

**This rule was adopted on an emergency basis effective June 2, 2010. It may be used to determine tax liability until September 30, 2010, unless the Department adopts a permanent rule prior to this date.**

## NEW SECTION

### **WAC 458-20-19402 Single factor receipts apportionment – Generally. (1)**

#### **Introduction.**

(a) Section 105, chapter 23, Laws of 2010 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess. establishes a new apportionment method for businesses engaged in apportionable activities and that have nexus with Washington. The new apportionment method explained in this rule only applies to business and occupation (B&O) tax liability incurred after May 31, 2010. This rule does not apply to the apportionment of income of financial institutions taxable under RCW 82.04.290, which is governed by WAC 458-20-19404, nor the receipt of royalty income from granting the right to use intangible property under WAC 458-20-19403.

(b) Taxpayers may also find helpful information in the following sections:

(i) WAC 458-20-19401 Minimum nexus thresholds for apportionable activities. This rule describes minimum nexus thresholds that are effective June 1, 2010.

(ii) WAC 458-20-19403 Single factor receipts apportionment – Royalties. This rule describes the application of single factor receipts apportionment to gross income from royalties and applies only to tax liability incurred after May 31, 2010.

(iii) WAC 458-20-19404 Single factor receipts apportionment – Financial institutions. This rule describes the application of single factor receipts apportionment to certain income of financial institutions and applies only to tax liability incurred after May 31, 2010.

(iv) WAC 458-20-194 Doing business inside and outside the state. This rule describes separate accounting and cost apportionment and applies only to tax liability incurred from January 1, 2006 through May 31, 2010.

(v) WAC 458-20-14601 Financial institutions – Income apportionment. This rule describes the apportionment of income for financial institutions for tax liability incurred prior to June 1, 2010.

(c) Examples included in this rule identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion; they should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of all situations must be determined after a review of all the facts and circumstances

(2) **Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this rule:

(a) “Apportionable income” means gross income of the business generated from engaging in apportionable activities, including income received from apportionable activities performed outside this state if the income would be taxable under this chapter if received from activities in this state, less the exemptions and deductions allowable under chapter 82.04 RCW.

(i) Example 1. Corporation A received \$2,000,000 in gross income from its world-wide apportionable activities, including \$500,000 in world-wide bona fide initiation fees deductible under RCW 82.04.4282. Corporation A's apportionable income would be \$1,500,000.

(b) "Apportionable activities" means only those activities subject to B&O tax under the following classifications:

- (i) Service and other activities,
- (ii) Royalties (see WAC 458-20-19403 for apportionment of royalties),
- (iii) Travel agents and tour operators,
- (iv) International steamship agent, international customs house broker, international freight forwarder, vessel and/or cargo charter broker in foreign commerce, and/or international air cargo agent,
- (v) Stevedoring and associated activities,
- (vi) Disposing of low-level waste,
- (vii) Title insurance producers, title insurance agents, or surplus line brokers,
- (viii) Public or nonprofit hospitals,
- (ix) Real estate brokers,
- (x) Research and development performed by nonprofit corporations or associations,
- (xi) Inspecting, testing, labeling, and storing canned salmon owned by another person,
- (xii) Representing and performing services for fire or casualty insurance companies as an independent resident managing general agent licensed under the provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW,
- (xiii) Contests of chance,
- (xiv) Horse races,
- (xv) International investment management services,
- (xvi) Room and domiciliary care to residents of a boarding home;
- (xvii) Aerospace product development,
- (xviii) Printing or publishing a newspaper (but only with respect to advertising income),
- (xix) Printing materials other than newspapers and publishing periodicals or magazines (but only with respect to advertising income), and

(xx) Cleaning up radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development, but only with respect to activities that would be taxable as an "apportionable activity" under any of the tax classifications listed in (a)(i) through (xviii) of this subsection (2) if this special tax classification did not exist.

(c) "Business activities tax" means a tax measured by the amount of, or economic results of, business activity conducted in a state. The term includes taxes measured in whole or in part on net income or gross income or receipts. The term includes personal income taxes if the gross income from apportionable activities is included in the gross income subject to the personal income tax. The term "business activities tax" does not include a sales tax, use tax, or similar transaction tax, imposed on the sale or acquisition of goods or services, whether or not denominated a gross receipts tax or a tax imposed on the privilege of doing business.

