



# Instructions for Form CT-186-EZ

## Telecommunications Tax Return — Short Form

Tax Law — Article 9, Sections 186-e and 186-c

# CT-186-EZ-1

### New for 2010

This year the Tax Department introduces new Form CT-1, *Supplement to Corporation Tax Instructions*. Changes for this year and general instructions related to your corporation tax return — previously found in individual return instructions — have been compiled in this single form.

See Form CT-1 for the following topics:

- Changes for the current tax year (general and by Tax Law Article)
- Business information (how to enter and update)
- Entry formats
  - Dates
  - Negative amounts
  - Percentages
  - Whole dollar amounts
- Third-party designee
- Use of reproduced and computerized forms
- Collection of debts from your refund or overpayment
- Fee for payments returned by banks
- Tax shelter penalties
- Voluntary Disclosure and Compliance Program
- Your rights under the Tax Law
- Need help?
- Privacy notification

### General information

The current tax rate applicable to section 186-e is 2.5%. However, you must compute the metropolitan transportation business tax (MTA surcharge) related to section 186-e as if the 3.5% tax rate was still in effect.

Form CT-186-EZ, *Telecommunications Tax Return — Short Form*, is for smaller providers of telecommunication services. See *Which form to file to determine whether to file this form or Form CT-186-E, Telecommunications Tax Return and Utility Services Tax Return*.

### Which form to file

Every provider of telecommunication services must file Form CT-186-E or CT-186-EZ to report the tax due under section 186-e. In addition to your telecommunications activity, if you are a utility supervised by the Department of Public Service, you must use Form CT-186-E to report the tax imposed by Article 9 section 186-a.

*Provider of telecommunication services* means any person, corporation, or other entity who furnishes or sells telecommunication services, regardless of whether such activities are the main business of the person, corporation, or other entity, or are only incidental services. (Any reference to a utility regarding the tax imposed by section 186-e or 186-a is deemed to include a reference to a provider of telecommunication services.)

### Who may file Form CT-186-EZ

Generally, except for those listed under *Who may not file Form CT-186-EZ*, any provider of telecommunication services may file Form CT-186-EZ. Form CT-186-EZ may be used only by providers selling telecommunication services to customers for ultimate consumption.

Examples include:

- Companies exclusively providing paging services (including ancillary services, and services and equipment provided with telecommunications service) selling exclusively to customers for ultimate consumption.
- Resellers of mobile telephone services (including ancillary services, and services and equipment provided with telecommunications service) selling exclusively to customers for ultimate consumption.
- Providers of pay telephone services.
- Retail stores that provide telephone services to customers on the premises.
- Retail stores that provide self-operated facsimile or data transmission services to customers on the premises.
- Providers of prepaid phone cards.
- Landlords providing telecommunication services to tenants where the charges for the services are separately stated.
- Hotels and motels providing telecommunication services to guests where the charges for services are separately stated.

- Hospitals selling telecommunication services to persons on the premises where the charges for the services are separately stated.
- Any other provider of telecommunication services selling services exclusively to customers for ultimate consumption.

### Who may not file Form CT-186-EZ

The following providers of telecommunication services are **not permitted** to file Form CT-186-EZ, and must instead file Form CT-186-E:

- Local exchange telephone companies.
- Interexchange telephone companies.
- Facilities-based cellular telephone companies.
- Any provider selling telecommunication services to others for resale.
- Any provider of private telecommunication services.
- Any provider that is supervised by the Department of Public Service.

### Exempt sellers

The following, if selling telecommunications services, are exempt from tax under section 186-e:

New York State, municipalities, political and civil subdivisions of New York State or a municipality, public districts, not-for-profit corporations, and associations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, or educational purposes.

### Electronic filing and electronic payment mandate

Certain tax preparers using tax software to prepare tax documents, and certain taxpayers preparing their own tax documents using tax software, must, for the applicable calendar year and all succeeding calendar years, e-file all documents authorized by the Commissioner to be e-filed. Any tax liability or other amount due required to be paid with a tax document that must be e-filed must also be e-paid.

### More collection options for New York State

If you owe unpaid debt to New York State, we may collect your debt by taking money from, or offsetting, payments owed you by the federal government or by another state. Reciprocal offset agreements also allow the federal government, as well as other states, to collect delinquent non-tax debt by offsetting payments owed you by New York State.

### When to file

You must report on a calendar year basis to New York State, even if you maintain your records and report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) using a fiscal accounting period.

This return is due on March 15 following the close of the calendar tax year. If March 15 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday in any year, the return is due on the next business day.

### Where to file

Mail the return to:  
**NYS CORPORATION TAX  
PROCESSING UNIT  
PO BOX 22038  
ALBANY NY 12201-2038**

**Private delivery services** — If you choose, you may use a private delivery service, instead of the U.S. Postal Service, to mail in your form and tax payment. However, if, at a later date, you need to establish the date you filed or paid your tax, you cannot use the date recorded by a private delivery service unless you used a delivery service that has been designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury or the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. (Currently designated delivery services are listed in Publication 55, *Designated Private Delivery Services*. See *Need help?* for information on obtaining forms and publications.) If you have used a designated private delivery service and need to establish the date you filed your form, contact that private delivery service for instructions on how to obtain written proof of the date your form was given to the delivery service for delivery. If you use any private delivery service, whether it is a designated service or not, send the forms covered by these instructions to: State Processing Center, 431C Broadway, Albany NY 12204-4836.

