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NOTE: It may be helpful to also have a copy of the instructions to the following forms and schedules that are frequently required to be filed with Form 4:

- **Form A-1**, *Wisconsin Apportionment Data for Single-Factor Formulas*
- **Schedule 4V**, *Wisconsin Additions to Federal Income*
- **Schedule 4W**, *Wisconsin Subtractions From Federal Income*

Who Must File Form 4

Corporations Required to File

Form 4 is for corporations only. "Corporation" includes corporations, joint stock companies, associations, common law trusts, and all other entities treated as corporations under section 7701 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Corporations that must file Form 4, if not otherwise exempt, include:

- Corporations doing business both in and outside Wisconsin (multistate corporations)
- Corporations doing business only in Wisconsin
- Domestic insurance companies doing business in Wisconsin
- Unlicensed corporations doing business in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations engaged in buying or selling lottery prizes if the winning tickets were originally bought in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations issuing credit, debit, or travel and entertainment cards to customers in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations regularly selling products or services of any kind or nature to customers in Wisconsin that receive the product or service in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations regularly soliciting business from potential customers in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations regularly performing services outside Wisconsin for which the benefits are received in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations regularly engaging in transactions with customers in Wisconsin that involve intangible property and result in receipts flowing to the taxpayer from within Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations holding loans secured by real or tangible personal property located in Wisconsin.
- Foreign corporations owning, directly or indirectly, a general or limited partnership interest in a partnership that does business in Wisconsin, regardless of the percentage of ownership.
- Foreign corporations owning, directly or indirectly, an interest in a limited liability company treated as a partnership that does business in Wisconsin, regardless of the percentage of ownership.
- Foreign corporations that are the sole owner of an entity that is disregarded as a separate entity under IRC section 7701 and does business in Wisconsin.

Tax-option (S) corporations file Form 5S. Tax exempt corporations may be required to file Form 4T.

Additionally, some corporations must file a Wisconsin corporation franchise or income tax return (Form 4, 5S, or 4T, as applicable) regardless of whether they are otherwise "doing business in Wisconsin." These corporations include:

- Corporations organized under Wisconsin law
- Foreign corporations licensed to do business in Wisconsin
- Foreign corporations that are the sole owner of an entity that is disregarded as a separate entity under IRC section 7701 and does business in Wisconsin
- Foreign corporations engaged in buying or selling lottery prizes if the winning tickets were originally bought in Wisconsin

Corporations and Other Entities Not Required to File

The following entities are not required to file a Wisconsin corporation franchise or income tax return:

- Single-owner entities that are disregarded under IRC section 7701 (Instead, the owner of the disregarded entity must file a Wisconsin franchise or income tax return if otherwise required.)
- "Exempt entities," except those that have income described in a. through c.:
 - a. Unrelated business taxable income as defined in IRC section 512,
 - b. Income derived from a health maintenance organization (HMO) as defined in sec. 609.01(2), Wis. Stats., or a limited service health organization (LSHO) as defined in sec. 609.01(3), Wis. Stats., or
 - c. Income realized from the sale of and subsequent sale or redemption of lottery prizes if the winning tickets were originally bought in Wisconsin.
- Corporations that are completely inactive in and outside Wisconsin and have filed Form 4H
- Credit unions that don't act as a public depository for state or local government funds and have filed Form CU.

"Exempt Entities." Exempt entities are described in secs. 71.26(1) and 71.45(1), Wis. Stats. Exempt entities include the following:

- Insurers exempt from federal income taxation under IRC section 501(c)(15)
- Town mutual insurers organized under Chapter 612, Wis. Stats.
- Foreign insurers
- Domestic insurers engaged exclusively in life insurance business
- Domestic insurers transacting mortgage guaranty insurance business as defined in Wisconsin Administrative Code section Insurance 6.75(2)(i)
- Some cooperatives
- Religious, scientific, educational, benevolent, or other corporations or associations of individuals not organized or conducted for profit

“Doing Business in Wisconsin”

“Doing business in Wisconsin” means that the corporation has “nexus” with Wisconsin. Activities that create nexus include the following:

