Maine Revenue Services (‘‘MRS’’) Rulemaking Activity

Proposed Repeal and Replace Rule 202. Maine Revenue Services (MRS) is proposing to repeal and replace Rule 202, ‘‘Tree Growth Tax Law Valuations - 2017’’. This is routine annual rule-making. 36 M.R.S. § 576 requires the State Tax Assessor to annually determine 100% valuations per acre for each forest type by economic region for parcels under the Tree Growth Tax Law. The updated rule will be applicable to the 2017 property tax year. The proposed rule is posted to the Maine Revenue Services website at: www.maine.gov/revenue/rules. Comments on the proposal are due May 5, 2017. Send comments to David Ledew, Maine Revenue Services, 24 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-624-5600, david.p.ledew@maine.gov.

Protect Your Data from W-2 Phishing Scams

Maine Revenue Services (MRS) cautions employers to be watchful and protect their employees’ data from an ongoing and effective W-2 phishing scam. Scammers target human resource and payroll professionals to obtain personal information of employees, including social security numbers and wage information. In emails, a scammer pretends to be a corporate executive, a superintendent of a school system, or other trusted professional within your organization urgently requesting that your payroll or human resources professional immediately send them an electronic file of employee W-2 information. Because many have been taken in by their deception, businesses and organizations of all types need to be diligent and extremely cautious when releasing personal information. Phishing scams like these are becoming commonplace and have serious consequences.

Before releasing confidential information, MRS suggests that you Stop. Connect. Confirm.

1. **Stop** – Stop to confirm if the request is legitimate before responding.
2. **Connect** – Connect with the person who you believe sent you the request by phone or by walking over to see them. Do not respond to the email to get confirmation of the sender’s identity. The sender could be a criminal who has disguised their identity with a fake email address.
3. **Confirm** – Confirm the request is legitimate.
Click the following link Protect Your Data from the W-2 Phishing Scam to print a poster that may be displayed in your office to remind employees when they receive emails to Stop. Connect. Confirm.

If a breach of personal information does occur, please notify MRS at (207) 626-8475 or by email at FraudAlert.MRS@maine.gov as soon as possible. Timely notification assists MRS in preventing tax fraud.
This publication is designed to keep taxpayers, tax practitioners and the general public informed of developments, problems, questions and matters of general interest concerning Maine tax law, policy and procedure. The articles in this newsletter are not designed to address complex issues in detail, and they are not a substitute for Maine tax laws and/or regulations.

Suggestions for the Tax Alert?

Please contact:
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