### Extension of time for filing tax return

If you cannot meet the filing deadline, you may request an extension of time by filing Form CT-5.9-E, *Request for Three-Month Extension to File Form CT-186-E or Form CT-186-EZ (short form)*, on or before the original due date. An extension of time granted by the IRS to file a federal tax return does not extend the due date for filing Form CT-186-E or CT-186-EZ.

## Other forms you may need to file

**Reporting requirements for tax shelters** — The Tax Law requires taxpayers to report information about transactions that present the potential for tax avoidance (tax shelters). There are separate reporting requirements for those who use tax shelters and for those who promote the use of tax shelters. For the most recent information on these reporting requirements visit our Web site.

**Temporary metropolitan transportation business tax (MTA surcharge)** — You must also use this form to compute and report the MTA surcharges imposed by section 186-c on business done in the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District (MCTD). The MCTD includes the counties of New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens, Richmond, Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

**Foreign corporations — Maintenance fee and license fee** — A corporation organized outside of New York State (a *foreign corporation*) that is authorized to do business in New York State must pay an annual maintenance fee of \$300. Failure to pay the annual maintenance fee or its equivalent in New York State taxes (including the MTA surcharge) may result in annulment of the corporation's authorization to do business in New York State, under Article 9, 9-A, or 32. Payments of corporation taxes are counted as payments toward the \$300 annual maintenance fee (but not the license fee reported on Form CT-240, *Foreign Corporation License Fee Return*). If the total of your corporation taxes is greater than \$300, you have satisfied the requirement to pay the annual maintenance fee. If the total of your corporation taxes is less than \$300, and you are filing Form CT-183, *Transportation and Transmission Corporation Franchise Tax Return on Capital Stock* or Form CT-186, *Utility Corporation Franchise Tax Return*, pay the \$300 with that form. Indicate on this form that you paid a total corporation tax and maintenance fee of \$300 with Form CT-183 or Form CT-186, and make no remittance of tax with this return. If the corporation is disclaiming tax liability, it must file Form CT-245, *Maintenance Fee and Activities Return for a Foreign Corporation Disclaiming Tax Liability*.

Foreign corporations doing business in New York State must also file Form CT-240.

## Specific instructions

**Amended return** — If you are filing an amended return, mark an **X** in the *Amended return* box on page 1 of Form CT-186-EZ.

An amended New York State return requesting a credit or refund must be filed within three years of the time the original return was filed or within two years of the time the tax was paid, whichever is later; or, if no return was filed, within two years of the time the tax was paid. For additional limitations on credits or refunds, see Tax Law, Article 27, section 1087.

**Final return** — Mark an **X** in this box if it is the last return you intend to file because you have ceased doing business.

**Employer identification number, file number, and other identifying information** — Enter your employer identification number and file number. If you use a paid preparer or accounting firm, make sure they use your complete and accurate identifying information when completing all forms. Keep a record of your identifying information for future use.

## Line instructions

**Line A** — Make your check or money order payable in United States funds. We will accept a foreign check or foreign money order only if payable through a United States bank or if marked **Payable in U.S. funds**.

Before completing lines 1 through 15, you must complete one or both of the following schedules as they apply to you.

Schedule A — New York State excise tax on telecommunication services  
Schedule B — MTA surcharge related to telecommunication services

## Computation of tax

**Line 3b** — If line 1 is over \$1,000, but is not greater than \$100,000, enter 25% (.25) of line 1 in column A and 25% of line 2 in column B. If line 1 is over \$100,000, enter 40% (.40) of line 1 in column A and 40% of line 2 in column B.

In addition to the first installment required on line 3a or 3b, you may be required to make additional installments of estimated tax.

If the total of your estimated tax related to section 186-e will exceed \$1,000 for the next period, you must file Form CT-400, *Estimated Tax for Corporations*, and make installment payments of estimated tax and MTA surcharge.

You must file a Form CT-400 on or before June 15, September 15, and December 15, and pay the additional installments of estimated tax for the next period.

**Line 6a** — If either column A or B shows a balance due, you may use lines 7a and 7b to transfer amounts. If both columns show a balance due, transfer the amounts to line 7c, columns A and B.

**Line 6b** — If either column A or B shows an overpayment, you may use lines 7a and 7b to transfer the overpayment. If both columns show an overpayment, you may use lines 7a and 7b to transfer the amounts, or you may transfer the overpayments to line 12, columns A and B.

**Line 7a** — Use this line to transfer any MTA surcharge overpayment to the New York State (NYS) tax due. Enter the amount you want to transfer in both column A and column B.

**Line 7b** — Use this line to transfer any NYS overpayment to the MTA surcharge. Enter the amount you want to transfer in both column A and column B.

**Line 7c** — If there is a balance due for NYS tax (line 6a, column A) and an overpayment for MTA surcharge (line 6b, column B), subtract the amount transferred on line 7a, column A, from line 6a, column A. If the difference is zero or a positive amount, enter the difference on line 7c, column A. If the difference is a negative amount, enter the difference as a positive number on line 12, column A. Subtract the amount transferred on line 7a, column B, from line 6b, column B, and enter the difference on line 12, column B.

If there is a balance due for MTA surcharge (line 6a, column B) and an overpayment for NYS tax (line 6b, column A), subtract the amount transferred on line 7b, column A, from line 6b, column A, and enter the difference on line 12, column A. Subtract the transfer amount on line 7b, column B, from line 6a, column B. If the difference is zero or a positive amount, enter the difference on line 7c, column B. If the difference is a negative amount, enter the difference as a positive number on line 12, column B.

