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ARE YOU HIRING TEENS FOR THE SUMMER?

Roofing Prohibited: If you are in the construction industry, please remember that **anyone under 18 years of age cannot work in roofing occupations or work on or near a roof.** This includes all work performed in connection with the installation of roofs, including related metal work on roofs of buildings or other structures. It also includes all jobs on the ground related to roofing operations such as roofing laborer, roofing helper, materials handler, and tending a tar heater.

Also prohibited is work performed near a roof, including carpentry and metal work, alterations, additions, maintenance and repair (including painting and coating of existing roofs); the construction of the base of roofs, including trusses or joists; gutter and downspout work; the installation and servicing of TV, cable, or satellite equipment; and the installation and servicing of heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment attached to roofs.

Driving Prohibited: Employees who are 16 years old and under may not drive as part of their jobs, even if they possess a valid state drivers license. Seventeen-year olds may drive cars and small trucks as part of their jobs only in limited circumstances:

- The driving is limited to daylight hours;
- The 17-year-old has a valid state drivers license;
- The 17-year-old has successfully completed a state-approved driver education course and has no record of any moving violation;
- The car or truck is equipped with a seat belt and the employer has instructed the youth that the seat belt must be used when driving;

- The car or truck does not exceed 6,000 pounds; and
- Such driving is only occasional and incidental to the 17-year-old's job. She or he may not spend more than 1/3 of their workday and no more than 20% of a workweek driving.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Individuals who perform construction contracting in Florida must be either certified by or registered with the state Construction Industry Licensing Board or the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board. Certification allows an individual to perform construction in any part of the state. Registration allows an individual to perform construction only in the local city or county that issued the individual's local license.

Under very limited circumstances, an individual can perform construction without having a license. Currently, a property owner can build or improve a one- or two-family residence on his or her own property without having a construction license, as long as the property owner will occupy the building and not offer it for sale or lease. On the commercial side, a property owner can build or improve a commercial building on his or her own property without having a construction license, as long as the project costs less than \$25,000 and the property owner will occupy the building and not offer it for sale or lease.

The Florida Legislature has just approved a new bill that increases the threshold for commercial projects exempt from licensure from \$25,000 to \$75,000. Effective July 1, 2006, under House Bill 1367, a property owner can serve as his/her own contractor and perform up to \$75,000 of construction work or electrical work on a commercial building on their own property before they have to get a local or state

construction license. There are several limitations on qualifying for this exemption from licensure. They are:

- The construction work must be building or improving commercial buildings on the property for the occupancy or use of the owner and **not** offered for sale or lease.
- Construction performed by the property owner must be conducted under the same standards for a licensed contractor, including compliance with all appropriate building codes and having workers' compensation insurance if needed.
- The property owner must satisfy all local permitting agency requirements and must demonstrate that he/she has an understanding of the owner's responsibilities and obligations under Florida law.
- If a person violates the exemption requirements, the local permitting agency can withhold final approval of the project, revoke the permit it issued, or discipline the property owner for performing construction without a license.

House Bill 1367 also creates an exemption from licensure for owners of residential rental property whose buildings are damaged by a natural disaster, such as a hurricane. If the Governor of Florida issues an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency after a storm, an owner could repair or replace wood shakes or asphalt or fiberglass shingles on one-family, two-family, and three-family residences that the owner either lives in or rents to others. The buildings could not be offered for sale within 1 year after the owner has completed work on them.

INTANGIBLE TAX RETURNS DUE BY JUNE 30TH – FOR THE LAST TIME

The state of Florida collects an intangible tax on the value of your stocks, bonds, mutual funds and certain other financial assets each January 1st. This annual tax is due no later than June 30th of each year.

All Florida residents, corporations, partnerships, and LLC's are subject to the tax.

Individuals are required to pay the tax if they own more than \$250,000 in assets. Married couples are required to pay the tax if they jointly own more than \$500,000. Corporations and other legal business entities are required to pay the tax if they own more than \$250,000 in financial assets. The tax rate is 50 cents per thousand dollars of value.

The following assets are **not** subject to the intangible tax: accounts receivable, checking accounts, savings accounts, IRA's, Certificates of Deposit, money market accounts offered through a financial institution, and government bonds.

This is the last time Florida residents and businesses will have to pay the intangible tax. During the recent legislative Session, Florida lawmakers approved a bill that completely repeals the state intangible tax effective January 1, 2007. Starting next year, there will be no more intangible tax in the state of Florida.

If you have any questions about the intangible tax, please contact your local accountant or tax professional.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS: FREE TAX SEMINARS

The Florida Department of Revenue provides free taxpayer education seminars to help you understand your tax responsibilities, how to comply with the Florida tax laws, and how these laws affect your business. Seminars are offered at 25 service centers throughout the state.

The Department conducts regularly scheduled seminars for:

- New business owners
- Sales tax
- Unemployment tax
- Communications services tax

Seminars on these topics for specific industries are provided upon request:

- Solid waste and motor fuel tax
- Corporate income tax
- Documentary stamp tax
- Annual post-legislative review

To get a schedule of upcoming seminars or to register for one:

- Visit www.myflorida.com/dor/taxes and click "Free Tax Seminars"
- You can also call 1-800-352-3671 to find the service center near you.