

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

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Person to Contact:

Telephone Number:

Refer Reply To:

CC:CORP:B03-PLR-128564-01

Date:

August 1, 2001

Purchaser =

SellerParent =

Seller =

Target =

State X =

State Y =

Date A =

Date B =

SellerParent Officers =

Purchaser Officer =

This letter responds to a letter dated April 17, 2001, submitted by Purchaser's and SellerParent's authorized representative, requesting an extension of time under §§ 301.9100-1 through 301.9100-3 of the Procedure and Administration Regulations to file an election. Purchaser and SellerParent are requesting an extension to file a "§ 338(h)(10) election" under §§ 338(g) and 338(h)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code and § 1.338(h)(10)-1(d) of the Income Tax Regulations with respect to Purchaser's acquisition of the stock of Target (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "Election"),

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on Date A. (All citations in this letter to regulations under § 338 are to regulations in effect on Date A). The material information is summarized below.

Purchaser is a C corporation incorporated in State X with a taxable year ending July 31 and it uses the accrual method of accounting. Purchaser is the common parent of a consolidated group.

Target was a C corporation incorporated in State Y with a taxable year ending December 31 and it used the accrual method of accounting. Target was a subsidiary of Seller and both Target and Seller joined in the filing of a consolidated return with SellerParent.

On Date A, Purchaser acquired all of Seller's stock in Target for cash in a fully taxable transaction. It is represented that Purchaser's acquisition of the stock of Target qualified as a "qualified stock purchase", as defined in § 338(d)(3).

Purchaser and SellerParent intended to file the Election. The Election was due on Date B but for various reasons a valid Election was not filed. After the due date for the Election, it was discovered that the Election had not been filed. Subsequently, this request was submitted, under § 301.9100-1, for an extension of time to file the Election. The period of limitations on assessment under § 6501(a) has not expired for Purchaser's, Target's, or SellerParent's taxable years in which the acquisition occurred, the taxable years in which the Election should have been filed, or any taxable years that would have been affected by the Election had it been timely filed.

Section 338(a) permits certain stock purchases to be treated as asset acquisitions if: (1) the purchasing corporation makes or is treated as having made a "§ 338 election" or a "§ 338(h)(10) election"; and (2) the acquisition is a "qualified stock purchase."

Section 338(h)(10) permits the purchasing and selling corporations to elect jointly to treat the target corporation as deemed to sell all of its assets and distribute the proceeds in complete liquidation. A § 338(h)(10) election may be made for target only if it is a member of a selling consolidated group, a member of a selling affiliated group filing separate returns, or an S corporation. Section 1.338(h)(10)-1(a).

Under § 301.9100-1(c), the Commissioner has discretion to grant a reasonable extension of time to make a regulatory election, or a statutory election (but no more than six months except in the case of a taxpayer who is abroad), under all subtitles of the Internal Revenue Code except subtitles E, G, H, and I.

Sections 301.9100-1 through 301.9100-3 provide the standards the Commissioner will use to determine whether to grant an extension of time to make a regulatory election. Section 301.9100-1(a). Section 301.9100-2 provides automatic

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extensions of time for making certain elections. Requests for relief under § 301.9100-3 will be granted when the taxpayer provides evidence to establish that the taxpayer acted reasonably and in good faith, and that granting relief will not prejudice the interests of the government. Section 301.9100-3(a).

In this case, the time for filing the Election is fixed by the regulations (i.e., § 1.338(h)(10)-1(d)). Therefore, the Commissioner has discretionary authority under § 301.9100-1 to grant an extension of time for Purchaser and SellerParent to file the Election, provided Purchaser and SellerParent show they acted reasonably and in good faith, the requirements of §§ 301.9100-1 and 301.9100-3 are satisfied, and granting relief will not prejudice the interests of the government.

Information, affidavits, and representations submitted by Purchaser, SellerParent, Purchaser Officer, and SellerParent Officers explain the circumstances that resulted in the failure to timely file a valid election. The information establishes that a competent tax professional was responsible for the Election and was aware of all relevant facts, that Purchaser and SellerParent relied on the tax professional to make the Election, and that the interests of the government will not be prejudiced if relief is granted. See § 301.9100-3(b)(1)(v).

Based on the facts and information submitted, including the representations made, we conclude that Purchaser and SellerParent have shown they acted reasonably and in good faith, the requirements of §§ 301.9100-1 and 301.9100-3 are satisfied, and granting relief will not prejudice the interests of the government. Accordingly, an extension of time is granted under § 301.9100-1, until 45 days from the date on this letter, for Purchaser and SellerParent to file the Election with respect to the acquisition of the stock of Target, as described above.

The above extension of time is conditioned on (1) the filing, within 120 days of the date on this letter, of all returns and amended returns (if any) necessary to report the transaction in accordance with the Election, and (2) the taxpayers' (Purchaser's, SellerParent's consolidated group's and Target's) tax liability (if any) being not lower, in the aggregate, for all years to which the election applies, than it would have been if the Election had been timely made (taking into account the time value of money). No opinion is expressed as to the taxpayers' tax liability for the years involved. A determination thereof will be made by the applicable Director's office upon audit of the federal income tax returns involved. Further, no opinion is expressed as to the Federal income tax effect, if any, if it is determined that the taxpayers' tax liability is lower. Section 301.9100-3(c).

Purchaser and SellerParent must file the Election in accordance with § 1.338(h)(10)-1(d). That is, a new election on Form 8023 must be executed on or after the date on this letter, which grants an extension, and filed in accordance with the instructions to the form. A copy of this letter must be attached to the election form.

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Purchaser and SellerParent must file or amend, as applicable, their returns to report the transaction as a § 338(h)(10) transaction for the taxable year in which the transaction was consummated (and for any other affected taxable year), and to attach to the returns a copy of this letter and a copy of the Election.

We express no opinion as to: (1) whether the “acquisition/sale” of the Target stock qualifies as a “qualified stock purchase” under § 338(d)(3); (2) whether the “acquisition/sale” of Target stock qualifies for § 338(h)(10) treatment; or (3) any other tax consequences arising from the Election.

In addition, we express no opinion as to the tax consequences of filing the Election late under the provisions of any other section of the Code and regulations, or as to the tax treatment of any conditions existing at the time of, or resulting from, filing the Election late that are not specifically set forth in the above ruling. For purposes of granting relief under § 301.9100-1, we relied on certain statements and representations made by taxpayers. However, the Director should verify all essential facts. In addition, notwithstanding that an extension is granted under § 301.9100-1 to file the Election, penalties and interest that would otherwise be applicable, if any, continue to apply.

This letter is directed only to the taxpayer(s) who requested it. Section 6110(k)(3) provides that it may not be used or cited as precedent.

Purchaser must provide SellerParent with a copy of this letter.

Pursuant to powers of attorney on file in this office, copies of this letter are being sent to your authorized representatives.

Sincerely yours,
Associate Chief Counsel (Corporate)
By: Ken Cohen
Senior Technician Reviewer, Branch 3

cc: