

IRS Extends Filing Deadline for Form 990 to March 30 for Some Tax-Exempt Organizations

The IRS has announced that tax-exempt organizations with January and February filing due dates have until March 30, 2012, to file their annual returns. The extension was made because the part of the e-file system that processes electronically filed returns of tax-exempt organizations will be off-line during January and February.

In general, the extension applies to tax-exempt organizations whose normal filing deadline is either Jan. 17 or Feb. 15, 2012. Ordinarily, these deadlines would apply to organizations with a fiscal year that ended on Aug. 31 or Sept. 30, 2011, respectively. The extension also applies to organizations that already obtained an initial three-month filing extension and now have an extended filing deadline that falls on Jan. 17 or Feb. 15, 2012. The majority of tax-exempt organizations will be unaffected by this extension because they operate on a calendar-year basis and have a May 15 filing deadline.

The extension applies to affected organizations filing Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, or 1120-POL. Form 990-N filers will not be affected. No form needs to be filed to get the March 30 extension.

In order to avoid receiving a late filing penalty notice, a reasonable cause statement should be attached to the tax return. If organizations receive late-filing penalty notices, they should contact the IRS so that these penalties can be abated. The IRS encouraged these organizations to consider either e-filing early – before the end of December – or waiting until March to file electronically.

Further details are in Notice 2012-4, posted on IRS.gov.

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If you have any questions, please contact the GW attorney with whom you regularly consult.

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