



# Instructions for Form CT-244

## Acquisition, Merger and Consolidation Information Report

### General information

Tax Law Articles 9-A and 22 limit tax benefits associated with certain business restructuring. Form CT-244 must be filed by both the target and acquirer in the year of acquisition, merger or consolidation. In addition, the acquiring corporation may be required to file Form CT-244 after the year of acquisition, merger or consolidation. See the instructions for lines 17 through 28 and lines 31 through 36. For additional information, see TSB-M-89(17)C. For help, call our Business Tax Information Center at 1 800 972-1233.

Unless the restructuring transaction is specifically excluded, the following tax consequences result:

- in any acquisition, merger or consolidation, the tax benefits of the target corporation's unused investment tax credit, unused employment incentive credit, and unused research and development tax credit are lost;
- in a highly leveraged transaction, up to 5% of the total interest expense of the acquiring corporation or affiliated group, may be required as an add-back in the computation of New York taxable income. In addition, the target must recapture a portion of the investment tax credit and research and development credit taken by it in tax years prior to the acquisition year. Also, the acquiring corporation loses the benefit of the target corporation's unused net operating loss available to be carried forward, and;
- in any acquisition, whether or not highly leveraged, if a sufficient portion of the target's stock and/or assets is sold or otherwise disposed of within 18 months following the acquisition date, subsidiary capital treatment of the target by the acquirer is denied.

An **excluded transaction** is:

- an acquisition which occurs solely by reason of a redemption of stock under section 303 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC); or
- an acquisition where a corporation and the corporation acquiring it are members of a previously existing affiliated group as defined in section 1504 of the IRC, except that the term *common parent corporation* is deemed to mean any person, as defined in section 7701(a)(1) of the IRC, and except that references to *at least eighty percent* should be read as *more than fifty percent*; or
- an acquisition by a person, as defined in section 7701(a)(1) of the IRC, that is controlled by a majority of the employees of the target corporation or that is a trust for the exclusive benefit of those employees or their beneficiaries. Control, in this context, refers to (1) ownership of more than 50% of the total voting power in a corporation, or (2) total employees' interest (within the meaning of section 704(b) of the IRC) of more than 50% of a partnership; or
- a merger or consolidation in which all the constituent corporations are members of an affiliated group as defined in section 1504 of the IRC, except that the term *common parent corporation* is any person, as defined in section 7701(a)(1) of the IRC, and except that references to *at least eighty percent* in section 1504 should be read as *more than fifty percent*.

### Department of State notification

The Business Corporation Law requires that the Department of State be notified of all mergers or consolidations. The Department of State will notify the Tax Department of all completed mergers or consolidations. Please refer to Publication 110, *Information and Instructions for Termination of Business Corporation*, for specific information and instructions.

### Definition of terms

A *corporate acquisition* is the purchase and/or other acquisition (including redemption) on an acquisition date, by a person (*the acquiring person*), as the term *person* is defined in section 7701(a)(1) of the IRC, of stock of a corporation (*the target corporation*), so that immediately prior to the acquisition the person owned 50% or less, and immediately thereafter owned more than 50% of the total voting power in the target corporation. For purposes of this definition, a corporate acquisition does not include an excluded transaction.

A *corporate merger* is a procedure through which two or more constituent corporations become a single corporation that is one of the constituent corporations. In a corporate merger, the *acquiring person* is the constituent corporation whose stockholders, after the merger, own

the largest proportion of the total voting power in the surviving corporation, and the *target corporations* are all other constituent corporations that have been absorbed by the acquiring corporation. For purposes of this definition, a corporate merger does not include an excluded transaction.

A *corporate consolidation* is a procedure through which two or more corporations become a single corporation that is a new corporation. In a corporate consolidation, *acquiring person* means the constituent corporation whose stockholders, after the consolidation, own the largest proportion of the total voting power in the new corporation, and *target corporation* means all other constituent corporations. For purposes of this definition, a corporate consolidation does not include an excluded transaction.

### Line instructions

#### Part I — General information

This section identifies the parties to an acquisition, merger or consolidation and determines whether tax consequences result for participants in the transaction.

**Lines 4, 5, and 6 — Excluded transactions** - If you answered *Yes* at line 4, 5, or 6, **do not** complete the rest of this form. If you answered *No* at lines 4, 5 and 6, complete Parts II and III.

