

IRS Acceptance Agent Application Process

To become an Acceptance Agent, you must complete and submit an IRS Acceptance Agent Application on behalf of your firm/organization.

This tutorial will provide information required for you to complete, modify, and submit an *IRS Acceptance Agent Application*. You do not have to complete an application in one session. It can be saved and completed later, but it only remains in a saved status for 90 days. **Note**: It can take up to 60 days for the IRS to process your application.

The process for completing an IRS Acceptance Agent Application consists of the following steps:

- 1. Complete the mandatory ITIN Acceptance Agent training at IRS.gov/itinagents before submitting your application. Everyone who is listed as a Responsible Party (RP) on your Acceptance Agent application must complete the training.
- 2. Complete <u>Forensic Document Identification Training</u> (CAAs only) <u>before</u> submitting your application. Everyone who is listed as a RP on your Acceptance Agent application must complete the training.
- 3. Complete the electronic IRS Acceptance Agent Application. Identify individuals in the firm/organization as the Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Business (PPO); Principal Consent (PC); RPs; and Contacts, as needed. All parties identified on your application, excluding contacts, must register with IRS e-Services to access the application. All parties, excluding contacts, must complete required fields, sign respective training certificates, where applicable and jurats.
- 4. Access the CAA Document Upload Tool at IRS.gov/caaReply to upload required documentation (i.e., Forensic Training Certificates, Professional Credentials, Citizenship documents, Non-Profit Exemption letter). We recommend uploading immediately after submitting the application.



Important things to note to complete an IRS Acceptance Agent application

- After you submit your application and related documents, we will conduct a suitability check on your firm/organization, and each authorized user listed on your application. Suitability checks may include a standard background check, credit history check, and IRS tax compliance check.
- A new user will be required to create a five-digit PIN the first time you log into e-Services. The five-digit PIN is used for signing the Terms of Agreement and submitting your application.
- You will need to enter information about each Authorized User (i.e. Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Business (PPO); Principal Consent (PC); Responsible Party(s) (RP); and Contacts) in your firm which includes identifying information.
- RPs must provide their professional credential if applicable. CPAs, Attorneys and Enrolled Agents must attach a copy of an unexpired credential.
- There must be an application for each office location that will participate in the program.



How to access an Acceptance Agent (AA) Application

Acceptance Agent Application

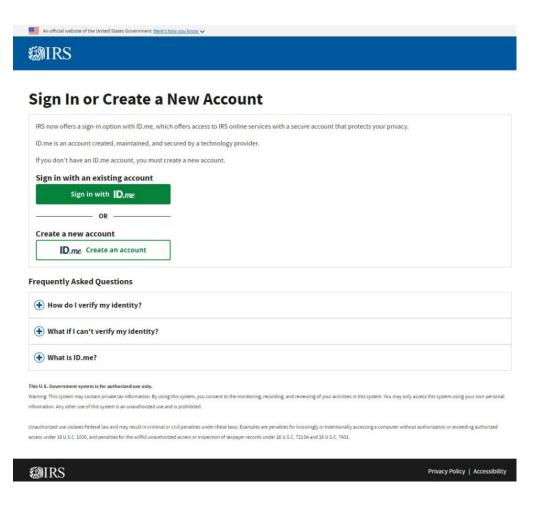
To access the Acceptance Agent Application, you can go on IRS.gov at <u>ITIN Acceptance Agent Program</u>. This page has helpful information on the Acceptance Agent program and includes a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) and answers regarding the new Acceptance Agent Application process.

Also, from this page you'll find the Access AA Application button which will direct you to the e-Services sign on page.

Sign into e-Services

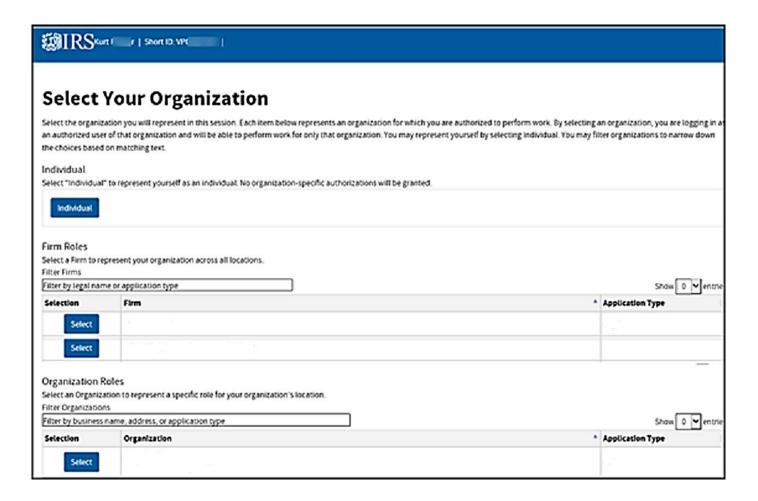
You'll sign in using **ID.me**.

ID.me is an account created, maintained, and secured by a private technology provider. Sign in with your existing account or create a new account to access e-Services. See <u>ID.me Help Center</u> for more information.



