# EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. Department of Labor Washington, D.C. 20210

CLASSIFICATION
WOTC & WtWTC

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DATE
April 22, 2005

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE LETTER NO. 30-04

TO:

ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

FROM:

**EMILY STOVER DeROCCO** 

**Assistant Secretary** 

**SUBJECT:** 

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit

(WtWTC) Program and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) "Relief Period" Granted

to Employers Affected by Recent Tropical Storms and Hurricanes

- 1. <u>Purpose</u>. To inform the state workforce agencies (SWAs) of special filing "relief periods" for WOTC/WtWTC certification requests in Presidential Disaster Areas (PDAs) struck by recent tropical storms and hurricanes and provide guidance for its implementation.
- 2. References. Internal Revenue Service, Revenue Procedure 2004-13, 2004-4 I.R.B. 335; the Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-311); Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Sections 51, 51A, and 7508A, as amended; 26 CFR 301.7508A-1; and ETA Handbook No. 408, Third Edition, November 2002.
- 3. <u>Background</u>. Section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 7508A) permits the IRS to grant a postponement of time to perform specified acts for taxpayers affected by a presidentially declared disaster or a terroristic or military action. Section 301.7508A-1(b) of the Regulations on Procedure and Administration (26 CFR 301.7508A-1(b)) gives the IRS the authority to disregard a period of time in determining whether any or all of the acts described in section 301.7508A-1(c) were performed within the time prescribed.

Section 301.7508A-1(c) lists acts that may be postponed. In addition to the listed acts, Section 301.7508A-1(c)(1)(vii) includes any other act specified in a revenue ruling, revenue procedure, notice, announcement, news release, or other guidance published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin. Revenue Procedure 2004-13, published in 2004-4 I.R.B. at 335-356, provides an updated list of time-sensitive acts, the performance of which may be postponed under section 7508A.

DESCRICTORY	
RESCISSIONS	EXPIRATION DATE
	Continuing

Section 15.12 of Revenue Procedure 2004-13 lists the following act related to the WOTC and WtWTC Program as one that can be postponed under 26 U.S.C. 7508A:

"Sec. 51(d)(12)(A)(ii)(II) and 51A(d)(1) -- An employer seeking the Work Opportunity Credit or the Welfare-to-Work Credit with respect to an individual must submit Form 8850, Pre-Screening Notice and Certification Request for the Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work Credits, to the State Employment Security Agency not later than the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the individual begins work for the employer."

Postponements under these IRS provisions are not automatically available if a disaster occurs. Rather, the IRS, generally, publishes a notice or news release authorizing a postponement for a specified extension period that is available to "affected taxpayers."

20 CFR 301.7508A-1(d)(1) defines "affected taxpayer" as including any business entity or sole proprietor whose principal place of business is located in a covered disaster area, and any business entity or sole proprietor whose principal place of business is not located in a covered disaster area, but whose records necessary to meet a deadline for an act covered by in section 301.7508A-1(c) are maintained in a covered disaster area.

Section 301.7508A-1(d)(2) defines "covered disaster area" as an area of a Presidentially declared disaster to which the IRS has determined section 301.7508A-1(b) applies.

4. <u>Information</u>. The IRS has issued a series of news releases, available on its website, announcing special filing "relief periods" for "tax payers" in PDAs struck by recent tropical storms and hurricanes. As explained above, WOTC/WtWTC certification requests from employers and consultants within the PDAs (or whose records are within a PDA) are eligible for this relief. This relief is a measure similar to the one granted as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks in New York and Arlington County in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Affected taxpayers described in any of these news releases can postpone the due dates of their IRS Forms 8850 until (in some cases) December 30, 2004. Taxpayers should mark the top margin of IRS Form 8850 in red with the appropriate disaster designation. The IRS Forms 8850 that can be postponed are those due on or after the date on which the storm or hurricane struck. Below is a list of news releases each identifying the storm or hurricane, the affected states, the date the storm or hurricane first hit the area, the final date of the extension period and the disaster designation.