**Line 8** — Form CT-222, *Underpayment of Estimated Tax by a Corporation*, is filed by a corporation to inform the Tax Department that the corporation meets one of the exceptions to reduce or eliminate the underpayment of estimated tax penalty pursuant to Tax Law, Article 27, section 1085(d).

## Interest and penalties for late payment

**Line 9** — If you do not pay the taxes and MTA surcharges on or before the original due date (**without** regard to any extension of time), you must pay interest on the amount of the underpayment from the original due date to the date paid. Exclude from the interest computation the first installment of estimated tax shown on line 3a or 3b.

**Line 10** — Compute additional charges for late filing and late payment on the amount of tax and MTA surcharge, minus any payment made on or before the due date (**with** regard to any extension of time for filing). Exclude from the penalty computation the first installment of estimated tax shown on line 3a or 3b.

- If you do not file a return when due, or if the request for extension is invalid, add to the tax 5% per month up to 25% (section 1085(a)(1)(A)).
- If you do not file a return within 60 days of the due date, the addition to tax cannot be less than the smaller of \$100 or 100% of the amount required to be shown as tax (section 1085(a)(1)(B)).
- If you do not pay the tax shown on a return, add to the tax ½% per month up to 25% (section 1085(a)(2)).
- The total of the additional charges in items A and C may not exceed 5% for any one month, except as provided for in item B above (section 1085(a)).

If you think you are not liable for these additional charges, attach a statement to your return explaining any delay in filing, payment, or both (section 1085).

**Note:** You may compute your penalty and interest by accessing our Web site, or you may call and we will compute the interest and penalty for you (see *Need help?*).

## Overpayments and credits

**Line 12** — If there are amounts listed in both columns of line 6b and you want to transfer the overpayment from one column to the other, see instructions for lines 6a through 7c.

You may elect to apply all or part of the overpayment on line 12 to your next period taxes and surcharges to be reported on Form CT-186-EZ or have it refunded. Unless you request a refund, we will apply your overpayment to next year's tax. We will notify you when the overpayment has been credited and explain how to request a refund. You must claim the requested refund before the original due date of next year's tax return. To apply overpayments to next year's tax return or MTA surcharge, use lines 13a and 13b. To request a refund, use line 14.

**Line 13a** — Enter the amount from line 12, column A, to be credited to next year's NYS tax (section 186-e).

**Line 13b** — Enter the amount from line 12, column B to be credited to next year's MTA surcharge.

**Lines 15a and 15b** — You may request a refund or credit of the resale credit or the multijurisdictional credit on lines 15a and 15b, instead of applying the credits against your tax liabilities on lines 25, 26, 39, and 40. Therefore, you may not request a refund or a credit of any amounts you have entered on lines 25, 26, 39, and 40.

The security officer training tax credit and the biofuel production credit are also refundable. However, for these credits you must first apply the credit against the tax liability on line 27; any excess credit may be refunded or credited on lines 15a and 15b.

**Note:** The long-term care insurance credit is not refundable. Do not enter any amount of this credit on lines 15a and 15b.

No interest is payable on any refund or credit allowed.

## Schedule A — New York State excise tax on telecommunication services (Tax Law section 186-e)

Section 186-e imposes an excise tax on each charge from (1) any intrastate telecommunication services; (2) any interstate or international telecommunication services that originate or terminate in New York State and are charged to a service address in New York State (regardless of where the amounts charged are actually billed or ultimately paid); (3) private telecommunication services attributable to New York State; and (4) mobile telecommunication services provided by a home service provider where the mobile telecommunication customer's place of primary use is in New York State.

**The charge for each telecommunication service is determined on the basis of each transaction.** Providers of telecommunication services are required to file Form CT-186-E or CT-186-EZ for each calendar year, summarizing the charges accrued and the tax liability to be paid.

**Gross charge** means the amount charged for each telecommunication service provided with no deductions, and is expressed in money, whether paid in cash, credit, or property of any kind or nature. A deduction is allowed for bad debts incurred on charges subjected to tax under section 186-e, when the debt becomes worthless in accordance with consistently applied Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

**Telecommunication services** means telephony or telegraphy, or telephone or telegraph service of any nature including, but not limited to, any transmission of the following: voice, image, data, information, and paging, through the use of wire, cable, fiber-optic, laser, microwave, radio wave, satellite, or similar media, or any combination thereof. **Telecommunication services** also include services that are not telecommunication services as such, but are: (1) ancillary to the provision of telephone service (for example, directory information, call forwarding, caller identification, call waiting, and supplementary services) and (2) services (of whatever nature) which are provided with telecommunication services. The charges from equipment provided in connection with any telecommunication service (such as beepers, telephones, fax machines, or modems) are also subject to tax under section 186-e. The term **telecommunication services** does not apply to separately stated charges for a service that alters the substantive (information) content of the message received from that sent.

**Example:** *The character sequence 1, 2, 3, 4 is sent and the recipient receives only the summary number 10. The charge for this data processing service is separately billed. Because arithmetic processing has substantively changed the information content of the message sent and the data processing service is separately billed, this is not considered a telecommunication service.*

Telecommunication services **do not** include:

- Television or radio programming transmitted to subscribers by cable television service.
- Internet access services; see TSB-M-97(1.1)C, *Internet Access Charges Not Subject to Sales Tax and Telecommunications Excise Tax*, TSB-M-08(4)C,(2)S, *The Federal Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007 and its Effect on the New York Sales Tax and Telecommunications Excise Tax*, and TSB-M-08(4.1)C, (2.1)S, *Revised Information Regarding the Telecommunications Excise Tax Based on the Federal Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007*.

