



Press Release

New requirements for Tax Preparers

Effective December 31, 2011, the Internal Revenue Service has implemented new rules for paid tax preparers which the Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT) will be implementing. All licensed tax preparers please be advised of the following requirements:

1. **Preparer Tax Identification Number "PTIN" (required by January 1, 2011):** All paid individuals who are responsible for the preparation and accuracy of tax returns and claims for refund must now register and obtain a PTIN before January 1, 2011. PTIN's may be obtained beginning December 1, 2010 for a fee of **\$64.25** at the Department of Revenue and Taxation -Technical Research and Appeals Bureau, 1740 Army Drive, Barrigada. PTINS will be valid for three (3) years.
2. **Competency Testing (start date, mid 2011):** All individuals who are paid preparers will now be required to pass the competency exam prior to getting a PTIN. Note: current licensed tax return preparers, Attorneys, Certified Public Accountants and Enrolled Agents will be exempt from the competency testing requirement*.
3. **Continuing Education (start date to be determined):** Paid preparers, who are not Attorneys, Certified Public Accountants and Enrolled Agents will be required to complete 15 hours of continuing education annually. The 15 hours must include three (3) hours of federal tax updates, two (2) hours of tax ethics, and ten (10) hours of other federal tax law topics.

*Maybe amended if the need arises

DRT intends to have paid preparers self-certify completion of continuing education requirements during registration renewal.

Any questions please refer to ¶153,181. Preamble to Proposed Regulations. 08/23/2010. Fed. Reg. Vol. 75, No. 162 p. 51713. Or you may contact the Technical Research and Appeals Bureau at 635-1813.

/s/ **Artemio B. Ilagan, Director**