

INSTRUCTIONS FOR 2008 - 2009 OCCUPATION TAX RETURN

Enclosed are the forms for filing your 2008-2009 Occupation Tax Return. **The enclosed Occupation Tax Return is to be sent to the Occupation Tax Section, and will be accepted only with a signature on the bottom of the form. Please read the instructions and look over the form on both sides carefully before you start. This form must be completed in black ink or typed. Upon completion, please be sure that the form is signed and dated at the bottom.**

The header of the imprinted form will have preprinted information as to the location, the billing address, the name of the business, and the dominant NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) code of the business. The dominant NAICS code that is pre-printed on your return identifies the dominant line of business from which the greatest amount of income is derived. **We are required by the State of Georgia to have a business' FEIN or the principal's Social Security Number listed on the Occupation Tax Return; the Business License will not be renewed without it.**

PLEASE NOTE

The **due date** for license renewal is from January 1, 2009 to April 1, 2009.

There is a 10% penalty for delinquent taxes and interest will be calculated at 1.5% per month or fraction thereof for **each** month the tax due is delinquent.

The enclosed Request/Renewal Form For Business License must be completed, signed and submitted with your Occupation Tax Return before a business license can be processed and issued for the year 2009. This form must be completed in black ink or typed.

If there is a balance due upon the completion of the Occupation Tax Return, the balance due must be remitted with the Occupation Tax Return.

For any business physically located in Columbus, Georgia, a **Certificate of Occupancy** is required if you change or add an activity to your business or change the name or location of your business. Please contact the Inspections and Code Division office at (706) 653-4126 for information on obtaining a new certificate of occupancy for any changes made to your business activity, business name or business location. In addition, a fence compliance inspection may be required from the Special Enforcement Division; please contact the Special Enforcement Division at 706-653-4512 to determine if a fence compliance inspection will be required.

If you went out of business last year and do not intend to continue your business operations this year, you still must complete and file an Occupation Tax Return (Column A) and pay any occupation tax that is due. Also, please make sure you notate the date your business closed on the return.

Tax rates and tax classes - Tax classes are determined by the profitability of your industry based on nation wide statistics. Columbus is using a ten- year moving average to determine profitability. Those classes and rates are:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------|
| Class 1 | \$1.00 per \$1000.00 | (.00100) |
| Class 2 | \$1.82 per \$1000.00 | (.00182) |
| Class 3 | \$2.52 per \$1000.00 | (.00252) |
| Class 4 | \$3.21 per \$1000.00 | (.00321) |
| Class 5 | \$3.91 per \$1000.00 | (.00391) |
| Class 6 | \$4.61 per \$1000.00 | (.00461) |
| Class 7 | \$5.31 per \$1000.00 | (.00531) |
| Class 8 | \$6.00 per \$1000.00 | (.00600) |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM 1
Columns A & B, Lines 1 through 14

Line 1 – On Column A, Line 1, enter your **2008 Actual Gross receipts, without deductions**. On Column B, Line 1, enter your **2009 Estimated Gross Receipts, without deductions**.

Line 2 – Enter the total amount of your allowed exemptions for 2008 from **FORM 2** on Line 2, Column A. Enter the total amount of your estimated exemptions for 2009 on Line 2, Column B.

Line 3 - Enter your Taxable Gross Receipts on Line 3. (Line 1 less Line 2 for Columns A & B, if zero or less, enter zero).

Line 4 - This line is pre-printed with your Occupation Tax Rate. Your Occupation Tax Rate is based on the profit class of the dominant line of the business.

Line 5 – Enter the computed tax on this line. Multiply Line 3 by Line 4 and enter the results on Line 5, for Columns A and B.

Line 6 – Column A, Line 6 is pre-printed with the \$50.00 Administrative Fee.

Line 7 - Enter your Total Computed Tax on this line. For Column A, add Lines 5 and 6 and enter the results on Line 7. For Column B, enter the results from Line 5 on Line 7.

Line 8 – Line 8 apply only to those professions that qualified and elected to take the Professional Option. Please refer to the list of professions listed on page 4 of these instructions to see if you qualify. If you elected to take the professional option during the 2008-year, multiply the number of licensed practitioners that practiced during the 2008-year by \$400 and enter the results on Column A, line 8. If you are electing the professional option for the 2009-year, multiply the number of estimated licensed practitioners that will be practicing during the 2009-year by \$400 and enter the results on Column B, line 8. Please note any election taken in a given year is irrevocable for said year. Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding the professional option.