#### List of News Releases:

IR-2004-108 – Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley – affected Florida counties – struck 8/11-30/04 – extended through 12/30/04.

IR-2004-115 – Hurricane Frances – affected Florida counties – struck beginning 9/3/04 – extended through 12/30/04.

FL 2004-14/NFL 2004-18 – Hurricane Jeanne – affected Florida counties – struck beginning 9/24/04 – extended through 12/30/04.

IR-2004-118 – Hurricane Ivan – affected Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi counties – struck beginning 9/13/04 – extended through 12/30/04.

# List of Expired News Releases (in case of backlogs):

NC04-74 – Tropical Storm Gaston – affected Virginia counties – struck 8/30-9/8/04 – extended through 11/3/04.

NC04-76 – Tropical Storm Frances – affected North Carolina counties – struck 9/7-12/04 – extended through 11/9/04. The extension period for counties also struck by Hurricane Ivan is 11/18/04.

NGA-04-03/SGA-2004-14 – Hurricane Ivan – affected Georgia counties – struck beginning 9/14/04 – extended through 11/18/04.

Unnumbered – severe storms and flooding – affected Ohio counties – struck beginning 8/27/04 – extended through 11/18/04.

IRS PA-2004-60 – Tropical Depressions Frances and Ivan – affected Pennsylvania counties – struck beginning 9/8/04 – extended through 11/18/04.

NC04-81 – Hurricane Ivan – affected North Carolina counties – struck beginning 9/16/04 – extended through 11/18/04.

Unnumbered – severe storms, flooding and landslides – affected West Virginia counties – struck 9/16-27/04 – extended through 11/18/04.

NJ-2004-49 – Tropical Depression Ivan – affected New Jersey counties – struck 9/18-10/1 – extended through 12/1/04.

NY-2004-36 – Tropical Depression Ivan – affected New York counties – struck 9/16-9/24 – extended through 12/1/04.

SC05-04 - Tropical Storm Frances - affected South Carolina counties - struck 9/6-10/11 - extended through 12/7/04.

Unnumbered – Severe storms and flooding – affected Minnesota counties – struck 9/14-27/04 – extended through 12/7/04 – "Severe Storms – MN."

NY-2004-47 – affected "New York Floods, 14 counties"— struck from 8/13/04 through 9/16/04 – extended through 12/16/04.

VA-2004-67 – remnants of hurricane Jeanne – affected Virginia counties – struck beginning 9/27/04 – extended through 12/20/04 – "Hurricane Jeanne - VA."

To learn the affected counties in each state and the disaster designation, it will be necessary to check the news releases. The IRS updates news releases as new disaster areas pertaining to a particular event are declared. The most recent version of each news release can be found at <a href="http://www.irs.gov">http://www.irs.gov</a>. To access this information, SWAs and employers should follow these simple steps: from the home page, click on <a href="https://www.irs.gov">Newsroom</a> at the top. Then click on <a href="https://www.irs.gov">Disaster</a> Relief under <a href="https://www.irs.gov">Related Topics</a> in the left hand column. Then click on <a href="https://www.irs.gov">state news links</a>.

Neither IRS nor this office will issue additional advisories after future disasters. This TEGL provides specific universal information that applies to similar or different disasters. In the future, when any area in the country is designated a disaster area by the President, go to <a href="https://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a> to learn the particulars for that disaster. If a link to the disaster is not on the homepage, click on <a href="https://www.irs.gov">Newsroom</a> and follow the instructions in the paragraph above.

- 5. <u>Guidance to SWAs</u>. For all applicable deadlines, a timely postmark or equivalent from a private delivery service serves as sufficient evidence of timely filing if the SWA receives the IRS Form 8850 after the postponed deadline. For a list of acceptable private delivery services for purposes of submitting IRS Form 8850 to the SWA, see Notice 2001-62.
- 6. <u>Action Requested</u>. Recipients are requested to distribute this TEGL, with Attachment, to all WOTC State Coordinators, related program staff, employers and consultants and other interested partners.
- 7. **Inquiries.** Questions should be directed to the WOTC Regional Coordinators.
- 8. Attachment. Notice 2001-62.

