



FUBA issues

Florida United Businesses Association

OUR BUSINESS IS SMALL BUSINESS

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STATE UNEMPLOYMENT TAX UPDATE: TAXES DUE BY JULY 31, FORM NAME CHANGE, AND NO INTEREST PAYMENT THIS YEAR

Florida businesses' unemployment compensation taxes for the second quarter of 2013 (for payroll paid during the months of April, May and June) are due to the state of Florida by July 31st, along with the Employer's Quarterly Report.

The Employer's Quarterly Report used to be called the UCT-6 ("UCT" is an abbreviation of Unemployment Compensation Tax). Last year, the Florida Legislature changed the name of Florida's unemployment compensation system to the Reemployment Assistance Program. Due to this change, all of the form numbers and names have been updated. The old UCT-6 is now called the RT-6 (the form itself hasn't changed).

On the RT-6 tax return, you must list all employee names and social security numbers, plus the amount of wages you paid them for the quarter.

For 2013, employers who are at the minimum tax rate will pay a rate \$81.60 per employee (this is down from \$120.80 per employee for 2012). Employers who are capped at the maximum rate will pay \$432.00 per employee (which is the same amount as 2012). **Please remember:** Unemployment compensation taxes are paid on the first \$8,000 of each employee's wages.

If you pay your tax by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or through the Internet, you must initiate the payment by 5:00 p.m. ET

on the business day prior to July 31st for your payment to be considered timely filed. A late filing penalty is charged at \$25 for each month or part of a month that a report is late. Interest is charged at 1% per month on the unpaid tax from the original due date until the tax is paid.

If you have 10 or more employees, you are required to file your RT-6 and pay your taxes online through the Department of Revenue's website, unless you have received a waiver. Whether you are a paper filer or an electronic filer, you can sign up to receive an e-mail every quarter, reminding you of the due date at <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/list/>.

For the last 2 years, Florida employers had to pay a separate interest assessment because Florida had outstanding loans from the federal government to help pay unemployment benefits. **Good news:** There will be no interest assessment this year. And, because Florida is due to pay off its loans this year, Florida employers will not be assessed another interest payment.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY IS AUGUST 2nd - AUGUST 4th

If your business sells books, clothing, footwear, certain accessories, school supplies, or personal computers in Florida, the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday may impact you. For 3 days in early August, these items will not be subject to state sales tax (if they meet certain price restrictions).

Here are some details about this year's tax-free shopping days:

- The tax-free days will run from 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 2nd through midnight on Sunday, August 4th.
- Items that will be tax-free are:
 - Clothing and footwear selling for \$75 or less
 - School supplies selling for \$15 or less
 - For the first time ever, this year, personal computers and related accessories selling for \$750 or less (including keyboards, computer mice, personal digital assistants, monitors, modems, routers and non-recreational software)

Retailers are not required to keep additional or special records for the tax-free days. Sales of eligible items that are sold tax-free from August 2nd through the 4th should be reported as exempt sales on your sales tax return for that period. The Florida Department of Revenue has mailed a detailed Tax Information Publication to all active registered sales tax dealers explaining:

- A detailed list of items that are tax-free and which ones are taxable
- What to do when a product contains both exempt and taxable items
- How to deal with gift certificates
- How to handle exchanges of tax exempt purchases after the tax-free days are over
- How to do refunds during/after the tax-free days
- How to handle coupons, rebates, discounts, rain checks and layaways

If you would like a copy of the Department's Taxpayer Information Publication on the sales tax holiday, please visit the FUBA website at **www.FUBA.org** and click on *Small Business Alert* on the left-hand side.

If you have questions about the sales tax holiday, call the Department of Revenue's toll-free Taxpayer Assistance line at 800-352-3671 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Or, you can visit the Department's website at **www.myflorida.com/dor**.

SCAM ALERT FOR CORPORATIONS AND LLC'S

The state Division of Corporations is alerting business entities registered with the state about a new scam involving certificates of status. A certificate of status is an official document from the Florida Department of State (Division of Corporations) that includes a statement from Florida's Secretary of State that the company listed is in good standing and in "active" status with the Department of State.

A private company is soliciting Florida-registered business entities about purchasing a certificate of status. **Please note:** Once an entity is properly formed, incorporated, organized, or registered on the records of the Department of State, it is not required to purchase or receive a certificate of status to be considered a valid business entity or registration. The Department of State is advising businesses to disregard any notices or solicitations you may receive to the contrary. These notices are not from the Department of State, the Division of Corporations, or any other state or federal agency.

If your businesses needs a certificate of status (sometimes banks request them), you can obtain one for \$8.75 from the Department of State's website at **www.sunbiz.org**.

When you need to conduct any business with the Division of Corporations, please make sure you go to their official website: **www.sunbiz.org**. You will know you are at the correct website if you see the State of Florida flag and the words "Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations" at the top of the page. If you type in ".com" instead of ".org" you will get a private company that offers corporate services for a fee. This is **not** the official website of the Division of Corporations.