

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury
Washington, DC 20224

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Person To Contact:

Telephone Number:

Refer Reply To:

CC:PSI:2 – PLR-129487-07

Date:

December 19, 2007

LEGEND:

X =

Date 1 =

State =

Dear

This letter responds to the letter dated June 18, 2007, together with subsequent correspondence, submitted on behalf of X, requesting an extension of time under § 301.9100-3 of the Procedure and Administration Regulations for X to file an election to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal tax purposes.

The information submitted states that X is a business trust formed under the laws of State on Date 1. X represents X is an entity eligible to elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for federal tax purposes. X has filed its returns consistent with X making an entity classification election to be treated as an association, but X was not informed of the necessity for the election.

Section 301.7701-4(a) provides that in general, the term "trust" as used in the Internal Revenue Code ("Code") refers to an arrangement created either by will or by an inter vivos declaration whereby trustees take title to property for the purpose of protecting or conserving it for the beneficiaries under the ordinary rules applied in chancery or probate courts.

Section 301.7701-4(b) addresses "business trusts" and provides that there are other arrangements which are known as trusts because the legal title to property is conveyed to trustees for the benefit of beneficiaries, but which are not classified as trusts for purposes of the Code because they are not simply arrangements to protect and conserve the property for the beneficiaries. The fact that any organization is technically cast in the trust form, by conveying title to property to trustees for the benefit of persons designated as beneficiaries, will not change the real character of the organization if the organization is more properly classified as a business entity under § 301.7701-2.

Section 301.7701-2 provides that a business entity is any entity recognized for federal tax purposes (including an entity with a single owner that may be disregarded as an entity separate from its owner under § 301.7701-3) that is not properly classified as a trust under § 301.7701-4 or otherwise subject to special treatment under the Code. A business entity with two or more members is classified for federal tax purposes as either a corporation or a partnership.

Section 301.7701-3(a) provides that a business entity that is not classified as a corporation under § 301.7701-2(b)(1), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), or (8) (an eligible entity) can elect its classification for federal tax purposes. An eligible entity with at least two members can elect to be classified as either an association (and thus a corporation under § 301.7701-2(b)(2)) or a partnership, and an eligible entity with a single owner can elect to be classified as an association or to be disregarded as an entity separate from its owner. Elections are necessary only when an eligible entity does not want to be classified under the default classification or when an eligible entity chooses to change its classification.

Section 301.7701-3(b)(1)(i) provides that, except for certain existing entities described in § 301.7701-3(b)(3), unless the entity elects otherwise, a domestic eligible entity is a partnership if it has two or more members.

Section 301.7701-3(c)(1)(i) provides that an eligible entity may elect to be classified other than as provided under § 301.7701-3(b) by filing Form 8832 with the appropriate service center. Under § 301.7701-3(c)(1)(iii), this election will be effective on the date specified by the entity on Form 8832 or on the date filed if no such date is specified. The date specified on Form 8832 cannot be more than 75 days prior to the date on which the election is filed.

Under § 301.9100-1(c), the Commissioner may grant a reasonable extension of time to make a regulatory election, or a statutory election (but no more than six months except in the case of a taxpayer who is abroad), under all subtitles of the Code, except E, G, H, and I. Section 301.9100-1(b) defines the term "regulatory election" as including an election whose deadline is prescribed by a regulation published in the Federal Register.

Sections 301.9100-1 through 301.9100-3 provide the standards the Commissioner will use to determine whether to grant an extension of time to make an election. Section 301.9100-2 provides automatic extensions of time for making certain elections. Section 301.9100-3 provides extensions of time for making elections that do not meet the requirements of § 301.9100-2. Requests for relief under § 301.9100-3 will be granted when the taxpayer provides evidence to establish that the taxpayer acted reasonably and in good faith, and that granting relief will not prejudice the interests of the government.

Based solely on the facts submitted and representations made, we conclude that X has satisfied the requirements of §§ 301.9100-1 and 301.9100-3 and, therefore, it is granted an extension of time of sixty (60) days from the date of this letter to file a Form 8832 to elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal tax purposes, effective Date 1. A copy of this letter should be attached to the election. A copy is enclosed for that purpose.

Except as specifically set forth above, we express no opinion concerning the federal tax consequences of the facts described above under any other provision of the Code.

This ruling is directed only to the taxpayer requesting it. Section 6110(k)(3) of the Code provides that it may not be used or cited as precedent.

In accordance with the Power of Attorney on file with this office, a copy of this letter is being mailed to your authorized representative.

Sincerely,

William P. O'Shea
Associate Chief Counsel
(Passthroughs and Special Industries)

Enclosures (2)

Copy of this letter
Copy for section 6110 purposes