

**Useful Links:**[IRS.gov](#)[Help For Hurricane Victims](#)**News Essentials**[What's Hot](#)[News Releases](#)[IRS - The Basics](#)[IRS Guidance](#)[Media Contacts](#)[Facts & Figures](#)[Around The Nation](#)[e-News Subscriptions](#)**The Newsroom Topics**[Multimedia Center](#)[Noticias en Español](#)[Radio PSAs](#)[Tax Scams/Consumer Alerts](#)[The Tax Gap](#)[Fact Sheets](#)[IRS Tax Tips](#)[Armed Forces](#)**Issue Number: IRS Taxes. Security. Together. Tax Tip Number 10****Inside This Issue****IRS, Partners Move to Strengthen Anti-Fraud Effort with Form W-2 Verification Code**

When you get your Form W-2 in early 2017, you may notice a new entry – a 16-digit verification code. This is part of an effort conducted by the Internal Revenue Service to protect taxpayers and strengthen anti-fraud efforts.

The expanded use of the W-2 Verification Code is a way to validate the wage and tax withholding information on the tax form. For taxpayers, taking a moment to add this code when filling out their taxes helps the IRS authenticate the information. This in turn helps protect against identity theft and unnecessary refund delays.

For 2017, the IRS and its partners in the payroll service provider industry will place the code on 50 million Forms W-2. This is up from two million forms in 2016.

The IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax industry – partners in combating identity theft – ask for your help in their efforts. Working in partnership with you, we can make a difference.

That's why we launched a public awareness campaign that we call Taxes. Security. Together. We've also launched a series of security awareness tips that can help protect you from cybercriminals.

One area where we need your help is with the W-2 Verification Code. If your W-2 contains the code, please enter it when prompted if using software to prepare your return. Or, please make sure your tax preparer enters it.

If the code is not included, your tax return will still be accepted. However, initial results indicate the verification code shows promise in reducing tax fraud. It helps IRS processing systems authenticate the real taxpayer. Identity thieves sometimes file false Forms W-2 to support their fraudulent tax returns.

This initiative will affect only those Forms W-2 prepared by payroll service providers. The verification code's location on the form will vary. Enter the code on electronically filed returns only. Most software providers will prompt you to enter the code.

To learn additional steps you can take to protect your personal and financial data, visit [Taxes. Security. Together](#). Also read [Publication 4524](#), Security Awareness for Taxpayers.

[Latest News](#)

IRS Resources

[Compliance & Enforcement News](#)

[Contact Your Local IRS Office](#)

[Filing Your Taxes](#)

[Forms & Pubs](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Taxpayer Advocate Service](#)

[Where to File](#)

[IRS Social Media](#)

Share this tip on social media -- IRS, Partners Move to Strengthen Anti-Fraud Effort with Form W-2 Verification Code. <http://go.usa.gov/x9r7F> #IRS

Thank you for subscribing to IRS Tax Tips, an IRS e-mail service. For more information on federal taxes please visit IRS.gov.

This message was distributed automatically from the IRS Tax Tips mailing list. **Please Do Not Reply To This Message.**