

December 24, 2016

Re: 2017 Accountants' Memorandum

Happy New Year from Miller Kaplan Arase LLP!

This is our annual information brief that is primarily intended to address payroll tax matters and information reporting requirements. We also make mention of new tax laws and regulations of particular interest to our clients. We will not attempt to address proposed changes to the tax law by the incoming Trump administration. Because of gridlock in Congress there was not a lot of tax related legislation coming out of Washington this past year.

In May 2016, President Obama and Labor Secretary Perez announced new rules regarding overtime pay. There are changes to the due dates of corporate and partnership income tax returns. There will be a new private debt-collection program for tax debt that the IRS has failed to collect and there are higher IRS fees for installment agreements.

Of particular note is that the due dates for filing the government copies of Forms W-2 and W-3, and certain Forms 1099, have been pushed forward in an effort to combat filers of fraudulent income tax returns. At the state level, Governor Brown signed legislation raising the minimum wage in California effective January 1, 2017. See the detail in our New Laws and Tax Changes, Section IV.

Please take steps to have your payroll and information filings completed on a timely basis. If you are required to file or pay electronically, please do so, otherwise penalties will result. California payroll filing is now mostly electronic.

This Memorandum is intended to provide general information. If you have questions or need more detail, please contact us.

We look forward to serving you in 2017.

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2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

I.	EAF	RNINGS REPORTS DUE IN 2017	1
	A.	Payroll Taxes	1
		1. IRS Form 941 - Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return	1
		2. IRS Form 940 - Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return	1-2
		3. California Form DE 9	2-3
	В.	Wage and Tax Statement - 2016 Form W-2	3-6
	C.	Transmittal Form Addresses	6
		1. 2016 Form W-3 (Federal)	6-7
		2. 2016 Form DE 9 (California)	7
	D.	Information Forms	7
		1. IRS Form 1099 Series - U.S. Information Returns	7
		2. IRS Form 1096 - Annual Summary and Transmittal U.S. Information Returns	7-8
		3. Guide to More Common Information Returns	9-11
	E.	Rules on 2016 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments	11
		1. General Requirements	11-12
		2. IRS Form 945 - Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax	12-13
		3. California Forms 592 and 597 - Returns for Tax Withheld at Source	13
	F.	Affordable Care Act Reporting	13-14
	G.	Household Employee Taxes	14-15
	Н.	Penalties	15
		1. Failure to File Correct Information Returns by Due Date	15
		2. Failure to Furnish Correct Payee Statements	15-16
	I.	Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)	16-17
II.	AU	TO MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION	17
	A.	Employer Reimbursement Plan Rules	17
	Β.	Accountable Plan Defined	17-18
	C.	IRS Automobile Reimbursement Mileage Rates	18
III.	AU	TO RULES OTHER THAN MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT	19
	A.	Taxation of Value of Automobile	19
	Β.	Employer Provided Vehicle	19
		1. Exception for Commuting Use Only	19-20
		2. Sample Notice to Employees When Using Commuting Use Only Exception	20-21
		3. Other Than Commuting Use Only	21-22

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

		Page No.
III.	AUTO RULES OTHER THAN MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (Continued)	
	C. Employee Uses Own Vehicle	22-23
	D. Summary Statement	23-24
	E. Policy Statement "Commuting Only Use" - Special Rule	24
	F. Annual Lease Value Table for Employer Provided Autos	25
IV.	NEW LAWS AND OTHER CHANGES	26
	Federal	
	A. New Due Date for Filing W-2's	26
	B. New Due Dates for Filing 1099-MISC	26
	C. New Due Dates for Partnership and Corporation Returns	26
	D. New Due Dates for Foreign Account Filers	26
	E. Form 990 changes	26
	F. Private Debt Collection	27
	G. R&D Credit Against Payroll Taxes	27
	H. Overtime	27
	I. Business Entity Foreign Asset Reporting	27
	California	
	J. E-File and E-Pay Mandate for Employers	28
	K. Fair Pay Act.	28
	L. Film and Television Tax Credit Program	28
	M. California Labor Code	28
	N. Minimum Wage Increase	28
	Nevada	
	O. New Commerce Tax	28
	Los Angeles	
	P. Measure M Transit Tax	29
V.	IDENTITY THEFT	29
VI.	IRS TANGIBLE PROPERTY REGULATIONS	30
VII.	CALIFORNIA COMPETES TAX CREDIT	30
		24
VIII.	CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	31
IX.	EARNED INCOME CREDIT	31
Х.	PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT SYSTEM	32

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Page	No.
I USC	

XI.	EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR	32
	A. Worker Classification: The IRS' Approach	33
XII.	DBA – FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES	33-34
XIII.	REPORT OF FOREIGN BANK AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS	34
XIV.	REPORTING OF CASH TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$10,000	35
XV.	WHEN HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES	35
	 A. Compliance with Immigration and Nationality Act B. E-Verify C. Income Tax Withholding D. New Employee Registry 	35 36 36 36
XVI.	BASIS IN S CORPORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS	37-38
XVII.	CAFETERIA PLANS	38-39
XVIII.	USE TAX	39
XIX.	RECORDS RETENTION	39-40
XX.	CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PROGRAM	41
XXI.	INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET	42
XXII.	TYPES OF PAYMENTS	43

I. EARNINGS REPORTS DUE IN 2017

A. Payroll Taxes

1. IRS Form 941 - Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return

	2017	2016
	Applicable	Applicable
FICA:	During 2017	During 2016
Social Security Wage Limit	\$127,200	\$118,500
Withholding Tax Rate ("OASDI" Portion Only)	6.2%	6.2%
Maximum Withholding	\$7,886.40	\$7,347.00
Employer Tax Rate ("OASDI" Only)	6.2%	6.2%
Maximum Employer Portion	\$7,886.40	\$7,347.00
Medicare Wage Limit	Unlimited	Unlimited
Tax Rate ("HI" Portion Only)	1.45% *	1.45% *
Maximum Withholding	Unlimited	Unlimited
Employer Matching Tax Rate ("HI" Only)	1.45%	1.45%
Maximum Employer Matching	Unlimited	Unlimited

There is an additional 0.9% Medicare surtax for single individuals with wages exceeding \$200,000 and married couples earning over \$250,000. The surtax does not apply to the employer's share.

Quarter Ending Date	Form 941 Due Dates
December 31, 2016	January 31, 2017
March 31, 2017	April 30, 2017
June 30, 2017	July 31, 2017
September 30, 2017	October 31, 2017

2. IRS Form 940 - Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return

	2016	2015
Federal Unemployment Tax - On Annual		
Wage Limit to Each Employee of	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Federal Unemployment Tax Rate - Employer Only	6.0%	6.0%
Allowable California Credit	<u>3.6%</u> *	<u>3.9%</u> *
Net Federal Tax Rate	<u>2.4%</u>	<u>2.1%</u>

File the Form 940 for the year ended December 31, 2016 no later than January 31, 2017. Note: Deposits for 2016 were required for any quarter when the cumulative liability for the quarter was \$500.00 or more.

* The credit may be as much as 5.4% of FUTA taxable wages. If you are entitled to the maximum 5.4% credit, the FUTA tax rate after credit is 0.6%. Some states, including California, are subject to a credit reduction until they repay all federal advances to cover unemployment benefits.

A. <u>Payroll Taxes</u> (Continued)

2. IRS Form 940 - Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return (Continued)

In general, family members are exempt from federal unemployment insurance and, those under age 18, are exempt from social security taxes. Federal income taxes are, however, required to be withheld. These special rules do not apply to family owned partnerships or corporations. For California purposes, family employees are generally exempt from Unemployment Insurance (UI), Employment Training Tax (ETT), and State Disability Insurance (SDI). However, they are subject to personal income tax withholding.

All employers conducting business in California are subject to the employment tax laws of the California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC). Once a business hires an employee, the business is considered an employer and must register with the Employment Development Department (EDD) within 15 days after paying wages in excess of \$100 in a quarter.

3. California Form DE 9

Employers are required to file the *Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages* (DE 9) and the *Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages (Continuation)* (DE 9C) each quarter. This allows EDD to identify overpayments and underpayments as early as possible throughout the year, resulting in faster refunds and reducing the possibility of an unplanned tax liability at year-end.

The Employment Development Department's (EDD) *Quarterly Contribution and Wage Adjustment Form* (DE 9ADJ) is used to make changes to the *Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages* (DE 9) and the *Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages (Continuation)* (DE 9C).

Complete the DE 9ADJ when you are filing a claim for refund, adjusting the subject wages or taxes, adjusting Personal Income Tax (PIT) wages or withholding, correcting employee(s) Social Security Number(s) (SSN) or name(s), or reporting employee(s) previously not reported to EDD.

Forms DE 9 and DE 9C are due in 2017 as follows:

Report Covering	Filing Due Dates	Delinquent if Not Filed By
January, February, March	April 1	April 30
April, May, June	July 1	July 31
July, August, September	October 1	October 31
October, November, December	January 1	January 31

As an alternative to paper filing, the EDD has an online service where employers can manage payroll tax accounts, file reports, make tax payments, and register businesses. Go to <u>www.edd.ca.gov</u>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Beginning January 1, 2017, employers with 10 or more employees will be required to electronically submit employment tax returns, wage reports, and payroll tax deposits to the Employment

- I. EARNINGS REPORTS DUE IN 2017 (Continued)
- A. <u>Payroll Taxes</u> (Continued)
 - 3. California Form DE 9 (Continued)

Development Department (EDD). All remaining employers will be subject to this requirement beginning January 1, 2018. Any employer required under existing law to electronically submit wage reports and/or electronic funds transfer to the EDD will remain subject to those requirements. Penalties: Non-compliance with the mandatory electronic filing requirement will result in a \$20 penalty per wage item.

A summary table is as follows:

	2017	2016
	Applicable	Applicable
	During 2017	During 2016
SUI Tax - Annual Wage Limit	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
(Tax Rate Assigned to Employers Based on Experience)	*	*
ETT - Annual Wage Limit	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Tax Rate	0.1%	0.1%
SDI Tax - Annual Wage Limit	\$110,902.00	\$106,742.00
Tax Rate	0.9%	0.9%
Maximum Amounts to be Withheld	\$998.12	\$960.68

* See Form DE 2088, notice of contribution rates and statement of UI reserve account mailed to all employers in December. If you need rate information, call the EDD Contribution Rate Group at (916) 653-7795. Employers have 60 days from the date of notification to dispute their UI contribution rate. The General EDD Telephone Assistance Line is (888) 745-3886. To simplify matters, the state encourages use of their e-services for business function. Log onto the state <u>www.edd.ca.gov</u> website for details.

B. Wage and Tax Statement - 2016 Form W-2 (Give to Employees before February 1, 2017)

22222	a Employee's social security number	OMB No. 154	5-0008			
b Employer identification number	(EIN)		1 Wa	ges, tips, other compensation	2 Federal income	tax withheld
c Employer's name, address, and	ZIP code		3 So	cial security wages	4 Social security t	ax withheld
			5 Me	edicare wages and tips	6 Medicare tax wi	thheld
			7 So	cial security tips	8 Allocated tips	
d Control number			9		10 Dependent care	benefits
e Employee's first name and initia	Last name	Suff.		nqualified plans	12a	
				bloyëe plan sick pay	C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	
			14 Oth	ier	12c	
					12d C	
f Employee's address and ZIP cod	le					
15 State Employer's state ID nun	nber 16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State incom	ie tax	18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax	20 Locality name
Form W-2 Wage an Stateme Copy 1-For State, City, or Lo		50JF)	Department o	of the Treasury—Interna	Revenue Service

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B. <u>Wage and Tax Statement - 2016 Form W-2 (Give to Employees before February 1, 2017)</u> (Continued)

Notes Per Form Instructions:

- 1. Military Differential Pay Payments made after 2009 to former employees while they are on active duty for more than 30 days in the Armed Forces or other uniformed services are now treated as wages. Report these payments in box 1 of Form W-2.
- 2. Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans Section 409A, added by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, provides that all amounts deferred under a nonqualified deferred compensation (NODC) plan for all taxable years are includible in gross income unless certain requirements are satisfied.

