

FORM 1120ES-ME INSTRUCTIONS

Maine Estimated Tax Payment Voucher For Corporations

1. WHO MUST PAY ESTIMATED TAX?

Every corporation subject to taxation under 36 MRSA, Part 8 (Income Taxes) must pay estimated tax. If the income tax liability for the current tax year or for the prior tax year reduced by any allowable credits is less than \$1,000, the requirement is waived. See 36 MRSA § 5228(2).

2. AMOUNT OF ESTIMATED TAX TO BE PAID.

The estimated tax must be no less than the smaller of the following:

- a. An amount equal to the preceding year's tax liability, if that preceding year was a taxable year of 12 months; or
- b. An amount equal to 90% of the tax liability for the current tax year.

Exception: Large corporations as defined by IRC § 6655(g)(2)(A), are required to pay estimated taxes in accordance with paragraph b, except as provided in 36 MRSA § 5228(5)(C)

3. DUE DATES FOR ESTIMATED TAX INSTALLMENTS.

Installment payments are due on the 15th day of the 4th, 6th, 9th and 12th months following the beginning of the corporation's fiscal year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, substitute the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

4. AMOUNT OF INSTALLMENTS.

The amount of estimated tax due for the taxable year must be paid in four equal installments unless:

- a. The taxpayer establishes by adequate record the actual distribution of tax liability and allowable credits during the tax year; or
- b. The taxpayer is a large corporation as defined by IRC § 6655(g)(2)(A). Such large corporations may elect to determine the first required installment for any taxable year based on the preceding year's state income tax liability, if that preceding year was a taxable year of 12 months. However, if the corporation so elects, the

second required installment for the taxable year must be no less than 90% of the corporation's income tax liability for the first half of the current year, less the amount of the first installment for the taxable year as determined under this provision.

5. UNDERPAYMENT PENALTY.

A penalty equal to the interest rate on overdue taxes accrues automatically on underpayments of the required installment amount for the period of underpayment. The period of underpayment is the period of time from the date the installment is due until the underpayment is satisfied or until the tax return to which the estimate installment applies is due, whichever occurs earlier. Calculate the underpayment penalty on Form 2220ME.

6. SHORT TAXABLE YEAR.

For a corporation having a tax year of less than 12 months, the estimated tax must be paid in full by the 15th day of the last month of the tax year. If you are filing a tax return for a short tax year, identify your next filing period in the space provided on the voucher.

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Line 5

Column A - **Quarterly Estimate.** Divide line 2b by 4 and enter the result in each row.

Column B - **Prior Year Overpayment.** Enter the amount from line 3 on row 1. If this amount is larger than the amount in column A, subtract the amount in column A from this amount. Enter the result in column B, line 2. Repeat this procedure on each line until the amount of overpayment is all used.

Column C - **Balance Due.** Subtract column B, line 1 from column A, line 1 and enter the result here. This amount is the balance due for the quarter. The total of all four rows in this column should equal the amount on line 4 (Balance of estimated Maine corporate income tax).

Column D - **Date Paid.** Enter the date the balance in column C is paid.

Column E - **Check or Transaction #.** Enter the check number or the bank transaction number for the quarterly payment made.