

# **MAINE TAX ALERT**

## A Publication of Maine Revenue Services for Tax Professionals

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Public Communications Tel: (207) 624-9758

# **Special Hotline Established for Former Harmon-Baert Clients**

Maine Revenue Services ("MRS") has established a telephone Hotline for the benefit of former clients of Harmon-Baert Associates, Inc., the Saco payroll processor that is the subject of a pending investigation by the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Attorney's office. The MRS Hotline is <u>207-624-9793</u>. Any former Harmon-Baert client may call this number to inquire as to their state tax account status.

Any business found to have a state payroll tax liability as a result of the actions or inactions of the now-closed Saco firm will not be required to pay interest or penalties. Furthermore, the State will work with affected taxpayers as needed on a case-by-case basis to establish workable payment plans.

Every effort will be made to verify the accuracy of all filed returns, as additional information becomes available from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

#### 2003 Maine Income Tax Forms

Due to several federal legislative proposals that, if passed, would have affected the 2003 Maine tax forms, the printing of income tax forms has been delayed. On December 1, 2003, shortly after Congress adjourned, camera-ready copies of all Maine income tax forms were sent to printing vendors. As a result of the delay, delivery of Maine income tax forms is now expected to be mid to late January, approximately the same time forms were delivered last year.

All three FASTFILE programs are expected to be available for use on January 20, 2004. Also on that date, all income tax forms will be available on the Maine Revenue Services Web site for downloading. PIN postcards are scheduled to be mailed by January 9, 2004.

## Use Tax for Individuals

# How does an individual report Maine use tax?

Most Maine use tax liability can be reported by individuals on Maine individual income tax returns, generally due April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

However, effective September 13, 2003, a recent law change now requires individuals who purchase an item on which the Maine sales tax has not been paid, which costs more than \$5,000, to report the Maine use tax due on that purchase by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the purchase. A new Maine use tax return has been developed for individuals to report the Maine use tax liability on these items and, if the individual so chooses, on items that cost less than \$5,000. The new form, with any required payment, must be mailed to Maine Revenue Services by the due date. The new form and the Maine use tax brochure are available at all Maine municipal offices and at <a href="https://www.maine.gov/revenue/salesuse/homepage.html">www.maine.gov/revenue/salesuse/homepage.html</a>.



| <b>Department</b>            | <b>Telephone Numbers</b> | FAX Numbers    | E-mail Addresses            |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Taxpayer Service Center      | (207) 287-2076           | (207) 287-5855 |                             |
| Central Registration         | (207) 287-2338           | (207) 287-3733 | division.uctax@maine.gov    |
| Collections & Compliance     | (207) 624-9595           | (207) 287-6627 | compliance.tax@maine.gov    |
| Corporate Tax                | (207) 624-9670           | (207) 624-9694 | corporate.tax@maine.gov     |
| E-file Help Desk             | (207) 624-9730           | (207) 624-9740 | efile.helpdesk@maine.gov    |
| Economic Research            | (207) 287-6965           | (207) 287-3618 |                             |
| Electronic Funds Transfer    | (207) 287-8276           | (207) 287-6627 | efunds.transfer@maine.gov   |
| Estate Tax                   | (207) 626-8480           | (207) 624-9694 | income.tax@maine.gov        |
| Fuel Tax                     | (207) 624-9745           | (207) 287-6628 | fuel.tax@maine.gov          |
| Forms Request Line           | (207) 624-7894           | (207) 622-3517 |                             |
| Income Tax Assistance        | (207) 626-8475           | (207) 624-9694 | income.tax@maine.gov        |
| Insurance Premium Tax        | (207) 624-9582           | (207) 624-9694 |                             |
| Payment Plan/Income Tax      | (207) 621-4300           | (207) 621-4328 | compliance.tax@maine.gov    |
| Payment Plan/Other           | (207) 624-9595           | (207) 287-6627 | compliance.tax@maine.gov    |
| Practitioners' Hotline       | (207) 626-8458           | (207) 624-9694 |                             |
| Property Tax                 | (207) 287-2011           | (207) 287-6396 | prop.tax@maine.gov          |
| <b>Public Communications</b> | (207) 624-9684           | (207) 624-9694 |                             |
| Sales Tax                    | (207) 624-9693           | (207) 287-6628 | sales.tax@maine.gov         |
| Taxpayer Advocate            | (207) 624-9649           | (207) 287-3618 | taxpayer.advocate@maine.gov |
| TTY Service                  | (207) 287-4477           |                |                             |
| Withholding Tax              | (207) 626-8475           | (207) 624-9694 | withholding.tax@maine.gov   |
| Tax Violations Hot Line      | (207) 624-9600           | •              |                             |

This publication is designed to keep taxpayers, tax practitioners and the general public informed of developments, problems, questions and matters of general interest concerning Maine tax law, policy and procedure. The articles in this newsletter are not designed to address complex issues in detail, and they are not a substitute for Maine tax laws and/or regulations.

Suggestions for the Tax Alert?

Please contact: Public Communications 624-9758

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### **STATE OF MAINE**

John Elias Baldacci, Governor

Rebecca M. Wyke, Commissioner Administrative and Financial Services

Jerome D. Gerard, Acting Executive Director, Maine Revenue Services