Additional Note:

S Corporation Fringe Benefits – An S corporation treats taxable fringe benefits paid on behalf of its 2% shareholder-employees as additional compensation to them. The corporation deducts the additional compensation on page 1, line 7 ("Compensation of officers") or line 8 ("Salaries and wages") of its Form 1120S. The corporation reports the additional compensation to the shareholder-employees on Forms W-2. The additional compensation is subject to federal tax withholding and is generally subject to employment taxes (FICA and FUTA). However, payments made pursuant to a plan providing accident and health coverage are only subject to income tax withholding; they are <u>not</u> subject to any other employment taxes.

3. Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefits – In 2016, employees may exclude from income \$255 per month in transit benefits and \$255 per month in parking benefits – up to a maximum combined total of \$510 per month. Employees may receive benefits for commuter transportation and transit passes and benefits for parking during the same month; they are not mutually exclusive. There is also a \$20 per month qualified bicycle commuting exclusion.

These qualified transportation fringe benefits are excluded from an employee's gross income for income tax purposes and from an employee's wages for payroll tax purposes.

- **4. Employer Provided Educational Assistance** There is an annual personal income tax exclusion of up to \$5,250 for employees' educational assistance programs.
- 5. Deceased Employee's Wages The IRS has special instructions for reporting wages if an employee dies during the year. Consult the instructions to 2016 Form W-2.
- 6. Group-Term Life Insurance You must include in your employees' wages subject to social security and Medicare taxes, the cost of group-term life insurance that is greater than the cost of \$50,000 of coverage, reduced by the amount the employee paid toward the insurance. Report this as wages in boxes 1, 3, and 5 of the employee's 2016 Form W-2. Also, include it in box 12 with code C.

Figure the monthly cost of the insurance includible in the employee's wages by multiplying the number of thousands of dollars of insurance coverage over \$50,000 (figured to the nearest 10th) by the cost shown in the following table. Use the employee's age on the last day of the tax year. You must prorate the cost from the table if less than a full month of coverage is involved.

B. <u>Wage and Tax Statement - 2016 Form W-2</u> (Continued)

Notes Per Form Instructions: (Continued)

COST PER \$1,000 OF PROTECTION FOR ONE MONTH

Age	Cost
Under 25	\$.05
25 through 29	.06
30 through 34	.08
35 through 39	.09
40 through 44	.10
45 through 49	.15
50 through 54	.23
55 through 59	.43
60 through 64	.66
65 through 69	1.27
70 and older	2.06

You figure the total cost to include in the employee's wages by multiplying the monthly cost by the number of full months coverage at that cost. For example, for a 50-year old employee with \$500,000 of group-term coverage, the total cost to include is \$1,242, as follows:

\$450 (insurance coverage over \$50,000 in thousands of dollars) x .23 (cost per table) x 12 months = $\frac{$1,242}{}$

7. Selected notes for particular boxes follow:

Box b – Provide the Federal employer identification number (FEIN) assigned by the IRS. Do not use a prior FEIN once a FEIN is changed.

Box d – Control Number: This is optional. Employers may use this box to identify Forms W-2.

- Box 3 Social Security Wages: Cannot exceed \$118,500 for 2016.
- **Box 4** Social Security Tax Withheld: Cannot exceed \$7,347 for 2016.
- Box 5 Medicare wages and tips: Unlimited for 2016.
- Box 6 Medicare tax withheld: Unlimited for 2016.

Box 11 – Show total distributions to the employee from a non-qualified deferred compensation plan or a Sec. 457 plan during 2016, here and in Box 1 (but not if reported in Boxes 3 or 5). Also include in Box 11 amounts under a nonqualified plan or a Sec. 457 plan that became taxable during the year for social security and Medicare tax purposes, but were for services performed in a prior year. Payments to beneficiaries of deceased employees are reportable on Form 1099-R.

B. <u>Wage and Tax Statement - 2016 Form W-2</u> (Continued)

Notes Per Form Instructions: (Continued)

Box 12 – Enter a code (A through EE) codes for items such as cost of group term life insurance over \$50,000 (Code C), elective deferrals to a section 401(k) arrangement (Code D), etc. Do not enter more than four items in box 12. If more than four items are needed, use a separate W-2.

The Affordable Care Act requires employers with 250 or more employees to disclose on Forms W-2 the value of the employee's health insurance coverage. As it stands for now this is merely a reporting requirement and does not impact taxable income. Starting in 2020 a 40% excise tax (dubbed the "Cadillac tax") is scheduled to kick in on the cost of health plans in excess of \$10,200 for self-only coverage and \$27,450 for families.

Box 13 – Checkboxes. Mark all checkboxes that apply.

Statutory Employees. Mark this checkbox for statutory employees whose earnings are subject to social security and Medicare taxes but not subject to Federal income tax withholding. There are workers who are independent contractors under the common-law rules but are treated by statute as employees. They are called statutory employees.

Box 14 – Other. The lease value of a vehicle provided to your employee and reported in box 1 <u>must</u> be reported here or in a separate statement to your employee. You may also use this box for any other information you want to give your employee.

Boxes 15 through 20 – For State information. Enter in Box 19 the amount of SDI actually withheld, and in Box 20 the letters "CASDI". The 2016 SDI maximum was \$960.68.

In a new regulation issued in an effort to combat identity theft, the IRS will be eliminating the automatic 30 day extension that has been available with the filing of Form 8809. Thus beginning in 2017, extensions will only be granted due to extraordinary circumstances.

C. <u>Transmittal Form Addresses</u>

The Following Form is Due by March 1, 2017:

1. 2016 Form W-3 (Federal)

IRS Publication 393, entitled, "2016 Federal Employment Tax Forms," which was mailed to employers in November 2016, contains 2016 Form W-3 and specific instructions for completing that form. If you are required to file 250 or more Forms W-2, you must file them electronically, unless the IRS granted you a waiver.

File Copy A of Form W-2 with the entire first page of Form W-3 at the following address:

C. Transmittal Form Addresses (Continued)

The Following Form is Due by March 1, 2017: (Continued)

1. 2016 Form W-3 (Federal) (Continued)

If Using United States Postal Service:

Social Security Administration Data Operations Center Wilkes-Barre, PA 18769-0001 (For certified mail use Zip Code 18769-0002) For Other IRS Approved Private Delivery Services:

Social Security Administration Data Operations Center Attn: W-2 Process 1150 E. Mountain Dr. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7997

2. 2016 Form DE 9 (California)

Mail the Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages to: Employment Development Department, P.O. Box 826276, Sacramento, CA 94230-6276. Mandatory Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) filers must remit all payments by EFT to avoid penalties.

D. Information Forms

1. IRS Form 1099 Series - U.S. Information Returns

Generally, file for any individual, partnership or trust (non-corporate entity) to whom you paid rents, dividends, interest, commissions, fees, payments for services (not wages), etc. See the instructions to determine what type and amount of payments must be reported in the boxes and the correct type of Form 1099 to use. Note: <u>Businesses paying limited liability companies have to issue 1099 forms</u> if annual payments total \$600 or more. There is an exception if the LLC has filed Form 8832 with the IRS to elect to be taxed as a corporation. (Most LLCs choose to be taxed as partnerships or sole proprietorships.)

Prepare in triplicate (no photocopies allowed); Copy A to be transmitted to IRS with Form 1096, a copy for the recipient and a copy for the employer's files. Give recipient their copy <u>no later than</u> February 1, 2017. Forms 1099 should be typed or machine printed, although for 2016 most Forms 1099 may now be furnished electronically to taxpayers with their consent. Please remember to include a telephone number below the address in the payer's section. A toll-free number has been implemented for IRS's Information Reporting Call Site. In response to requests from many employers, the toll-free number is 866-455-7438.

2. IRS Form 1096 - Annual Summary and Transmittal U.S. Information Returns

Fill in name and address of payer. Indicate the number and type of Forms 1099 attached. Sign and mail to **Internal Revenue Service, Kansas City, Missouri 64999** (if company is located in California) <u>before</u> March 1, 2017. If not filed by the due date, significant penalties apply. If you file electronically, the due date is now March 31.

IMPORTANT NOTE: See new due date information for federal copy of Form 1099-MISC in tax changes section.

D. Information Forms (Continued)

2. IRS Form 1096 - Annual Summary and Transmittal U.S. Information Returns (Continued)

Filers and transmitters of information returns can obtain an extension of time to file by submitting a signed paper Form 8809, Request for Extension of Time to File Information Returns. The extensions are most often for a period of 30 days. Filers and transmitters may thereafter request an additional 30-day extension. The extensions apply only to filing with the government. The filer or transmitter must still provide statements to the recipients by the required due date.

If you are filing 250 or more returns of the same type, see IRS Publication 1220, Specifications for Filing Information Returns Electronically. The law requires such returns to be filed electronically.

Payees who file paper returns with the IRS need not send a paper copy to the California FTB; the IRS forwards the information to the FTB.

Information Forms (Continued) D.

3. **Guide to More Common Information Returns**

Guide to Information Returns (If any date shown falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.)

				Due Date		
Form	Title	What To Report	Amounts To Report	To IRS	To Recipient (unless indicated otherwise)	
1042-S	Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding	Income such as interest, dividends, royalties, pensions and annuities, etc., and amounts withheld under Chapter 3. Also, distributions of effectively connected income by publicly traded partnerships or nominees.	See form instructions	March 15	March 15	
1097-BTC	Bond Tax Credit	Tax credit bond credits to shareholders.	All amounts	February 28*	On or before the 15th day of the 2nd calendar month after the close of the calendar month in which the credit is allowed	
1098	Mortgage Interest Statement	Mortgage interest (including points) and certain mortgage insurance premiums you received in the course of your trade or business from individuals and reimbursements of overpaid interest.	\$600 or more	February 28*	(To Payer/Borrower) January 31	
1098-C	Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes	Information regarding a donated motor vehicle, boat, or airplane.	Gross proceeds of more than \$500	February 28*	(To Donor) 30 days from date of sale or contribution	
1098-E	Student Loan Interest Statement	Student loan interest received in the course of your trade or business.	\$600 or more	February 28*	January 31	
1098-MA	Mortgage Assistance Payments	Assistance payments paid to homeowners from funds allocated from the Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund for the Hardest Hit Housing Markets (HFA Hardest Hit Fund) or the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program	All amounts	February 28*	January 31	
1098-Q	Qualifying Longevity Annuity Contract Information	Status of a contract that is intended to be a qualifying longevity annuity contract (QLAC), defined in section A-17 of 1.401(a)(9)-6, that is purchased or held under any plan, annuity, or account described in section 401(a), 403(a), 403(b), or 408 (other than a Roth IRA) or eligible governmental plan under section 457(b).	All amounts	February 28	January 31	
1098-T	Tuition Statement	Qualified tuition and related expenses, reimbursements or refunds, and scholarships or grants (optional).	See instructions	February 28*	January 31	
1099-A	Acquisition or Abandonment of Secured Property	Information about the acquisition or abandonment of property that is security for a debt for which you are the lender.	All amounts	February 28*	(To Borrower) January 31	
1099-B	Proceeds From Broker and Barter Exchange Transactions	Sales or redemptions of securities, futures transactions, commodities, and barter exchange transactions.	All amounts	February 28*	February 15**	
1099-C	Cancellation of Debt	Cancellation of a debt owed to a financial institution, the Federal Government, a credit union, RTC, FDIC, NCUA, a military department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Rate Commission, or any organization having a significant trade or business of lending money.	\$600 or more	February 28*	January 31	
1099-CAP	Changes in Corporate Control and Capital Structure	Information about cash, stock, or other property from an acquisition of control or the substantial change in capital structure of a corporation.	Over \$1,000	February 28*	(To Shareholders) January 31	
1099-DIV	Dividends and Distributions	Distributions, such as dividends, capital gain distributions, or nontaxable distributions, that were paid on stock and liquidation distributions including distributions reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A).		February 28*	January 31**	
1099-G	Certain Government Payments	Unemployment compensation, state and local income tax refunds, agricultural payments, and taxable grants.	\$10 or more for refunds and unemployment	February 28*	January 31	
1099-INT	Interest Income	Interest income (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)).	\$10 or more (\$600 or more in some cases)	February 28*	January 31**	
1099-K	Payment Card and Third Party Network	Payment card transactions.	All amounts			
	Transactions	Third party network transactions.	\$20,000 or more and 200 or more transactions	February 28*	January 31	

*The due date is March 31 if filed electronically. **The due date is March 15 for reporting by trustees and middlemen of WHFITs.

