



25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford CT 06106-5032

INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATION

Business Taxes

**Purpose:** This publication provides a brief description of certain taxes applicable to companies doing business in Connecticut. It is not an all-inclusive list, but it contains those taxes of interest to most businesses and, where appropriate, identifies the state agencies to contact for further information. For more information about doing business in Connecticut, see **Informational Publication 2003(28), *Getting Started in Business: Understanding Connecticut Taxes.***

**Effective Date:** Upon issuance.

Registering for Business Taxes

Use **Form REG-1, *Business Taxes Registration Application***, to register a business for those taxes administered by the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) including corporation business tax, business entity tax, sales and use taxes, income tax withholding, and motor vehicle fuels tax. See Page 7 for information on obtaining forms and publications. For more information, contact the DRS Taxpayer Services Division at 860-297-5962 (from anywhere) or 1-800-382-9463 (in-state).

Corporation Business Tax

Corporations pay the corporation business tax for the privilege of carrying on business in a corporate capacity in Connecticut. Corporations calculate their tax under two alternative methods, tax measured by net income and the minimum tax, and remit the higher tax. If the tax measured by net income is less than \$250, the corporation pays the minimum tax, which is never less than \$250.

The tax measured by net income

Federal net income is modified by certain additions and subtractions to compute Connecticut net income. Multistate corporations multiply their Connecticut net income by the appropriate apportionment factor. The Connecticut net income, or apportioned Connecticut net income for multistate corporations, is taxed at 7.5%.

The minimum tax

The Connecticut minimum tax base is:

- The average value of issued and outstanding capital stock, surplus, and undivided profits and surplus reserves reduced by;
- The average value of any deficit carried on the balance sheet and holdings of stock of private (nongovernmental) corporations including treasury stock.

Multistate corporations multiply their Connecticut minimum tax base by an apportionment fraction that is the average of the intangible personal property and tangible personal property ratios.

The Connecticut minimum tax base, or apportioned Connecticut minimum tax base for multistate corporations, is taxed at a rate of 3.1 mils (\$0.0031) per dollar. The minimum tax cannot be more than \$1,000,000 nor be less than \$250.

Estimated corporation business tax

A corporation whose estimated current year's tax exceeds \$1,000 must make estimated tax payments.

The required annual payment is the lesser of:

<b>1st installment</b>	30% of prior year's tax (without regard to tax credits) or 27% of current year's tax.
<b>2nd installment</b>	70% of prior year's tax (without regard to tax credits) or 63% of current year's tax.
<b>3rd installment</b>	80% of prior year's tax (without regard to tax credits) or 72% of current year's tax.
<b>4th installment</b>	100% of prior year's tax (without regard to tax credits) or 90% of current year's tax.

## Filing requirements

See *Paperless Filing/Payment Methods* on Page 7.

### C corporations

C corporations, and other business entities that elect to be taxed as a corporation, must file **Form CT-1120, Corporation Business Tax Return**, on or before the first day of the month following the due date of the company's corresponding federal income tax return for the income year (April 1 for calendar year filers).

### S corporations

S corporations are not subject to the corporation business tax. For federal and Connecticut tax purposes, S corporations are treated as pass-through entities. Consequently, in Connecticut, S corporation shareholders who are individuals, estates, or trusts report their pro rata share of S corporation income on **Form CT-1040, Connecticut Resident Income Tax Return**, **Form CT-1040NR/PY, Connecticut Nonresident or Part-Year Resident Income Tax Return**, **Form CT-1041, Connecticut Income Tax Return for Trusts and Estates**, or **Form CT-G, Connecticut Group Income Tax Return**.

Additionally, the S corporation must file **Form CT-1065/CT-1120SI, Connecticut Composite Income Tax Return**, on or before the fifteenth day of the fourth month after the close of its taxable year. S corporations and other pass-through entities may be required to make composite income tax payments on behalf of its member. (See **Informational Publication 2005(13), Connecticut Income Tax Changes Affecting Pass-Through Entities**, for more information.) S corporations generally are subject to the business entity tax.