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# **SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

.01 This revenue procedure provides an updated list of time-sensitive acts, the performance of which may be postponed under sections 7508 and 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code (Code). Section 7508 of the Code postpones specified acts for individuals serving in the Armed Forces of the United States or serving in suppo of such Armed Forces in a combat zone. Section 7508A of the Code permits a postponement of specified acts for taxpayers affected by a Presidentially declared disaster or a terroristic or military action. The list of acts in this revenue procedure supplements the list of postponed acts in section 7508(a)(1) of the Code and sectic 301.7508A-1(b) of the Regulations on Procedure and Administration.

.02 This revenue procedure does not, by itself, provide any postponements under sections 7508 or 7508A. In order for taxpayers to be entitled to a postponement of any act listed in this revenue procedure, the IRS generally will publish a Notice or issue other guidance (including an IRS News Release) providing relief with respect a specific combat zone, Presidentially declared disaster, or a terroristic or military action.

.03 This revenue procedure will be updated as needed when the IRS determines the additional acts should be included in the list of postponed acts or that certain acts should be removed from the list. Also, taxpayers may recommend that additional acts be considered for postponement under sections 7508 and 7508A. See section 17 cthis revenue procedure.

#### **SECTION 2. BACKGROUND**

.01 Section 7508(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code permits a postponement of certain time-sensitive acts for individuals serving in the Armed Forces or in support such Armed Forces in an area designated by the President as a combat zone unde section 112. Among these acts are the filing of returns, the payment of tax, the filing of a Tax Court petition, and the filing of a refund claim. In the event of service in a combat zone, the acts specified in section 7508(a)(1) of the Code are *automatically postponed*. In addition, if the Service publishes a Notice or other guidance providing additional relief under section 7508, some or all of the acts listed in this revenue procedure may be postponed. Likewise, acts not listed in this revenue procedure m be included in published guidance.

.02 Section 7508A of the Code provides that certain acts performed by taxpayers a the government may be postponed if the taxpayer is affected by a Presidentially declared disaster or a terroristic or military action. A "Presidentially declared disaste is defined in section 1033(h)(3) of the Code. A "terroristic or military action" is define in section 692(c)(2) of the Code. Section 301.7508A-1(d)(1) of the regulations defir seven types of affected taxpayers, including any individual whose principal residen-(for purposes of section 1033(h)(4)) is located in a "covered disaster area" and any business entity or sole proprietor whose principal place of business is located in a "covered disaster area." Postponements under section 7508A are not available simply because a disaster or a terroristic or military action has occurred. Generally, the IRS will publish a Notice or issue other guidance (including an IRS News Release) authorizing the postpone ment. Such guidance will describe the acts postponed, the duration of the postponement, and the location of the covered disaster area. See, for example, Notice 2001-68, 2001-2 C.B. 504, supplementing Notice 2001-61, 2001-2 C.B. 305. When a Notice or other guidance for a particular disaster is published, or issued, the guidance generally will refer to this revenue procedure and may provide for a postponement of all the acts listed in the regulatio and this revenue procedure. Alternatively, the guidance may provide that only certa acts listed in this revenue procedure are postponed based on the time when the disaster occurred, its severity, and other factors.

#### **SECTION 3. SCOPE**

This revenue procedure applies to individuals serving in the Armed Forces in a combat zone, or in support of such Armed Forces, to affected taxpayers within the meaning of section 301.7508A-1(d)(1) of the regulations, and to taxpayers whom the IRS determines are affected by a terroristic or military action.

#### **SECTION 4. APPLICATION**

.01 The tables below list sections of the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations requiring the timely performance of specified acts that may be postpon under sections 7508 and 7508A.