D. Information Forms (Continued)

3. <u>Guide to More Common Information Returns</u> (Continued)

Guide to Information Returns (Continued)

				Due	
Form	Title	What To Report	Amounts To Report	To IRS	To Recipient (unless indicated otherwise)
1099-LTC	Long-Term Care and Accelerated Death Benefits	Payments under a long-term care insurance contract and accelerated death benefits paid under a life insurance contract or by a viatical settlement provider.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-MISC	Miscellaneous Income	Rent or royalty payments; prizes and awards that are not for services, such as winnings on TV or radio shows (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section $1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)$ (A) or reported as described in Regulations section $1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)$ (A)).	\$600 or more, except \$10 or more for royalties		
	(Also, use to report direct sales of \$5,000 or more of consumer goods for resale.)	Payments to crew members by owners or operators of fishing boats including payments of proceeds from sale of catch.	All amounts		
		Section 409A income from nonqualified deferred compensation plans (NQDCs).	All amounts		
		Payments to a physician, physicians' corporation, or other supplier of health and medical services. Issued mainly by medical assistance programs or health and accident insurance plans.	\$600 or more	February 28* Note:	January 31**
		Payments for services performed for a trade or business by people not treated as its employees (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)). Examples: fees to subcontractors or directors and golden parachute payments.	\$600 or more	If any payments for nonemployee compensation are reported in box 7, the due date is January 31.	
		Fish purchases paid in cash for resale.	\$600 or more		
		Crop insurance proceeds.	\$600 or more		
		Substitute dividends and tax-exempt interest payments reportable by brokers.	\$10 or more		February 15**
		Gross proceeds paid to attorneys.	\$600 or more		February 15**
		A U.S. account for chapter 4 purposes to which you made no payments during the year that are reportable on any applicable Form 1099 (or a U.S. account to which you made payments during the year that do not reach the applicable reporting threshold for any applicable Form 1099) reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A).	All amounts (including \$0)		January 31**
1099-OID	Original Issue Discount	Original issue discount (including amounts reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i)(A) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii)(A)); market discount subject to an election under section 1278 (b).	\$10 or more	February 28*	January 31**
1099-PATR	Taxable Distributions Received From Cooperatives	Distributions from cooperatives passed through to their patrons including any domestic production activities deduction and certain pass-through credits.	\$10 or more	February 28*	January 31
1099-Q	Payments From Qualified Education Programs (Under Sections 529 and 530)	Earnings from qualified tuition programs and Coverdell ESAs.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-QA	Distributions from ABLE Accounts	Distributions from ABLE accounts.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
1099-R	Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.	Distributions from retirement or profit-sharing plans, any IRA, insurance contracts, and IRA recharacterizations (including payments reported pursuant to an election described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(5)(i) (B) or reported as described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(2)(iii) (A)).	\$10 or more	February 28*	January 31
1099-S	Proceeds From Real Estate Transactions	Gross proceeds from the sale or exchange of real estate and certain royalty payments.	Generally, \$600 or more	February 28*	February 15
1099-SA	Distributions From an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA	Distributions from an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA.	All amounts	February 28*	January 31

**The due date is March 15 for reporting by trustees and middlemen of WHFITs.

D. Information Forms (Continued)

3. <u>Guide to More Common Information Returns</u> (Continued)

Guide to Information Returns (Continued)

				Du	e Date
Form	Title	What To Report	Amounts To Report	To IRS	To Recipient (unless indicated otherwise)
3921	Exercise of an Incentive Stock Option Under Section 422(b)	Transfer of stock pursuant to the exercise of an incentive stock option under section 422(b).	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
3922	Transfer of Stock Acquired Through an Employee Stock Purchase Plan Under Section 423(c)	Transfer of stock acquired through an employee stock purchase plan under section 423(c).	All amounts	February 28*	January 31
5498	IRA Contribution Information	Contributions (including rollover contributions) to any individual retirement arrangement (IRA), including a SEP, SIMPLE, and Roth IRA; Roth conversions; IRA recharacterizations; and the fair market value (FMV) of the account.	All amounts	May 31	(To Participant) For FMV/RMD, Jan 31; For contributions, May 31
5498-ESA	Coverdell ESA Contribution Information	Contributions (including rollover contributions) to a Coverdell ESA.	All amounts	May 31	April 30
5498-QA	ABLE Account Contributions Information	Contributions (including rollover contributions) to an ABLE account	All amounts	May 31	March 15
5498-SA	HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA Information	Contributions to an HSA (including transfers and rollovers) or Archer MSA and the FMV of an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA.	All amounts	May 31	(To Participant) May 31
W-2G	Certain Gambling Winnings	Gambling winnings from horse racing, dog racing, jai alai, lotteries, keno, bingo, slot machines, sweepstakes, wagering pools, poker tournaments, etc.	Generally, \$600 or more; \$1,200 or more from bingo or slot machines; \$1,500 or more from keno	February 28*	January 31
W-2	Wage and Tax	Wages, tips, other compensation; social security, Medicare, and withheld		To SSA	To Recipient
	Statement	income taxes. Include bonuses, vacation allowances, severance pay, certain moving expense payments, some kinds of travel allowances, and third-party payments of sick pay.	See separate instructions	Last day of February*	January 31

E. Rules on 2016 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments

1. <u>General Requirements</u>

The following discussion provides guidance on the proper way to withhold federal income tax from supplemental wage payments made in addition to regular wages:

Supplemental wages are compensation paid to an employee in addition to regular wages. Supplemental wage payments include bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, accumulated sick leave, severance pay, awards, prizes, back pay, retroactive wage increases for current employees, and payments for nondeductible moving expenses.

The payments may be made at a different time from regular wage payments, or may be based on a different wage rate or a different payroll period from regular wages, or on no particular payroll period at all. The federal supplemental withholding rate is generally 25%. However, payments over \$1 million are subject to withholding at the highest federal tax rate, currently 39.6%.

E. <u>Rules on 2016 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments</u> (Continued)

1. <u>General Requirements</u> (Continued)

You must decide whether to treat supplemental wage payments as regular wages or to separate them from regular wages before you withhold. The IRS provides computation rules that explain when supplemental wages must be included with regular wage payments and when they must be reported separately. The rules apply to supplemental payments made in the same calendar year that regular wages are paid.

The State of California classifies supplemental and bonus payments into three categories for tax purposes as follows:

- 1. Regular Pay All wages in the regular pay category are taxed based on the employee's W-4 in effect at the time the payment is made.
- Supplemental Wages (such as overtime, severance pay and housing allowance) The supplemental flat tax rate will be used if the payments are <u>not</u> paid with the employee's regular wages. If the payment is made with regular pay, the payment is taxed based on the employee's W-4; otherwise, the payment is taxed at the supplemental flat tax rate in effect at the time the payment is made, now 6.6%.
- 3. Bonus Wages The bonus flat tax rate will be used if the payments are <u>not</u> paid with the employee's regular wages. If the payment is made with regular pay, the payment is taxed based on the employee's W-4; otherwise the payment is taxed at the bonus flat rate in effect at the time the payment is made, currently 10.23%.

A payer is required to withhold on reportable payments, such as interest and dividends, under the following circumstances:

- a. The payee fails to furnish his TIN to the payor in the manner required;
- b. The IRS notifies the payor that the TIN furnished by the payee was incorrect;
- c. The IRS notifies the payor that backup withholding is required because the payee failed to properly report interest or dividends; or
- d. The payee fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, that the payee is not subject to backup withholding when such certification is required.

2. IRS Form 945 - Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax

Use this Form to report nonpayroll income tax withholding. These nonpayroll items include backup withholding and withholding on pensions, annuities, IRAs, and gambling winnings. Semi-weekly depositors are required to file Form 945-A, a summary of the tax liability, with their Forms 945.

E. <u>Rules on 2016 Withholding from Supplemental Wage Payments</u> (Continued)

2. IRS Form 945 - Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax (Continued)

Federal tax deposits must be made by electronic funds transfer. You must use electronic funds transfer to make all federal tax deposits. Generally, electronic funds transfers are made using the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS). However, if a taxpayer's total taxes for the year are less than \$2,500, the taxpayer is not required to make deposits, and can pay the taxes with the Form 945.

3. California Form 592 - Return for Tax Withheld at Source

Withholding agents must remit payments of tax withheld at source to the Franchise Tax Board by the required due dates in order to avoid interest assessments. Additionally, if Form 594, "Notice to Withhold Tax at Source" is issued by the California Franchise Tax Board, it must be completed as indicated in the instructions to that form. Starting in 2010, the state added a new voucher that must be included with all payments.

F. Affordable Care Act Reporting

Subject to repeal by the incoming Trump administration, the following IRS instructions for Forms 1094-C and 1095-C apply:

Employers with 50 or more full-time employees (including full-time equivalent employees) in the previous year use Forms 1094-C and 1095-C to report the information required under sections 6055 and 6056 about offers of health coverage and enrollment in health coverage for their employees. Form 1094-C must be used to report to the IRS summary information for each ALE Member and to transmit Forms 1095-C to the IRS. Form 1095-C is used to report information about each employee to the IRS and to the employee. Forms 1094-C and 1095-C are used in determining whether an ALE Member owes a payment under the employer shared responsibility provisions under section 4980H. Form 1095-C is also used in determining the eligibility of employees for the premium tax credit.

ALE Members that offer employer-sponsored self-insured coverage also use Form 1095-C to report information to the IRS and to employees about individuals who have minimum essential coverage under the employer plan and therefore are not liable for the individual shared responsibility payment for the months that they are covered under the plan.

An ALE Member must file one or more Forms 1094-C (including a Form 1094-C designated as the Authoritative Transmittal, whether or not filing multiple Forms 1094-C), and must file a Form 1095-C for each employee who was a full-time employee of the ALE Member for any month of the calendar year. Generally, the ALE Member is required to furnish a copy of the Form 1095-C (or a substitute form) to the employee.

An ALE Member is, generally, a single person or entity that is an Applicable Large Employer, or if applicable, each person or entity that is a member of an Aggregated ALE Group. An Applicable Large Employer, generally, is an employer with 50 or more full-time employees (including full-time equivalent employees) in the previous year.

F. Affordable Care Act Reporting (Continued)

Generally, you must file Forms 1094-C and 1095-C by February 28 if filing on paper (or March 31 if filing electronically) of the year following the calendar year to which the return relates. For calendar year 2016, Forms 1094-C and 1095-C are required to be filed by February 28, 2017, or March 31, 2017, if filing electronically.

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3 Street address	(including apa	artment no.)						9 Street ad	idress (in	cluding ro	om or su	ite no.)			1	0 Contact	telephone	number	
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G. Household Employee Taxes

If you pay a household employee cash wages of more than the amount specified by law in a tax year, \$2,000 in 2016 and 2017, you must withhold social security and Medicare taxes from all cash wages you pay to that employee. Unless you prefer to pay your employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes from your own funds, you should withhold a certain percentage set by law from each payment of cash wages. The specified dollar amount and percentages can be found under the topic "Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?" in <u>Publication 926</u>. Instead of paying this amount to your employee, pay it to the IRS with a matching amount for your share of the taxes. If you pay your employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes from your own funds, these amounts must be included in the employee's wage for income tax purposes. However, they are not counted as social security and Medicare wages or as Federal unemployment wages.

G. Household Employee Taxes (Continued)

You are not required to withhold Federal income tax from wages you pay to a household employee. However, if your employee asks you to withhold Federal income tax and you agree, you will need <u>Form W-4</u>, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate*, and <u>Publication 15</u>, (*Circular E*), *Employer's Tax Guide*, which has tax withholding tables.

If you withhold or pay social security and Medicare taxes, or withhold Federal income tax, you will need to file <u>Form W-2</u>, *Wage and Tax Statement* after the end of the year. You will also need a <u>Form W-3</u>, *Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statement*. To complete Form W-2 you will need both an employer identification number and your employee's social security number. If you do not already have an employer identification number (EIN), one can be requested by submitting <u>Form SS-4</u> *Application for Employer Identification Number*.

