

# Instructions for Schedule B (Form 941)

(Rev. January 2014)



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

## Report of Tax Liability for Semiweekly Schedule Depositors

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

### Future Developments

For the latest information about developments related to Schedule B and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to [www.irs.gov/form941](http://www.irs.gov/form941).

### Reminders

**Reporting prior period adjustments.** Prior period adjustments are reported on Form 941-X, Adjusted Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return or Claim for Refund, or Form 944-X, Adjusted Employer's ANNUAL Federal Tax Return or Claim for Refund, and are not taken into account when figuring the tax liability for the current quarter.

When you file Schedule B with your Form 941 (or Form 941-SS), do not change your tax liability by adjustments reported on any Form 941-X or 944-X.

**Amended Schedule B.** If you have been assessed a failure-to-deposit (FTD) penalty, you may be able to file an amended Schedule B. See *Correcting Previously Reported Tax Liability*, later.

### General Instructions

#### Purpose of Schedule B

These instructions tell you about Schedule B, Report of Tax Liability for Semiweekly Schedule Depositors. To determine if you are a semiweekly depositor, visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and type "semiweekly depositor" in the search box. Also see Pub. 15 (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, or Pub. 80 (Circular SS), Federal Tax Guide for Employers in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Federal law requires you, as an employer, to withhold certain taxes from your employees' paychecks. Each time you pay wages, you must withhold – or take out of your employees' paychecks – certain amounts for federal income, social security, and Medicare taxes (payroll taxes). Under the withholding system, taxes withheld from your employees are credited to your employees in payment of their tax liabilities.

Federal law also requires employers to pay any liability for the employer's portion of social security and Medicare taxes. This portion of social security and Medicare taxes is not withheld from employees.

On Schedule B, list your **tax liability** for each day. Your liability includes:

- The federal income tax you withheld from your employees' paychecks, and
- Both employee and employer social security and Medicare taxes.

**Do not** use the Schedule B to show federal tax deposits. The IRS gets deposit data from electronic funds transfers.



*The IRS uses Schedule B to determine if you have deposited your federal employment tax liabilities on time. If you do not properly complete and file your Schedule B with Form 941 or Form 941-SS, the IRS may propose an "averaged" failure-to-deposit penalty. See Deposit Penalties in section 11 of Pub. 15 (Circular E) for more information.*

### Who Must File?

File Schedule B if you are a semiweekly schedule depositor. You are a semiweekly depositor if you reported more than \$50,000 of employment taxes in the lookback period or accumulated a tax liability of \$100,000 or more on any given day in the current or prior calendar year. See section 11 of Pub. 15 (Circular E) for more information.



*Do not complete Schedule B if you have a tax liability that is less than \$2,500 during the quarter.*

### When Must You File?

Schedule B is filed with Form 941, Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return, or Form 941-SS, Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Therefore, the due date of Schedule B is the same as the due date for the applicable Form 941 or Form 941-SS.

Do not file Schedule B as an attachment to Form 944, Employer's ANNUAL Federal Tax Return. Instead, if required to file a report of tax liability with Form 944, use Form 945-A, Annual Record of Federal Tax Liability.

### Specific Instructions

#### Completing Schedule B

##### Enter Your Business Information

Carefully enter your employer identification number (EIN) and name at the top of the schedule. Make sure that they exactly match the name of your business and the EIN that the IRS assigned to your business and also agree with the name and EIN shown on the attached Form 941 or Form 941-SS.

##### Calendar Year

Enter the calendar year that applies to the quarter checked.

##### Check the Box for the Quarter

Under *Report for this Quarter* at the top of Schedule B, check the appropriate box of the quarter for which you are filing this schedule. Make sure the quarter checked on the top of the Schedule B matches the quarter checked on your Form 941 or Form 941-SS.

## Enter Your Tax Liability by Month

Schedule B is divided into the 3 months that make up a quarter of a year. Each month has 31 numbered spaces that correspond to the dates of a typical month. Enter your tax liabilities in the spaces that correspond to the dates you **paid** wages to your employees, not the date payroll deposits were made.

For example, if your payroll period ended on December 31, 2013, and you **paid** the wages for that period on January 6, 2014, you would:

- Go to Month 1 (because January is the first month of the quarter), and
- Enter your tax liability on line 6 (because line 6 represents the sixth day of the month).



*Make sure you have checked the appropriate box in Part 2 of Form 941 or Form 941-SS to show that you are a semiweekly schedule depositor.*

## Total Liability for the Quarter

To find your total liability for the quarter, add your monthly tax liabilities.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| Tax Liability for Month 1       |
| +Tax Liability for Month 2      |
| +Tax Liability for Month 3      |
| Total Liability for the Quarter |

Your total liability for the quarter must equal line 10 on Form 941 or Form 941-SS.

