

Public Ruling

Ruling Number	:	PTA001
Title	:	Tasmanian Payroll Tax Liability for Wages Paid by an Employer
Tax Line	:	Payroll Tax
Legislative Reference	:	<i>Payroll Tax Act 2008</i>
Previous Ruling	:	PUB-PT-2008-2
Date of Ruling	:	1 July 2008
Attachments	:	-

Preamble

The *Payroll Tax Act 2008* (the Act), which commenced on 1 July 2008, rewrites the *Pay-roll Tax Act 1971* and harmonises the payroll tax legislation with Victoria and NSW. One of the areas which has been harmonised is liability for wages paid for services performed in another country.

Section 10 of the Act specifies the circumstances when wages are subject to Tasmanian payroll tax. Liability depends on two factors: where the wages are paid and where the work is performed.

As there are several possible combinations of these factors, employers may experience difficulty in determining their payroll tax liability where wages are paid or payable by employers outside Tasmania, or where wages are paid in respect of work performed outside Tasmania.

The purpose of this revenue ruling is to clarify the circumstances when wages must be declared in Tasmania for payroll tax purposes and to clarify the liability for wages paid for services performed in another country (or countries).

Ruling

Payroll tax is payable when an employer's total Australian wages exceed the tax-free threshold (deduction amount). Australian wages comprise Tasmanian wages and all interstate wages. Tasmanian wages are the wages subject to tax under the Act. Interstate wages are those wages subject to tax in the other States and Territories under their equivalent payroll tax legislation.

To determine whether the wages paid or payable in respect of each monthly return period are subject to Tasmanian payroll tax, two factors need to be considered:

- the place where the wages are paid or payable; and
- the place where the services are performed.

Wages are deemed to be paid at the place of receipt by the employee.

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The following table shows the circumstances in which wages are taxable in Tasmania. It is important to note that the liability for Tasmanian payroll tax must be considered separately for each calendar month.

<i>Place where wages are paid or payable</i>	<i>Place where services are performed during the calendar month.</i>
In Tasmania	Wholly or partly in Tasmania
In Tasmania	In two or more States and/or Territories other than Tasmania.
In Tasmania	Wholly in another country (or countries) on an assignment of less than six continuous months.
In Tasmania	Partly interstate & partly in another country (or countries)
In Tasmania	Wholly or partly outside any State or Territory (as defined under the respective payroll tax legislation of the relevant State or Territory) but not in another country.
In another State and/or Territory	Wholly in Tasmania.
Outside Australia	More than 50 per cent performed in Tasmania.

In circumstances other than those shown above, the wages are not taxable in Tasmania but may be taxable in another State or Territory.

Where an employee is working outside any State or Territory, but not in another country, the wages are taxable under the Act if they are paid in Tasmania. Employees working on an oil rig would not be considered as working in another country unless the oil rig is physically located in another country.

Employees working in another country

Where services are performed by an employee in another country whose wages are paid in Tasmania, the following points need to be considered:

- Wages are exempt if the employee has worked in another country for a continuous period of more than six months (i.e. the exemption from payroll tax applies for the whole assignment, including the first six months).
- The six-month period does not have to be within the one financial year but must be a continuous period.
- Where an employee, working in another country, returns to Australia in the following circumstances, it will not be considered to be a break in continuity:
 - for a holiday, or
 - to perform work exclusively related to the overseas assignment for a period of less than one month

and in either case, the employee immediately returns to that country to perform further work on the assignment.

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Please note that rulings do not have the force of law. Each decision made by the State Revenue Office is made on the merits of each individual case having regard to any relevant ruling.

Enquiries about this Revenue Ruling should be directed to the Research, Analysis and Legislative Review Section on telephone (03) 6233 2694 or e-mail at revenuereview@treasury.tas.gov.au. Copies of this ruling may be obtained from our website www.sro.tas.gov.au by selecting "Resources" and then "Rulings".

All rulings must be read subject to Revenue Ruling PUB-GEN-2008-29 "Explanation and status of Revenue Rulings".



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