### Corporation business tax credits

Corporation business tax credits are available to new and existing businesses. **Informational Publication 2004(20), Guide to Connecticut Business Tax Credits**, contains detailed summaries of available credits. You may download this publication from the DRS web site at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS), or to order the publication, send a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope with \$1.75 postage affixed to:

Department of Revenue Services  
Mail Unit, Corporation Credit Guide  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford CT 06106-5032

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## Business Entity Tax

There is an annual business entity tax (BET) of \$250. The BET applies to the following entities, if required to file an annual report with the Connecticut Secretary of the State:

- S corporation;
- Limited liability partnership (LLP);
- Limited partnership (LP); or
- Limited liability company (LLC) that, for federal income tax purposes, is either treated as a partnership if it has more than one members or disregarded as an entity separate from its owner if it has only one member.

See **Special Notice 2002(11), Business Entity Tax**, and **Informational Publication 2003(15), Q & A on Business Entity Tax** for more information.

See *Paperless Filing/Payment Methods* on Page 7.

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## Sales and Use Taxes

Retail sales or leases of tangible personal property and certain services are subject to sales and use taxes at a 6% rate, except as noted below. The room occupancy tax rate of 12% applies to the occupancy of a room in a hotel or lodging house for a period of thirty consecutive days or less.

Use tax generally applies to taxable tangible personal property or services on which the seller did not impose Connecticut sales tax. A business must report purchases subject to the use tax on **Form OS-114, Sales and Use Tax Return**, for the period in which the purchases are made. If an item purchased in another state already was subject to that state's sales tax, credit for such tax is generally given when computing Connecticut use tax.

### Certain services subject to tax

For a complete list of taxable services, refer to Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-407(a)(2) and (37) or contact the DRS Taxpayer Services Division. Although not an exhaustive list, the following are commonly provided taxable services:

- Advertising or public relations services not related to the development of media advertising or cooperative direct mail advertising;
- Business analysis, management, management consulting, and public relations services, excluding any environmental consulting services;
- Cable and satellite television services;

- Computer and data processing services, including but not limited to, charges for on-line access to computer services (but excluding services rendered in connection with the creation, development, hosting or maintenance of all or part of a web site on the World Wide Web and Internet access services) are taxed at 1%;
- Certain contractor services;
- Credit information and reporting;
- Employment agencies and agencies providing personnel services;
- Exterminating services;
- Flight instruction and chartering by a certificated air carrier;
- Furnishing of space for storage of tangible personal property;
- Furniture reupholstering and repair services;
- Health and athletic club services;
- Janitorial services (including the cleaning of homes, offices, and commercial property);
- Landscaping and horticulture services;
- Lobbying or consulting services for the purpose of representing a client's interests in relation to any Connecticut state or local governmental bodies;
- Locksmith services;
- Maintenance services;
- Miscellaneous personal services (U.S. industries 532220, 812191, 812199, or 812990 in the NAICS manual or industry group 719 in the SIC manual), exclusive of services rendered by licensed massage therapists and licensed hypertrichologists;
- Motor vehicle repairs, including any type of repair, painting, or replacement to the body or operating parts of a motor vehicle;
- Painting and lettering services;
- Parking services in a lot with 30 or more spaces, other than metered space, and excluding valet parking at airports and space in certain municipal railroad parking lots;
- Personnel training services when the training service provider is engaged by an employer to provide job-related training to personnel whose primary workplace is located in Connecticut;
- Photographic studio services;
- Piped-in music provided to business or professional establishments;
- Prepaid telephone calling services, including prepaid calling cards, and the recharge of the service;
- Private investigation, protection, patrol work, watchman, and armored car services, exclusive of these services provided by off-duty police officers and firefighters;
- Radio or television repair services;
- Repair services to electrical or electronic devices including, but not limited to, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment;
- Repair or maintenance services to tangible personal property (other than services to vessels and shoe repair);
- Sales agent services for selling tangible personal property, except for the services of a consignee selling works of art or clothing or the services of an auctioneer;
- Services to existing industrial, commercial, and income-producing real property, including but not limited to management, repair, and renovation services, but excluding voluntary evaluation, prevention, treatment, containment, or removal of hazardous waste or other contaminants of air, water, or soil;
- Stenographic services;
- Storage or mooring of any noncommercial vessel on land or in the water, **except** the nonseasonal (November 1 through April 30) dry or wet storage or mooring of noncommercial vessels;
- Swimming pool cleaning and maintenance services;
- Telecommunications services;
- Telephone answering services;
- Warranty and service contracts for any item of tangible personal property; **and**
- Window cleaning services.

