

FYI – For Your Information

Colorado Withholding Tax Requirements

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employers are required to have a Colorado withholding account and remit Colorado withholding taxes if:

1. The compensation is subject to federal withholding for income tax purposes; and
2. Employees are Colorado residents (working inside or outside Colorado), **or** employees are nonresidents of Colorado performing services in Colorado*.

*Employees who are not residents of Colorado and perform services in connection with any phase of motion picture production or television production or television commercials for less than 120 days during any calendar year are exempt from Colorado income tax withholding.

Colorado does not have a state equivalent of the federal form W-4. Employees should complete the federal W-4 for both federal and Colorado wage withholding tax purposes. The W-4 form should only be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service unless the employee has requested more than 10 withholding allowances, or an Exempt withholding status for wages expected to exceed \$200 per week. Any W-4 form meeting that criteria should be sent to the Colorado Department of Revenue. Additionally, these W-4 forms should accompany a cover letter listing the employer name, address, EIN, and the number of Withholding Allowance Certificates included. The Colorado Department of Revenue will contact you should it be determined that the requested exemptions be modified.

Withholding Allowance Certificates shall be mailed to :

Colorado Department of Revenue
Fair Share Section
1375 Sherman Street, Room 634
Denver, CO 80261

OPENING AN ACCOUNT

To open a wage withholding account with the Colorado Department of Revenue, submit a completed "Colorado Business Registration" (CR 0100). There is no fee for a withholding account.

Filing the CR 0100 will also establish your unemployment insurance account. Unemployment insurance forms and additional information on unemployment insurance can be obtained by calling the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment at (303) 603-8231.

CLOSING AN ACCOUNT

If an employer closes his/her withholding tax account because they no longer employ individuals they must indicate so on their final withholding return or use form DR 1102 "Account Change or Closure Form."

FILING REQUIREMENTS

Withholding tax must be deducted and paid in whole dollar amounts.

To determine your filing frequency, estimate the amount of withholding tax you expect to pay for all your employees



Colorado Department
of Revenue
Taxpayer Service Division
1375 Sherman St.
Denver, Colorado 80261

Forms: (303) 238-FAST (3278)
Assistance:
(303) 238-SERV (7378)
Fuel Tax: (303) 205-5602

in one year. Based on that estimation, please review the following:

- **Quarterly** – Employers who report less than \$7,000 withholding tax per year. Quarters end on March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31. Taxes are due to the Colorado Department of Revenue on the last day of the month following the quarter end date.
- **Monthly** – Employers who report between \$7,000 and \$50,000 withholding tax per year. Taxes are due to the Colorado Department of Revenue on or before the fifteenth day of the following month.
- **Weekly** – Employers who report more than \$50,000 withholding tax per year. Taxes must be transmitted to the Colorado Department of Revenue on or before the third business day following the end of the week. The week always ends on **Friday** with one exception. **One exception** – At the end of the year, weekly filers must make a final transmission that includes all taxes withheld for all payrolls through December 31. Therefore, December 31 will be the filing period ending date for this transmission, even if it is not a Friday. The **payment** transmission is due three business days after December 31.

All weekly filers are required to obtain an EFT account number and remit their tax via electronic funds transfer. Withholding coupon booklets are not issued to weekly filers.

- **Seasonal** – Employers who do not operate their business during the entire calendar year, and do not pay wages while the business is not operating may request special handling of their filing frequency. Prior approval from the DOR must be obtained to file seasonally. Taxes are due to the Colorado Department of Revenue on or before the fifteenth day of the month following the operating month.

A withholding tax return **must** be filed by the prescribed due date even if no taxes have been withheld. If no taxes were withheld during a prescribed period, the return should be filed to report zero tax withheld. Weekly filers are granted an exception in this case, and can file “no tax” returns on a monthly basis if applicable. Assessments will automatically issue for missing returns.

Should a due date fall on a non-business day, taxes are considered timely if they are paid on the first business day following the due date.

