

**DETERMINATION OF INCOME FROM MULTISTATE OPERATIONS**

**Tax 2.41 Separate accounting method.** (Section 71.07 (2), Wis. Stats.) (1) When the separate accounting method is used, separate records must be kept of sales, cost of sales and expenses for the Wisconsin business as distinct from the remainder of the business. Overhead items of income and expense must then be allocated to the business within and without Wisconsin upon a basis or combination of bases justified by the facts and conditions. For example: The ratio of Wisconsin sales to total sales usually represents a satisfactory basis for a merchandising business, while the ratio of direct cost of material and labor in Wisconsin to the total gives a more accurate result for a construction business. Federal income taxes are based upon income and should, therefore, be allocated to Wisconsin business on the basis of income. Federal income taxes are deductible only on the cash basis, and the allocation to Wisconsin business for any year, therefore, must be based upon the ratio of income within Wisconsin to the total income of the year on which the federal income taxes are assessed, even though that ratio differs from the ratio of the year in which the taxes are actually paid.

(a) The relationship of the general overhead items to Wisconsin operations will determine whether the home office income and expense should be allocated to the Wisconsin business. Such overhead items as officers' salaries, office salaries, office rent and sundry office expenses should ordinarily be included in the allocation.

(2) Rentals received from real estate held purely for investment purposes and not used in the operation of the business are not subject to allocation. All expenses connected with the interest, dividends and rentals realized from investments such as the above are not subject to allocation but must be applied against the investment income. The taxability of the net investment income depends upon the situs of the investment property or the residence of the recipient.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1958, No. 26, eff. 3-1-58.

**Tax 2.42 Apportionment method.** (Section 71.07 (2), Wis. Stats.) Any person engaged in business within and without the state must report by the statutory apportionment method when the business of such person within the state is an integral part of a unitary business, unless the department of taxation expressly permits reporting on a different basis. The factors used in the apportionment method are as follows:

(1) Tangible property includes land, buildings, machinery and equipment, inventories and other tangible personal property actually owned and used in producing apportionable income. Tangible property which is used in producing nonapportionable or nontaxable income cannot be included in the property factor. The value at which tangible property should be included in the apportionment factor is the average of the beginning and close of year values on a comparable basis within and without the state. If the average at the beginning and end of the year does not fairly represent the average of the property owned during the year, the average may be obtained by dividing the sum of the monthly balances by 12.

(2) The cost of manufacturing, collecting, assembling or processing within Wisconsin must be determined in all cases in the same manner and under the same rules as the cost for the entire business within and without Wisconsin is determined. When a product is partially completed outside of the state and then shipped into the state for further processing or completion, only the labor and manufacturing expense incurred from the time that the product is brought into the state becomes a part of the cost within Wisconsin, and the total material used in manufacturing both within and without the state shall be allocated on some equitable basis such as the ratio of direct labor and manufacturing expense within Wisconsin to the total thereof.

(3) Sales are made in Wisconsin if made through or by offices, agencies or branches located within the state, regardless of the location of the purchaser. Sales made by a foreign corporation to customers in Wisconsin through the medium of solicitors or traveling salesmen are not Wisconsin sales unless such salesmen are identified with offices, agencies or branches located within Wisconsin. Sales made by a sales office in Wisconsin to customers located outside of Wisconsin are Wisconsin sales for purposes of apportionment. Goods sold through a sales office in Wisconsin may be shipped direct from a factory located outside the state to a customer located outside the state and still be Wisconsin sales. Goods sold through a sales office located outside of the state without the intervention of any Wisconsin office, branch or agency but shipped from a factory located in Wisconsin to a Wisconsin customer are not Wisconsin sales.

**Tax 2.43 Nonapportionable income.** (Section 71.07 (2), Wis. Stats.)

(1) The expenses related to nonapportionable income must be deducted therefrom to determine the net nonapportionable income. In the case of dividends and interest received which follows the residence of the recipient, only the excess of the amounts received over the sum of interest paid and dividends deducted plus other related expenses can be considered as nonapportionable income. If the interest paid, deductible dividends received and related expenses exceed the total interest and dividends received, no deduction from total net income can be made for nonapportionable interest and dividends. All of the nonapportionable income must be deducted from the total net income of the business to determine the apportionable income to which the apportionment percentage is applied. Any nonapportionable income attributable to Wisconsin must be added to the apportionable income allocated to Wisconsin to determine the total Wisconsin net income.

(a) Gains and losses on sale or discard of working assets such as machinery and automobiles are ordinarily considered to be adjustments of depreciation and are treated as apportionable.

**Tax 2.44 Permission to change basis of allocation of income.** (Section 71.07 (2), Wis. Stats.) (1) Except when income must be reported on the apportionment basis, permission to make a change either from separate accounting to apportionment, or vice versa, must be obtained in writing from the tax commissioner or the assessor of incomes upon written application setting forth in detail the reasons why the desired change will more clearly reflect the taxpayer's Wisconsin income.

(a) Such application must be filed before the end of the income year for which the change is desired.

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