



Tax and Accounting Alerts 2012 article index

January

FASB defers part of OCI presentation rule

New FASB guidance — found in Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2011-12, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05* — provides some reporting relief to companies with other comprehensive income (OCI). This article briefly reviews the OCI presentation requirements found in ASU 2011-05, explains why FASB deferred the one requirement and notes which requirements still must be met. (653 words) [TAA1 12]

IRS releases extensive rules that affect businesses with tangible property

The IRS has issued its long-awaited regulations on the tax treatment of expenditures related to tangible property. The regulations are intended to simplify compliance with Section 263 of the Internal Revenue Code, which generally requires the capitalization of amounts paid to acquire, produce or improve tangible property. This article provides an overview of the regulations, which focus largely on how to determine whether expenditures are for deductible repairs or capital improvements. (1,154 words) [TAA2 12]

IRS revises guidance on W-2 reporting of group health insurance costs

A provision of the 2010 health care reform law will generally require employers to report the cost of employer-sponsored group health coverage on the W-2 forms they furnish to employees. Last year, the IRS issued Notice 2011-28 to provide interim guidance on this requirement. On Jan. 4, 2012, the IRS issued Notice 2012-9, which modifies and expands the interim guidance. This article explains the reporting requirements and summarizes the key changes under the new guidance. (1,113 words) [TAA3 12]

IRS reopens the OVDP for a third time

Because of continued strong interest from taxpayers and tax practitioners alike, the IRS has reopened its Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program (OVDP) for a third time. This article details the OVDP program and explains how the 2012 program differs from the previous two. (593 words) [TAA4 12]

2012 tax calendar

This summary of when various tax-related forms, payments and other actions are due will help taxpayers make sure they don't miss any important 2012 tax deadlines. (1,176 words) [TAA5 12]

February

Treasury and IRS release proposed regs on foreign asset reporting

The U.S. Department of Treasury and the IRS have issued sweeping proposed regulations implementing information reporting and withholding tax provisions for foreign financial institutions (FFIs). Although the proposed regs are targeted at FFIs, they drive home the need for individual taxpayers with foreign accounts to be vigilant about compliance with their own reporting obligations. This article reviews FATCA reporting requirements and the potential impact on U.S. taxpayers with offshore accounts. (1,018 words) [TAA6 12]

Payroll tax relief extended through year end

In December, Congress was able to pass only a two-month extension of payroll tax relief — on the condition that Senate and House conferees be appointed to work on a full-year extension. That conference committee now has negotiated an agreement, and the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 will extend payroll tax relief through Dec. 31, 2012. This article provides a brief overview of the legislation. (368 words) [TAA7 12]

March

Up in the air: Current estate tax law uncertainty should alter your planning strategies in 2012

Without congressional action before year end, on Jan. 1, 2013, gift and estate tax exemptions will drop and rates will increase. But Congress may address the expiring estate tax law provisions. Such uncertainty can play havoc with estate planning. This article explains how making lifetime gifts can take advantage of the currently high exemption amount and low tax rate and details ways to add flexibility to an estate plan to prepare for potentially lower exemptions and higher rates in 2013. (1,394 words) [TAA8 12]

April

Convergence of U.S. GAAP and IFRS: Where do things stand?

Since 2002, FASB and IASB have been working toward “convergence” of U.S. GAAP and IFRS. Although the two boards have made significant progress, efforts to converge critical accounting standards have been challenging and time consuming. This article explores the current state of the convergence project, details the SEC roadmap and discusses the next steps. (958 words) [TAA9 12]