Select Your Organization

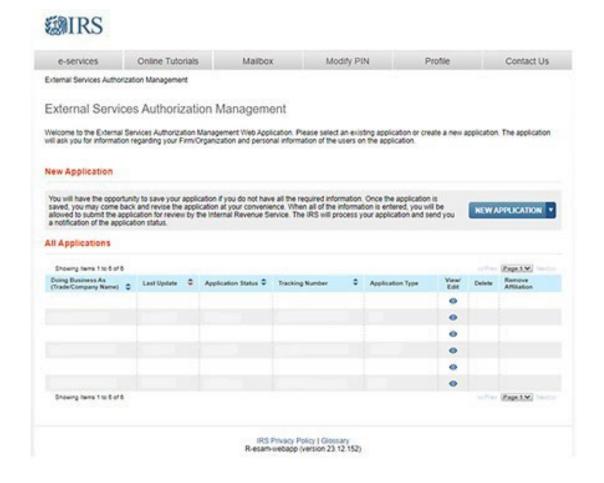
After signing in to ID.me, you'll be directed to the personality level page. To start an entirely new agreement, click the Individual button. For participants who need to resume working on their existing application, or update their existing agreement, see page 25 for instruction.



New Acceptance Agent Application

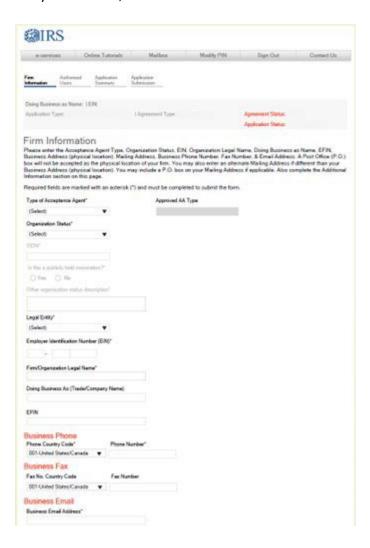
ESAM Application Landing Page

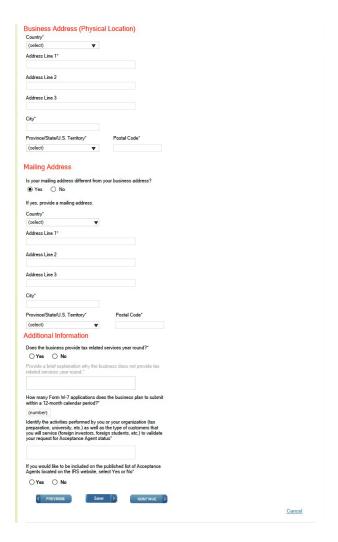
After clicking the Individual button, you'll be directed to the External Services Authorization Management (ESAM) landing page. Click on the New Application dropdown button and select Acceptance Agent Application from the list.



Firm Information Page

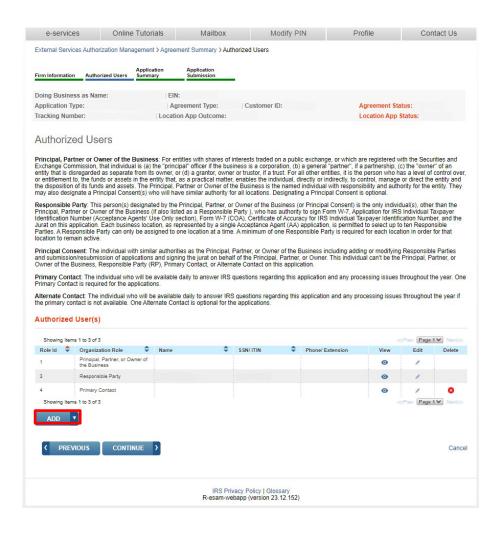
Next, enter your Firm's information (i.e., Firm/Organization Legal Name, EIN, Business address, etc.). Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*). After you're done, click Continue.





Authorized Users

This will direct you to the Authorized Users page. Click the Add dropdown button to select and add each Authorized User. At a minimum, a Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Business (PPO), along with a Responsible Party (RP) and Primary Contact are required. The user (organization role) selected will affect the pop-up title and which fields are displayed. After you're done entering all users, click Continue.

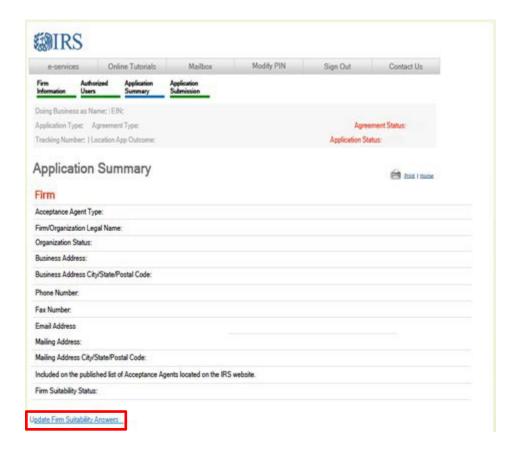


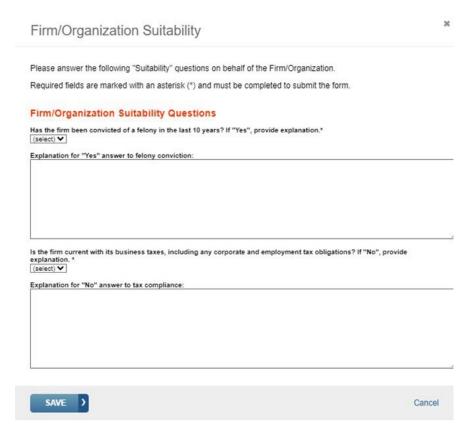
Authorized User Options ADD ▼ Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Business Responsible Party Principal Consent Primary Contact Alternate Contact Pop-Up Titles Add Alternate Contact Add Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Rusiness Suffix ⊕SSN ○ ITIN Add Principal Consent Social Security Number (\$500) Address Line 11 Add Primary Contact Suffix

