



Employer Tax News

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Where are we located:

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POA Deadline Expired

The August 14 extended deadline for all employers and agents to upload POA documents has expired. The absence of an approved POA will **NOT** impact the ability to file first or second quarter 2017 contribution reports or the remittance of any amounts due for these periods. It will impact the timely filing of Contribution Reports for the third quarter. A POA must be on file in order for the agent to discuss account matters with DOES staff on behalf of the employer.

SIDES E-Response

The State Information Data Exchange System Electronic Response (SIDES E-Response) is a free of charge service that allows DC employers, and third-party administrators (TPAs), a secure and streamlined process to better anticipate and supply data needed for responding to Unemployment Insurance information requests. The nationally standardized, electronic format will save your business time and money.

Registration is hassle-free. For detailed information about SIDES E-Response and to register your business visit <https://does.dc.gov/page/sides-e-response>.

If you experience a delay in receiving your PIN call (202) 698-5800 or email SIDES.HELP@dc.gov.

Employer Self-Service Portal Enhancements

This year Office of Unemployment Compensation Tax Division has implemented upgrades for the Employer Self-Service Portal (ESSP) in the first and third quarters. The upgrades are designed to enhance the employer experience in fulfilling the obligations of filing wage reports and tax payments.

Enhancements include:

- Agent Account Maintenance
- ACH debit payments for employers and agents
- Predecessor/successor online relationship enhancements
- Wage Submissions
- Employer Registration that allows the allocation of ownership percentages
- Confirmation and notification emails for an expanded amount of transactions
- Tipped wages can now be entered in ESSP
- Workflow enhancements on employer registration screens
- Increased workflow functionality for faster division approvals and service

For more information visit <https://essp.does.dc.gov/>.

Unemployment Rate

The D.C. Department of Employment Services reported this month that the seasonally adjusted preliminary unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in August 2017. This is unchanged from the 6.4 percent reported for July 2017.

Maximum Weekly Benefit Increase

Please be advised, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 51-101, effective October 2, 2016, the Department of Employment Services (DOES), Office of Unemployment Compensation (OUC), will increase the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount (MWBA) from \$359 to \$425 and standardize the amount of weeks an Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimant can collect UI benefit payments to 26 weeks for all initial claims filed on or after October 2, 2016. As a result of this Maximum Wage Benefit increase, the quarterly charge statements will reflect an increase in the amount of actual benefit charges.

If you have any questions concerning these changes, please visit the Unemployment Compensation section of the DOES website at www.does.dc.gov for further information.

District of Columbia Minimum Wage Increase

Effective July 1, 2017, the minimum wage in the District of Columbia has increased from \$11.50 per hour to \$12.50 per hour for all workers, regardless of size of the employer. The base minimum for tipped employees increased from \$2.77 to \$3.33.

However, if an employee's hourly tip earning (averaged weekly) added to the base minimum wage do not equal the District's full minimum wage the employer must assume responsibility in the difference of the compensation. For additional information visit <https://does.dc.gov/service/office-wage-hour-compliance>.
