

Individual tax alert

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22 April 2014

Personal tax return changes

1. Tax return for income year 2013

On 28 March 2014, the personal income tax return form for tax year 2014 (income year 2013) has been published in the Belgian Official Journal. Compared to last year, 55 tax codes have disappeared and 15 new tax codes were introduced. Outlined below is a summary of the key changes.

- Disappearing tax codes for income year 2013

Last year, significant changes were made to Belgian tax law intending to enhance capital income transparency, resulting in additional taxes (a surcharge of 4% on certain capital income in excess of EUR 20.020) and tax codes. As of 1 January 2013, the majority of tax rates applicable to capital income have been increased to a uniform rate of 25%, making the 4% surcharge and additional tax codes abolish.

More tax codes have been deleted due to decreasing tax reductions for energy saving investments (only the reduction for investments in roof isolations remains) and some uncommonly used expenses, i.e. for construction work of dwellings in a zone for positive urban management, bonds issued by the Caisse d'investissement de Wallonie, electric cars and accompanying recharge points.

- New tax codes for income year 2013

As of 1 July 2013, some changes were made to Belgian tax law resulting in additional tax codes. A new tax code has been introduced due to the changes in the tax reduction for service cheques. The new tax model contains 2 codes to make a distinction between the expenses made for service cheques before 1 July 2013, and expenses made after this date. Furthermore, since 1 July 2013, the applicable tax rate for additional pensions have been updated, i.e. 20% (at the age of 60), 18% (at the age of 61), 16.5% (as of the age of 62). Therefore, 2 additional tax codes have been added.

Furthermore, a special regime has been set up last year for professional income from seasonal work in the hotel and catering industry, taxable at a flat rate of 33%. To report this kind of income a new tax code has been added.

In addition to the current reporting obligation for foreign bank accounts and life insurances, a taxpayer (including his spouse or dependent children) will as from this year also have to give notice of any legal constructions of which he is the founder or (potential) beneficiary. An exhaustive list of envisaged constructions can be found via the following links: [Dutch](#) | [French](#).

- **Filing due date for 2013 personal tax returns**

The following filing deadlines have been agreed upon regarding the 2013 Personal income tax return:

Paper tax return	Tax-on-web (by taxpayer)	Tax-on-web (by accountants as Proxy holders)
26 June 2014	16 July 2014	31 October 2014

Although a decision of the Court of Appeal of Ghent in February 2013 decided that a difference in deadline for filing a tax return on paper and the e-filing of a tax return by an accountant is considered discriminatory, the minister of finance maintained the different deadlines.

2. What to be expected for income year 2014?

With the execution of the 6th State reform, a significant amount of currently federal individual income tax measures become regional (e.g. tax deductible expenses such as the 'woonbonus' / 'bonus logement', tax reductions such as energy saving expenses, rebates in case advance payments are made, etc.).

Although the exact impact brought by the above will depend upon the legislative initiatives to be taken by each of the Regions concerned, it is expected that the complexity of filing a personal income tax return as of income year 2014 will increase substantially.

3. Other reporting requirements

Finally, all tax payers who have foreign bank accounts and consequently reported this in their income tax returns relating to the income years 2011, 2012 and 2013, will receive a letter from the Belgian tax authorities after November 1st, 2014. In this letter, they will be asked to provide details of the foreign bank account to the central contact point of the Belgian National Bank.

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