Application Summary

This will direct you to the Application Summary page. This page contains a summary of all the information you've entered. Please review and make sure it's correct before proceeding.

In the Firm section, there's an Update Firm Suitability Answers link. This is ONLY displayed for the PPO and is a link to the questions they're required to answer regarding the Firm's suitability. Click the link, which will bring up a pop-up of the Firm Suitability questions. Answer each question then click Save.

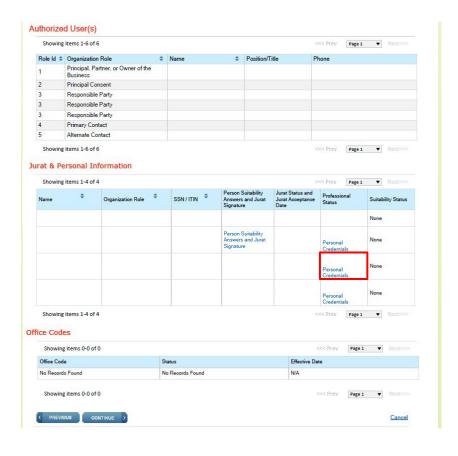


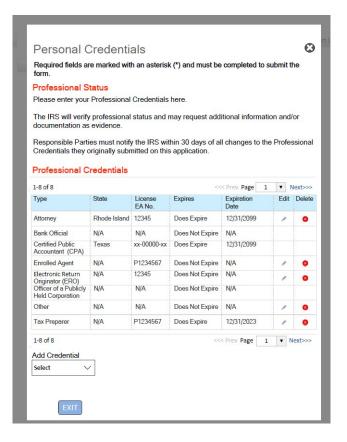


Application Summary continued

In the Jurat & Personal Information section, there's a Personal Credentials link for each RP listed. This is ONLY displayed for the PPO or Principal Consent (PC) and is used to add each RP's required professional status and credential, if applicable. Click the link, which will bring up a pop-up of the RP's personal credentials page. **Note:** The Professional Credentials section could contain credentials from other application types (i.e., e-file) that aren't applicable to the Acceptance Agent application, but you won't be able to edit or delete them.

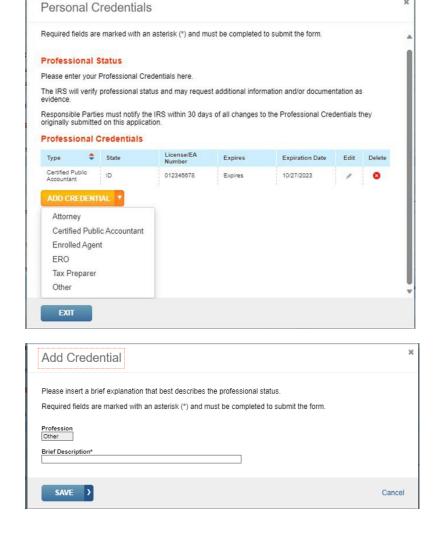
Enter a professional status for each RP unless already shown and validated. Click the Add Credential dropdown button to select and add each status and credential, if applicable. Each RP must have at least one professional status unless the organization status is VITA.

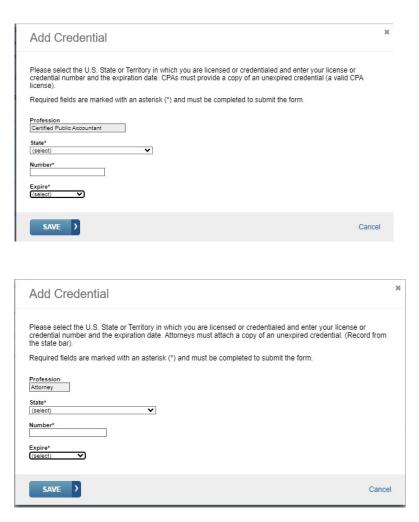




Personal Credentials continued

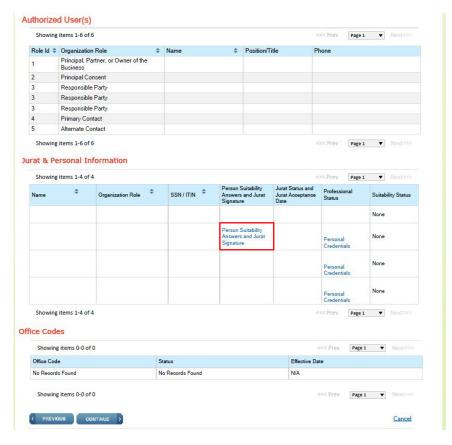
When Attorney, CPA or Other is selected, an additional pop-up will appear of the professional status selected and will affect which fields are displayed. Enter the required information and click Save.

