

**Subpart G—Administrative Provisions of Special Application to Employment Taxes (Selected Provisions of Subtitle F, Internal Revenue Code of 1954)**

**§ 31.6001-1 Records in general.**

(a) *Form of records.* The records required by the regulations in this part shall be kept accurately, but no particular form is required for keeping the records. Such forms and systems of accounting shall be used as will enable the district director to ascertain whether liability for tax is incurred and, if so, the amount thereof.

(b) *Copies of returns, schedules, and statements.* Every person who is required, by the regulations in this part or by instructions applicable to any form prescribed thereunder, to keep any copy of any return, schedule, statement, or other document, shall keep such copy as a part of his records.

(c) *Records of claimants.* Any person (including an employee) who, pursuant to the regulations in this part, claims a refund, credit or abatement, shall keep a complete and detailed record with respect to the tax, interest, addition to the tax, additional amount, or assessable penalty to which the claim relates. Such record shall include any records required of the claimant by paragraph (b) of this section and by §§ 31.6001-2 to 31.6001-5, inclusive, which relate to the claim.

(d) *Records of employees.* While not mandatory (except in the case of claims), it is advisable for each employee to keep permanent, accurate records showing the name and address of each employer for whom he performs services as an employee, the dates of beginning and termination of such services, the information with respect to himself which is required by the regulations in this subpart to be kept by employers, and the statements furnished in accordance with the provisions of § 31.6051-1.

(e) *Place and period for keeping records.* (1) All records required by the regulations in this part shall be kept, by the person required to keep them, at one or more convenient and safe locations accessible to internal revenue of-

ficers, and shall at all times be available for inspection by such officers.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the following sentence, every person required by the regulations in this part to keep records in respect of a tax (whether or not such person incurs liability for such tax) shall maintain such records for at least four years after the due date of such tax for the return period to which the records relate, or the date such tax is paid, whichever is the later. The records of claimants required by paragraph (c) of this section shall be maintained for a period of at least four years after the date the claim is filed.

(f) *Cross reference.* See §§ 31.6001-2 to 31.6001-5, inclusive, for additional records required with respect to the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, the Railroad Retirement Tax Act, the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, and the collection of income tax at source on wages, respectively.

**§ 31.6001-2 Additional records under Federal Insurance Contributions Act.**

(a) *In general.* (1) Every employer liable for tax under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act shall keep records of all remuneration, whether in cash or in a medium other than cash, paid to his employees after 1954 for services (other than agricultural labor which constitutes or is deemed to constitute employment, domestic service in a private home of the employer, or service not in the course of the employer's trade or business) performed for him after 1936. Such records shall show with respect to each employee receiving such remuneration—

(i) The name, address, and account number of the employee and such additional information with respect to the employee as is required by paragraph (c) of § 31.6011(b)-2 when the employee does not advise the employer what his account number and name are as shown on an account number card issued to the employee by the Social Security Administration.

(ii) The total amount and date of each payment of remuneration (including any sum withheld therefrom as tax or for any other reason) and the period of services covered by such payment.

(iii) The amount of each such remuneration payment which constitutes wages subject to tax. See §§31.3121(a)-1 to 31.3121(a)(12)-1, inclusive.

(iv) The amount of employee tax, or any amount equivalent to employee tax, collected with respect to such payment, and, if collected at a time other than the time such payment was made, the date collected. See paragraph (b) of §31.3102-1 for provisions relating to collection of amounts equivalent to employee tax.

(v) If the total remuneration payment (paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section) and the amount thereof which is taxable (paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section) are not equal, the reason therefor.

(2) Every employer shall keep records of the details of each adjustment or settlement of taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act made pursuant to the regulations in this part. The employer shall keep as a part of his records a copy of each statement furnished pursuant to paragraph (c) of §31.6011(a)-1.

(3) Every employer shall keep records of all remuneration in the form of tips received by his employees after 1965 in the course of their employment and reported to him pursuant to section 6053(a). The employer shall keep as part of his records employee statements of tips furnished him pursuant to section 6053(a) (unless the information disclosed by such statements is recorded on another document retained by the employer pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section) and copies of employer statements furnished employees pursuant to section 6053(b).

(b) *Agricultural labor, domestic service, and service not in the course of employer's trade or business.* (1) Every employer who pays cash remuneration after 1954 for the performance for him after 1950 of agricultural labor which constitutes or is deemed to constitute employment, of domestic service in a private home of the employer not on a farm operated for profit, or of service not in the course of his trade or business shall keep records of all such cash remuneration with respect to which he incurs, or expects to incur, liability for the taxes imposed by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, or with respect to

which amounts equivalent to employee tax are deducted pursuant to section 3102(a). See §§31.3101-3, 31.3111-3, and 31.3121(a)-2 for provisions relating, respectively, to the liability for employee tax which is incurred when wages are received, the liability for employer tax which is incurred when wages are paid, and the time when wages are paid and received. Such records shall show with respect to each employee receiving such cash remuneration—

(i) The name of the employee.

