
Alaska Employer

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Employment Security Tax

Fourth Quarter 1999

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Y2K, the Employer, and Late Filing Penalties

As mentioned in last quarter's newsletter, Employment Security Tax does not anticipate any difficulty with processing employer quarterly tax reports and payments with the advent of the year 2000. Some employers, however, may have Y2K difficulty that affects their ability to provide necessary payroll information when completing their Alaska Quarterly Contribution Report.

Employers experiencing Y2K difficulty should contact us **prior to the due date** of the report. We can assist employers in filing and paying an estimated report until such time

as their systems are working properly. This may help eliminate late filing and late payment penalties and most, if not all, of any interest charges.

This assistance is also offered to employers who experience problems with computer systems or software programs at any time. We can help employers in filing and paying an estimated report until their computer problems are corrected, thus eliminating the late filing and late payment penalties.

Contact your nearest Field Tax Office for specifics.

1999 Employee Refunds of Excess Contributions

Employees are eligible for a refund of excess employee contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund if:

- ◆ the employee was employed by **two or more** employers during 1999;
- ◆ the employee had withholdings from wages that exceed the maximum annual employee tax of \$132.30 for 1999;
- ◆ the application is filed by December 31, 2000;
- ◆ attached to the application are copies of W-2's or other statement from each employer indicating Alaska reportable wages and ES Tax withholdings during the year, and
- ◆ the overpayment is \$5.00 or greater.

If an employee worked for only **one Alaska employer** during 1999, and more than \$132.30 was withheld, the employer is responsible for refunding the excess deductions.



The Employee Application for Refund form can be obtained from any Field Tax Office or on-line using the URL listed at the end of the next article on forms. Processing of refunds begins on April 1 to allow time for input of the employer quarterly reports and wage listings for the fourth quarter of 1999. Refunds are then processed in the order received. If the form is not complete, and the required W-2's are not attached, refunds will be delayed until the employer can verify information provided.

Our Form or Your Form?

Prior to the due date of each quarter's report, ES Tax mails out over 16,000 **Alaska Quarterly Contribution Reports** to employers. These quarterly reports have been designed to provide a clear and relatively quick and easy form for an employer to complete and return, as well as a consistent format to allow the ES Tax staff to process the reports as quickly as possible.

The advent of computers has allowed employers to reproduce facsimiles of the quarterly contribution report on their systems. For the most part, these forms are currently acceptable for our processing. There are some, however, that need improvement

either because the form does not imitate our tax form, and/or because the form is outdated. Employers should assure that their facsimile is accurate and up-to-date. The date of the form is located in the bottom right corner, and the most current form (updated 11/99) can be accessed through the ES Tax Internet site at:

<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/estax/home.htm>



ES Tax has a new office in Nome.
It's on the front page!

New Policy Ties Workers' Comp to Job Listings

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is committed to fostering and promoting the welfare of Alaska's wage earners and to ensuring that you as employers have access to the most highly skilled workers available. In January, 1999, the Commissioner of Labor issued a policy that all Alaska Job Center offices would verify Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage in accordance with state law before listing job orders from employers.

To protect your liability as an employer and the work safety of potential employees, Job Centers must

have verification of current coverage of Workers' Compensation Insurance prior to listing job orders. This verification is done within the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. However, due to a backlog in converting to a new Workers' Compensation computer system, there will be occasions when the employer will need to provide proof of insurance coverage to the Job Center staff by faxing verification of coverage. The Department thanks employers for their cooperation with the Job Center offices in carrying out this policy and helping during this time of transition. It is expected that our backlog will be corrected by the first of the year.