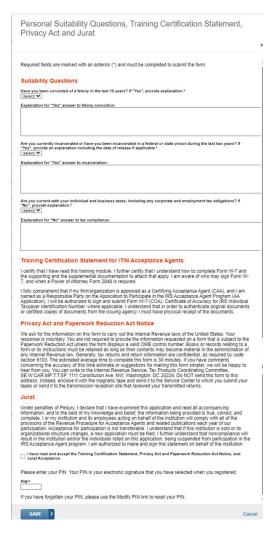




Application Summary continued

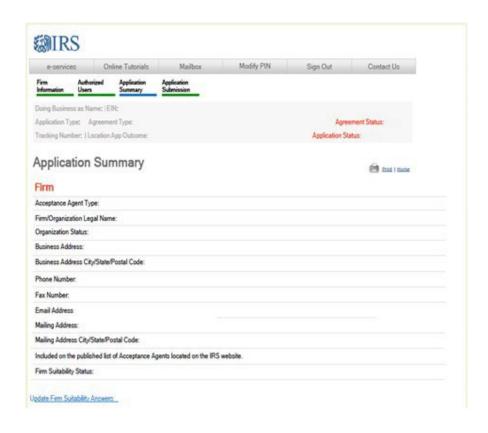
Also in the Jurat & Personal Information section, there's a Person Suitability Answers and Jurat Signature link for each RP. Each RP can ONLY see/access their own link. Click the link, which will bring up a pop-up of the personal suitability questions, training certification statement, privacy act and jurat. Each RP is required to answer each suitability question, read the statement, privacy act and jurat, check the checkbox attesting to the statement, enter their e-Services PIN, and then click Save.

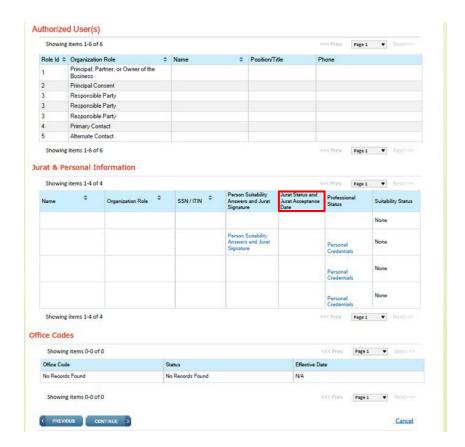




Application Summary continued

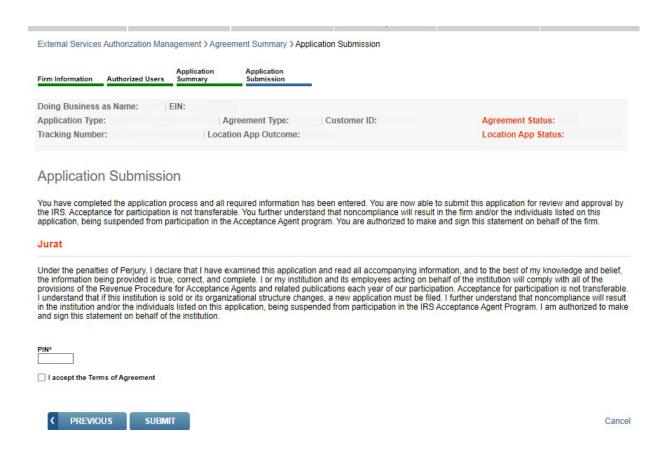
When you're done taking these actions, all RPs listed on the application need to log onto e-Services and access their Person Suitability Answers and Jurat Signature link. Once each RP has saved their responses, you'll be able to verify they've all signed when the Jurat Status and Jurat Acceptance Date column shows Signed with the date of occurrence. Then click Continue.





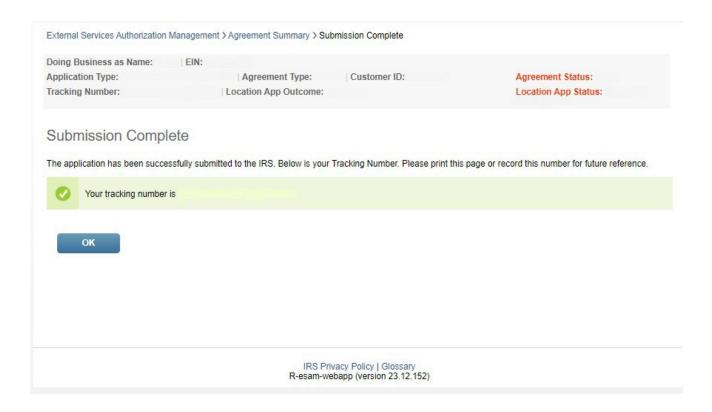
Application Submission

This will bring you to the Application Submission page. You're required to submit the application using your e-Services pin. After reading the jurat, checking the checkbox, and entering your pin, click Submit.