**Example 1.** Employer A is a **semiweekly** schedule depositor who pays wages for each month on the last day of the month. On December 24, 2013, Employer A also paid its employees year-end bonuses (subject to employment taxes). Employer A must report employment tax liabilities on Schedule B for the 4th quarter (October, November, December), as follows.

| Month        | Lines for dates wages were paid          |
|--------------|--|
| 1 (October)  | line 31 (pay day, last day of the month) |
| 2 (November) | line 30 (pay day, last day of the month) |
| 3 (December) | line 24 (bonus paid December 24, 2013)   |
| 3 (December) | line 31 (pay day, last day of the month) |

**Example 2.** Employer B is a **semiweekly** schedule depositor who pays employees every other Friday. Employer B accumulated a \$20,000 employment tax liability on each of these pay dates: 01/04/13, 01/18/13, 02/01/13, 02/15/13, 03/01/13, 03/15/13, and 03/29/13. Employer B must report employment tax liabilities on Schedule B as follows.

| Month        | Lines for dates wages were paid |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 (January)  | lines 4 and 18                  |
| 2 (February) | lines 1 and 15                  |
| 3 (March)    | lines 1, 15, and 29             |

**Example 3.** Employer C is a new business and **monthly** schedule depositor for 2013. Employer C paid wages every Friday and accumulated a \$2,000 employment tax liability on 01/11/13. On 01/18/13, and on every subsequent Friday during 2013, Employer C accumulated a \$110,000 employment tax liability. Under the deposit rules, employers **become semiweekly schedule depositors** on the day after any day they accumulate \$100,000 or more of employment tax liability in a deposit period. Employer C became a semiweekly schedule depositor on 1/19/13, because Employer C had a total

accumulated employment tax liability of \$112,000 on 1/18/13. For more information, see section 11 of Pub. 15 (Circular E) or section 8 of Pub. 80 (Circular SS).

Employer C must complete Schedule B as shown below and file it with Form 941 or 941-SS.

| Month        | Lines for dates wages were paid | Amount to report |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 (January)  | line 11                         | \$2,000          |
| 1 (January)  | lines 18, 25                    | \$110,000        |
| 2 (February) | lines 1, 8, 15, and 22          | \$110,000        |
| 3 (March)    | lines 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29      | \$110,000        |

## Correcting Previously Reported Tax Liability

**Semiweekly schedule depositors.** If you have been assessed a failure-to-deposit (FTD) penalty for a quarter and you made an error on Schedule B and the correction will not change the total liability for the quarter you reported on Schedule B, you may be able to reduce your penalty by filing a corrected Schedule B.

**Example.** You reported a liability of \$3,000 on day 1 of month 1. However, the liability was actually for month 3. Prepare an amended Schedule B showing the \$3,000 liability on day 1 of month 3. Also, you must enter the liabilities previously reported for the quarter that did not change. Write "Amended" at the top of Schedule B. The IRS will refigure the penalty and notify you of any change in the penalty.

**Monthly schedule depositors.** You can file a Schedule B if you have been assessed an FTD penalty for a quarter and you made an error on the monthly tax liability section of Form 941. When completing Schedule B, only enter the monthly totals. The daily entries are not required.

**Where to file.** File your amended Schedule B at the address provided in the penalty notice you received. You do not have to submit your original Schedule B.

## Form 941-X

**Tax decrease.** If you are filing Form 941-X for a quarter, you can file an amended Schedule B with Form 941-X if both of the following apply.

1. You have a tax decrease.
2. You were assessed an FTD penalty.

File your amended Schedule B with Form 941-X. The total liability for the quarter reported on your corrected Schedule B must equal the corrected amount of tax reported on Form 941-X. If your penalty is decreased, the IRS will include the penalty decrease with your tax decrease.

**Tax increase — Form 941-X filed timely.** If you are filing a timely Form 941-X, do not file an amended Schedule B, unless you were assessed an FTD penalty caused by an incorrect, incomplete, or missing Schedule B. If you are filing an amended Schedule B, do not include the tax increase reported on Form 941-X.

**Tax increase — Form 941-X filed late.** If you owe tax and are filing a late Form 941-X, that is, after the due date of the return for the return period in which you discovered the error, you must file an amended Schedule B with Form 941-X. Otherwise, the IRS may assess an "averaged" FTD penalty.

The total tax reported on the "Total liability for the quarter" line of the amended Schedule B must match the corrected tax (Form 941, line 10, combined with any correction reported on Form 941-X, line 18, minus any advance EIC reported on Form 941-X, line 19) for the quarter, less any previous abatements and interest-free tax assessments.

**Note.** Form 941-X will be revised in April 2014. If you are using the April 2014 revision, the total tax reported on the "Total liability for the quarter" line of the amended Schedule B must match the corrected tax (Form 941, line 10, combined with any correction reported on Form 941-X, line 18) for the quarter, less any previous abatements and interest-free tax assessments.

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.** We ask for the information on Schedule B to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any

Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Code section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file Schedule B will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is 2 hours, 53 minutes.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of this time estimate or suggestions for making Schedule B simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can send us comments from [www.irs.gov/formspubs](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs). Click on *More Information* then click on *Comment on Tax Forms and Publications*. Or you can send your comments to Internal Revenue Service, Tax Forms and Publications Division, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, DC 20224. **Do not** send Schedule B to this address. Instead, see *Where Should You File?* in the Form 941 or Form 941-SS instructions.

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