

810-3-30-.02 Returns on Change of Accounting Period.

(1) If a taxpayer changes his accounting period from a calendar year to a fiscal year or from a fiscal year to a calendar year or from one fiscal year to another fiscal year, such change necessitates the filing of a return for a period of less than twelve months. Under no conditions may the return cover a period of more than twelve months. The following examples will illustrate this point:

(a) EXAMPLE: Taxpayer A has been filing returns for fiscal years ending June 30. The books have been closed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998. The return will be filed for this period, but it has been decided that it will be more advantageous to file for the calendar year in the future. In order to do this, a return must be filed for the six months beginning July 1, 1998 and ending December 31, 1998. Thereafter, the taxpayer must file a return each calendar year.

(b) EXAMPLE: Taxpayer B desires to change the taxable year from the calendar year to a fiscal year ending July 31. The taxpayer filed a regular calendar year return for 1997 and desires to file the first fiscal year return in 1998. A return must be filed for the seven month period beginning January 1, 1998 and ending July 31, 1998. A return will be filed for the twelve months ending July 31 in 1999 and each subsequent year.

(c) EXAMPLE: Taxpayer C has filed a return for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, but now desires to change to a fiscal year ending April 30 of each year. This can be accomplished by filing a seven month return for the period beginning October 1, 1997 and ending April 30, 1998. The taxpayer will file a return for the twelve months ending April 30 in 1999 and each subsequent year.

(2) In all of the above cases the taxable income shall be computed for each period for which a separate return or a consolidated return (for years beginning after 12/31/98) is made, and the tax shall be paid thereon at the rate applicable to the calendar years in which such period is included. The exemptions allowed shall be one-twelfth of the full annual exemptions multiplied by the number of months in the short taxable period.

(3) In general, the requirements with respect to the filing of returns and the payment of tax for a short period when the taxpayer has not been in existence for the entire taxable year are the same as for the filing of a return and the payment of tax for a taxable year of twelve months ending on the last day of the short period. This applies to a corporation or partnership that has gone out of business and to an individual who is a resident of the State of Alabama for the first part of the year only.

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