(d) "Customer" means a person or entity to whom the taxpayer makes a sale or renders services or from whom the taxpayer otherwise receives gross income of the business.

(e) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, or any foreign country or political subdivision of a foreign country.

(f) "Taxable in another state" means either:

(i) The taxpayer is actually subject to a business activities tax by another state on its income received from engaging in apportionable activity; or

(ii) The taxpayer is not subject to a business activities tax by another state on its income received from engaging in apportionable activity, but the other state has jurisdiction to subject the taxpayer to a business activities tax on such income under the substantial nexus thresholds described in WAC 458-20-19401.

(3) **Apportionment general:** Persons earning apportionable income subject to B&O tax and that are also taxable in another state are entitled to determine their taxable income for B&O tax purposes by using the apportionment method provided in this rule. Taxable income is determined by multiplying apportionable income from each apportionable activity by its receipts factor.

(4) **Receipts Factor.** The receipts factor is a fraction that applies to all apportionable income for each calendar year. Separate receipts factors must be calculated for each apportionable activity taxed under a separate business and occupation tax classification.

(a) The numerator of the receipts factor is the total gross income of the business of the taxpayer attributable to this state during the calendar year from engaging in an apportionable activity.

(b) The denominator of the receipts factor is the total gross income of the business of the taxpayer from engaging in an apportionable activity everywhere in the world during the tax year, less amounts that are attributed to states where the taxpayer is not taxable and at least some of the activity is performed in Washington.

(c) Example 2. XYZ Corp. is a Washington business, has no property or payroll outside of Washington, and performs all of its services inside this state. XYZ Corp. has gross income from apportionable activities that is attributed using the criteria listed in subsection (5) below as follows: Washington \$500,000; Idaho \$200,000; Oregon \$100,000; and California \$300,000. XYZ Corp. is subject to Oregon corporate income tax, but does not owe any California or Idaho business activities taxes. The \$200,000 that would be attributed to Idaho is excluded from the denominator because XYZ Corp. performs the services in Washington, and it is not subject to actual Idaho business activities taxes and does not have substantial nexus with Idaho under Washington thresholds. Although California does not impose a business activities tax on XYZ Corp., XYZ Corp. does have substantial nexus with California using Washington thresholds (more than \$250,000 in receipts). Therefore, the California attributed income is not excluded from the denominator. The Oregon receipts remain in the denominator because XYZ Corp. is subject to Oregon corporate income taxes. The receipts factor is  $500,000/900,000$  or 55.56%.

(d) Example 3. The same facts as Example 2 except all of XYZ's property and payroll are located in Oregon, and XYZ Corp. performs no activities in Washington related to the \$200,000 attributed to Idaho. In this situation, the \$200,000 is not excluded from the denominator. The receipts factor is  $500,000/1,100,000$  or 45.45%.

(5) **Attribution of income.** Income is attributed to states based on a cascading method. That is, each receipt is attributed to a state based on a series of rules. These rules are:

(a)(i) Where the customer received the benefit of the taxpayer's service. The location of the benefit of the service or services is determined on an activity by activity basis. A taxpayer receives the benefit of a service in this state when:

(A) The service relates to real property that is located in this state;

(B) An apportionable service relates to tangible personal property that is located in this state at the time the service is received; or

(C) The service does not relate to real or tangible personal property, and:

(I) The service is provided to a person not engaged in business who is physically present in this state at the time the service is received; or

(II) The service is provided to a person engaged in business in this state, and the service relates to the person's business activities in this state.

(ii) Examples.

(A) Example 4. Director serves on the board of directors of DEF, Inc. DEF, Inc. is commercially domiciled in State Z. DEF, Inc. is Director's customer. DEF is engaged in business in State Z, and the director's services relate to the management of DEF, Inc. Therefore, DEF, Inc. receives the benefit of Director's services in State Z.

(B) Example 5. ABC is headquartered outside of Washington and provides retail services to customers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. When those customers fail to pay ABC for its services, ABC contracts with Debt Collector located outside of Washington to collect the debt. ABC pays Debt Collector a percentage of the amount collected. ABC is engaged in business in Washington and the activities of Debt Collector relate to that business, therefore the benefit of the service is received by ABC in Washington when Debt Collector obtains payment from debtors located in Washington.

(b) If the customer received the benefit of the service in more than one state, gross income of the business must be attributed to the state in which the benefit of the service was primarily received.