Submission Complete

Your application submission is now complete. You'll be provided a tracking number, which you can use to keep track of the status of your application. You'll also need your unique Customer ID to be able to upload your required documents using our CAA Document Upload Tool (DUT).





Document Upload Tool

After submitting your application, access the CAA Document Upload Tool at IRS.gov/caaReply. Click Ok.



Document Upload Tool continued

This will bring you to the CAA Document Upload Tool landing page. To upload your required documents (limited to Forensic Training Certificates, Professional Credentials, Citizenship documents, Non-Profit Exemption letter) click the Enter Unique/Customer ID button.



Document Upload Tool continued

Enter your unique Customer ID, Legal Business Name (as it appears on your application), and Employer Identification Number (EIN) in the applicable fields, then click Next.



Document Upload Tool continued

Follow the steps provided to upload your documents, and then click Submit when you're finished.

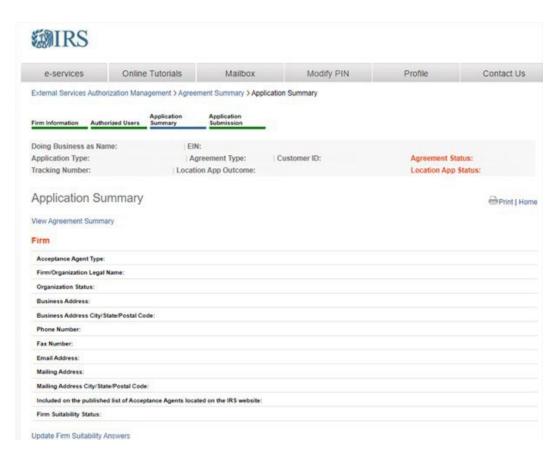


If your upload is successful, you'll see an acknowledgement page which means your documents have now been submitted for review. Once your application is reviewed, if additional information is needed, we'll contact you by letter. Please don't submit additional documents unless specifically requested by IRS letter, as this may delay your processing time. **Reminder:** It can take up to 60 days (two months) from the date of submission for your application to be processed.

Signing the Agreement

After your application is reviewed and your information is verified, you'll now be able to sign your agreement. On the Application Summary page, you'll see the Agreement Status is updated to Pending Agreement Signature and the Location App Status is Completed. A reminder letter will be sent on the sixth day after the Agreement Status has been updated if you haven't signed it yet. **Note:** You can periodically check the status of your application (see page 25 for instruction).

To sign the agreement, click the View Agreement Summary link. ONLY the Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Business, and Principal Consent can view/access this link.



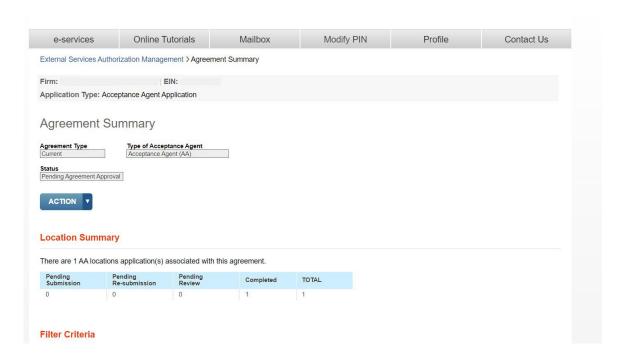
Signing the Agreement continued

This will direct you to the Agreement Summary page. Click the Action dropdown button and select Sign.



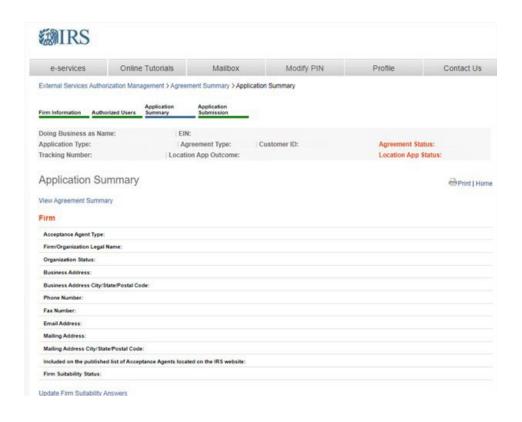
AA Agreement Confirmation

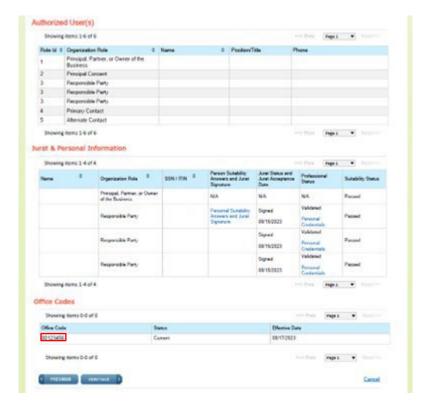
Once signed, the status will change to Pending Agreement Approval. The agreement is now pending an approval by the IRS.



Approved Agreement

You'll know when the IRS approved the Agreement when the Agreement Status is updated to Approved. When you return to the Application Summary page, it'll now show your office code, which is required when submitting W-7 applications for your clients. **Note:** You'll also receive a congratulatory letter once your agreement has been approved.