Examples of telecommunication service charges reported on Form CT-186-EZ include:

- Local telephone services.
- Toll services.
- Long distance telephone services.
- Pay telephone services.
- Paging services.
- Mobile telecommunications services.
- Facsimile and data transmission services.
- Prepaid phone card services.

- Any of the above telecommunication services provided as supplementary services by hotels, hospitals, office buildings, and similar establishments, that are billed as separately identifiable charges.

**Line 16** — Enter 100% of your charges from intrastate telecommunication services provided to customers for ultimate consumption.

**Line 17** — Enter 100% of your charges from interstate and international services that originate or terminate in New York State and have a service address in New York State, provided to customers for ultimate consumption.

**Service address** means the location of the equipment from which the telecommunication originated or at which the telecommunication is received by the purchaser from the provider of telecommunication services. Special rules define the service address in instances where the telecommunication service is obtained through a credit or payment mechanism (such as a credit, calling card, or third-party billing), and where the service address is not a defined location (such as a mobile telephone, paging system, maritime system, or air-to-ground system). In instances where more than one rule may apply, use the first rule from the list below that applies, to determine the service address.

1. If the telecommunication originates or terminates in New York State and is charged to telecommunication equipment that is not associated with the origination or termination of the telecommunication (for example, by the use of a calling card or third-party billing), and the location of the equipment charged is in New York State, the service address is deemed to be in New York State.
2. If the service is obtained through a credit or payment mechanism such as a bank, travel, credit, or debit card, or if the service is obtained by charging telecommunication equipment that is not associated with the origination or termination of the telecommunication (for example, by the use of a calling card or third-party billing), and the equipment is not located in the state of origination or termination, then the service address is deemed to be the location of the origination of the telecommunication.
3. If the service address is not a defined location, as in the case of mobile telephones, paging systems, maritime systems, air-to-ground systems, and the like, **service address** means the location of the subscriber's primary use of the telecommunication equipment as defined by telephone number, authorization code, or location where bills are sent. However, the location of the mobile telephone switching office, or similar facility that receives and transmits the signals of the telecommunication, is deemed the **service address** when the mobile telephone switching office or similar facility is outside the subscriber's assigned service area.

**Note:** Include on line 17 only those charges for mobile telecommunications services that **are not** associated with a New York place of primary use. Enter on line 18 any charges for mobile telecommunications services that **are** associated with a New York place of primary use.

**Line 18** — Enter 100% of your charges for mobile telecommunications services provided to customers whose primary use is in New York State.

**Place of primary use** means the street address that represents a customer's primary use of the mobile telecommunications services. That address must be the residential street address or the primary business street address of the mobile telecommunications customer, and must be within the licensed service area of the home service provider.

A home service provider may treat the address it uses for a customer under a service contract that was in effect on July 28, 2002, as that customer's place of primary use for the remaining term of the contract (excluding extensions or renewals) in order to determine the proper taxing jurisdiction for section 186-e taxes.

**Line 19** — Enter 100% of your charges from ancillary services (such as directory information, call forwarding, caller identification, and call waiting), or other services provided with telecommunications services, or from equipment provided in connection with telecommunication services (such as beepers and telephones). **Include** miscellaneous charges from commissions and fees earned that are directly related to telecommunication services reported on lines 16 and 17. **Do not include** receipts from services or equipment that are separately billed and that are not provided directly in connection with telecommunication services.

**Line 21** — The following exclusions and deductions are allowed if included in the gross charges reported on line 20:

- Any surcharges collected or any administrative fees retained when you are merely acting as collection agent for a municipality for an enhanced emergency telephone system (E911) or for the public safety communications surcharge under Tax Law, Article 9, section 186-f.
- Receipts from the sale of telecommunication services to air carriers solely for the purpose of air safety and navigation, if you are an organization defined by Tax Law section 186-e.2(b)(3).
- Taxes imposed by New York State or its municipalities or the federal government, when you are merely a collection agency for the tax authority (such as for state and local sales tax).

- Receipts from the sale of cable television and radio programming. *Cable television and radio programming* means the transmitting to subscribers of programs broadcast by one or more television or radio stations, or any other programs originated by any person by means of wire, cable, microwave, or any other means. **Note:** telecommunication services provided to a cable television or radio provider, for the purposes of broadcasting programs to subscribers, are subject to tax under section 186-e.

In addition, include any deduction for bad debts from all transactions on telecommunication charges subjected to tax under section 186-e, when the debt has become worthless in accordance with consistently applied GAAP.

**Line 25** — If you are a reseller of telecommunication services, but did not present the provider with a valid Form CT-120, *Resale Certificate for Telecommunication Purchases*, you are allowed a credit for tax paid when you resell the services as telecommunication services. The credit operates so that the tax on the resale will be applied only to the difference between the gross charge imposed on resale and the amount you paid to acquire the service resold. Compute the credit by multiplying your cost to purchase the service by the tax rate.

**Example:** A telephone company sells a telecommunication service to a reseller for \$2 for resale. The reseller resells the service for \$6. The reseller owes a tax on the difference of \$4, or \$.10 ( $\$4 \times 2.5\%$ ). When reporting on the resold service, the reseller includes the gross charge of \$6 on line 22, an excise tax computed of \$.15 ( $\$6 \times 2.5\%$ ) on line 24, and a credit of \$.05 ( $\$2 \times 2.5\%$ ) on line 25.