(i) Example 6. The same facts as Example 5, except Debt Collector is paid a fixed amount per month regardless of the total amount collected from debtors, and the debtors are located in Idaho and Washington. The vast majority of debtors referred to Debt Collector are located in Idaho. Debt Collector would attribute its receipts from ABC to Idaho even though a portion of the benefit of Debt Collector's services is received by ABC in Washington.

(ii) Example 7. The same facts as Example 6, except the debtors are in every state and no state has a majority of the debtors. Because the benefit of Debt Collector's services are not primarily received by ABC in any single state, the receipts cannot be attributed using (a) or (b) of

this subsection (5), and Debtor Collector will have to use the remaining rules in (c) through (g) of this subsection (5) to attribute the income from ABC.

(c) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under (a) or (b) of this subsection (5), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state from which the customer ordered the service.

(d) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection (5), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state to which the billing statements or invoices are sent to the customer by the taxpayer.

(e) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this subsection (5), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state from which the customer sends payment to the taxpayer.

(f) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this subsection (5), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state where the customer is located as indicated by the customer's address: (i) Shown in the taxpayer's business records maintained in the regular course of business; or (ii) obtained during consummation of the sale or the negotiation of the contract for services, including any address of a customer's payment instrument when readily available to the taxpayer and no other address is available.

(g) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of this subsection (5), gross income of the business must be attributed to the commercial domicile of the taxpayer.

**(6) Reporting methods.**

(a) Taxpayers entitled to use the apportionment method described in this rule may report their apportionable income based on the receipts factor for the most recent calendar year for which the taxpayer has information. If a taxpayer does not calculate the receipts factor for the current tax year based on the most recent tax year for which information is available, the taxpayer must use current year information.

(b) Regardless of how a taxpayer reports its apportionable income under (a) of this subsection 6, when the taxpayer has the information from which to determine the receipts for a calendar year, it must file reconciliation and either obtain a refund or pay the additional tax. In either event (refund or additional taxes due), interest will apply retroactively to the due date of each tax return. If the reconciliation is completed prior to October 31st of the following year, no penalties will apply.

(c) Example 8: Assume that LMN is headquartered in Washington, reports B&O taxes on a quarterly basis, and its apportionable income is a constant \$300,000 per quarter. LMN's receipts factor after performing the reconciliation is as follows:

Year	Receipt factor	When Determined
Year 1	0.28	March of Year 2
Year 2	0.25	September of Year 3
Year 3	0.35	June of Year 4

Year 4	0.30	June of Year 5
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The following table demonstrates how LMN should report its apportionable income for Years 3 and 4.

Tax return	Gross income	Receipt factor used	Taxable reported	Reconciliation amount
Year 3 Quarter 1	300,000	0.28 <sup>1</sup>	84,000	
Year 3 Quarter 2	300,000	0.28	84,000	
Year 3 Quarter 3	300,000	0.25 <sup>2</sup>	75,000	
Year 3 Quarter 4	300,000	0.25	75,000	
Year 4 Quarter 1	300,000	0.25	75,000	
Year 4 Quarter 2	300,000	0.35 <sup>3</sup>	105,000	
Year 3 reconciliation	1,200,000	0.35	420,000	102,000 <sup>4</sup>
Year 4 Quarter 3	300,000	0.35	105,000	
Year 4 Quarter 4	300,000	0.35	105,000	
Year 4 reconciliation	1,200,000	0.30	360,000	(30,000) <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> LMN will be using its year 1 receipts factor for the first 2 quarters of year 3 because it is the most recent year for which it has accurate numbers.

<sup>2</sup> LMN will change its receipts factor for the third quarter to year 2's actual receipts factor because it now has that information.

<sup>3</sup> LMN will change its receipts factor for the third quarter to year 3's actual receipts factor because it now has that information.

<sup>4</sup> LMN will file its reconciliation for Year 3. The taxable amount is \$420,000 less the previously reported taxable amount of \$318,000. This means LMN will owe taxes on \$102,000 plus interest on the underpaid taxes. However, no penalties will be imposed if the reconciliation is filed with the department no later than October 31st of Year 4.

<sup>5</sup> LMN will file its reconciliation for Year 3. The taxable amount is \$360,000 less the previously reported taxable amount of \$390,000. This means LMN overpaid taxes by \$30,000. LMN will receive interest on the overpaid taxes.