#### Part II — Target corporation's tax credit history

**Lines 7 through 9** — This section is to be completed by the target (or the acquirer on behalf of the target). Any acquisition, merger or consolidation results in the loss of any unused investment tax credit, unused employment incentive credit, and unused research and development credit of the target corporation.

#### Part III — Acquirer information

In any case in which the acquiring person, but not the target, is a member of an affiliated group, the group as a whole is treated as the acquiring person.

An *affiliated group* is a group as defined in section 1504 of the IRC except that:

- references to *at least eighty percent* should be read as *more than fifty percent*.
- section 1504 should be read without regard to the exclusion of foreign corporations provided for in section 1504(b)(3) (provided that the debt, equity and assets of these foreign corporations are included only to the extent that they are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States).
- section 1504 should be read without regard to the exclusion provided for in section 1504(b)(4).

**Line 12** — Base your answer on the target's total capital, before allocation, as shown on its New York State tax return for the acquisition year. Use a quarterly or more frequent average, and exclude ending values; i.e., the last quarter value is "0."

**Note:** If you answered *No* on lines 10 and either 11 or 12, complete Part V only. If you answered *Yes* on lines 10 and either 11 or 12, you must complete Parts IV, V and VI.

#### Part IV — Ratio computation

Complete Part IV to determine if the transaction is a *highly leveraged transaction*.

Compute the combined acquirer and target corporations' debt-to-equity ratio and the debt-to-assets ratio for both the prior and current years, and compute the percent of change between the current and prior year ratios.

The debt-to-equity ratio and the debt-to-asset ratio of an affiliated group are determined for the entire group. The prior year's ratio should include the target as well.

In a *highly leveraged corporate acquisition* the taxpayer is the target corporation and;

- its ratio of average aggregate debt to average aggregate equity for the tax year in which the acquisition occurred increases by more than 100% over the ratio for the immediately preceding tax year, and
- its ratio of average aggregate debt to average aggregate assets for the tax year in which the acquisition occurred increases by more than 60% over the ratio for the immediately preceding tax year, and
- the total of the acquiring person's interest paid or accrued during the tax year in which the acquisition occurred exceeds \$1 million.

*Average aggregate debt* for a given tax year is the sum of the average debt of the acquiring person and the average debt of the taxpayer (unless the taxpayer becomes a member of an affiliated group that includes the acquiring person). In computing average aggregate debt, intercompany debt must be eliminated.

*Average aggregate equity* for a given tax year is the sum of the average equity of the acquiring person and the average equity of the taxpayer (unless the taxpayer becomes a member of an affiliated group that includes the acquiring person). In computing average aggregate equity, intercompany equity must be eliminated.

*Average aggregate assets* for a given tax year is the sum of the average assets of the acquiring person and the average assets of the taxpayer (unless the taxpayer becomes a member of an affiliated group that includes the acquiring person). In computing average aggregate assets, intercompany assets must be eliminated.

In a *highly leveraged corporate merger or corporate consolidation*, the taxpayer is the surviving or consolidated corporation and:

- its ratio of average aggregate debt to average aggregate equity, for the tax year in which the merger or consolidation occurred, increases by more than 100% over such ratio for the immediately preceding tax year, and
- its ratio of average aggregate debt to average aggregate assets, for the tax year in which the merger or consolidation occurred, increases by more than 60% over such ratio for the immediately preceding tax year, and
- total interest paid or accrued by the surviving or consolidated corporation during its tax year in which the merger or consolidation occurred exceeds \$1 million.

*Average aggregate debt* for a given tax year is the sum of:

- the average debt of the surviving or consolidated corporation; plus
- the average debt of the constituents. In computing average aggregate debt, intercompany debt must be eliminated.

*Average aggregate equity* for a given tax year is the sum of:

- the average equity of the surviving or consolidated corporation; plus
- the average equity of the constituents. In computing average aggregate equity, intercompany equity must be eliminated.

*Average aggregate assets* for a given tax year is the sum of:

- the average assets of the surviving or consolidated corporation; plus
- the average assets of the constituents. In computing average aggregate assets, intercompany assets must be eliminated.

**Lines 13 and 14** — If you answered *No* on either of these lines, complete Part V only. If you answered *Yes* on both these lines, complete Parts V and VI.