If you paid cash wages to household employees totaling more than the specified dollar amount in any calendar quarter of the prior two years, you generally must pay Federal unemployment tax on a portion of the specified amount of cash wages you pay to each of your household employees in the current and following taxable years. For specific amounts look under the heading "Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?" in Publication 926.

If you must file Form W-2 or pay Federal unemployment tax, you will also need to file a <u>Form 1040</u>, <u>Schedule H</u>, *Household Employment Taxes*, after the end of the year with your individual income tax return.

A household employer must report when he/she employs one or more individuals to perform work and pays cash wages of \$750 or more in a calendar quarter. You must register with the Employment Development Department (EDD) by submitting an *Employers of Household Workers Registration and Update* Form (DE1 HW) within 15 days after you pay \$750 in total cash wages. Register online using e-Services for Business.

For more information on withholding, call FTB's Withhold at Source Unit at (916) 845-4900.

H. <u>Penalties</u>

Withheld federal income taxes, social security and Medicare taxes along with certain excise taxes are called trust fund taxes. If trust fund taxes willfully aren't collected, not truthfully accounted for and paid, the IRS may charge a trust fund recovery penalty. The penalty is equal to 100% of the trust fund taxes evaded and may apply to a person or persons the IRS decides is responsible. Information return penalties (filing of Forms W-2, 1099, etc.) fall into three categories, as follows:

1. Failure to File Correct Information Returns by Due Date:

The penalty applies to the failure to file timely returns, failure to include all information required to be shown on a return, and including incorrect information on a return (including taxpayer identification numbers). <u>The</u> <u>penalty also applies for filing on paper when required to file on magnetic media</u>, or failing to file paper forms that are machine readable.

2. <u>Failure to Furnish Correct Payee Statements:</u>

Increase in Penalties for Failure to File Correct Information Returns and to Provide Correct Payee Statements – 31-JUL-2015

H. <u>Penalties</u> (Continued)

2. Failure to Furnish Correct Payee Statements: (Continued)

P. L. 114-27, section 806, increased penalties for failure to file correct information returns and provide correct payee statements for information returns required to be filed after December 31, 2015.

Penalties are discussed in Section O in the IRS <u>General Instructions for Certain Information Returns</u>. The penalties in the bulleted list under "Failure To File Correct Information Returns by the Due Date (Section 6721)" are revised as follows:

- \$50 per information return if you correctly file within 30 days (by March 30 if the due date is February 28); maximum penalty \$500,000 per year (\$175,000 for small businesses).
- \$100 per information return if you correctly file more than 30 days after the due date but by August 1; maximum penalty \$1,500,000 per year (\$500,000 for small businesses).
- \$250 per information return if you file after August 1 or you do not file required information returns; maximum penalty \$3,000,000 per year (\$1,000,000 for small businesses).

Also, in the "Caution" that comes after the bulleted list, the penalty is increased to \$250 per information return.

Under "Failure To Furnish Correct Payee Statements (Section 6722)" the penalty due to intentional disregard of the requirements to furnish a correct payee statement is increased. The revised penalty is at least \$500 per payee statement with no maximum penalty.

Generally, no information return is required to be filed with the FTB unless the California amounts are different from the federal.

California has its own unique provision that provides that the FTB may disallow a deduction to a taxpayer for amounts paid as remuneration for personal services if that business fails to report the payments on a W-2 or 1099.

I. <u>Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)</u>

EFTPS is a free payment system provided by the U.S. Treasury Department. The following is from the irs.gov website:

Every user must have a secure Internet browser with 128-bit encryption in order to access the site. To log on to the system, an enrolled user must be authenticated with three pieces of unique information:

- Businesses and Individuals can schedule payments up to 365 days in advance. Scheduled payments can be changed or cancelled up to two business days in advance of the scheduled payment date.
- You can use EFTPS[®] to make all your federal tax payments, including income, employment, estimated and excise taxes.

I. <u>Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)</u> (Continued)

 You can check up to 16 months of your EFTPS[®] payment history online or by calling EFTPS[®] Customer Service.

By 8 p.m. ET at least one calendar day in advance of the due date, submit your payment instructions to <u>EFTPS®</u> to move the funds from your account to the Treasury's account for payment of your federal taxes. Funds will not move from your account until the date you indicate. You will receive an immediate acknowledgement of your payment instructions, and your bank statement will confirm the payment was made.

To enroll, or for more information on enrollment, visit <u>EFTPS®</u> or call EFTPS® Customer Service to request an enrollment form:

- 1-800-555-4477
- 1-800-733-4829 (TDD Hearing-Impaired)
- 1-800-244-4829 (Español)

II. AUTO MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

A. Employer Reimbursement Plan Rules

Reimbursements that do not meet IRS "accountable" standards must be reported as salary or wages on Form W-2. An employee is eligible to deduct the related expenses as miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the 2% adjusted gross income and standard deduction limitations. If the reimbursements meet IRS rules, the plan is called "an accountable plan" and the reimbursements will generally not be reported on Form W-2. Under "an accountable plan" the employee may deduct otherwise allowable expenses which are in excess of the reimbursement as miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to various limitations previously stated.

B. Accountable Plan Defined

A reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement constitutes an accountable plan if it has the following three elements:

- 1. The related expense has a business connection;
- 2. the employer requires the employee to substantiate the expenses; and
- 3. the employer requires the employee to return any amount paid in excess of the substantiated expenses.

We strongly recommend that the plan be in writing. If an arrangement meets the three main requirements of an accountable plan, but the employee fails to return the excess amount, only the amount that has been substantiated is treated as paid under an accountable plan. Special deemed substantiation rules apply to mileage allowances and meal and incidental per-diem expense allowances.

II. AUTO MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

B. Accountable Plan Defined (Continued)

The requirements stated above are applied on an employee-by-employee basis. Failure by one employee to fulfill one of the criteria does not cause amounts paid to other employees under the arrangement to be treated as paid under a non-accountable plan. A payer may have more than one arrangement with a particular employee without running afoul of the accountable plan requirements.

Expenses subject to these rules include business meals, travel expenses, auto expenses and other similar expenses of the employee which are ordinary and necessary to the business of the employer and reimbursed to employees. Further, so called "expense allowances" are also covered. Expenses should clearly indicate what they are, the amount of each expense, date incurred, persons for whom the expense was incurred, place where expense was incurred and the business purpose of the expense. Certain expenses such as meals and entertainment require more information than automobile expenses.

Although advances remain a problem under the accountable plan rules, the IRS has provided a three-part test so that if all three parts are met, advances will not be treated as compensation. Part one of the test requires that an employer may not advance an employee monies earlier than 30 days before expenses are anticipated to be paid or incurred. Part two states that the employee must make adequate accounting for the expenses paid or incurred no later than 60 days after the expenses are paid or incurred. Finally all monies in excess of those properly accounted for as employee expenses must be returned within 120 days of paying or incurring such costs. If the first two parts of this test are met, but the excess monies are not returned within the 120 day period, only the excess must be treated as taxable compensation. If either of the first two parts is not met, the entire amount advanced is taxable compensation.

One major exception relates to per-diem type allowances. Here only the amounts received in excess of government allowances are treated as compensation and are subject to employment taxes and withholding. Other than not being required to verify actual costs incurred, employees using the per-diem method must still meet the same substantiation tests as with other reimbursement plans in order to avoid inclusion of the entire allowance as compensation subject to employment taxes and withholding.

C. IRS Automobile Reimbursement Mileage Rates

For 2016, you may elect to reimburse employees for substantiated business mileage at 54¢ for all business miles driven. This rate is used to calculate the tax deduction for business travel as an alternative to deducting actual costs of maintaining an automobile. The rate also is used by many companies to reimburse workers who use their own cars on company business. The 2017 IRS mileage rate is reduced to 53.5¢ per mile.

A. <u>Taxation of Value of Automobile</u>

Fringe Benefit Received in 2016

For 2016, vehicle use must be supported by the general substantiation rules that require a taxpayer to prove eligibility for, and the amount of, any deduction claimed for business use. Also, the taxable personal portion of vehicle use <u>must</u> be included in the "Employee Wage and Tax Statement" (Form W-2) with all applicable income and payroll taxes withheld from 2016 wages. It is mandatory to withhold payroll taxes and income taxes. In order to compute the taxable portion of vehicle use, the following should be done:

- 1. The employee should complete a "Summary Statement" (see sample copy attached) and submit this to the employer at the end of each calendar year.
- 2. The personal portion of vehicle use must be valued and included in fourth quarter 2016 payroll tax returns.
- 3. The employee's 2016 Form W-2 must include the taxable portion of vehicle use and related withholdings.

B. Employer Provided Vehicle

1. Exception for Commuting Use Only

There are several exceptions to the general vehicle substantiation rules. The commuting only exception may be used if all of the following five criteria are met:

- a. The vehicle is owned or leased by the employer and is provided to one or more employees for use in connection with the employer's trade or business and is actually used in that trade or business.
- b. For bona fide <u>noncompensatory</u> business reasons, the employer requires the employee to commute to and/or from work in the vehicle.
- c. The employer has established a policy that the vehicle may not be used for personal purposes other than commuting. Such policy <u>must be</u> in writing (an example of such written policy is attached) and be given to applicable employees (or posted).
- d. The employer reasonably believes that the employee does not use the vehicle for any purpose other than commuting except for de minimis personal use; and
- e. The employee required to use the vehicle for commuting is not a highly compensated "control employee" of the employer.

A control employee is any employee who meets any of the following:

- Is an appointed or elected officer whose compensation is \$105,000 or more.
- Is a director of the employer.
- Owns 1% or more equity, capital or profits interest in the employer.

2017 ACCOUNTANTS' MEMORANDUM

III. AUTO RULES OTHER THAN MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (Continued)

B. Employer Provided Vehicle (Continued)

1. Exception for Commuting Use Only (Continued)

Example A - Commuting Valuation Rule

Employee Y works for employer X. X provides a company vehicle to Y for the performance of Y's duties and requires Y to commute to and from work in the vehicle for noncompensatory but valid employer business purposes. X does not allow Y to use vehicle for any purpose other than that described and X reasonably believes that Y does not use the vehicle for other purposes. X has given Y a written policy statement and Y acknowledged receipt of policy in writing. Y is not a "control" employee.

Based on the information presented above, the five criteria necessary for the commuting only use exception are met. The taxable fringe benefit received would be calculated by multiplying \$3 times the total commuting days used by the employee. (A one-way commute would be valued at \$1.50) and:

- a. The employer must deduct all applicable payroll taxes and withhold income taxes from wages paid in the year that the benefit is received. (The withholding of income taxes, but not payroll taxes, can be waived at the employee's discretion.)
- b. The computed amount must be added to compensation records for that employee and included on Form W-2.
- c. The employee can reimburse the employer in January 2016 for all Social Security (FICA) and State Disability Insurance (SDI) required to be withheld if the employer was unable to timely withhold as stated in a.

2. Sample Notice to Employees When Using Commuting Use Only Exception

TO: (Employee) FROM:(Employer) DATE: RE: Employer-Provided Vehicle

We have elected to use a special valuation rule for 2016 in computing the value of personal use of the vehicle which has been assigned to you. The special rule will value personal use by an automobile lease valuation rule, vehicle cents-per-mile rule, or a commuting valuation rule. We will attempt to use the method (which is available to you) that results in the least amount of additional taxable income.

In order to use the above special valuation rule, you must provide us with a written statement substantiating your personal use of the vehicle during 2016. This statement must include your total mileage for the year, broken down between business, commuting and other personal miles. Attached is a statement which should be used in substantiating the information to us.

In general, if you do not submit a written statement to us, the value of other personal use will be computed as if no portion of your driving was for business purposes.

B. Employer Provided Vehicle (Continued)

2. <u>Sample Notice to Employees When Using Commuting Use Only Exception</u> (Continued)

Instructions to Employer

The above sample notice should state which of the three methods applies to the specific employee to which the notice is written. Any one of the methods may apply to any employee; thus an employer could have all three methods being utilized during the same calendar year.

