

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

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January 12, 2001

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[REDACTED]:

We are responding to your correspondence requesting relief in order to establish the date of inception as the effective date for your S corporation election. The information submitted explains that you have no proof of timely mailing Form 2553. Although we are unable to respond to your request as submitted, this letter provides useful information relating to your request.

Automatic late S corporation relief under Revenue Procedures 98-55 and 97-48 is unavailable in your situation because (1) it is past the return due date for the first year you intended to be considered an S corporation and (2) your first tax return was filed late without an extension, respectively.

Based on the *Instructions to Form 2553*, taxpayers are generally notified of acceptance or nonacceptance of their election within three months of date of filing (date mailed). If the IRS questions whether the election was filed, acceptable proof of filing is (a) certified or registered mail receipt; (b) Form 2553 with an accepted stamp; (c) Form 2553 with stamped IRS received date; or (e) an IRS letter stating the election has been accepted. If you are unable to provide proof of timely mailing, you must seek late S corporation relief via the private letter ruling process.

Announcement 97-4 (copy enclosed) provides guidance on seeking relief for late S corporation elections and inadvertent invalid S corporation elections. Generally, to request relief for a late or invalid S corporation election you must request a private letter ruling from the National Office. The procedures for requesting a private letter ruling are set out in Revenue Procedure 2000-1 (copy enclosed). In addition, Rev. Proc. 2000-1 requires taxpayers to submit a user fee along with their ruling request. The standard user fee for a private letter ruling is \$5,000. However, taxpayers with gross income of less than \$1 million on their last-filed tax return qualify for a **reduced user fee** in the amount of \$500. If you are eligible to use the reduced fee provision

you must include the statement described in § (B)(1)(b) of Appendix A with your request. Please review Appendix B for a sample format for requesting a private letter ruling.

If you decide to submit a formal request for a private letter ruling, please include the proper user fee (if applying under the reduced fee provisions, send a statement certifying gross income) and refer your request to our office by adding the following to the address:

Attn: CC:P&A
P.O. Box 7604
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

Direct to: CC:PSI:1
Room 5002

Please keep this letter with your tax records. We hope that the above information proves helpful.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Dianna K. Miosi
DIANNA K. MIOSI
Chief, Branch 1
Associate Chief Counsel
(Passthroughs and Special Industries)

Enclosures:

Announcement 97-4
Rev. Proc. 2000-1