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JONATHAN MILLER
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Commissioner

In the matter of:

[REDACTED] INC.

Contact:

[REDACTED]

FINAL RULING NO. 2010-32
May 14, 2010

Sales and Use Tax Assessment
July 1, 2004 through April 30, 2008

FINAL RULING

The Kentucky Department of Revenue ("DOR") has an outstanding sales and use tax assessment against [REDACTED] Inc. (" [REDACTED] ") for the audit period July 1, 2004 through April 30, 2008. The following schedule reflects the total liability for this case.

| Period | Tax | Interest as of 5/14/2010 | Penalty | Total per period |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 7/1/04-12/31/04 | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |
| 1/1/05-12/31/05 | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |
| 1/1/06-12/31/06 | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |
| 1/1/07-12/31/07 | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |
| TOTALS | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] | \$ [REDACTED] |

During the periods under audit, ██████████ was engaged in the business of manufacturing and installing ██████████ and ██████████ accessories.

██████████ timely protested the assessment on ██████████, 2009. No supporting statement accompanied this protest, as required by KRS 131.110(1). The Department has granted ██████████ four (4) extensions of time to file the supporting statement for its protest. Despite these extensions, ██████████ has failed to submit the supporting documentation that would enable the DOR to determine whether the transactions for which tax was assessed were not subject to tax, as ██████████ contends.

At issue is whether ██████████ has complied with the supporting statement requirement of KRS 131.110(1), which states in pertinent part:

The protest shall be accompanied by a supporting statement setting forth the grounds upon which the protest is made.

The Kentucky courts have held that this statutory provision imposes upon a taxpayer protesting an assessment or a refund denial a legal duty to provide the Department with “something more substantial than mere denials of tax liability.” Eagle Machine Co., Inc. v. Commonwealth ex rel. Gillis, 698 S.W.2d 528, 530 (Ky.App., 1985). In order to make a valid protest, a taxpayer must “provide financial statements, records or some other documentation that would allow the Revenue Department some basis for reconsideration.” Id. at 529.

The courts have further held that KRS 131.110(1) is “mandatory in nature” and that failure to submit documentation as it requires will result in the taxpayer’s loss of the right to further review of the assessment or refund denial in question. Scotty’s Construction Co. v. Revenue Cabinet, 779 S.W.2d 234 (Ky.App., 1989). In both Scotty’s Construction and Eagle Machine, the taxpayers failed to provide any substantial information or documentation in support of their denials of tax liability, despite being given ample opportunity to do so. The same is true in this matter. ██████████’s protest was received in ██████████ 2009 and despite a number of extensions, it has submitted only a handful of invoices that do not establish anything that would allow the Department some basis for reconsideration of the outstanding assessment.

As indicated above, a penalty has been assessed pursuant to KRS 131.180(2) because of ██████████’s failure to have timely paid at least 75% of the tax determined to be due by the DOR. ██████████ has provided nothing that would indicate that this penalty was erroneously applied or that it should be waived or abated.

Therefore, the outstanding sales and use tax assessment totaling \$ ██████████ (plus applicable penalty and interest) is deemed the legitimate liability of ██████████ Inc. due to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This letter is the final ruling of the Department of Revenue.

APPEAL

You may appeal this final ruling to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals pursuant to the provisions of KRS 131.110, KRS 131.340-131.365, 103 KAR 1:010 and 802 KAR 1:010. If you decide to appeal this final ruling, your petition of appeal must be filed at the principal office of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, 128 Brighton Park Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3714, within thirty (30) days from the date of this final ruling. The rules of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, which are set forth in 802 KAR 1:010, require that the petition of appeal must:

1. Be filed in quintuplicate;
2. Contain a brief statement of the law and facts in issue;
3. Contain the petitioner's or appellant's position as to the law and facts; and
4. Include a copy of this final ruling with each copy of the petition of appeal.

The petition of appeal must be in writing and signed by the petitioner or appellant. Filings by facsimile or other electronic means shall not be accepted.

Proceedings before the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals are conducted in accordance with 103 KAR 1:010, 802 KAR 1:010 and KRS 131.340-131.365 and KRS Chapter 13B. Formal hearings are held by the Board concerning the tax appeals before it, with all testimony and proceedings officially reported. Legal representation of parties to appeals before the Board is governed by the following rules set forth in Section 3 of 802 KAR 1:010:

1. An individual may represent himself in any proceedings before the Board where his individual tax liability is at issue or he may obtain an attorney to represent him in those proceedings;
2. An individual who is not an attorney may not represent any other individual or legal entity in any proceedings before the Board;
3. Any party appealing a final ruling to the Board other than an individual, such as a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, estate or other legal entity, shall be represented by an attorney in all proceedings before the Board, including the filing of the petition of appeal; and