.02 In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, the following tables do not include at specified in sections 7508 or 7508A or the regulations thereunder. Thus, for examp no mention is made in the following tables of the filling of tax returns or the payment of taxes (or an installment thereof) because these acts are already covered by sections 7508 and 7508A and the regulations thereunder. Also, the following tables do not refer to the making of accounting method elections or any other elections required to be made on tax returns or attachments thereto. Reference to these elections is not necessary because postponement of the filling of a tax return automatically postpones the making of any election required to be made on the return an attachment thereto.

.03 The following tables refer only to postponement of acts performed by taxpayers Additional guidance will be published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin if a decision i made that acts performed by the government may be postponed under section 750 or section 7508A.

		file Form 1139 (for corporations) or Form 1045 (for entities other than corporations) within 12 months after the end of such taxable year that generates such net operating loss, net capital loss, or unused business credit from which the carryback results.
4.	Sec. 6656(e) (2)	A taxpayer who is required to deposit taxes and fails to do so is subject to a penalty under section 6656. Under section 6656(e)(2), the taxpayer may, within 90 days of the date of the penalty notice, designate to which deposit period within a specified tax period the deposits should be applied.

# SECTION 15. TAX CREDIT ISSUES

	Statute or Regulation	Act Postponed
1.	Section 42(e)(3) (A)(ii)	A taxpayer has a 24-month measuring period in which the requisite amount of rehabilitation expenditures has to be incurred in order to qualify for treatment as a separate new building.
2.	Treas. Reg. § 1.42-5(c)(1)	The taxpayer must make certain certifications at least annually to the Agency.
3.	Treas. Reg. § 1.42-5(c)(1)(iii)	The taxpayer must receive an annual income certification from each low-income tenant with documentation to support the certification.
4.	Treas. Reg. § 1.42-8(a)(3)(v)	The taxpayer and an Agency may elect to use an appropriate percentage under section 42(b)(2)(A) (ii)(I) by notarizing a binding agreement by the 5th day following the end of the month in which the binding agreement was made.
5.	Treas. Reg. § 1.42-8(b)(1) (vii)	The taxpayer and an Agency may elect an appropriate percentage under section 42(b)(2)(A) (ii)(II) by notarizing a binding agreement by the 5th day following the end of the month in which the tax-exempt bonds are issued.
6.	Sec. 42(d)(2)(D) (ii)(IV)	In order to claim section 42 credits on an existing building, section 42(d)(2)(B)(ii)(I) requires that the building must have been placed in service at least ten years before the date the building was acquired by the taxpayer. A building is not considered placed in service for purposes of section 42(d)(2)(B)(ii) if the building is resold within a 12-month period after acquisition by foreclosure of any purchase-money security interest.
7	Sec. 42(g)(3)(A)	A building shall be treated as a qualified low- income building only if the project meets the minimum set aside requirement by the close of the first year of the credit period of the building.
8	. Sec. 42(h)(6)(J)	A low-income housing agreement commitment must be in effect as of the beginning of the year for a building to receive credit. If such a commitment was not in effect, the taxpayer has a one-year period for correcting the failure.
9	. Sec. 42(h)(1)(E) and (F)	The taxpayer's basis in the building project, as of the later of the date which is 6 months after the date the allocation was made or the close of the calendar year in which the allocation is made, must be more than 10 percent of the taxpayer's reasonably expected basis in the project.
10	. Sec. 47(c)(1)(C) and Treas. Reg. § 1.48-12(b)(2)	

11.	Treas. Reg. § 1.48-12(d)(7)	In the historic rehabilitation context, if the taxpayer fails to receive final certification of completed work prior to the date that is 30 months after the date that the taxpayer filed the return on which the credit is claimed, the taxpayer must, prior to the last day of the 30th month, consent to extending the statute of limitations by submitting a written statement to the Service.
12.	Sec. 51(d)(12) (A)(ii)(II) and 51A(d)(1)	An employer seeking the Work Opportunity Credit or the Welfare-to-Work Credit with respect to an individual must submit Form 8850, Pre-Screening Notice and Certification Request for the Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work Credits, to the State Employment Security Agency not later than the 21st day after the individual begins work for the employer.