3. Other Than Commuting Use Only

If one or more of the five criteria listed previously are not met, the following valuation methods, as described in examples B and C, may be used.

Example B - Vehicle Cents Per Mile

The value of any personal use by an employee of your vehicle may be calculated by multiplying the standard mileage rate (54¢ in 2016 and 53.5¢ in 2017), by the number of miles driven by an employee for personal purposes, if you provide your employee with the use of a vehicle that either:

- you reasonably expect will be regularly used in your business throughout the calendar year (or a shorter period that the vehicle is owned or leased by you)
- is driven primarily by employees for at least 10,000 miles in a calendar year.

A vehicle is considered "regularly used" in an employer's business if either at least 50 percent of its total mileage for the year is for the employer's business or it is generally used each workday in an employer-sponsored car pool to transport at least three employees to and from work. You may not use the cents-permile rate if its value when you first make it available to any employee for personal use is more than an amount determined by the IRS as the maximum automobile value for the year. For example, you cannot use the cents-permile rule for an automobile that you first made available to an employee in 2016 if its value at that time exceeded \$15,900 for a passenger automobile or \$17,700 for a truck or van. Once the cents-per-mile rate has been adopted for a vehicle, you must continue to use that valuation method until the vehicle no longer qualifies.

Maintenance and insurance are included in the standard mileage rate. However, no reduction in the rate is allowed if you do not provide these services. The rate also includes the fair market value of employer-provided fuel for miles driven in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. If fuel is <u>not</u> provided by you as the employer, the rate may be reduced by no more than 5.5 cents.

Example C - Automobile "Lease" Valuation Rule

Generally, you figure the annual lease value of an automobile as follows:

1. Determine the fair market value (FMV) of the automobile as of the first date the automobile is available for personal use.

2017 ACCOUNTANTS' MEMORANDUM

III. AUTO RULES OTHER THAN MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (Continued)

B. Employer Provided Vehicle (Continued)

3. Other Than Commuting Use Only (Continued)

Example C - Automobile "Lease" Valuation Rule (Continued)

2. Using the IRS Annual Lease Value Table, read down column 1 until you come to the dollar range within which the FMV of the automobile falls. Then read across to column 2 to find the corresponding annual lease value.

To obtain the ALV, the FMV of the vehicle must be determined as of the first day it was made available to the employee. In the fifth year that the auto is used, the FMV is redetermined and a new annual lease value is calculated from the table. That redetermined value is then used for the second four-year period.

Also, if the employer provides gas and oil, an additional taxable amount of 5-1/2¢ per mile of personal use must be added. The value of insurance, maintenance and repairs is included in the annual lease value table amount. Given an annual lease value of \$6,600 for a vehicle available all 365 days of the year and driven 5,000 personal and commuting miles out of 20,000 total miles, the taxable fringe benefit to be included as employee compensation would be calculated as follows:

(1) Vehicle usage

	\$6,600 X	<u>365</u> 365	Х	<u>5,000</u> 20,000	=	\$1,650
(2)	Gas and oil					
	5,000 miles		Х	5-1/2¢	=	275
	<u>Total</u>				=	<u>\$1,925</u>

C. Employee Uses Own Vehicle

In this circumstance, the submission of the "Summary Statement" is crucial as will be explained in the following example.

If an employer elects to use the special valuation rules shown in Examples A through C, the employer must notify the employee of the election by the later of January 31 of the calendar year for which the election is to apply or 30 days after the employer first provides the benefit to the employee.

Example D

Employee D works for employer X. D drives a personal vehicle for the performance of D's duties on behalf of X. X provides 100% of the upkeep and maintenance (\$4,000) and D's Summary Statement indicates 25% personal use.

The taxable fringe benefit received would be calculated as follows:

1. The amount X has paid (\$4,000) times D's personal usage (25%).

C. Employee Uses Own Vehicle (Continued)

Example D (Continued)

- (a) In this example, \$4,000 X 25% = \$1,000.
- (b) Only the personal portion is included as additional income.
- 2. Follow procedures a through e as outlined in Example A.

The above examples present the application of the special vehicle valuation regulations in a few generalized situations. It is not possible to cover all situations as the regulations covering valuation of employee fringe benefits are long and detailed. If you feel the above examples do not cover your specific situation, please contact the partner at Miller Kaplan Arase LLP in charge of your account for further guidance.

D. <u>Summary Statement</u>

Employee Name:	-
Social Security Number:	-
Employer:	-
Vehicle:	_
Make Model Year ID Number	
Period of Usage: From to (include month, date	e and year)
- Total miles driven for the period:	
- Total business miles driven for the period:	
- Total commuting miles driven for the period:	
 Total other personal miles (but not commuting miles) dr the period: 	iven during
 Have you maintained sufficient evidence to support the business use?* Yes No 	
- Is the evidence written? Yes No	
- Do you have another car available for personal use? Yes	No
If yes, year, make and model	
I hereby attest that the information listed above is true and con	rrect to the best of my knowledge.
Employee	Date

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D. <u>Summary Statement</u> (Continued)

*Note: Your records are not to be submitted with this statement to us; however, you are required to retain the supporting documents for a minimum of six years. The requirements for recordkeeping are solely your responsibility and not ours, as your employer. Please refer to IRS recordkeeping requirements if you have any questions.

E. Policy Statement "Commuting Only Use" - Special Rule

If an employer and employee elect to adopt the special rule ("Commuting Only Use"), a written policy must be established.

The policy could be worded as follows:

Employees who are provided with company owned automobiles must take those automobiles home at night to provide safe parking. Employees may not, however, use such automobile for personal purposes, other than for commuting or de minimis personal use.

F. <u>Annual Lease Value Table for Employer Provided Autos</u>

The purpose of this table is to establish the annual value of personal use of employer provided autos. Take the table value times the personal use percentage. The product is the personal use value includable as additional wages subject to withholdings (including FICA and SDI).

Automobile fair market value when first provided to employee	Annual lease valu
\$ 0 to \$ 999	\$ 600
1,000 to 1,999	
2,000 to 2,999	
3,000 to 3,999	
4,000 to 4,999	
5,000 to 5,999	
6,000 to 6,999	,
7.000 to 7.999	,
8,000 to 8,999	,
9,000 to 9,999	,
10,000 to 10,999	,
11,000 to 11,999	
12,000 to 12,999	
12,000 to 12,999	,
14,000 to 14,999	,
14,000 to 15,999	,
16,000 to 16,999	
17,000 to 17,999	,
18,000 to 18,999	,
19,000 to 19,999	
	,
20,000 to 20,999	
21,000 to 21,999	,
22,000 to 22,999	
23,000 to 23,999	
24,000 to 24,999	
25,000 to 25,999	,
26,000 to 27,999	
28,000 to 29,999	,
30,000 to 31,999	
32,000 to 33,999	,
34,000 to 35,999	,
36,000 to 37,999	
38,000 to 39,999	
40,000 to 41,999	
42,000 to 43,999	
44,000 to 45,999	
46,000 to 47,999	
48,000 to 49,999	
50,000 to 51,999	
52,000 to 53,999	
54,000 to 55,999	
56,000 to 57,999	
58,000 to 59,999	15 250

* Add 5.5 cents per mile for gas if reimbursed by employer.

IV. NEW LAWS AND OTHER CHANGES

A. <u>New Due Date for Filing W-2's</u>

Starting with 2016 W-2's and W-3's, the filing due date with the Social Security Administration is now January 31 of the following year whether you file using paper forms or electronically. Extensions of time to file Form W-2 with the SSA are no longer automatic. You may request one 30-day extension to file Form W-2 by submitting a Form 8809, but the instructions state that the IRS will only grant the extension in extraordinary circumstances. The IRS has also increased penalties for failure to file correct Forms W-2 by the due date and failure to furnish Forms W-2. The IRS is taking this action in order to deal with increased identity theft issues.

B. New Due Dates for Filing 1099-MISC

When you are reporting nonemployee compensation in Box 7, you must now file the IRS copy by January 31 of the following year instead of the last day in February. Otherwise, for returns due in 2017 for the 2016 tax year, file by February 28, 2017 if you file on paper; file by March 31, 2017 if you file electronically. The due dates for furnishing payee statements remain the same.

C. <u>New Due Dates for Partnership and Corporation Returns</u>

For tax years starting after December 31, 2015, a partnership and an S corporation are required to file income tax returns by March 15 following the close of the calendar year (or for a fiscal year taxpayer, on or before the 15th day of the third month following the close of the fiscal year). A C corporation is required to file by April 15 (or for a fiscal year taxpayer, on or before the 15th day of the fourth month after the close of its tax year). In addition for C corporations with calendar year ends, there will be an automatic five month extension. However, for any return of a C corporation which ends on June 30, the automatic extension will be seven months.

California has recently conformed, however, C corporations with a fiscal year ending on June 30 get an extra month to file for state purposes.

D. <u>New Due Dates for Foreign Account Filers</u>

Beginning for tax year 2016, the filing date for owners and others required to report foreign bank and financial accounts of a cumulative total of \$10,000 or more using Form FinCEN 114 (FBAR) is moved up to April 15. However, taxpayers will for the first time be allowed to request a six month extension. On a related matter, a recent court case was favorable to gamblers who have accounts with foreign online gambling sites. The Ninth Circuit said that these accounts do not fall within the scope of a foreign financial account.

E. Form 990 changes

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) recently announced changes with respect to nonprofit accounting which will begin taking effect in December 2017. There will be changes to the way nonprofits disclose their disbursements, requiring all nonprofits to break out program expenses from overhead costs. Additional changes relate to requiring more detail regarding cash on hand and there will be a change to reporting how assets that have restrictions imposed on them by donors are presented.

IV. NEW AND OTHER CHANGES (Continued)

F. Private Debt Collection

The Internal Revenue Service plans to begin allowing private collection of certain federal tax debts in the spring of 2017. The program authorized by Congress enables four designated contractors to collect outstanding inactive tax receivables on the government's behalf. These private collection agencies will work on accounts where the taxpayers owe money, but the IRS is no longer actively working them. The IRS will give taxpayers written notice that the accounts are being transferred to the private collection agencies.

G. <u>R&D Credit Against Payroll Taxes</u>

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, signed into law by President Obama in December 2015, permanently extended the research credit. In addition, beginning for 2016, the law allows offsets of the credit against the alternative minimum tax and the payroll tax in certain circumstances. Specifically, the new payroll tax offset of the employer portion of OASDI is available as an election up to \$250,000, instead of as an income tax credit. For 2016, the election is available to companies with less than \$5 million in gross receipts in the current year and which have had no gross receipts for any taxable year prior to the five taxable year period ending with the current year. There are new IRS forms in this regard.

H. <u>Overtime</u>

In May 2016, President Obama and Labor Secretary Perez issued new rules updating overtime regulations. The new rules were designed to extend overtime pay entitlement to millions of more workers. Specifically, the final rules which were to be effective as of December 2016, updated the salary and compensation levels needed for eligibility. However, on November 22, 2016, a judge in the U.S. District Court in Texas granted a nationwide preliminary injunction saying that the Department of Labor's rule exceeds the authority the agency was delegated by Congress. This matter will be argued further in the courts. California rules regarding overtime are detailed at <u>www.dir.ca.gov</u>.

I. Business Entity Foreign Asset Reporting

Under IRS regulations issued in February 2016, certain business entities will need to file the Foreign Asset and Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) reporting form – Form 8938 "Statement of Specified Foreign Assets". For the past several years, only individuals have been required to file in order to report their foreign assets to the IRS each year. This is in addition to the FinCEN 114 filing. The provisions are effective for tax year 2016 and thereafter.

According to the new regulations, a "specified domestic entity" that is required to file Form 8938 is generally defined to include a domestic corporation or partnership if the entity is closely held, at least 50% of the gross income is passive income or at least 50% of the assets produce or are held for the production of passive income, and the total value of the entity's foreign financial assets is more than \$50,000 on the last day of the tax year or more than \$75,000 at any time during the tax year.

This will also apply to a domestic trust if one or more of the trust's current beneficiaries is a U.S. citizen or resident alien and the above asset value threshold is surpassed.

