

Subpart Ca—Special (Occupational) Taxes

SOURCE: T.D. ATF-271, 53 FR 17560, May 17, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 40.31 Liability for special tax.

(a) *Manufacturer of tobacco products.* Every manufacturer of tobacco products shall pay a special (occupational) tax at a rate specified by § 40.32 of the part. The tax shall be paid on or before the date of commencing the business of manufacturing tobacco products, and thereafter every year on or before July 1. On commencing business, the tax shall be computed from the first day of the month in which liability is incurred, through the following June 30. Thereafter, the tax shall be computed for the entire year (July 1 through June 30).

(b) *Transition rule.* For purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, a proprietor engaged in the business of manufacturing tobacco products on January 1, 1988, shall be treated as having commenced business on that date. The special tax imposed by this transition rule shall cover the period January 1, 1988, through June 30, 1988, and shall be paid on or before April 1, 1988.

(c) *Each place of business taxable.* A manufacturer of tobacco products incurs special tax liability at each place of business in which an occupation subject to special tax is conducted. A place of business means the entire office, plant or area of the business in any one location under the same proprietorship. Passageways, streets, highways, rail crossings, waterways, or partitions dividing the premises are not sufficient separation to require additional special tax, if the divisions of the premises are otherwise contiguous.

(26 U.S.C. 5143, 5731)

§ 40.32 Rates of special tax.

(a) *General.* Title 26 U.S.C. 5731(a)(1) imposes a special tax of \$1,000 per year on every manufacturer of tobacco products.

(b) *Reduced rate for small proprietors.* Title 26 U.S.C. 5731(b) provides for a reduced rate of \$500 per year with respect to any manufacturer of tobacco products whose gross receipts (for the most

recent taxable year ending before the first day of the taxable period to which the special tax imposed by § 40.31 relates) are less than \$500,000. The “taxable year” to be used for determining gross receipts is the taxpayer’s income tax year. All gross receipts of the taxpayer shall be included, not just the gross receipts of the business subject to special tax. Proprietors of new businesses that have not yet begun a taxable year, as well as proprietors of existing businesses that have not yet ended a taxable year, who commence a new activity subject to special tax, qualify for the reduced special (occupational) tax rate, unless the business is a member of a “controlled group”; in that case, the rules of paragraph (c) of this section shall apply.

(c) *Controlled group.* All persons treated as one taxpayer under 26 U.S.C. 5061(e)(3) shall be treated as one taxpayer for the purpose of determining gross receipts under paragraph (b) of this section. “Controlled group” means a controlled group of corporations, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 1563 and implementing regulations in 26 CFR 1.1563-1 through 1.1563-4, except that the words “at least 80 percent” shall be replaced by the words “more than 50 percent” in each place they appear in subsection (a) of 26 U.S.C. 1563, as well as in the implementing regulations. Also, the rules for a “controlled group of corporations” apply in a similar fashion to groups which include partnerships and/or sole proprietorships. If one entity maintains more than 50% control over a group consisting of corporations and one, or more, partnerships and/or sole proprietorships, all of the members of the controlled group are one taxpayer for the purpose of this section.

(d) *Short taxable year.* Gross receipts for any taxable year of less than 12 months shall be annualized by multiplying the gross receipts for the short period by 12 and dividing the result by the number of months in the short period as required by 26 U.S.C. 448(c)(3).

(e) *Returns and allowances.* Gross receipts for any taxable year shall be reduced by returns and allowances made during such year under 26 U.S.C. 448(c)(3).

(26 U.S.C. 448, 5061, 5731)