

EXTEND YOUR FILING DATE

There are a number of reasons for not filing your tax return by April 15th. Some people have financial transactions or joint ventures which may be difficult to summarize by the April 15th filing deadline. Others simply do not get around to it. The “automatic” extension does not require that you state a reason for requesting additional time.

To avoid penalties for filing later than April 15th, certain steps must be taken. You must file for an extension and show an estimate of your tax liability. If your estimate of the total taxes due exceeds the amount you have already paid in, you are required to send the difference along with your extension request. If your tax estimate on the extension request is less than the tax on your final return, you may be subject to penalties.

The “automatic” extension period is from April 15th to August 15th. Additional time can be obtained by filing a request for further extension. This second extension requires that you state the reason for the delay. You will also be asked whether or not your tax returns for the three prior years were timely filed. You will have to state whether or not your estimated tax payments, if any, were made on time.

If you are not in the United States on April 15th, you have until June 15th to file your return. This does not require the filing of an extension form. When you file your tax return, you attach a statement showing your whereabouts on April 15th. Since the “automatic” extension is available to everyone, there is no longer a tax reason to be out of the country on April 15th.

The rules for extending the filing date of “state” tax returns varies from state to state. If you need an extension, check on the rules for the states in which you will be required to file.