

January 2008

Dear Business Client:

Most of the tax issues in 2007 related to businesses were not actually changes at all, but rather extensions of prior tax provisions, or adjustments thereto.

- **Equipment Expense Deductions:** The maximum amount of equipment purchases qualifying for this election is \$125,000 for 2007 and \$128,000 for 2008 – and currently includes off-the-shelf software. Remember that SUVs, trucks, and vans have been capped at \$25,000. Note that the overall limit is scheduled to drop back down in 2010 to \$25,000. (Vermont has also accepted these deduction limits.)
- **Domestic Production Activities Deduction:** This is the deduction in which you may be able to deduct up to 6% of your qualified production activities income (this rate applies to 2007-2009). Only certain types of income qualify and the rules and the calculations are rather complex. Some businesses will receive a modest deduction, but with a substantial amount of work involved.
- **US-Canada Exchange Rate:** Average rate was \$ 1.0734 Cdn = \$1.00 US.
- **Net Operating Loss:** Carryback period is currently two years – and with a carryforward of up to 20 years.
- **Standard Mileage Rate:** Changes to 50.5¢/mile in 2008 (was 48.5¢ for 2007).
- **Pensions:** 401(k) type elective deferral limit remains at \$15,500 for 2007 and 2008; catch-up contributions for those age 50 or over remain at \$5,000 per year; maximum SIMPLE deferral limit is still \$10,500 with catch-up of \$2,500 for 2007 and 2008.
- **Social Security Taxes:** The wage base rises to \$102,000 (was \$97,500 in 2007); there is still no wage cap for Medicare taxes.

Because of the extent of the many changes, these explanations are very general in nature. Please contact us if you wish to discuss them in more detail, or feel free to visit our website at www.herrickltd.com.

If you purchased assets or supplies out-of-state, on-line, or through mail order, without paying sales tax, you must self-assess the State tax and remit it to your State's Department of Taxes. Also, remember that each independent contractor who earned \$600 or more in 2007 should be sent a 1099-MISC Form (this rule applies to all non-incorporated contractors and all attorneys, incorporated or not).

Our standard engagement letter is enclosed along with our checklist. Please answer the questions in italics on the checklist, sign the blue letter, and return both to us. We cannot begin your tax returns until we have received the signed engagement letter.

As always, we look forward to working with you and please call if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Herrick, Ltd. CPAs