



PIAMS Weekly News

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2010 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued the 2010 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2010, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

50¢ per mile for business miles driven

16.5¢ per mile driven for medical or moving purposes

14¢ per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than last year's. The mileage rates for 2010 reflect generally lower transportation costs compared to a year ago. The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by the same study.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for any vehicle used for hire or for more than four vehicles used simultaneously. Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

Revenue Procedure 2009-54 contains additional details regarding the standard mileage rates.

Printing Continues to Get Safer

According to preliminary data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics*, the printing industry made major gains in creating a safer environment for employees in 2008. The industry's injury and illness rate dropped to 3.2 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers, down from 3.8 in 2007 and 4.2 in 2006. More good news came out of OSHA last month as well. Despite three consecutive years of increased citations, inspections and fines for the industry all dropped!

**We know that not much that comes out of BLS about our industry is up-to-date at least with regard to the number of individuals our industry employs and what they do, at least this is positive information. In reality we have been a safe industry for quite some time.*

Another Email Phishing Scam

A new email phishing scam is now circulating that uses fear of the H1N1 flu to get information. Ignore any email you receive that reads: "You have received this e-mail because of the launching of State Vaccination H1N1 Program. You need to create your personal H1N1 (swine flu) Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov website. The Vaccination is not obligatory, but every person that has reached the age of 18 has to have his personal Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov site. This profile has to be created both for the vaccinated people and the non-vaccinated ones. This profile is used for the registering system of vaccinated and non-vaccinated people. Create your Personal H1N1 Vaccination Profile using the link below." This message is patently false and the link is a phony one.

New COBRA Subsidy Guidance

In order for former employees to be eligible for the 65% federal nine-month COBRA premium study—established under the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009—they must satisfy two conditions laid out in that law. 1. They must have been involuntarily terminated from Sept. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2009. 2. They must have been eligible to receive COBRA during that period. It is the second condition that could result in employees who are laid off this month, not being eligible for the COBRA subsidy. That could happen if employers allow laid-off employees to remain uncovered in the regular group health plan through the end of the month. As a result, those individuals would not be eligible for COBRA until Jan. 1, 2010, thus missing the cut-off date for entitlement to the subsidy by one day.

Colorado to Implement GHG Reporting

Colorado has decided to take the lead to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions with a state Climate Action Plan to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy to improve the state's economy. As part of the "Plan", from what we understand, the state will be implementing required GHG reporting and is currently working on how to do it. This "Plan" will affect the printing industry and we will keep you posted on what your requirements will be. If the "Plan" is ready by January 28th for our next Environmental Results Program 2010 Kickoff at Leanin' Tree, those who attend will have a leg up on what they have to do. Register today (see attached).