

Worksheet VII – Calculation of Interest on Underpayment of Estimated Taxes – Short Method

You usually have to pay your income tax liability throughout the year. You can pay through employer withholding or by making installment payments of estimated taxes or through a combination of both. If you have to pay estimated taxes and you did not pay enough during the year by each of the four quarterly installment payment dates, you may owe interest on your underpayment of those estimated taxes even if you pay the full amount of tax you owe when you file your return.

You are not required to make estimated tax payments if one of the following conditions relates to you:

- Your tax liability (after withholding and estimated tax payments) is less than \$500.
- You did not have a 2014 income tax liability and you were a citizen or resident of the United States the entire year.
- Your underpayment was due to a casualty, disaster or other unusual circumstance.
- You retired in either 2014 or 2015 after reaching the age of 62.
- You become disabled in either 2014 or 2015.
- You are a farmer or rancher and 66 2/3% of your 2015 gross income is derived from your farming and ranching operation. Your 66 2/3% farming and ranching income is determined annually and is based on your 2014 gross income. Note that Montana does not use the same “look back” period that the Internal Revenue Service uses to determine the percentage of your farming and ranching income for federal income tax purposes.

If you did not pay in advance at least 90% of your 2015 income tax liability (after applying your tax credits) or 100% of your 2014 income tax liability (after applying your tax credits), you may have to pay interest on the underpayment of your estimated taxes.

If you are required to pay interest on your underpayment, you can use this short method to determine your interest, but only if one of the following conditions applies to you:

- You made no estimated tax payments (in other words, your only payments were Montana withholding); or
- You made four equal estimated payments by the required due dates; or
- Your taxable year on your federal return was 12 full months.

If you are not eligible to use this short method to calculate your interest on your underpayment, use Montana Form EST-I, Interest on Underpayment of Estimated Tax Payments. You can get this form by visiting revenue.mt.gov or by calling us toll free at (866) 859-2254 (in Helena, 444-6900).

If you are “married filing separately on the same form,” enter the sum of columns A and B for each item.

1	Enter your 2015 combined total tax due reported on Form 2, line 54 here	1
2	Multiply line 1 by 90% (0.90) and enter the result here	2
3	Combine the amounts on Form 2, lines 55, 56 and 57, the portion of line 58 that includes amounts credited from prior year’s tax refunds, and line 60. Enter the result here	3
4	Subtract line 3 from line 1 and enter the result here. If your result is \$500 or less, stop here; you do not owe interest on your underpayment.....	4
5	Enter the income tax liability that you reported on your 2014 Form 2, line 54; 2014 Form 2M, line 47; or 2014 Form 2EZ, line 15 here	5
6	Enter the smaller of line 2 or line 5 here.....	6
7	Combine the amount on line 3 above with the estimated tax payments that you reported on your 2015 Form 2, line 58. Enter the result here.....	7
8	Subtract line 7 from line 6. If the result is zero or less, stop here; you do not owe interest on your underpayment. This is your total underpayment for 2015.	8
9	Multiply line 8 by 0.05320 and enter the result here.....	9
10	If you paid the amount on line 8 on or after April 18, 2016, enter zero. If you paid the amount on line 8 before April 18, multiply the amount on line 8 by the number of days you paid before April 18 and then by 0.0002192 and enter the amount here	10
11	Subtract line 10 from line 9. Enter the result here and on Form 2, line 66. This is your interest on the underpayment of estimated taxes.	11