IV. NEW AND OTHER CHANGES (Continued)

J. <u>E-File and E-Pay Mandate for Employers</u>

Beginning January 1, 2017, employers with 10 or more employees will be required to electronically submit employment tax returns, wage reports and payroll tax deposits to the Employment Development Department (EDD). All remaining employers will be subject to this requirement beginning January 1, 2018. The EDD has provided a waiver request form (DE 1245W).

K. Fair Pay Act

In October 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed this new law intended to increase wage equality among men and women. The law went into effect in 2016. Under the Act, an employer is prohibited from paying employees of the opposite sex lower wage rates for substantially similar work when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility and performed under similar conditions. Further, the law was written to bar pay secrecy by prohibiting employers from enacting rules limiting employees from discussing their own wages and the wages of others.

L. Film and Television Tax Credit Program

The state's new Film and Television Tax Credit program replaced the lottery system that determined which projects got tax credits. The new credit is geared to support projects that generate jobs and has a much higher budget. The new credit program also made additional types of productions such as hour long movies eligible for the credit. For more information refer to the California Film Commission website at <u>www.film.ca.gov</u>.

M. California Labor Code

California AB 1513, which went into effect on January 1, 2016, added section 226.2 to the state Labor Code. The statute establishes standards for compensating "piece-rate" employees for rest and recovery periods and other nonproductive time going forward from the effective date of the statute.

N. Minimum Wage Increase

In April 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation which will gradually raise the state's mandatory minimum wage to \$15 an hour by the year 2022. The legislation will raise the statewide minimum to \$10.50 on January 1 for businesses with 26 or more workers. Smaller businesses will have an additional year to phase in each increase. The law follows similar measures in Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities.

O. <u>Nevada Commerce Tax</u>

The Commerce Tax is an annual tax passed by the Nevada Legislature during the 2015 Legislative Session. The tax is imposed on businesses with a Nevada gross revenue exceeding \$4,000,000 in the taxable year. All businesses engaged in business in Nevada have to register for the tax. Exempt entities are not required to register. According to the online instructions, the Commerce Tax Return is due 45 days following the end of the fiscal year ending June 30. The first return was due August 15, 2016.

IV. NEW AND OTHER CHANGES (Continued)

P. <u>Measure M Transit Tax – Los Angeles</u>

On Election Day, November 8, 2016, Los Angeles County voters approved a sales tax increase endorsed by Mayor Garcetti to pay for new rail lines and other transit improvements. The county sales tax will go up ½ cent and is expected to generate \$120 billion over four decades for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The revenue is to also be used to build new highway projects and expand bus lines, including twin tunnels through the Sepulveda pass.

V. IDENTITY THEFT

Personal information, corporate secrets and national security have been increasingly compromised over the past year. On March 19, 2015, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen convened a Security Summit with public and private tax administration leaders to discuss ways to combat tax-related identity fraud. Participants agreed to do more starting with the 2016 filing season to verify the authenticity of the taxpayer and the tax return at the time of filing.

In IRS Announcement 2015-22, the service asserted that individuals whose personal information may have been compromised will not have to include the value of the identity theft protection services in their gross income. Further employers will not be required to include the value of ID theft protection in the gross income of employees who might be the victim of identity theft. The California FTB will follow suit.

There are certain tips to protect yourself from identity theft, as follows:

- Avoid sending sensitive personal information like your credit card or Social Security number through chat lines, e-mail, or other online posts. Assume your communications are not private unless encrypted.
- Shred all unwanted pre-approved credit card offers.
- Order your credit report annually from the three credit bureaus to check for inaccuracies and fraudulent use of your accounts.
- Do not carry your Social Security card or number, passport or birth certificate.

If you are victim:

- Close your credit card accounts and request they be processed as "account closed at the customer's request" instead of "lost or stolen." This will not reflect negatively on your credit report. Follow up with a written request.
- Notify your bank of the theft and change all account numbers. Also, request that the bank assign you a secret password to be used in all future transactions.
- Keep a log of all contacts you make in the resolution of your theft.

VI. IRS TANGIBLE PROPERTY REGULATIONS

The Internal Revenue Code allows a deduction for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in carrying on a trade or business. The code also requires you to capitalize costs incurred for acquiring, producing and improving tangible property. In order to reconcile or establish a framework to determine how such costs are to be treated, taxpayer friendly regulations took effect in 2014 which contains simplifying provisions.

Under these regulations you may elect to apply a de minimis safe harbor to amounts paid to acquire or produce tangible property to the extent such amounts are deducted by you for financial accounting purposes. If you have what is known as an applicable financial statement (AFS) you may use the safe harbor to deduct amounts paid for tangible property up to \$5,000 per invoice or item. If you do not have such a statement, you may use the safe harbor to deduct up to \$500 per item or invoice (increased to \$2,500 for costs incurred after January 1, 2016).

An AFS includes a financial statement required to be filed with the SEC as well as other types of certified audited financial statements accompanied by a CPA report. If you don't have an AFS you must expense amounts on your books and records in accordance with a consistent accounting or policy which exists at the beginning of the taxable year. The annual election is not a change in accounting method and does not require a filing of Form 3115. Contact us should you have further questions.

VII. CALIFORNIA COMPETES TAX CREDIT

The California Competes Tax Credit is an income or franchise tax credit available to businesses that come to California or stay and grow in California. Tax credit agreements will be negotiated by Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and approved by a statutorily created "California Competes Tax Credit Committee." The committee consists of Director of GO-Biz (Chair), State Treasurer, Director of the Department of Finance and one appointee each by the Speaker of the Assembly and Senate Committee on Rules.

Of the aggregate amount of tax credit available each fiscal year, 25% of the total credit amount is reserved for small businesses. A small business is defined as one that had less than \$2 million in gross income in the prior year. Any credit amount not awarded during the application period will carry over to the next application period.

For fiscal year 2016-17, GO-Biz will accept applications for the California Competes Tax Credit during the following periods:

- January 2, 2017 through January 23, 2017 (\$100 million available)
- March 6, 2017 through March 27, 2017 (\$68.3 million plus any remaining unallocated amounts from the previous application periods). A summer 2016 filing due date has passed.

Go to <u>business.ca.gov</u> for more information on the California Competes Tax Credit.

VIII. CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of these reporting requirements is to increase child support collection by helping to locate parents who are delinquent in their child support obligations. This law requires businesses and government entities to report specified information to the Employment Development Department (EDD) on independent contractors.

Any business or government entity (defined as a "service-recipient") that is required to file a federal Form 1099-MISC for services performed by an independent contractor (defined as a "service-provider") must comply with these reporting requirements. A service-recipient means any individual, person, corporation, association, or partnership, or agent thereof, doing business in this State, deriving trade or business income from sources within this State, or in any manner in the course of trade or business subject to the laws of this State. An independent contractor is defined as an individual who is not an employee of the business or government entity for California purposes and who receives compensation or executes a contract for services performed for that business or government entity either in or outside of California.

You must report to EDD within twenty (20) days of EITHER making payments totaling \$600 or more OR entering into a contract for \$600 or more with an independent contractor in any calendar year, whichever is earlier.

You are required to provide the name of your business, the Federal employer identification number, California employer account number, social security number, address and telephone number.

You are also required to provide independent contractor's (service-provider's) first name, middle initial, last name, social security number, address and start date of contract, along with the amount of contract, contract expiration date, and an indication if an ongoing contract (check box if applicable).

Report independent contractor information on the *Report of Independent Contractors* form (DE 542). To obtain forms and/or information, call (916) 657-0529. You may also contact your local <u>Employment Tax Customer Service Office</u> listed in your local telephone directory in the State Government section under "Employment Development Department" or access the Internet site at <u>www.edd.ca.gov</u>. For magnetic media filing, please call (916) 651-6945.

IX. EARNED INCOME CREDIT

The law continues to require employers to notify employees of their eligibility for the advance payment of the Earned Income Credit (EIC) through payroll. The EIC is a tax credit available to certain low income workers *even though no income tax withholding is required on their wages*. Eligible employees may elect to receive EIC through reduced federal income tax withholding (or negative federal income tax withholding) throughout the year rather than waiting to claim it on an income tax return. An employee makes the election by submitting a completed Form W-5, Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate, with the employer.

The Form W-5 eligibility certificate verifies to the employer that (1) the employee is eligible for the EIC, (2) the employee has one or more qualifying children, (3) the employee has no other certificate in effect with another employer, and (4) states whether the employee's spouse has an eligibility certificate in effect. Even though persons without children are eligible for the EIC, they are <u>not</u> eligible for the advance payments of EIC. The election can be revoked or modified any time the individual's circumstances change. A new Form W-5 is required for each year the election is in effect.

X. PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT SYSTEM

All employers are either federal "monthly depositors" or "semi-weekly depositors". The IRS notifies taxpayers of their status prior to the beginning of each calendar year. Status is determined by reference to the employer's deposit history during a "lookback period." The lookback period for a given calendar year is the 12-month period ending the preceding June 30.

An employer is a monthly depositor for a calendar year if the aggregate amount of employment taxes reported on its quarterly returns, Forms 941, for the four consecutive quarters ended the preceding June 30 is \$50,000 or less. An employer is a semi-weekly depositor if the aggregate is more than \$50,000. Initially, new employers are treated as monthly depositors. A monthly depositor must deposit employment taxes accumulated within the calendar month by the 15th day of the following month. For a semi-weekly depositor, if the depositor's payday is on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, taxes must be deposited on or before the following Wednesday. For all other paydays, the deposit is due on the Friday following payday. A special one-day rule applies to any employer which has more than \$100,000 undeposited employment taxes.

The deposit timetable is extended to the immediate next banking day when the deposit obligation falls on a nonbanking day. Semi-weekly depositors have additional relief; they have a minimum of three banking days after the end of the semi-weekly period to deposit their taxes. Thus, a semi-weekly depositor with a Friday payroll will have until the following Thursday to deposit employment taxes if the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday following the payday is a banking holiday.

An employer is treated as having made the required deposit if any shortfall does not exceed the greater of \$100 or two percent of the amount required to be deposited and the shortfall is deposited on or before prescribed make-up dates. For a monthly depositor, the shortfall make-up date is the return due date for the return period in which the shortfall occurs. For a semi-weekly depositor, the shortfall make-up date is the first Wednesday or Friday (whichever is earlier) falling on or after the 15th day of the month in which the deposit must be made.

XI. EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Many companies have attempted to avoid taxes by calling their workers independent contractors when in fact they were actually employees. The state and federal taxing authorities have been auditing companies to find such abuses. The following is an updated and edited list of factors from the IRS' approach to worker classification. These factors should be considered general guidelines. Certain factors carry more weight than others depending upon specific industry practices.

After 1996, the IRS has the burden of proof on classification of workers if the taxpayer can cite judicial precedent or long-standing industry practice for not treating a worker as an employee. Filing Forms 1099-MISC consistent with the taxpayer's treatment of a worker as a non-employee is imperative.

The IRS is developing criteria on an industry-by-industry basis as to which factors weigh more heavily than others and which should not be applied at all. Even though the new law has placed more responsibility on the IRS to substantiate that independent contractors are employees, we believe that based on the success that the IRS has obtained in its audits on the independent contractor issue, they will continue and intensify their industry classification projects.

XI. EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR (Continued)

A. Worker Classification: The IRS' Approach

1. Do behavioral controls over the worker exist?

Behavioral control focuses on whether the business has the right to direct or control how the work is done, e.g. how the worker performs the specific task for which he was hired. Factors include:

- a. To what extent are instructions given and taken?
- b. What training does the business give the worker?

2. Do financial controls over the worker exist?

These factors illustrate whether there is a right to control how the business aspects of the worker's activities are conducted:

- c. Can the worker realize a profit or incur a loss?
- d. Is the worker's investment significant?
- e. To what extent does the worker make services available to the general public?
- f. How does the business pay the worker?

3. What type of relationship between the parties exists?

These factors illustrate how the worker and the business perceive their relationship.

- g. Does a written contract exist that describes the relationship the parties intend to create?
- h. Does the business provide the worker with employee-type benefits?
- i. How permanent and ongoing is this relationship?
- j. To what extent are the services performed by the worker a key aspect of the regular business of the company?

