

Ohio Sales and Use Tax: **2009 Mandatory Electronic Filing and Payment Requirements**

The Ohio Department of Taxation has issued a notice advising sales tax vendors of mandatory new electronic filing and payment requirements enacted as part of House Bill 562. House Bill 562 was enacted this past June, requires **all vendors, regardless of sales volume**, to file sales and use tax electronically rather than on paper, starting January 1st 2009.

The new law sets forth three allowed filing methods for sales and use tax returns – the **Ohio Business Gateway**, the **Ohio Telefile System**, and the **Ohio Dept. of Taxation's eForms**:

- (1) **The Ohio Business Gateway** is a one-stop shop for common state government transactions (State Withholding, Commercial Activity Tax) including the filings of sales and use tax returns, all accessible at www.business.ohio.gov. First time users must create a profile using their vendor license number.
- (2) The **Ohio Telefile System** is an electronic filing option for some, but not all, sales and use tax vendors. Like the Ohio Business Gateway system, a filer using Telefile must be a registered Ohio vendor with a valid vendor license number. Additionally, Telefile is only available to vendors reporting sales for the county of its vendor's license, or those who have no sales or use tax to report. Both the Ohio Business Gateway and the Ohio Telefile System allow vendors to pay their sales and use tax via credit card, electronic check, and soon, paper check. However, credit card payments are subject to a convenience fee (usually 2.5 percent of the amount of the transaction). **To access the Sales Tax Telefile system, call (800) 697-0440.**
- (3) The Department of Taxation offers filers a third option of using the Department's **eForms** (http://tax.ohio.gov/online_services/ohio_eforms_business.stm) to electronically submit an Adobe® Acrobat® version of key sales and use tax forms. eForms allows vendors to view a traditional sales or use tax return form in .pdf format. The vendor enters the information electronically, just as you would on a paper form. After the form is complete, the vendor electronically pays its sales or use tax via a paper check, electronic check or credit card.

This notice is to remind you, the vendors, that these electronic filing will be **mandatory** next year. Now is the time for you to become familiar with the new electronic filing requirements. We have attached some helpful comparison tools from the State to help evaluate the option that best suits you. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

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