### Related companies

Sales of services between the following affiliated business entities are exempt from sales and use taxes: corporations, trusts, estates, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, limited liability companies, single member limited liability companies, sole proprietorships, and nonstock corporations. To qualify, the business entities must be affiliated in such a manner that:

- Either business entity in the transaction owns a controlling interest in the other business entity; **or**
- A controlling interest in each business entity in the transaction is owned by the same person or persons or business entity or business entities.

Note that a business entity cannot purchase services on resale when the services are purchased for resale to another affiliate.

### Contractor services

This topic is covered in depth in **Informational Publication 2004(29)**, *Building Contractors' Guide to Sales and Use Taxes*. You may download this publication from the DRS web site at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS), or to order the publication, send a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope with \$1.98 in postage to:

Department of Revenue Services  
Mail Unit, Building Contractors' Guide  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford CT 06106-5032

### Manufacturer exemptions

Sales and use taxes are imposed on most items purchased by Connecticut manufacturers. However, there are certain exemptions:

- Machinery used directly in the manufacturing production process;
- Repair, replacement, component or enhancement parts for the machinery;
- Materials that become an ingredient or component part of the products to be sold;
- Tools, fuel, and materials that are used directly in an industrial plant in the actual fabrication of finished products to be sold; **and**
- Calibration services for manufacturing machinery, equipment or instrumentation.

Also, under the Manufacturing Recovery Act, which is available to manufacturers, processors, and fabricators, 50% of the purchase price of materials, tools, fuels, machinery, and equipment is exempt from sales and use taxes.

**Informational Publication 99(18)**, *Sales and Use Taxes Guide for Manufacturers, Fabricators and Processors*, includes information about tax exemptions and other issues of interest to manufacturers. You may download this publication from the DRS web site at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS), or to order the publication, send a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope with \$1.98 in postage to:

Department of Revenue Services  
Mail Unit, Manufacturers' Guide  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford CT 06106-5032

### Filing requirements

Connecticut retailers that sell taxable goods or services must collect sales tax on their sales, except when a properly completed Connecticut *Sales and Use Tax Resale Certificate* or the *Uniform Sales and Use Tax Certificate — Multijurisdiction* is taken in good faith from the purchaser or the sale qualifies for exemption. Retailers must remit sales and use taxes on a quarterly basis to the state, except where the tax collected by the retailer for the 12-month period ended on the preceding June 30 was more than \$4,000, in which event the tax must be remitted monthly. Annual filing is allowed for businesses whose total annual liability for sales and use taxes is less than \$1,000.

Taxpayers whose prior year liability for sales and use tax or withholding tax exceeded \$10,000 for the 12-month period ending the preceding June 30 for monthly and quarterly tax liabilities or for the preceding taxable year for annual tax liabilities and who are notified by DRS to pay that tax by electronic funds transfer (EFT) must pay the tax by EFT.

See *Paperless Filing/Payment Methods* on Page 7.

### Other exemptions

Certain sales are exempt from tax including, but not limited to, sales of food (other than meals), clothing under \$50, and prescription and certain nonprescription drugs.

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## Income Tax Withholding

An employer is an employer for Connecticut income tax withholding purposes if that employer:

- Maintains an office in Connecticut or is transacting business within Connecticut; **and**
- Is considered an employer for federal income tax withholding purposes.

Employers must withhold Connecticut income tax from wages of resident employees and from nonresident employees who work in Connecticut. Quarterly reconciliations are due on the last day of the month following the end of the calendar quarter. The annual reconciliation for the preceding year is due on the last day of February. See **Special Notice 2004(4)**, *2004 Legislation Affecting Income Tax Withholding by Employers on Wages Paid On or After January 1, 2005*, for more information.

See *Paperless Filing/Payment Methods* on Page 7.

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## Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax

An excise tax is imposed on motor vehicle fuels used to propel motor vehicles. The tax rate on gasoline and gaohol is 25¢ per gallon and the tax rate on diesel fuel is 26¢ per gallon.

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## Motor Carrier Road Tax

A tax is imposed on the use of motor fuels by motor carriers operating qualified motor vehicles in Connecticut. The rate is equivalent to the Connecticut motor vehicle fuels tax rate. A *qualified motor vehicle* is a motor vehicle used, designed, or maintained for transportation of persons or property and:

- Has two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 pounds;
- Has three or more axles regardless of weight; **or**
- Is used in combination and the combined gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeds 26,000 pounds.