The department will conduct an annual review to evaluate an employer’s filing frequency. The filing frequency is measured by the amount of withholding tax paid during the “lookback period”. The lookback period is defined by the preceding 12-month filing period (July 1 through June 30). For example, the filing status for calendar year 2005 will be set by examining the withholding tax remittances made from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

Should the filing frequency increase due to this examination, the department will notify the employer before January of the next calendar year. However, if an employer is eligible to file **less** frequently, the department will **not** change the filing frequency. The employer must contact the department to request the frequency change. **The employer must continue to file at the current frequency until the department sends notification of the frequency change if approved.**

Withholding Tax Non-filer Notices

If an employer does not file a required return, a non-filer notice will be automatically issued by the department. A business tax non-filer notice for employers is form DR 6604 "Reminder To File." It is an arbitrary tax assessment based on the filing history. If there is no filing history, then an arbitrary tax amount will be assessed.

FILING METHODS

There are two methods available for remitting Colorado withholding taxes: by check with a remittance coupon, or via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT.)

- **Withholding Coupon Books** – Upon receipt of your withholding tax application, a pre-printed withholding tax coupon book will be mailed to you in about six weeks. The coupon book contains tear-out wage withholding returns (DR 1094), the transmittal form used to accompany annual W2 statements (DR 1093), and an account modification form (DR 1095). New coupon books are automatically sent at the end of each calendar year. Use the remittance coupons in order, as they contain pre-printed data regarding the filing period.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** – Employers who pay more than \$50,000 withholding tax per year are **required** to file via EFT. Employers who do not meet this requirement are encouraged to file via EFT as it virtually eliminates the potential of processing errors. EFT is facilitated by making a telephone call and entering a series of touch-tone commands.

To become an EFT filer, you must complete the necessary application form DR 5785 "Authorization For Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) For Tax Payments." It takes approximately six weeks to process an EFT application. Applicants should continue to use their coupon books until they are in receipt of the assigned EFT account number, at which time they should discard any remaining coupons. Employers **must not** transmit through EFT process and then submit a paper return without remittance. Once an account is designated as an EFT filer, coupon books are no longer mailed by the DOR.

Note: All EFT applicants must indicate whether the account shall be designated as credit or debit. The debit designation is available to all EFT filers, while the credit designation is rarely allowed by banking institutions. Credit transactions may require a bank fee for each occurrence. Please check with your banking institution prior to applying for a credit designation to determine availability and cost.

Additionally, you may be eligible to use your EFT account to remit sales and income tax payments as well. Your application should indicate all taxes for which you will use your EFT account. **However, you must continue to submit all paper sales and income tax returns in order to properly report your taxes.**

At present, the Colorado Department of Revenue cannot process regular withholding tax returns filed online or on computer diskette. However, annual W-2 data can be filed magnetically. Visit the Web at www.taxcolorado.com for information about filing magnetic media.

WITHHOLDING FILING FORMS AND RESOURCES

Colorado Business Registration
(Withholding Tax Application) – CR 0100
Withholding Tables – DRP 1098
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
Application – DR 5785
EFT Information Packet – DRP 5782
Withholding Coupons (Return) – DR 1094
Annual Reconciliation – DR 1098

You may obtain forms on the Web at:
www.taxcolorado.com

Colorado Revised Statute
Withholding Tax: §39-22-604 C.R.S.
EFT: §39-22-604.4 C.R.S.

FURTHER INFORMATION

FYIs and commonly used forms are available on the Web at www.taxcolorado.com

For additional withholding tax information visit the department's online Tax Index at www.taxcolorado.com

FYIs provide general information concerning a variety of Colorado tax topics in simple and straightforward language. Although the FYIs represent a good faith effort to provide accurate and complete tax information, the information is not binding on the Colorado Department of Revenue, nor does it replace, alter, or supersede Colorado law and regulations. The Executive Director, who by statute is the only person having authority to bind the department, has not formally reviewed and/or approved these FYIs.