# **SECTION 16. TAX-EXEMPT BOND ISSUES**

	Statute or Regulation	Act Postponed
1.	Treas. Reg. § 1.25-4T(c)	On or before the date of distribution of mortgage credit certificates under a program or December 31, 1987, the issuer must file an election not to issue an amount of qualified mortgage bonds. An election may be revoked, in whole or in part, at any time during the calendar year in which the election was made.
2.	Treas. Reg. §§ 1.141-12(d)(3) and 1.142-2(c) (2)	An issuer must provide notice to the Commissioner of the establishment of a defeasance escrow within 90 days of the date such defeasance escrow is established in accordance with Treas. Reg. § 1.141-12(d)(1) or 1.142-2(c)(1).
3.	Sec. 142(d)(7)	An operator of a multi-family housing project for which an election was made under section 142(d) must submit to the Secretary an annual certification as to whether such project continues to meet the requirements of section 142(d).
4.	Sec. 142(f)(4) and Treas. Reg. § 1.142(f)(4)-1	A person engaged in the local furnishing of electric energy or gas (a local furnisher) that uses facilities financed with exempt facility bonds under section 142(a)(8) and expands its service area in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of sections 142(a) (8) and 142(f), may make an election to ensure that those bonds will continue to be treated as exempt facility bonds. The election must be filed with the IRS on or before 90 days after the date of the service area expansion that causes the bonds to cease to meet the applicable requirements.
5.	Sec. 146(f) and Notice 89-12	If an issuing authority's volume cap for any calendar year exceeds the aggregate amount of tax-exempt private activity bonds issued during such calendar year by such authority, such authority may elect to treat all (or any portion) of such excess as a carryforward for 1 or more carryforward purposes. Such election must be filed by the earlier of (1) February 15 of the calendar year following the year in which the excess amount arises, or (2) the date of issue of bonds issued pursuant to the carryforward election.
6	Sec. 148(f)(3) and Treas. Reg. § 1.148-3(g)	An issuer of a tax-exempt municipal obligation must make any required rebate payment no later than 60 days after the computation date to which the payment relates. A rebate payment is paid when it is

		filed with the IRS at the place or places designated by the Commissioner. A payment must be accompanied by the form provided by the Commissioner for this purpose.
7.	Treas. Reg. § 1.148-5(c)	An issuer of a tax-exempt municipal obligation must make a yield reduction payment on or before the date of required rebate installment payments as described in Treas. Reg. § 1.148-3(f), (g), and (h).
8.	Sec. 148(f)(4) (C)(xvi) and Treas. Reg. § 1.148-7(k)(1)	As issuer of a tax-exempt municipal obligation that elects to pay certain penalties in lieu of rebate must make any required penalty payments not later than 90 days after the period to which the penalty relates.
9.	Sec. 149(e)	An issuer of a tax-exempt municipal obligation must submit to the Secretary a statement providing certain information regarding the municipal obligation not later than the 15th day of the 2nd calendar month after the close of the calendar quarter in which the municipal obligation is issued.

#### **SECTION 17. INQUIRIES**

If you wish to recommend that other acts qualify for postponement, please write to the Office of Associate Chief Counsel, Procedure and Administration (Administrativ Provisions and Judicial Practice Division), CC:PA:APJP:B2, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224. Please mark "7508A List" on the envelope. I the alternative, e-mail your comments to:

Notice Comments@irscounsel.treas.gov, and refer to Rev. Proc. 2004-13 in the Subject heading.

#### SECTION 18. EFFECT ON OTHER REVENUE PROCEDURES

Rev. Proc. 2002-71, 2002-2 C.B. 850, is superseded.

# **SECTION 19. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This revenue procedure is effective for acts that may be performed on or after January 26, 2004.

## **SECTION 20. DRAFTING INFORMATION**

The principal author of this revenue procedure is Marcy W. Mendelsohn of the Offic of Associate Chief Counsel, Procedure and Administration (Administrative Provision and Judicial Practice Division). For further information regarding this revenue procedure, contact Ms. Mendelsohn at (202) 622-4940 (not a toll-free call).

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