**Note:** You may request a refund or credit in lieu of applying this credit against your tax liability. See the instructions for lines 15a and 15b.

**Line 26** — To prevent multijurisdictional taxation, you are allowed a credit on any interstate or international telecommunication service, upon proof that you paid a like tax to another state or country. The amount of the credit will be the amount lawfully due and paid to the other state or country, but it may not reduce the tax due to less than zero.

**Note:** You may request a refund or credit in lieu of applying this credit against your tax liability. See the instructions for lines 15a and 15b.

#### Line 27

**Temporary deferral of certain tax credits** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2013, if the total amount of certain credits that you may use to reduce your tax or have refunded to you is greater than \$2 million, the excess over \$2 million must be deferred to, and used or refunded in, tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013. For more information about the credit deferral, see Form CT-500, *Corporation Tax Credit Deferral*.

If you are subject to the credit deferral, you must complete all credit forms without regard to the deferral. However, the credit amount that is transferred to your tax return to be applied against your tax due or to be refunded to you may be reduced. Follow the instructions for Form CT-500 to determine the amounts to enter on your tax return.

Enter any credits claimed, including the credit for long-term care insurance, the security officer training tax credit, or the biofuel production credit. Attach the appropriate forms to your return. Refer to instructions for line 15a and 15b.

### Schedule B — MTA surcharge related to telecommunication services (Tax Law section 186-c.1(b))

The MTA surcharge is imposed on charges derived from the MCTD. The rate is 17% of the state tax rate that was in effect on September 30, 1998. Therefore, the MTA rate is 0.595% ( $0.17 \times 0.035 = 0.00595 = 0.595\%$ ).

All of the definitions and instructions in Schedule A apply to the MTA surcharge computed in Schedule B, with any necessary modifications and limitations, including substituting the words *Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District*, or *MCTD*, for the words *New York State* where appropriate. Accordingly, the tax applies to gross charges from (1) any intra-MCTD telecommunication services, (2) any inter-MCTD telecommunication services that originate or terminate in the MCTD and are charged to a service address in the MCTD (including intrastate, interstate, and international telecommunication services), (3) private telecommunication services attributable to the MCTD, and (4) mobile telecommunications services provided by a home service provider where the place of primary use is in the MCTD.

### Composition of prepayments claimed on line 5

If you need more space, write **see attached** in this section and attach the separate sheet(s) showing all relevant prepayment information. Transfer the total shown on the attached sheet(s) to line 48.

### Signature

The return must be certified by the president, vice president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, chief accounting officer, or other officer authorized by the taxpayer corporation.

The return of an association, publicly traded partnership, or business conducted by a trustee or trustees must be signed by a person authorized to act for the association, publicly traded partnership, or business.

If an outside individual or firm prepared the return, the signature of the person and the name, address, and identification number of the firm must be included. Failure to sign the return will delay the processing of any refunds and may result in penalties.

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## Up-to-date information affecting your tax return

Visit our Web site for the tax law changes or forms corrections that occurred after the forms and instructions were finalized (see *Need help?*).

## Contents of this form

Form CT-1 contains both changes for the current tax year and general instructional information, serving as a supplement to corporation tax instructions.

This form contains information on the following topics:

- Changes for the current tax year (non-legislative and legislative)
- Business information (how to enter and update)
- Entry formats
  - Dates
  - Negative amounts
  - Percentages
  - Whole dollar amounts
- Third-party designee
- Use of reproduced and computerized forms
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## Changes for 2010

### Non-legislative changes

**Web File** — You can Web File Form CT-400, *Estimated Tax for Corporations*, on our Web site (see *Need help?*). You'll need to create an *Online Services* account or log into your existing one, and select the corporation tax estimated payment option.

You can also Web File the following extension requests:

- Form CT-5, *Request for Six-Month Extension to File (for franchise/business taxes, MTA surcharge, or both)*
- Form CT-5.4, *Request for Six-Month Extension to File New York S Corporation Franchise Tax Return*
- Form CT-5.9, *Request for Three-Month Extension To File (for Article 9 tax return, MTA surcharge, or both)*

Benefits of Web filing include:

- direct payment from your bank account or by ACH credit
- instant confirmation

For more information, visit our Web site and select the corporation tax Web File option.

**Form CT-200-V, Payment Voucher for E-Filed Corporation Tax Returns and Extensions** — This form is a payment voucher for taxpayers who e-file their forms but cannot e-pay and need to pay with a paper check or money order. Form CT-200-V is for use only for returns or extensions that were e-filed and should never accompany a paper-filed return.

**Paid preparer identification numbers** — New York State Tax Law requires certain paid tax return preparers and facilitators of refund anticipation loans (RALs) and refund anticipation checks (RACs) to register electronically with the Tax Department. For 2010, the paid preparer section on corporation tax forms has been updated accordingly. When completing this section, you must enter your New York tax preparer registration identification number (NYTPRIN) if you are required to have one. (Information on the New York State Tax Preparer Registration Program is available on our Web site (see *Need help?*.) In addition, you must enter your federal preparer tax identification number (PTIN) if you have one; if not, you must enter your social security number (SSN). (PTIN information is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).)

## Legislative changes

### Articles 9, 9-A, 13, 32, and 33

#### Chapter 242, Laws of 2010

**Amended definition of tax return preparer under Tax Law, Article 1, section 32** — Enrolled agents, employees of enrolled agents, and those preparing returns under the supervision of enrolled agents are no longer included in the definition of *tax return preparer*.

