2019 and excise bills from December 16 th and December 31 st . Last bill run for any 2019 recommitments.	Year 2019, Run 8

2020 2019 Excise Tax Commitment Schedule: (Exact run dates to be determined)

Seq	For	System	Generated In	Run
First	2020	ATLAS	January/2020 NOTE: We are considering delaying this run until January 18th or January 25th to allow for any feedback from the December 16th bill run NOTE: RMV projects ~ 5.3MM new bills for 2020	Year 2020, Run 1
Second	2020	ATLAS	March/2020 NOTE: Will include an estimated 400K excise bills and recommitments eligible for billing.	Year 2020, Run 2
Third	2020	ATLAS	May/2020	Year 2020, Run 3
Fourth	2020	ATLAS	July/2020	Year 2020, Run 4
Fifth	2020	ATLAS	September/2020	Year 2020, Run 5
Sixth	2020	ATLAS	November/2020	Year 2020, Run 6
Seventh	2020	ATLAS	December 16, 2019 (first run in ATLAS) NOTE: This would include recommits for tax year 2020 and remaining excise bills 2020. Last bill run for any 2020 recommitments	Year 2020, Run 7
			Recommits for a prior bill year are only eligible up to March 1st of the following year. This means that, as of March 1, 2021, no more 2020 recommits would be allowed	