- Maintaining any business location in Wisconsin
- Owning real estate in Wisconsin
- Owning a stock of goods in a public warehouse or on consignment in Wisconsin
- Owning a stock of goods in the hands of a distributor or other non-employee representative in Wisconsin, if used to fill orders for the owner’s account
- Regularly selling products or services of any kind or nature to customers in Wisconsin that receive the product or service in Wisconsin, except where protected by federal Public Law (P.L.) 86-272
- Regularly soliciting business from potential customers in Wisconsin, except where protected by P.L. 86-272
- Regularly performing services outside Wisconsin for which the benefits are received in Wisconsin
- Regularly engaging in transactions with customers in Wisconsin that involve intangible property and result in receipts flowing to the corporation from within Wisconsin
- Issuing credit, debit, or travel and entertainment cards to customers in Wisconsin
- Holding loans secured by real or tangible personal property located in Wisconsin
- Owning, directly or indirectly, a general or limited partnership interest in a partnership that does business in Wisconsin, regardless of the percentage of ownership

- Owning, directly or indirectly, an interest in a limited liability company treated as a partnership that does business in Wisconsin, regardless of the percentage of ownership

For corporations selling tangible personal property, P.L. 86-272 may prohibit Wisconsin taxation in some cases. There are also specific statutory exemptions from nexus. See s. Tax 2.82, Wisconsin Administrative Code, for more information about P.L. 86-272 and what creates nexus. See sec. 71.23(3), Wis. Stats., for the specific statutory exemptions that may apply.

Franchise or Income Tax

Corporations required to file Form 4 may be subject to either franchise or income tax.

Franchise tax applies to:

- All domestic corporations (those organized under Wisconsin law), and
- Foreign corporations (those not organized under Wisconsin law) doing business in Wisconsin or buying or selling lottery prizes if the winning tickets were originally bought in Wisconsin, except where taxation is exempted by statute or barred by federal law.

The tax rate is 7.9%. Income from obligations of the United States government and its instrumentalities is included in income under the franchise tax law.

Income tax applies only to foreign corporations which are not subject to the franchise tax and which own property in Wisconsin or whose business in Wisconsin is exclusively in foreign or interstate commerce. The tax rate is 7.9%. Income from obligations of the United States government and its instrumentalities is not included in income under the income tax law.

Certain urban transit companies are subject to a special tax under sec. 71.39, Wis. Stats. Contact the Department for further information.

Economic Development Surcharge

Corporations required to file Form 4 may also be subject to the economic development surcharge. The economic development surcharge is 3% of the corporation’s franchise or income tax, before applying credits. The minimum economic development surcharge is \$25 and the maximum is \$9,800.

A corporation is subject to the economic development surcharge if it has gross receipts from all activities of \$4 million or more during the taxable year. “Gross receipts from all activities” means gross receipts, gross sales, gross dividends, gross interest income, gross rents, gross royalties, the

gross sales price from the disposition of capital assets and business assets, gross receipts passed through from other entities, and all other receipts that are included in gross income for Wisconsin franchise or income tax purposes.

However, the economic development surcharge doesn't apply to:

- Domestic corporations that don't have any business activities in Wisconsin,

- Foreign corporations that don't have nexus with Wisconsin, or
- Nuclear decommissioning trust funds.

For more information on the economic development surcharge, refer to Publication 400, *Wisconsin's Economic Development Surcharge*. You can find this publication on the Department of Revenue's web site at revenue.wi.gov/html/taxpubs.html,

Separate Return or Combined Return?

Use this section to determine if the corporation must be included in a combined return. If so, see the *Form 6 Instructions for Combined Returns*.

Combined Returns and Groups in General

If a corporation is in a combined group, it should not file a separate Form 4, instead, one corporation in the group, called the "designated agent," files Form 6 for the group as a whole.

A corporation is in a combined group if it meets **all** of the following three tests:

1. The corporation is in a **commonly controlled group**,
2. The corporation is engaged in a **unitary business** with other corporations in the commonly controlled group, and
3. The corporation is not excluded from the combined group under the **water's edge** rules.

However, corporations that are tax-option (S) corporations, real estate investment trusts (REITs), regulated investment companies (RICs), real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs), or financial asset securitization investment trusts (FASITs) can't be included in a combined group. These corporations must file separate Wisconsin returns if they are otherwise required to file.

Each of the three tests is discussed below:

Test 1: Commonly Controlled Group

Section 71.255(1)(c), Wis. Stats., and s. Tax 2.61(3), Wisconsin Administrative Code, describe when a "commonly controlled group" exists. To summarize those provisions, a "commonly controlled group" means any or a combination

of the following arrangements, if the "50% test" described below is met:

- A parent-subsidary chain of corporations
- Corporations with a common owner
- Corporations owned or controlled by members of the same family
- Corporations that are "stapled entities"

50% Test. In any commonly controlled group, there must be common ownership of stock representing more than 50% of the voting power of the corporations. A corporation owns stock representing more than 50% of voting power if it owns or controls more than 50% of all classes of stock entitled to vote. See s. Tax 2.61(3)(d), Wisconsin Administrative Code, for other rules that apply in determining voting power.