### Article 9

#### Chapter 57, Laws of 2010

**Deferral of certain tax credits** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2013, if the total amount of certain credits that you may use to reduce your tax or have refunded to you is greater than \$2 million, the excess over \$2 million must be deferred to, and used or refunded in, tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013. For more information about the credit deferral, refer to Form CT-500, *Corporation Tax Credit Deferral*, and its instructions.

**Biofuel tax credit cap** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, partners in a partnership and shareholders of a New York S corporation will have the credit cap imposed at the entity level, so that the aggregate credit allowed to all partners or shareholders of these entities does not exceed \$2.5 million.

**Empire Zones Program** — Numerous amendments impacting the empire zone (EZ) and qualified empire zone enterprise (QEZE) tax credits were made. For more information on a specific amendment, refer to the credit claim form and instructions for each credit.

### Article 9-A

#### Chapter 24, Laws of 2010

**Transitional provisions for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley (GLB) Act extended** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2011, Tax Law, Article 32, sections 1452(m) and 1462(f)(2)(iv) have been amended to extend the transitional provisions relating to the GLB Act.

#### Chapter 57, Laws of 2010

**Deferral of certain tax credits** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2013, if the total amount of certain credits that you may use to reduce your tax or have refunded to you is greater than \$2 million, the excess over \$2 million must be deferred to, and used or refunded in, tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013. For more information about the credit deferral, refer to Form CT-500, *Corporation Tax Credit Deferral*, and its instructions.

**Biofuel tax credit cap** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, partners in a partnership and shareholders of a New York S corporation will have the credit cap imposed at the entity level, so that the aggregate credit allowed to all partners or shareholders of these entities does not exceed \$2.5 million.

**Qualified emerging technology company (QETC) facilities, operations, and training tax credit** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, partners in a partnership and shareholders of a New York S corporation will have the credit limit imposed at the entity level, so that the aggregate credit allowed to all partners or shareholders of these entities does not exceed \$250,000.

**Empire Zones Program** — Numerous amendments impacting the empire zone (EZ) and qualified empire zone enterprise (QEZE) tax credits were made. For more information on a specific amendment, refer to the credit claim form and instructions for each credit.

**Empire State film production tax credit** — Numerous amendments impacting the credit were made. For more information concerning the amendments, visit the Governor's Office for Motion Picture and Television Development Web site at [www.nylovesfilm.com](http://www.nylovesfilm.com).

**Empire State film post-production tax credit** — Effective August 11, 2010, a new tax credit is available for the film and television post-production industry. The amount of credit allowed is allocated by the Governor's Office for Motion Picture and Television Development. For more information, refer to Form CT-261, *Claim for Empire State Film Post-Production Credit*, and its instructions.

**Real estate investment trust (REIT)/regulated investment company (RIC) provisions made permanent** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the REIT and RIC provisions enacted by Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2007, and as amended by Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2008, relating to the taxation of captive REITs and captive RICs that were due to expire, were made permanent.

**Updated definition of captive REIT** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, Tax Law, Article 1, section 2.9 was amended to exclude certain entities from the definition of *captive REIT*. For the revised definition, refer to your franchise tax return instructions.

**Clarifying New York source income** — The Tax Law was amended to ensure that nonresident shareholders of an S corporation who make elections under either Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 338(h)(10) or 453 are taxed in accordance with those elections and the transaction is treated as producing New York source income. Also, income received by nonresidents from installment sale contracts entered into before a New York S corporation terminates its taxable status in New York is New York source income.

## Chapter 59, Laws of 2010

**Excelsior Jobs Program tax credit** — Approved participants in the program will be eligible for the Excelsior Jobs Program credit. Empire State Development (ESD) will issue a certificate of tax credit that must be submitted with the taxpayer's return to claim the credits. For more information, visit ESD's Web site at [www.empire.state.ny.us](http://www.empire.state.ny.us) and select *Business Programs*.

## Chapter 297, Laws of 2010

**Farmers' school property tax credit** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the farmers' school property tax credit was amended to maintain eligibility for the credit when farmers receive payments for the sale of their development rights under the state's Farmland Protection Program. This change will allow payments from the Farmland Protection Program to be treated as excess gross income from farming.

## Chapter 472, Laws of 2010

**Tax credit for rehabilitation of historic properties** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, the credit for rehabilitation of historic properties has been amended to clarify current provisions and to make the credit available to banks and insurance companies.

## Article 32

### Chapter 24, Laws of 2010

**Transitional provisions for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley (GLB) Act extended** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2011, Tax Law, Article 32, sections 1452(m) and 1462(f)(2)(iv) have been amended to extend the transitional provisions relating to the GLB Act.

### Chapter 57, Laws of 2010

**Deferral of certain tax credits** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2013, if the total amount of certain credits that you may use to reduce your tax or have refunded to you is greater than \$2 million, the excess over \$2 million must be deferred to, and used or refunded in, tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013. For more information about the credit deferral, refer to Form CT-500, *Corporation Tax Credit Deferral*, and its instructions.

**Elimination of bad debt modifications when computing entire net income** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, Article 32 was amended to eliminate the bad debt adjustments previously required by the Business Tax Reform and Rate Reduction Act of 1987 (see TSB-M-87(17)C, *Business Tax Reform and Rate Reduction Act of 1987 Article 32 - Franchise Tax on Banking Corporations*), and as amended by Chapter 411 of the Laws of 1996 (see TSB-M-96(1)C, *Important Notice: Summary of 1996 Corporation Tax Law Changes*).