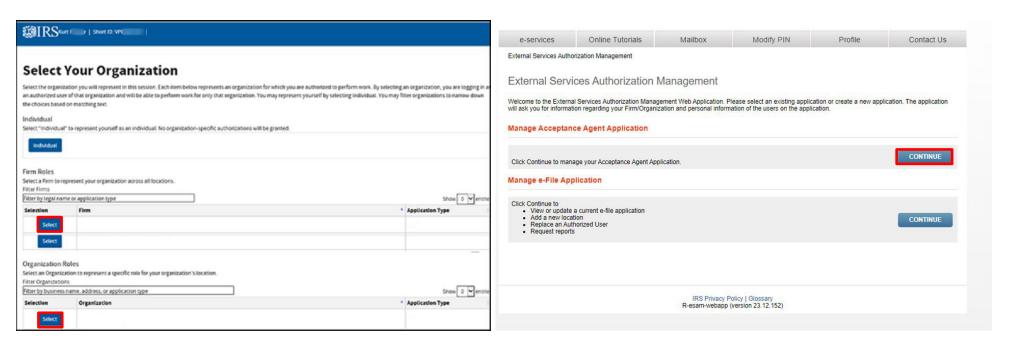


Update an existing Acceptance Agent Application

If you're the Principal, Partner, or Owner of the Business (PPO), or the Principal Consent (PC), who needs to either resume working on your existing application, update your existing agreement (including renew), or check the status of your application; on the personality level page (after signing in) under the Firm Roles section, click the Select button next to the row that shows Acceptance Agent (AA) as the Application Type.

If you're a Responsible Party (RP) who needs to answer their suitability questions, on the personality level page (after signing in) under the Organization Roles section, click the Select button next to the row that shows Acceptance Agent (AA) as the Application Type.

From the ESAM landing page, click the Continue button under the Manage Acceptance Agent Agreement section. The PPO or PC will be directed to the Agreement Summary page. RPs will be directed to the Application Summary page.



Agreement Summary Page



This is the Agreement Summary page once one application has been approved. It displays the:

- Agreement Type
- Type of Acceptance Agent
- Status of your Agreement
- The Agreement's Approved Date
- Approved Acceptance Agent Type
- Acceptance Agent Correspondence Option
- Expiration Date

The Action drop-down button allows you to:

- View your Agreement (PPO only)
- View your Appendix (PPO only)
- Add a Location

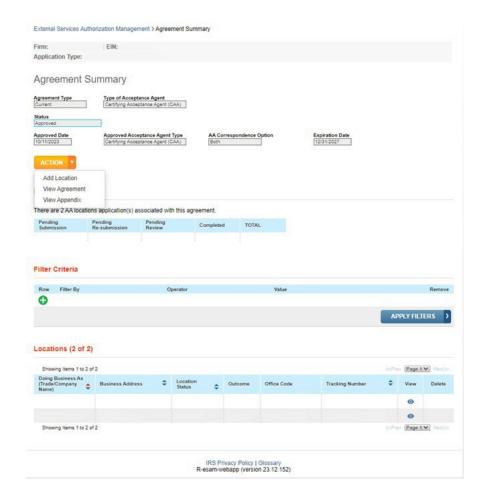
Location Summary: This table contains the number of AA Applications associated with the Agreement and their current application status:

- Pending Submission
- Pending Re-submission
- Pending Review
- Completed
- Total

Filter Criteria: Can be used to filter through your list of locations.

Locations: Displays each location indicated in the summary with the following details:

- DBA
- Business Address
- Location Status
- Outcome
- Office Code
- Tracking Number
- View
- Delete (Only accessible before an application is submitted)



Updating Information

The PPO and PC can update the following information:

- Doing Business As (DBA)
- Telephone/Fax Number (except for the Country Code)
- Business/Mailing Address (except for the Country Code)
- E-mail Address
- Published list of AAs
- Authorized Users: *
 - o Can't update, add or delete the PPO.
 - o PC can't replace or delete themselves.
 - o At least one RP is required for each location to continue to operate.
- RPs' Personal Credentials*

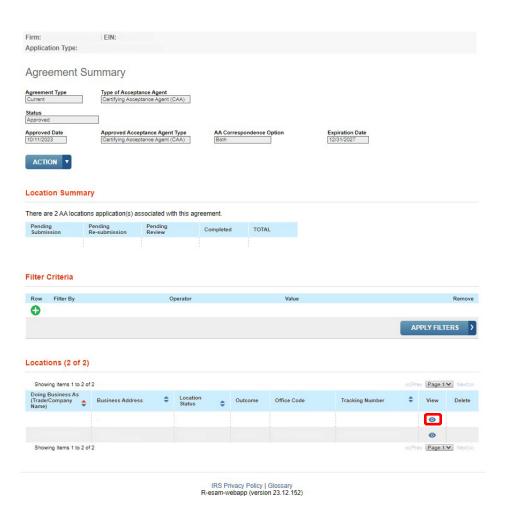
Note: RPs are only allowed to answer their suitability questions. All other entries can only be updated by either the PPO or PC.

Any changes to the information originally submitted on an application should be updated within 30 days of occurrence.

^{*}Will require validations by the IRS. You'll be notified by letter of the results.