XII. DBA – FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

- 1. A fictitious name registration must be filed within 40 days of starting a company in the county where you have your principal place of business. In Los Angeles County, visit rrcc.lacounty.gov/Clerk. In Orange County, start at egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/ and search for "fictitious business."
- 2. You do *not* have to file if you use your surname in the name of the business. So "Tim Parker Plumbing" or Parker's Plumbing" are both exempt from registering, but "Tim's Plumbing" is not. Also if you use something like "Parker and Sons Plumbing" you *do* not have to file, because the name suggests additional owners.
- 3. In Los Angeles, it costs \$26 to register a business, plus \$5 more for each additional business name or owner. The base fee is \$23 in Orange County, \$55 in San Bernardino County, \$35 in Riverside County and \$53 in Ventura County. Filings are good for five years, then can be renewed.

XII. DBA – FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES (Continued)

- 4. Within 30 days of filing your fictitious name statement, you must publish it in an ad in a newspaper of general circulation in your area once a week for four consecutive weeks. The county clerk can tell you which newspapers you must use.
- 5. You don't want to create confusion by choosing a business name that's already being used, so most county clerks offer an online search form so you can check. In Los Angeles County, visit rrcc.lacounty.gov/clerk/fbn_search.cfm.

XIII. REPORT OF FOREIGN BANK AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS (FBAR)

If you have a financial interest in or signature authority over a foreign financial account, including a bank account, brokerage account, mutual fund, trust, or other type of foreign financial account, the Bank Secrecy Act may require you to report the accounts annually to the Internal Revenue Service by filing a Form 114 *Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)*. The FBAR must be filed electronically through FinCEN's <u>BSA E-Filing System</u>. The FBAR is not filed with a federal tax return. Filings are required when the aggregate value of all foreign financial accounts exceed \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year reported.

Reporting and Filing Information

A person who holds a foreign financial account may have a reporting obligation even though the account produces no taxable income. The reporting obligation is met by answering questions on a tax return about foreign accounts (for example, the questions about foreign accounts on Form 1040 Schedule B) and by filing an FBAR.

The FBAR is a calendar year report, which historically has had to be filed with the Department of Treasury on or before June 30 of the year following the calendar year reported with no extension.

E-Filers will receive an acknowledgement of each submission. Help with electronic filing technical questions is available at BSAEfilinghelp@fincen.gov or through the BSA E-Filing Help Desk at 866-346-9478.

The recently enacted *Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015* changes the standard FBAR due date to April 15 beginning with the 2016 calendar year reports, which are due in 2017. For filers living in the U.S., this change in the law will coordinate the timing of their FBAR submission with the timing of their income tax return. The FBAR will be due April 15, along with their Form 1040. If they apply for an extension for six months until October 15, the FBAR will also be due on October 15.

Those required to file an FBAR who fail to properly file a complete and correct FBAR may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 per violation for nonwillful violations that are not due to reasonable cause. For willful violations, the penalty may be the greater of \$100,000 or 50 percent of the balance in the account at the time of violation, for each violation.

Taxpayers with specified foreign financial assets that exceed certain thresholds must also report those assets to the IRS on Form 8938, *Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets*, which is filed with an income tax return. The new Form 8938 filing requirement is in addition to the FBAR filing requirement. A chart providing a comparison of Form 8938 and FBAR requirements may be accessed on the IRS Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Web page.

XIV. REPORTING OF CASH TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$10,000

If your business receives \$10,000 in cash in one transaction or two or more related transactions in a 24-hour period, you must file federal Form 8300. In addition, this form may voluntarily be filed for any suspicious transaction, even if it does not exceed \$10,000. The term cash includes a cashier's check, bank draft, travelers check and money order. The civil penalties for failure to comply with the filing and payer reporting requirements are the same as those for failure to file or correctly file Forms 1099. Criminal penalties including up to five years imprisonment are provided for failure (or causing the failure) to file a report, for filing (or causing the filing) of a false or fraudulent report, and for structuring a transaction.

Recipients of reportable cash payments must also provide each payer with an annual written statement by January 31 of the following year containing the name and address of the recipient, the aggregate amount of reportable cash received from that payer during the year, and a notice that the information in the statement is being furnished to the IRS. The statement must be mailed to the payer's last known address.

File Form 8300 by the 15th day after the date of the transaction with the Internal Revenue Service, Detroit Computing Center, P.O. Box 32621, Detroit, Michigan 48232, or with your local IRS office. California also requires that a copy of Form 8300 be sent to: Franchise Tax Board, P.O. Box 1468, Sacramento, California 95812-1468.

XV. WHEN HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES

A. <u>Compliance with Immigration and Nationality Act</u>

Every time any person is hired to perform labor or services in return for wages or other remuneration, Form I-9 must be completed. Employees can be requested to present to you an original document or documents that establish identity and employment eligibility no later than the first day of employment. As to the form and timing of the request, we strongly suggest you contact your legal advisor, since incorrect steps could result in being found liable for discrimination practices.

There is no associated filing fee for completing Form I-9. Form I-9 must be retained by the employer and made available for inspection by U.S. Government officials. Use the version revised 03/08/13 until January 22, 2017. After this date, employers should use the new revised I-9 version. The changes to the form are not substantial.

Employers hiring foreign nationals should always check for the individual's I-94 card, which controls the terms of an individual's stay in the country. The I-94 serves as the "work permit". Once it expires, the period of lawful stay in the U.S. is over. (The visa, which establishes a specific length of stay, is permission to present oneself at the border). See details regarding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify Department program on the uscis.gov website.

Nonimmigrant visa categories are arranged according to proposed activities in the U.S. Some typical work visas are E (persons with essential skills), H1-B (temporary professional worker), L-1 (permits international companies to transfer key employees), O (for outstanding individuals), and TN or NAFTA (for Mexicans or Canadians entering to work in the U.S. for one year as architects, scientists or other professionals).

XV. WHEN HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES (Continued)

B. <u>E-Verify</u>

U.S. law requires companies to employ only individuals who may legally work in the United States — either U.S. citizens, or foreign citizens who have the necessary authorization. This diverse workforce contributes greatly to the vibrancy and strength of our economy, but that same strength also attracts unauthorized employment.

E-Verify is an Internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States. E-Verify is fast, free and easy to use - and it's the best way employers can ensure a legal workforce.

The program was authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA). In short, employers submit information taken from a new hire's Form 1-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification Form) through E-Verify to the Social Security Administration and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to determine whether the information matches government records and whether the new hire is authorized to work in the United States.

E-Verify is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, USCIS, Verification Division, and the Social Security Administration. Got to <u>www.uscis.gov</u> to enroll.

C. Income Tax Withholding

Each year employee should complete Form W-4, the "Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate". The amount of income tax that an employer must withhold from wages is based on the filing status and number of withholding allowances claimed by the employee. The form should be retained by the employer and not be transmitted to the IRS.

The amount of money withheld as federal income tax is reduced for each allowance claimed. If an employee fails to complete a W-4, the employer must withhold federal income tax as if the employee was single with no withholding allowances. According to the IRS, the form should be retained for at least four years after an employee's departure.

D. <u>New Employee Registry</u>

California requires all employers to report all new employees to the EDD within 20 calendar days of an employee's first day of work. This information will be cross-matched against child support records to locate parents who are delinquent in their support payments and also will be used to detect unemployment insurance fraud; Form DE 34 is to be used to report this information.

You may also report the new employee by submitting a copy of the employee's Form W-4, as long as you include the date the employee began working and your California employer account number on the Form W-4.

To order forms, call the California New Employee Registry at (916) 322-2835. Or if you have questions concerning reporting requirements, call your local EDD office or the Registry at (916) 657-0529.

XVI. BASIS IN S CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We want to make you aware of the importance of keeping track of basis in your S corporation and partnership investments, as the IRS may disallow losses unless there is proof of sufficient basis.

S Corporation Stock and Debt Basis

Many corporations elect S corporation status. The impact of electing S corporation status is that the items of income and loss, etc. flow through to the shareholders. There are three shareholder loss limitations, relating to the following issues:

- 1. Stock and debt basis,
- 2. the amount "At Risk", and
- 3. the Passive Activity rules.

The following information relates to stock and debt basis. The fact that a shareholder receives a K-1 reflecting a loss does not necessarily mean that the shareholder is entitled to claim the loss. The shareholder must have basis to claim the loss. Basis should be computed each year.

To compute stock basis, the shareholder begins with their initial capital contribution to the S corporation or the initial cost of the stock they purchased (the same as a C corporation). That amount is then increased and/or decreased based on the flow-through amounts from the S corporation. An income item will increase stock basis while a loss, deduction, or distribution will decrease stock basis.

A shareholder's stock is **increased** by:

- 1. Ordinary income
- 2. Separately stated income items
- 3. Tax exempt income
- 4. Excess depletion

A shareholder's stock is **decreased**, but not below zero by:

- 1. Ordinary loss
- 2. Separately stated loss items
- 3. Nondeductible expenses
- 4. Non-dividend distributions
- 5. Depletion for oil and gas

Most distributions from an S corporation are non-dividend distributions. Dividend distributions can occur in a company that was previously a C corporation or acquired C corporation attributes in a non-taxable transaction (i.e., merger, reorganization, QSub election, etc.).

XVI. BASIS IN S CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS (Continued)

S Corporation Stock and Debt Basis (Continued)

For loss and deduction items, which exceed a shareholder's stock basis, the shareholder may include its debt basis to determine the deductibility of these items. Debt basis is generally the loans that the shareholder personally made to the S corporation. Debt basis is computed similarly to stock basis, but there are some differences.

The bottom line is that it is not the corporation's responsibility to track each shareholder's stock and debt basis, but rather, it is the shareholder's responsibility.

Partnership Basis

Basis has two separate meanings in partnership taxation. Outside basis is the basis of the partner in their partnership investment. Inside basis is the basis of the partnership in its assets. Outside basis determines how much a partner can withdraw or deduct from a partnership for tax purposes without recognizing additional gain or without being limited with respect to the deductibility of their share partnership losses.

In determining outside basis, each partner's acquisition costs for their partnership interest, contributions and distributions along with their share of profits and losses must be accounted for. Basis is increased by additional contributions of money, property, services and the partner's share of liabilities and partnership income.

Here again, as with S-corporation investments, it is the partner's responsibility, and not that of the partnership, to keep track of basis.

XVII. CAFETERIA PLANS

A Cafeteria Plan is a separate written plan maintained by an employer for employees that meets the specific requirements of and regulations of Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code. It provides participants an opportunity to receive certain benefits on a pretax basis. Participants in a cafeteria plan must be permitted to choose among at least one taxable benefit (such as cash) and one qualified benefit. A qualified benefit is a benefit that does not defer compensation and is excludable from an employee's gross income under a specific provision of the Code, without being subject to the principles of constructive receipt. Qualified benefits include:

- Accident and health benefits (but not Archer medical savings accounts or long-term care insurance);
- Adoption assistance;
- Dependent care assistance;
- Group-term life insurance coverage;
- Health savings accounts, including distributions to pay long-term care services.

The written plan must specifically describe all benefits and establish rules for eligibility and elections.

A Section 125 Plan is the only means by which an employer can offer employees a choice between taxable and nontaxable benefits without the choice causing the benefits to become taxable. A plan offering only a choice between taxable benefits is not a Section 125 Plan.

XVII. CAFETERIA PLANS (Continued)

The plan may make benefits available to employees, their spouses and dependents. It may also include coverage of former employees, but cannot exist primarily for them. See the questions below for treatment of benefits made available to individuals who are not spouses or dependents of the employee.

Employer contributions to the Cafeteria Plan are usually made pursuant to salary reduction agreements between the employer and the employee in which the employee agrees to contribute a portion of his or her salary on a pre-tax basis to pay for the qualified benefits. Salary reduction contributions are not actually or constructively received by the participant. Therefore, those contributions are not considered wages for federal income tax purposes. In addition, those sums generally are not subject to FICA and FUTA. See Sections 3121(a)(5)(G) and 3306(b)(5)(G) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A flexible spending arrangement (FSA) is a form of cafeteria plan benefit, funded by salary reduction, that reimburses employees for expenses incurred for certain qualified benefits. An FSA may be offered for dependent care assistance, adoption, and medical care reimbursements. The benefits are subject to an annual maximum and are subject to an annual "use-or-lose" rule. An FSA cannot provide a cumulative benefit to the employees beyond the plan year. The above discussion from the irs.gov website provides only the most basic rules governing a cafeteria plan. For a complete understanding of the rules, see Regulations under Code Section 125.