**Empire Zones Program** — Numerous amendments impacting the empire zone (EZ) and qualified empire zone enterprise (QEZE) tax credits were made. For more information on a specific amendment, refer to the credit claim form and instructions for each credit.

**Real estate investment trust (REIT)/regulated investment company (RIC) provisions made permanent** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the REIT and RIC provisions enacted by Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2007, and as amended by Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2008, relating to the taxation of captive REITs and captive RICs that were due to expire, were made permanent.

**Updated definition of captive REIT** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, Tax Law, Article 1, section 2.9 was amended to exclude certain entities from the definition of *captive REIT*. For the revised definition, refer to your franchise tax return instructions.

**Clarifying New York source income** — The Tax Law was amended to ensure that nonresident shareholders of an S corporation who make elections under either Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 338(h)(10) or 453 are taxed in accordance with those elections and the transaction is treated as producing New York source income. Also, income received by nonresidents from installment sale contracts entered into before a New York S corporation terminates its taxable status in New York is New York source income.

## Chapter 59, Laws of 2010

**Excelsior Jobs Program tax credit** — Approved participants in the program will be eligible for the Excelsior Jobs Program credit. Empire State Development (ESD) will issue a certificate of tax credit which must be submitted with the taxpayer's return to claim the credits. For more information, visit ESD's Web site at [www.empire.state.ny.us](http://www.empire.state.ny.us) and select *Business Programs*.

## Chapter 67, Laws of 2010

**Bank tax extender** — For tax years beginning before January 1, 2011, certain provisions of the franchise tax on banking corporations have been extended.

## Chapter 472, Laws of 2010

**Tax credit for rehabilitation of historic properties** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, the credit for rehabilitation of historic properties has been amended to clarify current provisions and to make the credit available to banks and insurance companies.

## Article 33

### Chapter 57, Laws of 2010

**Deferral of certain tax credits** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2013, if the total amount of certain credits that you may use to reduce your tax or have refunded to you is greater than \$2 million, the excess over \$2 million must be deferred to, and used or refunded in, tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013. For more information about the credit deferral, refer to Form CT-500, *Corporation Tax Credit Deferral*, and its instructions.

**Empire Zones Program** — Numerous amendments impacting the empire zone (EZ) and qualified empire zone enterprise (QEZE) tax credits were made. For more information on a specific amendment, refer to the credit claim form and instructions for each credit.

**Real estate investment trust (REIT)/regulated investment company (RIC) provisions made permanent** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the REIT and RIC provisions enacted by Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2007, and as amended by Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2008, relating to the taxation of captive REITs and captive RICs that were due to expire, were made permanent.

**Updated definition of captive REIT** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, Tax Law, Article 1, section 2.9 was amended to exclude certain entities from the definition of *captive REIT*. For the revised definition, refer to your franchise tax return instructions.

### Chapter 59, Laws of 2010

**Excelsior Jobs Program tax credit** — Approved participants in the program will be eligible for the Excelsior Jobs Program credit. Empire State Development (ESD) will issue a certificate of tax credit which must be submitted with the taxpayer's return to claim the credits. For more information, visit ESD's Web site at [www.empire.state.ny.us](http://www.empire.state.ny.us) and select *Business Programs*.

## Chapter 472, Laws of 2010

**Tax credit for rehabilitation of historic properties** — For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, the credit for rehabilitation of historic properties has been amended to clarify current provisions and to make the credit available to banks and insurance companies.

## How to fill out your tax return

### Business information

Enter the corporation's business information at the top of the first page. Be sure to enter the corporation's mailing name if different from its legal name.

If you need to update your corporation tax address or phone information, you can do so online. Visit our Web site (see *Need help?*) and look for the change my address option. Otherwise, enter your new address and/or phone number in the appropriate area of your return and mark an **X** in the box under the address. Do not mark an **X** in this box if your address and/or phone number

is new since your last filing but was already updated online, or for any change of business information other than your address and/or phone number. Once your corporation tax information is updated online, you do not need to indicate a change of address on any corporation tax forms submitted to the Tax Department (or for any forms for tax types you select to be updated in addition to corporation tax).

If you prefer to change your address by form, use Form DTF-96, *Report of Address Change for Business Tax Accounts*. You must report other changes (such as business name or ID number) on Form DTF-95, *Business Tax Account Update*. You can get these forms from our Web site, by fax, or by phone (see *Need help?*).

### Entry formats

**Entering dates** — Unless you are specifically directed to use a different format, enter dates in the *mm-dd-yy* format (using dashes and not slashes).

**Negative amounts** — Show any negative amounts with a minus (-) sign.

**Percentages** — When computing percentages, convert decimals into percentages by moving the decimal point two spaces to the right. Round percentages to four decimal places.

**Example:**  $5,000/7,500 = 0.6666666 = 6.6667\%$ .

**Whole dollar amounts** — You may elect to show amounts in whole dollars rather than in dollars and cents. Round any amount from 50 cents through 99 cents to the next higher dollar. Round any amount less than 50 cents to the next lower dollar.

### Third-party designee

If you want to authorize another person (third-party designee) to discuss this tax return with the New York State Tax Department, mark an **X** in the Yes box in the *Third-party designee* area of your return. Also **print** the designee's name, phone number, and any five-digit number the designee chooses as his or her personal identification number (PIN). If you want to authorize the paid preparer who signed your return to discuss the return with the Tax Department, **print** the preparer's name in the space for the designee's name and enter the preparer's phone number in the space for the designee's phone number. You do not have to provide the other information requested. If you do not want to authorize another person, mark an **X** in the *No* box.