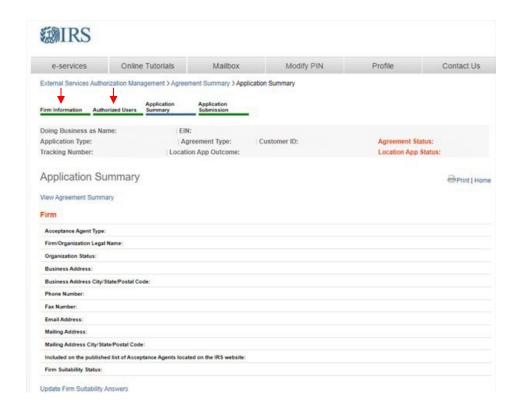
Updating Information continued

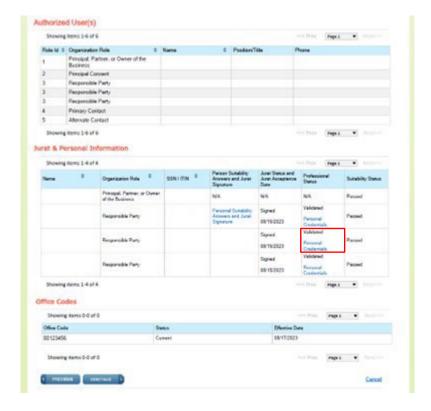
To update your information, from the Agreement Summary page under the Locations section, you'll click the View icon of the location you'd like to update. This will bring you back to the Application Summary page.



Updating Information continued

To update your Firm Information, click the Firm Information link at the top. To update your Authorized Users, click the Authorized Users link at the top. To update your RPs' personal credentials, click the Personal Credentials link of the RP being updated.

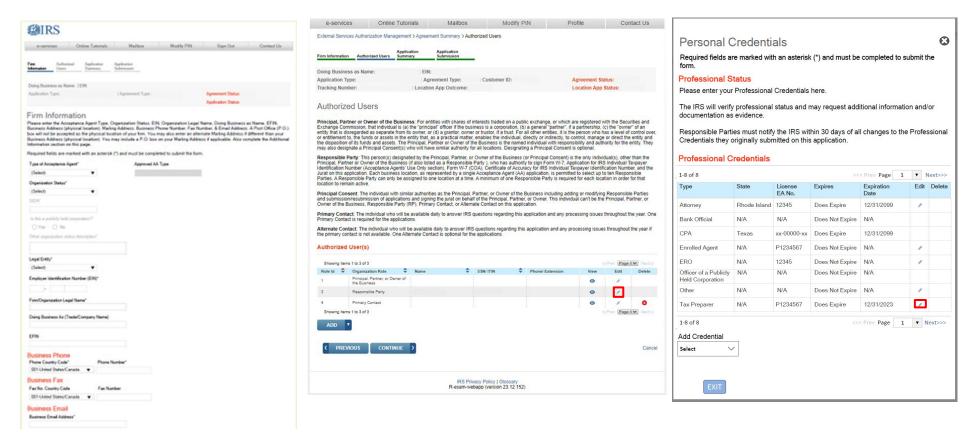




Updating Information continued

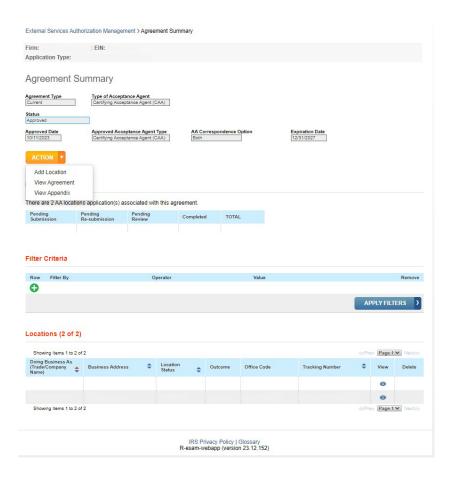
For the Firm Information, once you update the applicable fields, click Save. If adding an Authorized User, click the Add button to select the appropriate organization role for each additional Authorized User. **Note:** A maximum of ten RPs, and one of each Contact for each location are allowed.

If updating an existing Authorized User, click the Edit icon to update the applicable fields then click Save. For the Personal Credentials, click the Edit icon to update the applicable fields, then click Save.



Adding Additional Locations

To add additional locations, select Add Location from the Action dropdown button, which will bring you back to the Firm Information page. Certain fields will have pre-populated information from the first application and be locked (read-only). You'll fill out all the applicable fields as you did on your initial application. You'll add your authorized users and add the professional status and credentials for your RPs (if applicable). You'll have all the RPs login; answer each suitability question; read the statement, privacy act and jurat; select the checkbox attesting to the statement; enter their e-Services pin and click Save (see pages 7-13 for reference). After you submit your application, you'll be given another tracking number and unique customer ID. Access the CAA DUT to upload your required documentation (see pages 16-19 for reference). You'll repeat this process for every additional location you add. **Note:** The same mailing address cannot be used for multiple business locations.

