

2007

**Louisiana 2D Bar Code
General Information**

The Louisiana Department of Revenue is utilizing two-dimensional barcode technology for the resident (IT-540) and nonresident (IT-540B) individual income tax forms.

We are requesting that all participating vendors provide a short statement that describes what a two-dimensional barcode is and why it is being utilized. The statement is provided in Appendix A. **This statement should only be provided to the customer if your software reproduces the two-dimensional barcode.**

General Information

- The 2D barcode should be placed in the upper right hand corner of the form.
- The area reserved for the barcode is 4-5/8" X 1-11/16". This area includes a ¼" blank area around the barcode. The barcode must fit within this area on the form.
- The 2D barcode contains the same information that is in the scan band, except the document number. The document number for the resident 2D barcode is 6855. The document number for the nonresident 2D barcode is 6865. The 3 of 9-barcode, which is printed in the bottom left corner is 6855O for the resident, and 6865P for the nonresident. The document numbers for the resident schedule pages are 6851 and 6852 (same as scan band). The barcodes for the resident schedule pages are 6851K and 6852L (same as scan band). The document numbers for the nonresident schedules are 6862 and 6863. The barcodes for the nonresident schedules are 6862M and 6863N. If you produce a 2D, you must use these document numbers in the scan band and the 2D.
- Returns submitted with a payment or indicating a balance due should be mailed to PO Box 3550, Baton Rouge, LA. 70821-3550. Returns submitted with a refund or no tax due should be mailed to PO Box 3440, Baton Rouge, LA. 70821-3440.
- Use a carriage return <CR> to delimit fields. Each barcode field should have a carriage return, even if no information is contained in the field.
- No punctuation is allowed in any field. No hyphens, dashes, parentheses, or other separators should be used.
- All alpha characters should be in uppercase.
- Do not zero fill numeric fields in the 8 columns in the scan band.
- Negative amounts are not accepted (if less than zero, leave blank).
- Only whole dollar amounts should be entered.
- Don't include supplemental information in the barcode.
- Error correction level should be set to 4.

Printers:

To print a readable barcode, a printer capable of 200 dots per inch (DPI) **minimum** is required; however, **300 DPI or higher is recommended**. If the printer can produce a graphic such as a tax agency seal or logo, then the printer should be capable of producing a 2-D barcode.

Barcode Layout:

1. Header Information
 2. State Specific Data
 3. Trailer
- **Header Information:** This information should be placed first in the barcode data stream. The first six fields in the barcode comprise the official header. This information must be consistent among all barcodes and is defined below.
 - **Header Version Number** will be incremented each time the standards group alters the physical structure of the bar codes that were created using multiple header formats. This value is static for all bar codes and is currently T1.
 - **Developer Code**, a four-digit code used to identify the software developer whose application produced the bar code. The purpose of the field is to allow forms to be traced to the vendor producing them. Software developer codes are assigned through the NACTP.
 - **Jurisdiction**, an alphanumeric identifier indicating the taxing jurisdiction. Use the US Postal Service's official state abbreviations. For Louisiana, use LA.
 - **Description**, an alphanumeric identifier used to describe the form being processed. The identifier can be used to route the bar code information to the correct system for further processing. For Louisiana, use 6855 for the resident form and 6865 for the nonresident form.
 - **Specification Version**, a number that identifies the version of the specifications used to produce the form bar code. These specifications are provided by the jurisdiction processing the form and describe the data layout in the barcode. Draft versions of the specifications are not assigned version numbers. The final version shall be "0"; revisions thereafter will increase numerically.
 - **Software/Form Version**, a vendor defined version number that reflects which revision of the form is used to produce the barcode.

Note: The symbol <CR> is used to represent a single carriage return character.

Any form field that is a required field in the 2D barcode and does not have a value should be indicated by a single carriage return <CR>. This carriage return should measure 1 byte of data.

Sample Header

T1<CR>9999<CR>LA<CR>6855<CR>0<CR>1.0<CR>

Trailer: The trailer is the last field in the barcode data stream. The trailer is used to indicate the end of data has been reached. A static string of *EOD* is used as the trailer value. If, upon scanning the barcode, a trailer is not found, this indicates that some data may not be included in the barcode due to data size restrictions.

Example:

T1<CR> (Header Version Number)
9999<CR>(Developer Code)
LA<CR> (Jurisdiction)
6855<CR>(Description)
0<CR> (Specification Version)
1.0<CR> (Software Version)
....
....
....
EOD<CR>

Approval for 2D Barcode Returns

For tax year 2007 the Louisiana Department of Revenue is accepting 2D barcodes on the resident (IT-540) and nonresident (IT-540B) forms. There will be one form layout for **all** software vendors to reproduce. If your company is not implementing the 2D barcode, you will still have to reproduce the form leaving the area (upper right-hand corner) for the barcode blank. If you are creating a 2D barcode, you are still required to produce the scan band portion of both the IT-540 and IT-540B.

All vendors must obtain 2D bar code approval from the Louisiana Department of Revenue if they develop:

- Scannable tax forms containing 2D bar codes using its own software
- Tax software that generate 2D bar codes to be used with scannable forms developed by another company

A company must obtain approval before releasing or distributing tax software capable of generating 2D barcodes.

Approval Contact:

All correspondence for 2D barcode returns must be submitted to:

Overnight Delivery:

Jeannie Rasmussen
Louisiana Department of Revenue
Tax Administration Division
617 N. Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Standard Mail:

Jeannie Rasmussen
Louisiana Department of Revenue
Tax Administration Division
PO Box 3193
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3193

Phone: (225) 219-2690

Testing requirements:

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will supply each software developer with five (5) different test scenarios for each return (IT-540 and IT-540B). Software developers are required to submit one (1) printed tax return for each of the five (5) test scenarios. All variable data in the scan band and the 2D barcode must be printed.

Appendix A:

Statement to be provided to user:

Louisiana Resident (IT-540) and Nonresident (IT-540B) Individual Income Tax Forms

The Louisiana Department of Revenue is utilizing the 2D barcode technology. The barcode contains the information that was entered into your return

Below, is an example of the two-dimensional barcode. You will find this barcode in the top right-hand corner of your completed return. Please note, the two-dimensional barcode will **not** be found on the form in the printed booklet version you **may** have received in the mail.

2D Barcode Sample