If you mark the Yes box, you are authorizing the Tax Department to discuss with the designee any questions that may arise during the processing of your return. You are also authorizing the designee to:

- give the Tax Department any information that is missing from your return;
- call the Tax Department for information about the processing of your return or the status of your refund or payment(s); and
- respond to certain Tax Department notices that you shared with the designee about math errors, offsets, and return preparation. The notices will not be sent to the designee.

You are not authorizing the designee to receive your refund, bind you to anything (including any additional tax liability), or otherwise represent you before the Tax Department. If you want the designee to perform those services for you, you must file Form POA-1, *Power of Attorney*, making that designation with the Tax Department. Copies of statutory tax notices or documents (such as a *Notice of Deficiency*) will only be sent to your designee if you file Form POA-1.

You cannot change the PIN. The authorization will automatically end on the due date (without regard to extensions) for filing your next year's tax return.

**Important reminder to file a complete return:** You must complete all required schedules and forms that make up your return, and include **all pages** of those forms and schedules when you file. Returns that are missing required pages or that have pages with missing entries are considered incomplete and cannot be processed, and may subject taxpayers to penalty and interest.

## Use of reproduced and computerized forms

Photocopies of returns are acceptable if they are of good quality and have an original signature in the proper place. We will accept computer-produced corporation tax returns if they meet our printing specifications. For more information, see Publication 76, *Specifications for Reproduction of New York State Corporation Tax Forms*.

## General information

### Collection of debts from your refund or overpayment

We will keep all or part of your refund or overpayment if you owe a past-due, legally enforceable debt to a New York State agency, or if you owe a New York City tax warrant judgment debt. We may also keep all or part of your refund or overpayment if you owe a past-due legally enforceable debt to another state, provided that state has entered into a reciprocal agreement with New York State. If we keep your refund or overpayment, we will notify you.

A New York State agency includes any state department, board, bureau, division, commission, committee, public authority, public benefit corporation, council, office, or other entity performing a governmental or proprietary function for the state or a social services district. We will refund or apply as an overpayment any amount over your debt.

The Tax Department is authorized to charge the taxpayer, as part of the taxpayer's tax debt, any cost or fee imposed or charged by the United States, or any state, for the payment or remittance of a taxpayer's overpayment to satisfy a New York State tax debt.

If you have any questions about whether you owe a past-due, legally enforceable debt to a state agency, or to another state, or whether you owe a New York City tax warrant judgment debt, contact the state agency, the other state, or the New York City Department of Finance.

For New York State tax liabilities only, call (518) 457-5434 or write to: NYS Tax Department, Collections and Civil Enforcement Division, W A Harriman Campus, Albany NY 12227.

### Fee for payments returned by banks

The law allows the Tax Department to charge a \$50 fee when a check, money order, or electronic payment is returned by a bank for nonpayment. However, if an electronic payment is returned as a result of an error by the bank or the department, the department won't charge the fee. If your payment is returned, we will send a separate bill for \$50 for each return or other tax document associated with the returned payment.

### Tax shelter penalties

The Tax Law provides penalties for failure to disclose certain transactions and related information regarding tax shelters and for the underpayment of taxes due to participation in these shelters. For more information, refer to TSB-M-05(2)C, *Disclosure of Certain Transactions and Related Information Regarding Tax Shelters*.

## Voluntary Disclosure and Compliance Program

The Voluntary Disclosure and Compliance Program provides relief from certain penalties and criminal prosecution to eligible taxpayers who come forward and reveal previously undisclosed liabilities. For more information, see TSB-M-08(11)C, *Voluntary Disclosure and Compliance Program*.

## Your rights under the Tax Law

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights requires, in part, that the Tax Department advise you, in writing, of your rights and obligations during an audit, when you appeal a departmental decision, and when your appeal rights have been exhausted and you need to understand enforcement capabilities available to the department to obtain payment. For a complete copy of the information contained in all of these statements, you may obtain Publication 131, *Your Rights and Obligations Under the Tax Law*, by visiting our Web site or by calling (see *Need help?*).

### Need help?



**Internet access:** [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)  
(for information, forms, and publications)



**Telephone assistance** is available from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (eastern time), Monday through Friday.

**Corporation Tax Information Center:** (518) 485-6027

To order forms and publications: (518) 457-5431



**Text Telephone (TTY) Hotline** (for persons with hearing and speech disabilities using a TTY): If you have access to a TTY, contact us at (518) 485-5082. If you do not own a TTY, check with independent living centers or community action programs to find out where machines are available for public use.



**Persons with disabilities:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will ensure that our lobbies, offices, meeting rooms, and other facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have questions about special accommodations for persons with disabilities, call the information center.

## Privacy notification

The Commissioner of Taxation and Finance may collect and maintain personal information pursuant to the New York State Tax Law, including but not limited to, sections 5-a, 171, 171-a, 287, 308, 429, 475, 505, 697, 1096, 1142, and 1415 of that Law; and may require disclosure of social security numbers pursuant to 42 USC 405(c)(2)(C)(i).

This information will be used to determine and administer tax liabilities and, when authorized by law, for certain tax offset and exchange of tax information programs as well as for any other lawful purpose.

Information concerning quarterly wages paid to employees is provided to certain state agencies for purposes of fraud prevention, support enforcement, evaluation of the effectiveness of certain employment and training programs and other purposes 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 Manager of Document Management, NYS Tax Department, W A Harriman Campus, Albany NY 12227; telephone (518) 457-5181.