Line 9 - Line 9 represents your payment options for your **2009 Estimated** Occupation Tax payments only. Please choose **only one** option. Your estimated taxes can be paid in either of the following ways:

1. You may elect to pay the **entire amount** of your estimated 2009 Occupation Tax under Column B less a 2% discount if payment is made on or before **April 1, 2009**. If you elect to take this option, multiply either Line 7 or 8; whichever is applicable, by 98% (.98) and enter the results in the appropriate box on Line 9, Column B. **If payment is made after the April 1, 2009 deadline, the 2% discount is not allowed and applicable penalties and interest should be added.**

---OR---

2. You may elect to make **quarterly payments** on your estimated 2009 Occupation Tax under Column B. Your quarter payments are calculated by multiplying either Line 7 or 8; whichever is applicable, by 25% (.25). Enter your results in the appropriate box on Line 9, Column B. **If payment is made after the April 1, 2009 deadline, applicable penalties and interest should be added.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM 1 (continued)

Line 10 – This line is pre-printed with your Occupation Tax payments received and credits posted to your account for the 2008 year.

Line 11 – Column B, Line 11 is pre-printed with the \$50.00 Administrative Fee. The \$50.00 administrative does not apply to those who qualify and elect the professional option.

Line 12, Column A – Enter the results of Line 7 or 8, less Line 10.

Line 12, Column B – Enter the results of Line 9 plus Line 11, with the exception of those who qualify and elect the professional option, do not include Line 11 in your subtotal.

Line 13 - If your form has an amount pre-printed on Line 13, Column A, your account has been charged interest and penalties for non-payment of your 2008 Estimated Tax quarterly payments. Line 13, Columns A and B, is also used to calculate present penalty and interest as a result of filing your return and paying your taxes due after the filing deadline. **Remember that the penalty is 10% and interest is 1.5% per month for each month or fraction thereof the return and payment are delinquent. If you are not sure of how much penalty and interest to enter, please contact our office at (706) 653-4100 x 1.**

Line 14, Column A – Enter the results of Line 12 plus Line 13. This amount represents the balance of taxes due for the **2008** tax year only.

Line 14, Column B - Enter the results of Line 12 plus Line 13. This amount represents the amount due for the **2009** Estimated Tax only.

Line 14, Column C – Enter the results of Line 14, Columns A & B on Line 14, Column C. **This amount represents the amount due in order to renew your business license. Please remit this amount with your renewal paperwork.**

Checks/Money Orders remitted should be made payable to: Columbus Consolidated Government.

CREDIT CARD OPTION

You can make tax payments by Visa or MasterCard credit cards. If you choose to pay by credit card, please fill in all the information on the enclosed authorization form making sure you sign the form.

STATE CARDS AND STATE LICENSES

If the State of Georgia and/or the Georgia Department of Agriculture regulate your business, trade, or profession, you must submit a copy of your current State of Georgia card/license and/or Georgia Department of Agriculture card/license before we will process your return. **Under both state law and city ordinance, you will not be allowed to renew your license if you do not submit a copy of these state cards/licenses.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM 2

Form 2 consists of the Occupation Tax Return exemption worksheet. **You may deduct the exemptions listed on Form 2 only if they are qualifying and are included in total gross receipts reported on Line 1, Columns A and B.** The exemptions allowed are for **Occupation Tax purposes only** and most **State and Federal exemptions** are not allowed as a deduction on the Occupation Tax Return. Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding exemptions. If any of your information listed on Form 2 exceeds the space provided, please list the information on an additional sheet and attach it to your Occupation Tax Return.

Section A - You are allowed to exempt payments made to properly **licensed** subcontractors and independent agents that you paid for work done for certain projects.

Section B – You are allowed to exempt Inter-organizational sales or transfers between or among the units of a parent-subsidiary controlled group of corporations, as defined by 26 U.S.C. Section 1563(a)(1).

Section C, D, & E - You are allowed to exempt sales returns, discounts and allowances; excise taxes; and sales and use tax.

Section F – Certain receipts are exempted under local, state and federal laws, please contact our office at 706-653-4100 x 1 regarding these exemptions.

Section G – You are allowed to exempt governmental and foundation grants, charitable contributions, or the interest income derived from such funds, received by a nonprofit organization if such funds constitute eighty (80) percent or more of the organization's receipts.

Section H – Products shipped to a customer outside the state of Georgia or services performed outside the state of Georgia may be exempt. Sales and services to customers outside the state of Georgia may be exempt from occupation tax. A sale to a customer outside the state is where the product is shipped to a customer outside the state of Georgia or the service is performed outside the state of Georgia.

PRACTITIONERS THAT ARE ALLOWED THE PROFESSIONAL OPTION:

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGIST
ARCHITECT
ATTORNEY
CHIROPRACTOR
DENTIST
ENGINEER (Electrical, Hydraulic & Mechanical)
LAND SURVEYOR
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST

OPTOMETRIST
OSTEOPATH
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
PHYSICIAN/SURGEON
PODIATRIST
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
UNDERTAKER (Funeral Director/Embalmer)
VETERINARIAN

Your Occupation Tax will be delinquent if not filed and paid by April 1, 2009. The delinquency penalty is 10% and interest will be calculated at 1.5% per month or fraction thereof for each month the tax due is delinquent. All delinquent accounts are subject to court citations.