The common ownership may be either direct or indirect. To determine if there is indirect ownership, you would generally use the stock attribution rules of IRC section 318. See s. Tax 2.61(3)(a), Wisconsin Administrative Code, for more details.

Following is a brief description of each type of commonly controlled group:

Parent-Subsidiary Chain. In this type of group, a parent corporation directly or indirectly owns stock representing more than 50% of the voting power of one or more corporations or chains of corporations in the group.

Corporations with Common Owner. In this type of group, a common owner directly or indirectly owns stock representing more than 50% of the voting power of the corporations in the group. The common owner may or may not be a corporation.

Corporations Owned or Controlled by Family Members.

In this type of group, stock representing more than 50% of the voting power in each corporation is directly owned by, or for the benefit of, members of the same family, as determined by the third degree of kinship under sec. 990.001(16), Wis. Stats. Using the third degree of kinship, an individual is considered to be in the same family with his or her:

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Great-grandparents
- Children
- Grandchildren
- Great-grandchildren
- Siblings
- Nieces and nephews
- Aunts and uncles

Stapled Entities. In this type of group, there is an arrangement where stock representing more than 50% of the voting power of each corporation cannot be separately transferred, even if there is not actual common ownership of the stock. If a group of corporations would be considered “stapled entities” under section 269B of the IRC, without regard to whether the corporations are foreign or domestic, then the corporations are in a commonly controlled group. See s. Tax 2.61(3)(d), Wisconsin Administrative Code, for details.

Test 2: Unitary Business

In general, a “unitary business” is a group of commonly controlled companies, divisions, or branches that operates as a unit. The operations are integrated, and each company, division, or branch is dependent upon or contributory to the operation of the business as a whole. However, it isn’t necessary that *each* component of the business contribute to *all* the other components.

Controlled Group Election. A commonly controlled group may elect to forego the unitary business test by treating the entire commonly controlled group as a single unitary business. This is called the “controlled group election.”

NOTE: The controlled group election may simplify combined return filing because it eliminates the need to determine which corporations in the commonly controlled group are engaged in the same unitary business.

If the group makes the controlled group election, the election is generally binding on the combined group and the Department for a ten-year period, unless the group no longer has a filing requirement. For information on the controlled group election, see the instructions for page one of the Form 6, *Wisconsin Combined Corporation Franchise or Income Tax Return*.

How to Identify a “Unitary Business.” If the commonly controlled group does not make the controlled group election, it uses the definition in sec. 71.255(1)(n), Wis. Stats., and guidance provided in s. Tax 2.62, Wisconsin Administrative Code, to determine if corporations in the commonly controlled group are engaged in the same unitary business. The law provides the following:

- Commonly controlled entities are engaged in a unitary business if their activities generate a synergy and mutual benefit that produces a *sharing or exchange of value* among them and a significant *flow of value* to the separate parts
- Commonly controlled entities are presumed to be a unitary business if the entities have *unity of operation and use*

The Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code provide further explanation and examples of the “sharing, exchange, and flow of value” concept and the “unity of ownership, operation and use” concept, summarized as follows:

Sharing, Exchange, and Flow of Value. Commonly controlled corporations are engaged in a unitary business if **any** of the following are true:

- The corporations contribute or are expected to contribute in a nontrivial way to each other’s profitability
- The corporations are dependent on one another for achieving one or more nontrivial business objectives
- The corporations taken as a group offer one or more corporations in the group some economies of scale or economies of scope

To illustrate this concept, the following activities between commonly controlled corporations indicate that they are engaged in the same unitary business:

- Assisting in acquisition of assets
- Assisting with filling personnel needs
- Lending funds, guaranteeing loans, or pledging assets
- Common future planning or development of the enterprise
- Providing technical assistance, general operational guidance, or overall operational strategic advice
- Supervising
- Sharing use of trade names, patents, or other intellectual property

Unity of Operation and Use. Commonly controlled corporations are also engaged in a unitary business if they have both unity of operation and unity of use.