## Part V — Subsidiary capital/income adjustments

**Valuation of assets** — The valuation of assets being disposed of is found in section 210.2 of the Tax Law and requires real property and marketable securities to be valued at fair market value and personal property to be valued in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Fair market value is the price at which a willing buyer and a willing seller would arrive, after negotiation for sale, if neither is acting under compulsion.

**Lines 17 through 28** — In any acquisition, the acquirer is required to hold more than 50% of the target's stock for at least 18 months after the acquisition date to retain subsidiary capital treatment for interest, dividends and gains received from the target. Additionally, the target cannot sell or otherwise dispose of 50% or more in value of its assets held on the date of acquisition (exclusive of cash and assets disposed of in the regular course of the target's business) within 18 months of the acquisition date.

If a sufficient portion of the target's stock and/or assets is sold or otherwise disposed of within 18 months following the acquisition date, subsidiary capital treatment of the target by the acquirer is denied in the year of sale or disposition. The parent is required to include, in the computation of its entire net income, interest and dividends received from the target corporation and gains from the sales of stock. In addition, entire net income must be increased by the amount of dividends excluded from the date of acquisition and prior to the first day of the taxable year in which the disposition occurred. For example, if a corporation acquired 3/31/98 is disposed 4/10/99, dividends received for the period 3/31/98-12/31/98 must be added back. In both situations, a 50% dividend deduction is not allowed. For asset disposition, loss of subsidiary capital treatment continues for 18 months following the disposition.

## Part VI — Highly leveraged transaction modifications

**Lines 29 through 36** — The interest expense add-back, net operating loss carry-forward denial, and investment tax credit recapture provisions may apply to highly leveraged transactions and are triggered by changes in debt-to-asset and debt-to-equity ratios in the acquisition year (see *Part IV*).

**Line 30** — For the investment tax credit and research and development tax credit recapture provisions, the property is deemed to be disposed of on the day immediately preceding the transaction completion date. All other relevant provisions of Tax Law section 210.12(g) apply. The recaptured amount must be added to the tax computed on the target corporation's franchise tax report for the tax period prior to the transaction.

**Lines 31 through 36** — Up to 5% of the total interest expense of the acquiring corporation or affiliated group may be required to be added back to entire net income. This interest recapture is required for any year in which certain interest was deducted from entire net income and the taxpayer met the requirements of section 208.9(b)(6-a) during the taxable year, or within the three immediately preceding taxable years.

**Line 31** — Cost of target includes total costs incurred:

- in a stock acquisition, the taxpayer's total cost of any target corporation or corporations acquired in an acquisition year or during the three immediately preceding tax years;
- in an asset acquisition, the value of assets acquired during an acquisition year or in the three immediately preceding tax years; and
- in a corporate merger or consolidation, the total business, investment and subsidiary capital of constituent corporations during the tax year or in the three immediately preceding tax years.

**Line 32** — Average debt of the acquirer includes the average (quarterly or more frequent) debt of the taxpayer plus the average debt of the target corporation, unless the target corporation becomes a member of an affiliated group that includes the taxpayer. All intercompany debt must be eliminated in the computation.

**Line 34** — Total interest expense includes interest paid or accrued by the taxpayer during the tax year, to the extent deducted in the computation of entire net income (that is, net of any interest required to be added back under other provisions of Article 9-A).



### Need help?

Tax information: 1 800 972-1233

Forms and publications: 1 800 462-8100

From outside the U.S. and outside Canada: (518) 485-6800

Fax-on-demand forms: 1 800 748-3676

Internet access: <http://www.tax.state.ny.us>

Hearing and speech impaired (telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) callers only): 1 800 634-2110

### Privacy Notification

The right of the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance and the Department of Taxation and Finance to collect and maintain personal information, including mandatory disclosure of social security numbers in the manner required by tax regulations, instructions, and forms, is found in Articles 8, 9, 9-A, 13, 19, 27, 32, 33, and 33-A of the Tax Law; and 42 USC 405(c)(2)(C)(i).

The Tax Department uses this information primarily to determine and administer corporate tax liabilities under the Tax Law, for certain tax refund offsets, and for any other purpose authorized by law.

Failure to provide the required information may subject you to civil or criminal penalties, or both, under the Tax Law.

This information is maintained by the Director of the Registration and Data Services Bureau, NYS Tax Department, Building 8 Room 924, W A Harriman Campus, Albany NY 12227; telephone 1 800 225-5829. From areas outside the U.S. and outside Canada, call (518) 485-6800.