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Department of the Treasury

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Person to Contact:

Telephone Number:

Refer Reply To:
CC:DOM:CORP:3 PLR-116397-99
Date:
February 3, 2000

Parent =

Purchaser =

Target =

Target Parent =

Company Official =

Authorized
Representatives =

state X =

state Y =

Date A =

Date B =

Date C =

This letter responds to a letter dated September 17, 1999, requesting, on behalf of the taxpayers identified above, an extension of time under §§ 301.9100-1 through 301.9100-3 of the Procedure and Administration Regulations to file an election. Parent (as common parent of the consolidated group of which Purchaser is a member) and Target Parent 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”), on Date A. Additional information has been submitted in letters dated November 12, 1999 and January 27, 2000. The material information is summarized below.

Parent, a state X corporation, is the common parent of a consolidated group that has a calendar taxable year. Parent owns all of the outstanding stock of Purchaser. Prior to and as of the date of the qualified stock purchase (described below), Purchaser was included in Parent's consolidated federal income tax return.

Target was a corporation incorporated in state Y. Prior to the qualified stock purchase, Target Parent, also a state Y corporation, owned all of the stock of Target. Target's taxable year was the calendar year.

Purchaser acquired all of the outstanding stock of Target from Target Parent for cash on Date A in a fully taxable transaction. It is represented that (1) Parent and Purchaser are not (and were not at all times relevant) related to Target Parent within the meaning of § 338(h)(3), and (2) Purchaser's acquisition of all of the outstanding stock of Target qualified as a "qualified stock purchase" as defined in § 338(d)(3). Following the acquisition, "new" Target was included in Parent's consolidated return.

Purchaser and Target Parent intended to file the Election. The Election was due on Date B, but for various reasons it was not filed. On Date C (which is after the due date for the Election), Company Official discovered that the Election was not filed. The period of limitations on assessment under § 6501(a) has not expired for Parent's, Purchaser's, Target Parent's, or Target's taxable year in which the acquisition/sale was consummated, the taxable year in which the Election should have been filed, or for any taxable year(s) 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" under § 338(g); and (2) the acquisition is a "qualified stock purchase." Section 1.338-1(c)(10) provides that a "§ 338 election" is an election to apply § 338(g) to target. Section 338(g) specifies the requirements for making a "§ 338 election." Section 338(d)(3) defines a "qualified stock purchase" as any transaction or series of transactions in which stock (meeting the requirements of § 1504(a)(2)) of 1 corporation is acquired by another corporation by purchase during the 12-month acquisition period.

Section 338(h)(3)(A) provides that the term "purchase" means any acquisition of stock, but only if: (i) the basis of the stock in the hands of the purchasing corporation is not determined (I) in whole or in part by reference to the adjusted basis of such stock in the hands of the person from whom acquired, or (II) under § 1014(a) (relating to property acquired from a decedent); (ii) the stock is not acquired in an exchange to which §§ 351, 354, 355, or 356 applies and is not acquired in any other transaction described in regulations in which the transferor does not recognize the entire amount of the gain or loss realized on the transaction; and (iii) the stock is not acquired from a person the ownership of whose stock would, under § 318(a) (other than paragraph (4) thereof), be attributed to the person acquiring such stock.

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. The sale of stock included in the qualified stock purchase generally is ignored. 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). Gain or loss on the deemed sale is included in the consolidated return of the selling group (unless the target corporation is a member of a selling affiliated group filing separate returns or an S corporation). Section 1.338(h)(10)-1(d) provides that a § 338(h)(10) election may be made for the target corporation if the purchasing corporation makes a "qualified stock purchase" of the target corporation stock. Sections 1.338(h)(10)-1(d)(2) and (3) provide that if a § 338(h)(10) election is made for the target corporation, it is irrevocable and a § 338 election is deemed made for the target corporation.

Section 1.338(h)(10)-1(d)(2) provides that a § 338(h)(10) election is jointly made by a purchaser and the selling consolidated group (or the selling affiliate or the S corporation shareholders) on Form 8023 in accordance with the instructions to the form. The regulations further provide that the election must be made not later than the 15th day of the ninth month beginning after the month in which the acquisition date occurs. The instructions to Form 8023 provide that a § 338(h)(10) election must be made jointly by the purchasing corporation and the common parent of the selling consolidated group (or selling affiliate or S corporation shareholders). The instructions provide that the form must be signed by a person authorized to act on behalf of each corporation, and if made for an S corporation it must be signed by each S corporation shareholder who sells target stock in the qualified stock purchase. The instructions further provide that the signatures, dates and titles (if applicable) of those persons must be provided in a "signature attachment," and they provide specific details as to the preparation of the "signature attachment" and its attachment to Form 8023.

Section 1.1502-77(a) provides that the common parent, for all purposes (other than for several purposes not relevant here), shall be the sole agent for each subsidiary in the group, duly authorized to act in its own name in all matters relating to the tax liability of the consolidated return year. See also Form 8023 and the instructions thereto.

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.

Section 301.9100-1(b) defines the term "regulatory election" as including an election whose due date is prescribed by a regulation, revenue ruling, revenue procedure, notice, or announcement. 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 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 Parent and Target Parent to file the Election, provided Parent and Target Parent 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 Parent, Target Parent, Company Official, and Parent's Authorized Representatives explain the circumstances that resulted in the failure to timely file the valid Election. The information also establishes that Parent's Company Official was responsible for the Election, that Parent and Target Parent relied on Parent's Company Official to timely make the Election, and that 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 Parent and Target Parent 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 30 days from the date of issuance of this letter, for Parent (as the common parent of the consolidated group of which Purchaser is a member) and Target Parent to file the Election with respect to the acquisition of Target, as described above.

The above extension of time is conditioned on the taxpayers' (Target Parent's, Parent's, Purchaser'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 District 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' liability is lower. Section 301.9100-3(c). The above extension is also conditioned on: (i) Parent and Target Parent signing the Election, and (ii) Parent and Target Parent treating the acquisition/sale of Target's stock as a § 338(h)(10) transaction.

Parent (as agent for Purchaser) and Target Parent 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 of this letter, which grants an extension, and filed in accordance with the instructions to the form. See Announcement 98-2, 1998-1 C.B. 282. A copy of this letter should be attached to the election form. Parent and Target

Parent must file or amend their returns, as applicable, for the year in which the transaction was consummated to report the transaction as a § 338(h)(10) transaction, and to attach thereto a copy of this letter and a copy of the Election (along with the information required with the election form). If they already reported the transaction as a § 338(h)(10) transaction they must amend their returns to attach a copy of the Election, the information requested therewith, and a copy of this letter.

We express no opinion as to (1) whether the acquisition/sale of Target's stock qualifies as a "qualified stock purchase" under § 338(d)(3); (2) whether the acquisition/sale of Target's stock qualifies for § 338(h)(10) treatment; or (3) if § 338(h)(10) is applicable, as to the amount and character of gain or loss, if any, recognized by Target (and, thus, by Target Parent) on Target's deemed asset sale.

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 the taxpayers. However, the District Director(s) 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.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Parent's representative, as designated in the power of attorney on file in this office.

Sincerely yours,
Assistant Chief Counsel (Corporate)

By Ken Cohen

Senior Technician Reviewer, Branch 3