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Department of the Treasury
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May 05, 2011

LEGEND:

V =

W =

X =

Y =

Z =

Country V =

Country W

Country X =

Country Y =

Country Z =

Date 1 =

Date 2 =

Date 3 =

Dear _____ :

This responds to a letter dated December 21, 2010, and subsequent correspondence, submitted on behalf of V, W, X, Y, and Z requesting extensions of time under § 301.9100-3 of the Procedure and Administration Regulations to file elections under §301.7701-3(c) to be treated as a partnerships for federal tax purposes.

FACTS

The information submitted states that V was formed under the laws of Country V, W was formed under the laws of Country W, X was formed under the laws of Country X, Y was formed under the laws of Country Y, and Z was formed under the laws of Country Z. X, Y, and Z intended to be treated as partnerships effective Date 1. V intended to be treated as a partnership effective Date 2. W intended to be treated as a partnership effective Date 3. V, W, X, Y, and Z each represent that it is a foreign entity eligible to elect to be treated as a partnership. However, all of V, W, X, Y, and Z inadvertently failed to timely file Forms 8832, Entity Classification Election.

LAW AND ANALYSIS

Section 301.7701-3(a) provides, in part, 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 as provided in § 301.7701-3. 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.

Section 301.7701-3(b)(2)(i) provides that, except as provided in § 301.7701-3(b)(3), unless the entity elects otherwise, a foreign eligible entity is: (A) a partnership if it has two or more members and at least one member does not have limited liability; (B) an association if all members have limited liability; or (C) disregarded as an entity separate from its owner if it has a single owner that does not have limited liability.

Section 301.7701-3(b)(2)(ii) provides, in part, that for purposes of § 301.7701-3(b)(2)(i), a member of a foreign eligible entity has limited liability if the member has no personal liability for the debts of or claims against the entity by reason of being a member.

Section 301.7701-3(c)(1)(i) provides, in part, that, except as provided in § 301.7701-3(c)(1)(iv) and (v), an eligible entity may elect to be classified other than as provided under § 301.7701-3(b), or to change its classification, by filing Form 8832 with the service center designated on Form 8832.

Section 301.7701-3(c)(1)(iii) provides, in part, that an election made under § 301.7701-3(c)(1)(i) will be effective on the date specified by the entity on Form 8832 or on the date filed if no such date is specified on the election form. The effective date specified on Form 8832 can not be more than 75 days prior to the date on which the election is filed and can not be more than 12 months after 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 Internal Revenue Code (Code) except subtitles E, G, H, and I. Section 301.9100-1(b) provides that the term “regulatory election” includes an election whose due date 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.

Section 301.9100-3(a) provides that requests for relief under § 301.9100-3 will be granted when the taxpayer provides the evidence (including affidavits described in § 301.9100-3(e)) to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the taxpayer acted reasonably and in good faith, and the grant of relief will not prejudice the interests of the Government.

CONCLUSION

Based solely on the information submitted and the representations made, we conclude that V, W, X, Y, and Z have all satisfied the requirements of §§ 301.9100-1 and 301.9100-3. Consequently, V, W, X, Y, and Z are granted extensions of time of one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of this letter to file Forms 8832 with the appropriate service center to elect to be treated as partnerships effective Date 1 for X, Y, and Z, Date 2 for V, and Date 3 for W.

This ruling is contingent on the owners of V, W, X, Y, and Z filing within one hundred twenty (120) days of this letter all required returns and amended income tax returns consistent with the requested relief. These returns may include, but are not limited to, the following forms: (i) Forms 5471, Information Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations, (ii) Forms 8865, Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Certain Foreign Partnerships, and (iii) Forms 8858, Information Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Disregarded Entities, such that these forms reflect the consequences of the relief granted in this letter. A copy of this letter should be attached to any such returns.

Except for the specific ruling above, we express or imply no opinion concerning the federal tax consequences of the facts of this case under any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, § 301.9100-1(a) provides that the granting of an extension of time for making an election is not a determination that the taxpayer is otherwise eligible to make the election.

This ruling is directed only to the taxpayers requesting it. According to § 6110(k)(3) of the Code, this ruling may not be used or cited as precedent.

Under a power of attorney on file with this office, we are sending a copy of this letter to V, W, X, Y, and Z's authorized representatives.

The ruling contained in this letter is based upon information and representations submitted by the taxpayer and accompanied by a penalty of perjury statement executed by an appropriate party. While this office has not verified any of the material submitted in support of the request for ruling, it is subject to verification on examination.

Sincerely,

Associate Chief Counsel
(Passthroughs & Special Industries)

By: _____
Richard T. Probst
Senior Technician Reviewer, Branch 3
Office of Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs
& Special Industries)

Enclosures (2)
Copy of this letter
Copy for § 6110 purposes

cc: