

Hire Purchase – GST Claiming has changed 1st July 12

1. Previously, with a HP the amount of interest in each payment needed to be taken into account in working out the GST component of a payment or a contract. i.e.: there was no GST on the interest portion.

From 1 July the whole HP contract amount & all payments are treated as 'taxable supply' & therefore all has GST on it. No more dissection for HPs. i.e. the interest will now have GST on it.

2. Also a taxpayer who reported on a cash basis for GST, could not claim back the GST on the whole contract upfront, they had to claim back the GST on the capital portion of each payment.

From 1 July cash based reporters can now claim back all the GST on the contract upfront, the same as an accrual based reporter. Only on NEW HP contracts taken out after 1/7/12

3. Together this means GST applies to the entire contract amount of a HP & all the GST can be claimed back from the outset. i.e.: no GST on each payment.

PAYG INSTALMENT INCREASES

The system uses GDP to increase the instalments from year to year. What this means is they expect that each business tax bill will go up by 6%.

The ATO will put the instalment up automatically. Business should review their actual likely tax bill for the next tax year i.e. for the year 30 June 13. In conjunction with the tax agent check out just how much tax should be paid by instalment during the year, in advance.

The Instalment method is NOT the tax rate method i.e. using T1 & T2 on the BAS. Using the instalment method you are allowed to vary the rate based on change in circumstances etc. You are permitted to vary the instalment along as you can justify it. If you vary either T2 or the instalment down and are wrong, in theory, you will be charged interest on the difference.

ATO KEY LODGEMENT DATES:

If you use your bookkeepers - BAS Agents Portal to lodge your Activity Statements then you can be eligible for an extension.

BAS lodgement-JUNE Quarter (including PAYG I)
28th JULY by form

BAS lodgement-JUNE Quarter

For Monthly Lodgers
21st JULY, 2012

Payment Summaries to employees
14 July 2012

Superannuation Guarantee Contribution PAYMENTS :
28th JULY, 2012
(If required contributions are not made by the due date for quarter 3 the SGC is not tax deductible)

Where a due date falls on a day that is not a business day (that is, the due date is a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday), lodgment or payment may be made on the first business day after the due date without incurring a penalty or general interest charge (GIC).
A business day means a day other than a Saturday or a Sunday, or a day which is a public holiday.
(Source—ATO)

FROM THE ATO - What's new in 2012

Flood levy: The Government introduced a flood levy for the 2011-12 year only, to assist flood affected communities to rebuild essential infrastructure. The flood levy applies if your taxable income is greater than \$50,000 and you do not fit into one of the exemption categories. If you are liable to pay the flood levy, the ATO will work out the amount of levy and show it on your notice of assessment.

Online progress of return tool: Keeping track of your 2012 tax return has been made easier this year with the development of the ATO [online progress of return tool](#). This free service provides information about the progress of individual tax returns & is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All you need is your tax file number.

SuperSeeker: The ATO has made improvements to the free online tool, SuperSeeker, to make it easier to keep track of your superannuation. You can now log in to a secure system & see details of: - your active accounts that have received contributions in the last two financial years - any lost super - any super that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) holds on your behalf.

You can also request a transfer of funds between accounts with one simple online form.

The online tool also incorporates new identity verification requirements that ensure a secure system & protection of your privacy. In addition to your TFN, to verify your identity & create a secure login, you will need information from two of the following documents:

1. a notice of assessment from the ATO or super account member statement (from any of the last five years)
2. bank account statement, a PAYG payment summary, a dividends statement or a Centrelink payment summary (from either of the last two financial years). For more information or to use the tool, visit [SuperSeeker](#).

Education Tax Refund (ETR): In the 2012 Budget the Government announced that the ETR would be replaced by a new payment called the Schoolkids Bonus, to be paid by the Department of Human Services. As part of the transition to the new Schoolkids Bonus, the ETR for 2011-12 will be paid in full to all eligible families as a one-off payment from 20 June 2012. This means you will no longer need to claim the Education Tax Refund in your tax return during tax time. If you do not receive the one-off payment in June, contact the Department of Human Services to find out if you are entitled to receive it. For more information visit [department of human services](#) and search for Schoolkids Bonus.

Dependent Spouse Tax Offset There have been changes to the eligibility criteria for claiming the dependent spouse tax offset. If your spouse was born on or after 1 July 1971, you can no longer claim a dependent spouse offset. However, taxpayers who maintain an invalid or permanently disabled spouse, support a carer or who are eligible for the zone, overseas forces or the overseas civilian tax offsets are exempt from the new age limit and will still be able to claim the value of the dependent spouse tax offset via an expanded invalid spouse, zone, overseas forces or overseas civilian offset.

Individual Tax Return Instructions

This year the ATO have replaced the TaxPack suite of publications with the new Individual tax return instructions and the Individual tax return instructions supplement.

These shorter, streamlined guides are designed to help taxpayers complete a paper tax return. The more technical and less commonly used information is on the ATO website.

Disclaimer: All or any advice contained in this newsletter is of a general nature only, & may not apply to your individual business circumstances. For specific advice relating to your specific situation, please contact your accountant or contact me for further discussion

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