### **International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)**

Connecticut is a member of the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). IFTA is an agreement among jurisdictions (states of the United States and Canadian provinces) to simplify the reporting of the fuel use taxes by interstate carriers. All 48 contiguous states are members of IFTA, as well as 10 Canadian provinces.

Each motor carrier based in Connecticut that operates in at least one other IFTA jurisdiction must obtain a Connecticut IFTA license and decals. For carriers based in another jurisdiction that is also an IFTA member, the IFTA license and decals from that jurisdiction satisfy Connecticut fuel use tax requirements. Qualified motor vehicles based outside Connecticut in a non-IFTA jurisdiction or that operate only in Connecticut must obtain Connecticut motor carrier road tax decals. Call the DRS Registration Unit at 860-297-4753 to obtain an application.

### **Petroleum Products Gross Earnings Tax**

A tax is imposed on the gross earnings of companies engaged in the refining or distribution, or both, of petroleum products from the first sale within Connecticut of petroleum products.

### **Other State Agencies**

Other state or municipal agencies administer the following taxes and fees: corporation franchise tax, unemployment compensation tax, property tax, and motor vehicle fees.

**Corporation Franchise Tax:** The Office of the Secretary of the State collects a franchise tax from Connecticut corporations. For more information, contact the Office of the Secretary of the State at 860-509-6003 or visit their web site at [www.sots.ct.gov](http://www.sots.ct.gov)

### **Domestic corporations**

A domestic corporation must pay a franchise tax to the Secretary of the State at the time of incorporation and at the time of any increase in the number of shares of authorized capital stock. Corporations must also file annual reports on or before the last business day of the month in which the anniversary date of incorporation occurs.

### **Foreign corporations**

A corporation organized outside Connecticut may obtain a certificate of authority to transact business in Connecticut by filing an application with the Secretary of the State and appointing an agent to accept service of process. Applications are available from the Secretary of the State and must be accompanied by a filing fee and a certificate of good standing from the corporation's state of incorporation. Foreign corporations must file annual reports on or before the last business day of the month in which the anniversary date of the authorization to transact business occurs.

### **Unemployment Compensation Tax**

The **Department of Labor** administers the unemployment compensation tax. For information and registration forms, contact the Connecticut Department of Labor, Employer Status Unit at 860-263-6550 or visit their web site at [www.ctdol.state.ct.us](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us)

### **Unemployment Compensation Act**

Employers engaged in covered activities are subject to the Unemployment Compensation Act (Act) if:

- During a calendar quarter of the current or preceding calendar year, they paid cash wages totaling \$1,500 or more; **or**
- During the current or preceding calendar year, they had one or more employees at any time in each of 20 calendar weeks.

Agricultural employers are subject to the Act if:

- During any calendar quarter of the current or preceding calendar year, they paid cash wages totaling \$20,000 or more; **or**
- During the current or preceding calendar year, they had 10 or more employees at any time in each of 20 calendar weeks.

Domestic employers are subject to the Act if they paid cash wages totaling \$1,000 or more during any calendar quarter of the current or preceding calendar year.

### **Unemployment Compensation Fund**

The Unemployment Compensation Fund is financed through a benefit ratio system. For employers who qualify to be experience-rated (those who have been chargeable with benefits for at least one year ending June 30), taxes are based on:

- The benefit ratio of each employer, which determines the charged tax rate; **and**
- Unemployment compensation fund reserves, which determine a fund balance tax rate.

The rates are recalculated annually for qualified employers. An employer's charged tax rate is the ratio of charges during the applicable experience period to the taxable payroll for the same period. The fund solvency tax rate may increase an employer's total contribution rate depending on the solvency of the unemployment compensation fund. Calculated annually, it applies uniformly to all employers who qualify for experience rating.

An employer who has not been subject to the Act for a sufficient period of time to be experience-rated pays contributions at a rate that is the higher of 1.0% of taxable wages, or the Connecticut five-year benefit cost rate. An employer's taxable wages consists of the sum of employee's wages not in excess of \$15,000.

### **Maximum unemployment compensation rate**

The maximum unemployment compensation rate is revised annually as of the first Sunday in October. However, the maximum benefit cannot exceed 60% of the average weekly wage of manufacturing production and related workers in Connecticut.

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### **Property Tax**

The property tax is administered by each Connecticut municipality. For information on property tax, write to: Intergovernmental Policy Division, Office of Policy and Management, 450 Capitol Avenue, Mail Stop 54 MFS, Hartford CT 06106-1308. You can also visit the Office of Policy and Management web site at [www.opm.state.ct.us](http://www.opm.state.ct.us) Specific information may also be obtained from the city or town assessor where the business is located.