Unity of operation means there is functional integration among the corporations, and is evidenced by shared support functions such as:

- Centralized purchasing, marketing, advertising, accounting, or research and development
- Intercorporate sales or leases, including equipment and real estate
- Intercorporate services, including administrative, data management, computer support, employee benefits, human resources, insurance, tax compliance, legal, financial, and cash management services
- Intercorporate debts
- Intercorporate use of proprietary materials, including trade names, trademarks, service marks, patents, copyrights, and trade secrets

Unity of use is evidenced by centralized management or use of centralized policies. Factors that indicate unity of use include:

- Centralized executive force
- Interlocking directorates or corporate officers
- Intercompany employee transfers
- Common employee and executive training programs
- Common hiring and personnel policies
- Common recruiting programs
- Common employee handbooks
- Common employee benefit programs

Passive Holding Companies in Unitary Business. If a commonly controlled group includes a passive holding company that holds intangible assets that are used by other companies of the group in a unitary business, that holding company is deemed to be engaged in the unitary business, even if its activities are primarily passive.

If a passive parent holding company directly or indirectly controls one or more operating company subsidiaries engaged in a unitary business, that passive parent holding company is also engaged in the unitary business, even if its activities are primarily passive.

Presumptions to Simplify Determination. In order to simplify the determination of whether a unitary business exists, s. Tax 2.62(6), Wisconsin Administrative Code, provides that a group of commonly controlled corporations is presumed to be engaged in a unitary business if **any** of the following are true:

- The group's activities are all in the same general line of business
- The members of the group are engaged in different steps of a vertically structured enterprise
- There is strong central management coupled with the existence of centralized departments or affiliates for such functions as financing, advertising, R&D, or purchasing

Also, if a corporation forms a new corporation, the forming corporation and new corporation are presumed to be engaged in a unitary business with one another from the date of formation.

These presumptions may be rebutted by the taxpayer or by the Department based on the specific facts and circumstances.

Test 3: Water's Edge

In general, this test only applies if the company derives 80% or more of its worldwide net income from "active foreign business income" as defined in section 861(c)(1)(B), IRC. The water's edge rules are described in detail in the instructions for Form 6, *Wisconsin Combined Corporation Franchise or Income Tax Return*.

SUMMARY: A corporation must file in a combined return if all of the following are true:

1. The corporation is in a commonly controlled group,
2. The corporation is engaged in a unitary business with one or more other corporations in that commonly controlled group **or** the group makes the controlled group election, and
3. The corporation is not excluded from the combined group under the water's edge rules.

General Franchise or Income Tax Return Instructions

When and Where to File

Generally, a corporation must file its Wisconsin franchise or income tax return by the 15th day of the 3rd month following the close of its taxable year.

Short Period Returns. Corporations must file short period returns for Wisconsin if required to do so for federal purposes. A Wisconsin return for a short taxable year is due on or before the federal due date for that short taxable year.

Extensions. Any extension allowed by the IRS for filing the federal return automatically extends the Wisconsin due date to 30 days after the federal extended due date. You don't need to submit either a copy of the federal extension or an application for a Wisconsin extension to the Department by the original due date of your return. However, you must submit a copy of the federal extension with the Wisconsin return that you file.

If you aren't requesting a federal extension, Wisconsin law provides an automatic extension of 7 months or until the original due date of the corporation's corresponding federal return, whichever is later.

The fee for filing a late return after the extension date is \$150.

CAUTION: An extension for filing the return doesn't extend the time to pay the franchise or income tax. Interest will be charged on the tax not paid by the 15th day of the 3rd month following the close of the taxable year. You can avoid interest charges during the extension period by paying the tax due by that date.

Filing Methods. Corporate returns are required to be filed electronically unless an approved [electronic waiver](#) is received from the department. Paper filed returns that do not have an electronic filing waiver attached will be returned. More information is available from the Department's web page at revenue.wi.gov/Pages/TaxPro/news-2011-110727b.aspx. Also, see s. Tax 2.03(3)(b)(1), Wisconsin Administrative Code, for details.

File electronically through the Federal/State E-Filing Program. For a list of software vendors participating in this program, visit the Department's web page at revenue.wi.gov/eserv/corp/index.html.

If you have an approved electronic filing waiver and must file your return on paper, follow these mailing instructions carefully:

- **Do not fasten, staple or bind the pages of your return.** Use paper clips instead.

- If you are submitting multiple returns, separate them with **colored separator sheets**.
- Use the mailing address shown on the form.