(ii) The account number of each employee to whom wages for such services are paid within the meaning of §31.3121(a)-2, and such additional information as is required by paragraph (c) of §31.6011(b)-2 when the employee does not advise the employer what his account number and name are as shown on an account number card issued to the employee by the Social Security Administration.

(iii) The amount of such cash remuneration paid to the employee (including any sum withheld therefrom as tax or for any other reason) for agricultural labor which constitutes or is deemed to constitute employment, for domestic service in a private home of the employer not on a farm operated for profit, or for service not in the course of the employer's trade or business; the calendar month in which such cash remuneration was paid; and the character of the services for which such cash remuneration was paid. When the employer incurs liability for the taxes imposed by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act with respect to any such cash remuneration which he did not previously expect would be subject to the taxes, the amount of any such cash remuneration not previously made a matter of record shall be determined by the employer to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(iv) The amount of employee tax, or any amount equivalent to employee tax, collected with respect to such cash remuneration and the calendar month in which collected. See paragraph (b) of §31.3102-1 for provisions relating to collection of amounts equivalent to employee tax.

(v) To the extent material to a determination of tax liability, the number

of days during each calendar year after 1956 on which agricultural labor which constitutes or is deemed to constitute employment is performed by the employee for cash remuneration computed on a time basis.

(2) Every person to whom a “crew leader”, as that term is defined in section 3121(i), furnishes individuals for the performance of agricultural labor after December 31, 1958, shall keep records of the name; permanent mailing address, or if none, present address; and identification number, if any, of such “crew leader”.

[T.D. 6516, 25 FR 13032, Dec. 20, 1960, as amended by T.D. 7001, 34 FR 1003, Jan. 23, 1969]

**§ 31.6001-3 Additional records under Railroad Retirement Tax Act.**

(a) *Records of employers.* (1) Every employer liable for tax under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall keep records of all remuneration (whether in money or in something which may be used in lieu of money), other than tips, paid to his employees after 1954 for services rendered to him (including “time lost”) after 1954. Such records shall show with respect to each employee—

(i) The name and address of the employee.

(ii) The total amount and date of each payment of remuneration to the employee (including any sum withheld therefrom as tax or for any other reason) and the period of service (including any period of absence from active service) covered by such payment.

(iii) The amount of such remuneration payment with respect to which the tax is imposed.

(iv) The amount of employee tax collected with respect to such payment, and, if collected at a time other than the time such payment was made, the date collected.

(v) If the total payment of remuneration (paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section) and the amount thereof with respect to which the tax is imposed (paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section) are not equal, the reason therefor.

(2) The employer shall keep records of the details of each adjustment or settlement of taxes under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act made pursuant to the regulations in this part.

(b) *Records of employee representatives.* Every individual liable for employee representative tax under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall keep records of all remuneration (whether in money or in something which may be used in lieu of money) paid to him after 1954 for services rendered (including “time lost”) by him as an employee representative after 1954. Such records shall show—

(1) The name and address of each employee organization employing him.

(2) The total amount and date of each payment of remuneration for services rendered as an employee representative (including any sum withheld therefrom as tax or for any other reason) and the period of service (including any period of absence from active service) covered by such payment.

(3) The amount of such remuneration payment with respect to which the employee representative tax is imposed.

(4) If the total payment of remuneration (paragraph (a)(2) of this section) and the amount thereof with respect to which the employee representative tax is imposed (paragraph (a)(3) of this section) are not equal, the reason therefor.

**§ 31.6001-4 Additional records under Federal Unemployment Tax Act.**

(a) *Records of employers.* Every employer liable for tax under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act for any calendar year shall, with respect to each such year, keep such records as are necessary to establish—

(1) The total amount of remuneration (including any sum withheld therefrom as tax or for any other reason) paid to his employees during the calendar year for services performed after 1938.

(2) The amount of such remuneration which constitutes wages subject to the tax. See § 31.3306(b)-1 through § 31.3306(b)(8)-1.

(3) The amount of contributions paid by him into each State unemployment fund, with respect to services subject to the law of such State, showing separately (i) payments made and neither deducted nor to be deducted from the remuneration of his employees, and (ii) payments made and deducted or to be deducted from the remuneration of his employees.