Each company pays an ad valorem property tax to the community in which it has real or personal property. Manufacturing inventories of finished goods and goods in process are exempt, as are mercantile inventories.

### **Assessment date**

October 1 is the annual assessment date. Not later than November 1, each company must file a declaration of its personal property with the local assessor. Personal property and motor vehicles are revalued annually. Real property is revalued every four years. Increases in assessed values of real property resulting from revaluation may be phased in for up to four years at the community's option.

Any municipality with a population in excess of 35,000 may establish a special service district to construct, own, operate, and maintain public improvements, and to provide within the district the services a municipality is authorized to provide, except elementary and secondary education.

### **Exemptions**

Newly acquired manufacturing machinery and equipment (including property used in the production of motion pictures, videos, and sound recordings) may be exempt from the property tax for a five-year period. New commercial motor vehicles used exclusively for the interstate or intrastate transport of freight for hire, may also be exempt for a five-year period. Both exemptions must be claimed annually. Exemption applications and personal property declaration forms are available from the local assessor.

Connecticut has a free-port law that permits goods shipped in from out-of-state to remain free of local property taxes while stored in a public warehouse not owned by the seller or buyer if the goods remain in their original packages.

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### **Motor Vehicle Registration Fees**

There is a two-year registration fee for private passenger cars used for business purposes. Upon renewal, there is an additional Clean Air Act fee for all classes of motor vehicles. Driver licenses are renewed every six years and commercial driver licenses are renewed every four years.

Annual registration fees for commercial motor vehicles are based on the vehicle gross weight. Both motorized units (tractors) and trailers must be registered. There are fixed annual fees for saw rigs, spray rigs, and well drillers. Permanently mounted cranes require a fee by gross weight. There is a registration fee per year (not prorated) for *heavy duty vehicles* (55,000 lbs. gross weight and over). Overweight vehicles require a special permit from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Specific registration classes exist for taxis, liveries, and buses, each with special requirements and fees.

For specific fee information, contact the Department of Motor Vehicles at 1-800-842-8222, or visit their web site at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv)

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**Effect on Other Documents:** This Informational Publication modifies and supersedes **Informational Publication 2003(34)**, *Business Taxes*, which may no longer be relied upon on after the issuance date of this publication.

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**Effect of This Document:** An Informational Publication addresses frequently asked questions about a current position, policy, or practice, usually in a less technical question and answer format.

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**For Further Information:** Call DRS during business hours, Monday through Friday:

- **1-800-382-9463** (in-state), or
- **860-297-5962** (from anywhere)

**TTY, TDD, and Text Telephone users only** may transmit anytime by calling 860-297-4911.

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**Forms and Publications:** Forms and publications are available anytime by:

- **Internet:** Preview and download forms and publications from the DRS web site at **www.ct.gov/DRS**
- **DRS TAX-FAX:** Call **860-297-5698** from the handset attached to your fax machine and select from the menu.
- **Telephone:** Call **860-297-4753** (from anywhere), or **1-800-382-9463** (in-state) and select **Option 2** from a touch-tone phone.

**Paperless Filing/Payment Methods (fast, easy, free, and confidential):**

- **For business returns:** Use *Fast-File* to file sales and use taxes, business use tax, room occupancy tax, estimated corporation business tax, business entity tax, attorney occupational tax, nursing home provider fee, admissions and dues tax, or withholding tax returns over the Internet. Visit the DRS Web site at **www.ct.gov/DRS** and click on *File/Register OnLine*.
- **For payment of business taxes other than those listed above:** Use *Fast-File* to pay your business taxes over the Internet or by phone. Visit the DRS Web site at **www.ct.gov/DRS** and click on *Electronic Services* for a list of eligible taxes. The ACH debit method is used to make the transfer. No preregistration is required.
- **For resident income tax returns:** Use *WebFile* to file personal income tax returns over the Internet. Visit the DRS Web site at **www.ct.gov/DRS** and click on *File/Register OnLine*.
- **For electronic filing of income tax extensions, estimated payments, and for electronic bill payments:** Use *WebFile* to electronically file personal income tax returns over the Internet. You can also use *WebFile* to make an electronic income tax payment for a prior year. Visit the DRS Web site at **www.ct.gov/DRS** and click on *File/Register OnLine*.

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