



MAINE TAX ALERT

A Publication of Maine Revenue Services for Tax Professionals

Volume 8, No. 5

AUGUST 1998

Public Communications Tel: (207) 626-8475

To Our Readers:

The Maine Revenue Service has completed another income tax season, the third with the Maine Imaging and Processing System. We have overcome many processing dilemmas and challenges beginning with the ice storm of 1998. We hope to use the knowledge gained during this processing season to improve on the quality of our service for the 1998 tax year and beyond.

This issue of the Maine Tax Alert gives you the opportunity to let us know how we are doing. This is the fourth year of the tax alert survey and we would like to thank past participants. Please take the time to respond to these questions. We read every survey!

Brain H. Mahany
Executive Director

1998 SURVEY OF TAX PROFESSIONALS

1. Please rate the Maine Revenue Service's (MRS's) overall performance during the tax season just concluded.

- Excellent
- Above average
- Average
- Poor

2. Please rate our service as compared to last year.

- Improved greatly
- Improved somewhat
- Remained the same
- Marginally decreased
- Substantially decreased

3. What suggestions do you have for improvement? _____

4. The MRS offers payment of business taxes by Electronic Funds Transfer through a voluntary ACH program. Do you recommend that your clients use electronic funds transfer for payment of state taxes?

- Yes
- Might consider recommending
- Unsure
- No

5. Direct deposit of refunds is now available for taxpayers. Are your clients who expect refunds requesting direct deposit for their state tax refunds?

- Always
- Usually
- Occasionally
- Never

6. How do you rate the Maine Tax Alert?

- Very useful
- Useful
- Marginally useful
- Not useful

7. Do you have any suggestions for articles you would like to see in the Tax Alert? _____

8. Are you interested in writing an article for publication in the Tax Alert? _____

Name _____ Telephone number _____

9. Current issues of the Tax Alert are on the MRS's web page a week before you receive them in the mail. How soon will you be able to rely on the Internet for Tax Alert and other MRS information?

- Currently use Internet for tax information and would like to be removed from the tax alert mailing list.
- Plan to use Internet in 6 months
- Plan to use Internet in 12 months
- No plans to use Internet for tax information.

10. Your rating for communications between the MRS and Tax Professionals is:

- Excellent
- Above Average
- Average
- Poor

11. Do you have any suggestions for improvement? _____

12. Which best describes your accounting employment?

- Private Company
- Public Accounting
- Government/Not for Profit
- Education/Teaching
- Other _____

13. If you are in public accounting the size of your practice can best be described as:

- Small (fewer than 300 clients)
- Medium (300-1,000 clients)
- Large (More than 1,000 clients)

Thank you for answering this survey.

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New Phone Number for Corporate Tax

Due to a change in the location of our Corporate Income Tax Unit the Practitioner's HOT LINE will no longer be available for C-Corp (1120) income tax questions. Please call and have your clients call (207)287-3301 and ask for corporate income tax. Forms can still be ordered using (207)624-7894.

Practitioner's HOT LINE Staffing

The staffing for the Practitioner's HOT LINE has been increased. This should eliminate most voice mail messages. Even though staffing has been increased please do not give this number out to your clients. The HOT LINE telephone number is (207)626-8458, your clients may call (207)626-8475.

Registration for Payroll Processors

Payroll Processors 10 M.R.S.A. Chapter 222 Section 1495

Maine law requires payroll processors to register annually with the state even if you do not handle client funds or prepare payroll returns only on an occasional basis. The registration form is due by January 30th of each year. The law also requires payroll processors to disclose certain information to all clients for whom funds are handled. The disclosure forms must be provided to each new client at the time you enter into the initial contract. Thereafter, the form must be provided to all clients by September 1st of every even numbered year, beginning **September 1, 1998**. You are not required to provide the disclosure forms to clients for whom you do not handle funds. If you are required to file these forms and would like to be added to the mailing list call (207)626-8475 or write to the Income Tax Division attention: Robin Shea. These forms are also available to download at the web site address <http://janus.state.me.us/revenue> under "technical tax information; income tax withholding..".

1998 Property Tax and Rent Refund Program

In August tax and rent refund applications will be going out to all previous applicants and those who chose to have applications sent to them by marking the check box on their individual income tax return. The 1998 application will be based on 1997 income, tax and rent figures. Something new this year is the ability for some applicants to telefile the tax and rent application. Many individuals will find it easier to phone in their application and get their refund quicker and easier than in prior years. Remember, as

a tax preparer you can use this option if the taxpayer has their application with a pin number and is present to give a voice signature when completing the application.

**TAX ALERT SURVEY
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
MAINE REVENUE SERVICE
24 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04332-0024**

MAINE REVENUE SERVICES <http://janus.state.me.us/revenue>

...Order tax forms through the WebPage?...YES!

SUGGESTIONS FOR TAX ALERT?

**Please contact: Maine Revenue Services
Public Communications Director
24 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0024**

We will provide contact telephone numbers again in the next issue of TAX ALERT.

STATE OF MAINE

Angus S. King, Governor

**Janet E. Waldron, Commissioner
Administrative and Financial
Services**

Brian H. Mahany, Executive Director

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