

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Department of Employment Services

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### **Employer Updates – December 2013**

#### **Using Electronic Resources**

*Are you taking advantage of the **FREE** electronic resources available to DC Employers?* DOES encourages you to use our electronic resources in order to simplify your interactions with DOES, and in order to save time and money on paper and mailings.

#### ***SIDES***

*SAVE A STAMP! Use SIDES and know that your response is received!* DOES is pleased to announce our implementation of the State Information Data Exchange System Electronic Response (SIDES E-Response). SIDES E-Response provides DC employers a secure, nationally standardized, electronic method to receive and submit unemployment insurance “Request for Separation Information” forms. *All employers should have received registration information in the mail with a specialized “PIN.”* If in the event that you did not receive your PIN, or you would like more information on how your TPA can use SIDES E-Response, please email [SIDES.HELP@dc.gov](mailto:SIDES.HELP@dc.gov), call 202-698-5800, or visit <https://app.does.dc.gov/>.

#### ***Electronic Filing for Quarterly Reports***

Employers may now submit their quarterly reports on magnetic media. See instructions for filing electronic media here: <http://does.dc.gov/node/200642>.

#### ***Coming SOON! Employer Web Portal***

Look out for the first phase of our online filing web portal which should be available for use by February 1, 2014. With the employer web portal, employers will be able to file their quarterly contribution wage reports online.

#### ***DC Networks***

DC Networks is a resource that allows employers to place job openings online, and it also allows employers to check any UI filings that have been posted against their account. To register your business with DC Networks, visit: [www.dcnetworks.org](http://www.dcnetworks.org).

## **New changes in Relief from Overpayments to Claimants for Employers**

*Are you in danger of not receiving relief of charges for UI overpayments?* As of October 21, 2013, federal law forbids the relief of employer charges in instances where employers demonstrate an established pattern of being non-responsive to requests for separation and wage information. The relief of non charges also extends to employers who fail to file their quarterly reports timely. As such, the District will not provide relief to an employer's UI account for UI overpayments if it is determined the overpayment resulted from the employer being non-responsive to requests for separation and wage requests or failed to furnish quarterly wage reports in a timely manner. The District has determined that two separate unsuccessful attempts to receive information from an employer will result in the prohibition of relief of charges.

To avoid a prohibition of relief of charges to your UI account, be sure to take advantage of our electronic resources available to employers. For more information about this new change, visit: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/uipl\\_2\\_12\\_acc.pdf](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/uipl_2_12_acc.pdf) and [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL\\_2\\_12\\_Chg1\\_Acc.pdf](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/UIPL/UIPL_2_12_Chg1_Acc.pdf).

### **Preventing Unemployment Fraud and Overpayments**

***FRAUD: Don't let it happen to you!*** Whenever Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are paid from your account to someone who is not entitled to them, your UI account is charged, and your experience rating may be negatively affected.

Here's how you can protect your experience rating and control charges to your account:

1. **Report Individuals** who are newly hired, rehired, or returning to work to the DC Directory of New Hires; <https://dc-newhire.com/>.
2. **Review your Quarterly Contribution and Wage Report** to ensure that the information about former employees is accurate.
3. **Report accurate employee separation information** to DOES.
4. **Participate in interviews** that determine a former employee's eligibility for benefits.
5. **Answer requests for weekly wage information** from DOES.

For more information about UI Fraud and ways to educate your employees about fraud prevention visit: <http://does.dc.gov/page/what-unemployment-insurance-fraud>. To report known instances of fraud, call 1-877-FRAUD60.

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For more information about the District of Columbia Office of Unemployment Compensation and information pertinent to employers, visit the DOES Employer Handbook at: <http://does.dc.gov/node/539002>, or call 202-698-7550.