

The amount of the penalty is based on when you file the correct information return. The penalty is:

- \$15 per information return if you correctly file within 30 days (by March 30 if the due date is February 28); maximum penalty \$75,000 per year (\$25,000 for small businesses, defined below).
- \$30 per information return if you correctly file more than 30 days after the due date but by August 1; maximum penalty \$150,000 per year (\$50,000 for small businesses).
- \$50 per information return if you file after August 1 or you do not file required information returns; maximum penalty \$250,000 per year (\$100,000 for small businesses).



If you do not file corrections and you do not meet any of the exceptions to the penalty described on page 6, the penalty is \$50 per information return.

**Small businesses—lower maximum penalties.** You are a small business if your average annual gross receipts for the 3 most recent tax years (or for the period you were in existence, if shorter) ending before the calendar year in which the information returns were due are \$5 million or less.

**Exceptions to the penalty.** The following are exceptions to the failure to file penalty.

1. The penalty will not apply to any failure that you can show was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect. In general, you must be able to show that your failure was due to an event beyond your control or due to significant mitigating factors. You must also be able to show that you acted in a responsible manner and took steps to avoid the failure.

2. An inconsequential error or omission is not considered a failure to include correct information. An inconsequential error or omission does not prevent or hinder the IRS from processing the return, from correlating the information required to be shown on the return with the information shown on the payee's tax return, or from otherwise putting the return to its intended use. Errors and omissions that are never inconsequential are those related to (a) a TIN, (b) a payee's surname, and (c) any money amount.

3. *De minimis* rule for corrections. Even though you cannot show reasonable cause, the penalty for failure to file correct information returns will not apply to a certain number of returns if you:

- a. Filed those information returns,
- b. Either failed to include all the information required on a return or included incorrect information, and
- c. Filed corrections by August 1.

If you meet all the conditions in a, b, and c above, the penalty for filing incorrect returns (but not for filing late) will not apply to the greater of 10 information returns or 1/2 of 1% of the total number of information returns you are required to file for the calendar year.

**Intentional disregard of filing requirements.** If any failure to file a correct information return is due to intentional disregard of the filing or correct information requirements, the penalty is at least \$100 per information return with no maximum penalty.

### Failure To Furnish Correct Payee Statements (Section 6722)

If you fail to provide correct payee statements and you cannot show reasonable cause, you may be subject to a penalty. The penalty applies if you fail to provide the statement by January 31 (February 15 for Forms 1099-B, 1099-S, and 1099-MISC (boxes 8 and 14 only)) (see part M on page 9), you fail to include all information required to be shown on the statement, or you include incorrect information on the statement. "Payee statement" has the same meaning as "statement to recipient" as used in part M on page 9.

The penalty is \$50 per statement, no matter when the correct statement is furnished, with a maximum of \$100,000 per year. The penalty is not reduced for furnishing a correct statement by August 1.

**Exception.** An inconsequential error or omission is not considered a failure to include correct information. An inconsequential error or omission cannot reasonably be expected to prevent or hinder the payee from timely receiving correct information and reporting it on his or her income tax

return or from otherwise putting the statement to its intended use. Errors and omissions that are never inconsequential are those relating to (a) a dollar amount, (b) a significant item in a payee's address, (c) the appropriate form for the information provided (that is, whether the form is an acceptable substitute for the official IRS form), and (d) whether the statement was furnished in person or by "statement mailing," when required.

**Intentional disregard of payee statement requirements.** If any failure to provide a correct payee statement is due to intentional disregard of the requirements to furnish a correct payee statement, the penalty is at least \$100 per payee statement with no maximum penalty.

### Forms 1099-Q, 1099-SA, 5498, 5498-ESA, and 5498-SA (Section 6693)

The penalties under sections 6721 and 6722 do not apply to:

Forms	Filed Under Code Section
1099-SA and 5498-SA	220(h) and 223(h)
5498	408(i) and 408(l)
5498-ESA	530(h)
1099-Q	529(d) and 530(h)

The penalty for failure to timely file Forms 1099-SA, 5498-SA, 5498, 5498-ESA, or 1099-Q is \$50 per return with no maximum, unless the failure is due to reasonable cause. See section 6693.

### Fraudulent Acknowledgments With Respect to Donations of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes (Section 6720)

If you are required under section 170(f)(12)(A) to furnish a contemporaneous written acknowledgment to a donor and you knowingly furnish a false or fraudulent Form 1098-C, or knowingly fail to furnish a Form 1098-C within the applicable 30-day period, you may be subject to a penalty. See the 2009 Instructions for Form 1098-C for more detailed information.

### Civil Damages for Fraudulent Filing of Information Returns (Section 7434)

If you willfully file a fraudulent information return for payments you claim you made to another person, that person may be able to sue you for damages. You may have to pay \$5,000 or more.

## P. Payments to Corporations and Partnerships

Generally, payments to corporations are not reportable. However, you must report payments to corporations for the following.

- Medical and health care payments (Form 1099-MISC),
- Withheld federal income tax or foreign tax,
- Barter exchange transactions (Form 1099-B),
- Substitute payments in lieu of dividends and tax-exempt interest (Form 1099-MISC),
- Acquisitions or abandonments of secured property (Form 1099-A),
- Cancellation of debt (Form 1099-C),
- Payments of attorneys' fees and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (Form 1099-MISC),
- Fish purchases for cash (Form 1099-MISC),
- The credits for clean renewable energy bonds and for Gulf tax credit bonds treated as interest and reported on Form 1099-INT, and
- Federal executive agency payments for services (Form 1099-MISC). For additional reporting requirements, see Rev. Rul. 2003-66 on page 1115 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 2003-26 at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb03-26.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb03-26.pdf).

Reporting generally is required for all payments to partnerships. For example, payments of \$600 or more made in the course of your trade or business to an architectural firm that is a partnership are reportable on Form 1099-MISC. However, see Regulations section 1.6049-4(c)(1)(ii)(A).