The Affordable Health Care Act, which became law in March 2010, included a provision that limits the annual amount of salary reductions that an employee may contribute to a health flexible spending arrangement (FSA). The limit is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. For taxable year 2015 the limit is \$2,550. Prior to this provision, there was no statutory limit for employee contributions to a health FSA; that amount was dictated by the employer either as a maximum dollar amount or maximum percentage of compensation.

XVIII. USE TAX

If you purchase an item out-of-state that will be used, consumed, or stored in California, then you may owe use tax. If the out-of-state merchant charges you the correct amount of sales or use tax on your purchase, then your use tax requirement has been fulfilled. Out-of-state companies that are "engaged in business" in California must register with the Board of Equalization and collect sales or use tax on their retail sales of personal property to California customers. However, if no sales or use tax was collected on your purchase, then you are required to compute and pay the amount of use tax due.

How do you compute the use tax? First, multiply the cost of the property purchased from an out-of-state merchant times the applicable use tax rate. The use tax rate and the sales tax rate are the same. The use tax rate is determined by where the property will be used, consumed or stored in California. Then, look to determine if any sales or use tax was collected from the out-of-state merchant and subtract this amount from the use tax due.

XIX. RECORDS RETENTION

<u>WARNING</u>: Your circumstances may require that you retain records for a longer period of time than shown below. This schedule provides general guidelines. Statute of limitations vary from state to state. Companies should have record retention policies for computer files, word processing and e-mail in addition to the traditional ledger and paper documents. Prior to formalizing a policy, we recommend consulting your attorneys and accountants for further information. See the chart on page 39 for recommended holding periods for specific types of documents.

XIX. RECORDS RETENTION (Continued)

	Retention Period
Accident reports and claims (settled cases)	7 yrs.
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	10 yrs.
Accounts receivable ledgers and schedules	10 yrs.
Audit reports of accountants	Permanently
Bank reconciliations	1 yr.
Canceled checks for important payments, i.e. taxes and purchases of property	Permanently
Canceled checks, bank statements and deposit slips	10 yrs.
Capital stock and bond records; ledgers, transfer registers, stubs showing issues, record of interest coupons, options, etc.	Permanently
Cash receipts and disbursements journals	Permanently
Charts of accounts	Permanently
Contracts and leases	
Correspondence (routine) with customers or vendors	1 yr.
Correspondence (general)	3 yrs.
Correspondence (legal and important matters only)	Permanently
Deeds, mortgages and bills of sale	Permanently
Depreciation schedules	Permanently
Duplicate deposit slips	1 yr.
Employment applications and employee contracts	
Expense reports	7 yrs.
Financial statements (end-of-year, other months optional)	Permanently
General and private ledgers (and end-of-year trial balances)	Permanently
INS I-9 Forms	3 yrs. From date of hire or 1 year after termination
Insurance documents	after expiration or

	Retention Period
Internal audit reports (in some situations, longer retention periods may be desirable)	7 yrs.
Inventories of products, materials and supplies First year	•
Invoices to customers	7 yrs.
Invoices from vendors	7 yrs.
Journals	Permanently
Minute books of directors and stockholders, including by-laws and charter	Permanently
Notes receivable ledgers and schedules	
Payroll records and summaries, including payments to pensioners	7 yrs.
Personnel data	7 yrs.
Petty cash vouchers	3 yrs.
Physical inventory tags	3 yrs.
Plant cost ledgers First year	•
Property appraisals by outside appraisers	Permanently
Property records - including blueprints, appraisals, and penalties	Permanently
Purchase orders or requisitions (copy)	5 yrs.
Receiving sheets	1 yr.
Requisitions	1 yr.
Sales records	7 yrs.
Scrap and salvage records (inventories, sales, etc.)	7 yrs.
Stenographer's notebooks	1 yr.
Subsidiary ledgers	7 yrs.
Tax returns and worksheets, revenue agents' reports and other documents relating to determination of income tax liability	Permanently
Time reports	7 yrs.
Trademark registrations	Permanently
Voucher register, schedules and backup	7 yrs.
Warranties and service agreements	

XX. CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PROGRAM

From the Controller's website:

California's Unclaimed Property Law requires corporations, businesses, associations, financial institutions, and insurance companies (referred to as "Holders") to annually report and deliver property to the State Controller's Office after there has been no activity on the account or contact with the owner for a period of time specified in the law—generally three (3) years. Often, contact is lost when the owner forgets that the account exists, or moves and does not leave a forwarding address, or the forwarding order expires. In some cases, the owner dies and the heirs have no knowledge of the property.

The Unclaimed Property Law was passed to protect consumers. It prevents businesses with unclaimed property from keeping your money and using it as business income. The law provides California citizens a single source, the State Controller's Office, to check for unclaimed property that may be reported by businesses from around the nation and enables the State to return property, or the net proceeds from any legally required sale of the property, to its rightful owner or their heirs.

The State Controller's Office processes unclaimed property claims free of charge. Owners or heirs can claim their property directly from this office without any service charges or fees.

Go to <u>www.sco.ca.gov</u> for more details.

XXI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

Federal:	
Center for Disease Control	www.flu.gov
Department of Health and Human Services	www.hhs.gov
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov
Department of Labor	www.dol.gov
Health Insurance Information	healthcare.gov
Immigration and Naturalization Service	www.bcis.gov
Internal Revenue Service (Primary Address)	www.irs.gov
Internal Revenue Service (Small Business Help)	www.irs.gov/business/index.html
Social Security Administration	www.ssa.gov
United States Postal Service	www.usps.com
California:	
Film Commission	www.film.ca.gov
Franchise Tax Board	www.ftb.ca.gov
Employment Development Department	www.edd.ca.gov
Health Insurance Information	<u>coveredca.com</u>
State Controller (Unclaimed Property)	www.sco.ca.gov
Board of Equalization	www.boe.ca.gov
Secretary of State	www.ss.ca.gov
Local:	
Los Angeles County Clerk	www.lacounty.info

Energy Research and Credit Information:

Federal	www.energystar.gov
California	Gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov

Foreign exchange rates at <u>www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/hist</u> (1990 to present) or <u>oanda.com</u>.

Consumer information at <u>www.pueblo.gsa.gov</u>.

Stock Market Quotes at <u>www.dailystocks.com</u> or <u>www.moneycentral.msn.com</u>.

General Government Information at <u>www.usa.gov</u>

XXII. TYPES OF PAYMENTS

Types of Payments Below is an alphabetic list of some payments and the forms to file and report them. However, it is not a complete list of all payments, and the absence of a payment from the list does not indicate that the payment is not reportable. For instructions on a specific type of payment, see the separate instructions in the form(s) listed.

Type of Payment Report on Form

ABLE accounts:	
Contributions	5498-QA
Distributions	1099-QA
Abandonment	1099-A
Accelerated death benefits	1099-LTC
Acquisition of control	1099-CAP
Agriculture payments	1099-G
Allocated tips	W-2
Alternate TAA payments	1099-G
Annuities	1099-R
Archer MSAs:	1055-11
Contributions	5498-SA
	1099-SA
Distributions	1099-5A
Attorney, fees and gross proceeds	1099-MISC
	W-2
Auto reimbursements, employee	VV-2
nonemployee	1099-MISC
	W-2
Awards, employee	1099-MISC
Awards, nonemployee	
Barter exchange income	1099-B
Bond tax credit	1097-BTC
Bonuses, employee	W-2
Bonuses, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Broker transactions	1099-B
Cancellation of debt	1099-C
Capital gain distributions	1099-DIV
Car expense, employee	W-2
Car expense, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Changes in capital structure	1099-CAP
Charitable gift annuities	1099-R
Commissions, employee	W-2
Commissions, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Commodities transactions	1099-B
Compensation, employee	W-2
Compensation, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Contributions of motor vehicles, boats,	
and airplanes	1098-C
Cost of current life insurance	
protection	1099-R
Coverdell ESA contributions	5498-ESA
Coverdell ESA distributions	1099-Q
Crop insurance proceeds	1099-MISC
Damages	1099-MISC
Death benefits	1099-R

Type of Payment Report on Form

Accelerated	1099-LTC
Debt cancellation	1099-C
Dependent care payments	W-2
Direct rollovers	1099-Q.
	1099-R,
	5498
Direct sales of consumer products for	
resale	1099-MISC
Directors' fees	1099-MISC
Discharge of indebtedness	1099-C
Dividends	1099-DIV
Donation of motor vehicle	1098-C
Education loan interest	1098-C
	1090-E
Employee business expense	14/ 0
	W-2
Employee compensation	W-2
Excess deferrals, excess contributions,	1000 B
distributions of	1099-R
Exercise of incentive stock option under	2001
section 422(b)	3921
	W-2
Fees, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Fishing boat crew members	
proceeds	1099-MISC
Fish purchases for cash	1099-MISC
Foreclosures	1099-A
Foreign persons' income	1042-S
401(k) contributions	W-2
404(k) dividend	1099-DIV
Gambling winnings	W-2G
Golden parachute, employee	W-2
Golden parachute,	
nonemployee	1099-MISC
Grants, taxable	1099-G
Health care services	1099-MISC
Health savings accounts:	
Contributions	5498-SA
Distributions	1099-SA
Income attributable to domestic	
production activities, deduction	
for	1099-PATR
Income tax refunds, state and	
local	1099-G
Indian gaming profits paid to tribal	
members	1099-MISC
Interest income	1099-INT
Tax-exempt	1099-INT
Interest, mortgage	1098
IRA contributions	5498
IRA distributions	1099-R
Life insurance contract	1099-R.
distributions	1099-LTC
Liquidation, distributions in	1099-DIV
Loans, distribution from pension	1000 BIT
plan	1099-R
Long-term care benefits	1099-LTC
Medicare Advantage MSAs:	
Contributions	5498-SA
	5496-5A 1099-SA
	1099-SA 1099-MISC
Medical services	
Mileage, employee	W-2
Mileage, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Military retirement	1099-R
Mortgage assistance payments	1098-MA

Type of Payment Report on Form

Type of Payment Report on Porm	
Mortgage interest	1098
Moving expense	W-2
Nonemployee compensation	1099-MISC
Nonqualified deferred compensation:	
Beneficiary	1099-R
Employee	W-2
Nonemployee	1099-MISC
Original issue discount (OID)	1099-OID
Patronage dividends	1099-PATR
Payment card transactions	1099-K
Pensions	1099-R
Points	1098
Prizes, employee	W-2
Prizes, nonemployee	1099-MISC
Profit-sharing plan	1099-R
Punitive damages	1099-MISC
Qualified longevity annuity contract	
n	1098-Q
Qualified plan distributions	1099-R
Qualified tuition program	
payments	1099-Q
Real estate transactions	1099-S
Recharacterized IRA	1099-R,
contributions	5498
Refund, state and local tax	1099-G
Rents	1099-MISC
Retirement	1099-R
Roth conversion IRA	
contributions	5498
Roth conversion IRA	
distributions	1099-R
Roth IRA contributions	5498
Roth IRA distributions	1099-R
Royalties	1099-MISC,
	1099-S
Timber, pay-as-cut contract	1099-S
Sales:	
Real estate	1099-S
Securities	1099-B
Section 1035 exchange	1099-R
SEP contributions	W-2, 5498
SEP distributions	1099-R
Severance pay	W-2
Sick pay	W-2
SIMPLE contributions	W-2, 5498
SIMPLE distributions	1099-R
Student loan interest	1098-E
Substitute payments in lieu of dividends	
or tax-exempt interest	1099-MISC
Supplemental unemployment	W-2
Tax refunds, state and local	1099-G
Third party network transactions	1099-K
Tips	W-2
Traditional IRA contributions	5498
Traditional IRA distributions	1099-R
Transfer of stock acquired through an	
employee stock purchase plan under	
section 423(c)	3922
Tuition	1098-T
Unemployment benefits	1099-G
Vacation allowance, employee	W-2
Vacation allowance,	
nonemployee	1099-MISC
Wages	W-2