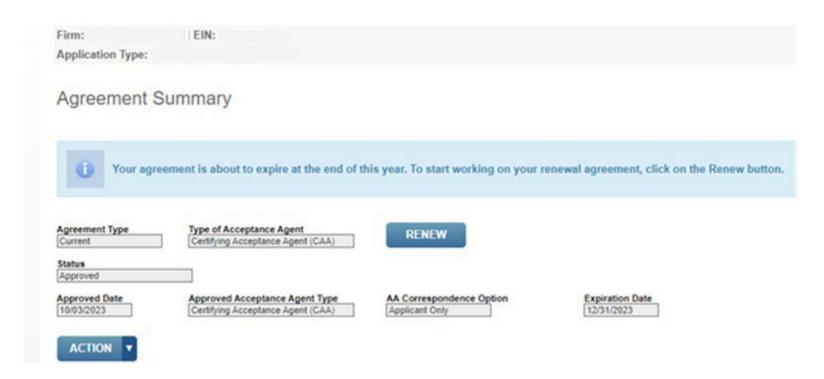




Renewals

Acceptance Agent Agreements remain in effect through December 31st of the fourth calendar year after approval. Thereafter the agreement is expired. To avoid a lapse in status, Acceptance Agents must submit a renewal application at least six months prior to the expiration of their Agreement to retain their Acceptance Agent status.

The Renewal process is very similar to the New Application process. After signing into e-Services, selecting your application from the personality level page, and clicking continue from the ESAM landing page, you'll be directed back to the Agreement Summary page (see page 25 for reference). Starting on January 1st of the expiring year, a warning message and option to renew the agreement is displayed. Click the Renew button.





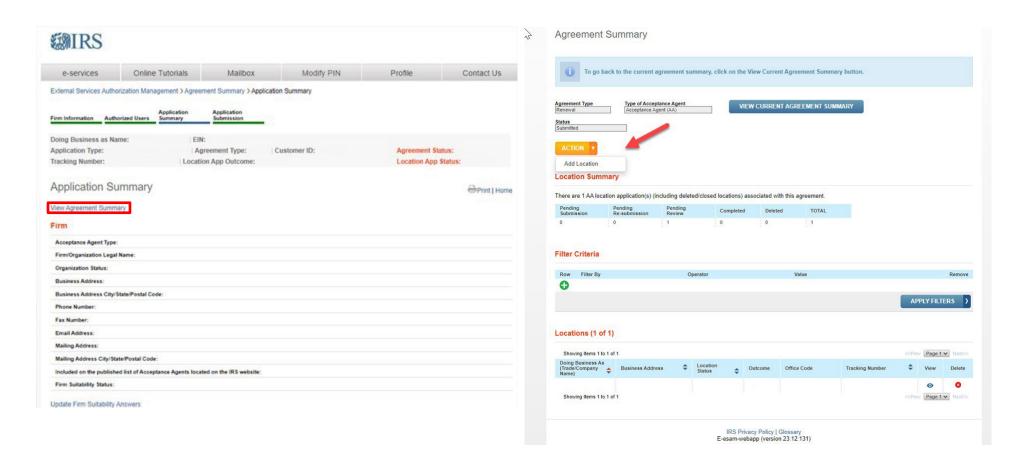
Renewals continued

This will bring you to the Firm Information page. Certain fields will have pre-populated information from the first application and be locked (read-only). You'll fill out all the applicable fields as you did on your initial application. You'll add your authorized users and add the professional status and credentials for your RPs (if applicable). You'll have all the RPs login; answer each suitability question; read the statement, privacy act and jurat; select the checkbox attesting to the statement; enter their e-Services pin and click Save (see pages 7-13 for reference). After you submit your application, you'll be given another tracking number and unique customer ID. Access the CAA DUT to upload your required documentation (see pages 16-19 for reference). The Agreement Type will show as renewal, and the Agreement Status will show as submitted. During this time, your current agreement is still active.

After your renewal application is reviewed and the information is verified, you'll be able to sign your agreement when the Agreement Status is updated to Pending Agreement Signature and the Location App Status is Completed (see page 20 for reference). Once the renewal agreement is signed and approved, it becomes the current agreement and the prior one is no longer searchable in ESAM.

Adding Additional Locations

For renewal participants who'll have multiple locations, we suggest creating all your renewal applications before submitting **any** of them. (ESAM automatically saves a draft of your application.) To do so, on the Application Summary page of your first renewal application, instead of clicking the Continue button at the bottom to go to the Submission page, click the View Agreement Summary link. Click the Action dropdown button and select Add Location.



Adding Additional Locations continued

This will again bring you to the Firm Information page. You and your RPs will fill out all the applicable fields as you did on your initial application. After you submit your application, you'll be given another tracking number and unique customer ID. Access the CAA DUT to upload your required documentation. During this time, your current agreement is still active and can be viewed by clicking the View Current Agreement Summary button.

After your renewal applications are reviewed and the information is verified, you'll be able to sign your agreement. Once the renewal agreement is signed and approved it becomes the current agreement, and:

- The prior agreement is no longer searchable in ESAM.
- The previous location applications associated with the prior agreement are deleted.
- Any previous locations that weren't included in the renewal agreement cannot operate (submit W7s as an Acceptance Agent).
- Additional location applications can continue to be added to the renewal agreement.