Period Covered by Return

A 2016 Wisconsin return must be filed by a corporation for calendar year 2016 or a fiscal year that begins in 2016. A fiscal year may end only on the last day of a month. The period covered by the return can't exceed 12 months. The return must cover the same period as the corporation's federal income tax return.

Corporations reporting on a 52-53 week period for federal tax purposes must file on the same reporting period for Wisconsin. A 52-53 week taxable year is deemed to begin on the first day of the calendar month beginning nearest to the first day of the 52-53 week taxable year. The taxable year is deemed to end on the last day of the calendar month closest to the last day of the 52-53 week taxable year.

Any change in accounting period made for federal purposes must also be made for Wisconsin purposes. For the first taxable year for which the change applies, file with the Wisconsin return a copy of the IRS's notice of approval of accounting period change if such approval is required or an explanation of the change if the IRS's approval isn't required.

Accounting Methods and Elections

In computing net income, the method of accounting must be the same method used in computing federal net income. However, if the method used for federal purposes isn't authorized under the Internal Revenue Code in effect for Wisconsin, use a method authorized under the Internal Revenue Code in effect for Wisconsin.

Situations Where Installment Method Not Authorized for Wisconsin. A corporation, including a tax-option (S) corporation, entitled to use the installment method of accounting must take the unreported balance of gain on installment obligations into income in the taxable year of their distribution, transfer, or acquisition by another person or for the final taxable year for which it files or is required to file a Wisconsin franchise or income tax return, whichever year occurs first.

Change in Accounting Method. A change in accounting method made for federal purposes must also be made for Wisconsin purposes, unless the change isn't authorized under the Internal Revenue Code in effect for Wisconsin. Adjustments required federally as a result of a change made while the corporation is subject to Wisconsin taxation must

also be made for Wisconsin purposes, except in the last year that a corporation is subject to taxation by Wisconsin it must take into account all remaining adjustments required.

For the first taxable year for which the change applies, file with the Wisconsin return either a copy of the application for change in accounting method filed with the Internal Revenue Service and copy of the IRS’s consent, if applicable, or an explanation of the change if the IRS’s approval isn’t required.

Elections. As explained above, a corporation can’t make different elections for federal and Wisconsin purposes with respect to accounting periods and accounting methods, unless the federal method isn’t permitted under the Internal Revenue Code in effect for Wisconsin. In situations where a corporation has an option under the Internal Revenue Code and the IRS doesn’t consider that option to be a method of accounting, a different election may be made for Wisconsin than for federal purposes. If federal law specifies the manner or time period in which an election must be made, those requirements also apply for Wisconsin purposes.

Payment of Estimated Tax

If the total of a corporation’s franchise or income tax and economic development surcharge due is \$500 or more, it generally must make quarterly estimated tax payments. Failure to make required estimated tax payments may result in an interest charge.

Quick Refund. A corporation that overpaid its estimated tax may apply for a refund before filing its tax return if its overpayment is (1) at least 10% of the expected Wisconsin tax liability and (2) at least \$500. To apply, file Wisconsin Form 4466W, *Corporation Application for Quick Refund of Overpayment of Estimated Tax*, after the end of the taxable year and before the corporation files its tax return.

A corporation that has a tax due when filing its tax return as a result of receiving a “quick refund” will be charged 12% annual interest on the amount of unpaid tax from the date the refund is issued to the earlier of the 15th day of the 3rd month after the close of the taxable year or the date the tax liability is paid. Any tax that remains unpaid after the unextended due date of the tax return continues to be subject to 18% or 12% annual interest, as appropriate.

Electronic Funds Transfer Required. Section Tax 1.12, Wisconsin Administrative Code, requires the payment of certain taxes by electronic funds transfer (EFT). A corporation must pay its estimated franchise or income taxes and economic development surcharge by EFT if its net tax less refundable credits on its prior year return was \$1,000 or more. The Department will notify a corporation when EFT payments are required. The corporation will have 90 days

after being notified to register for EFT. The first EFT payment is due on the first tax due date following the end of the 90-day registration period.

To make EFT payments of corporation franchise or income tax, choose the appropriate tax type code from the table below. When making EFT payments, be sure to enter the last day of your taxable year for which the payment is being made, not the last day of the quarterly installment period.

Tax Type	Tax Type Code
Corporation estimated tax payment	02100
Corporation tax due with return	02200
Corporation amended return tax due	02400
Corporation bill (except audit assessments)	02540

Corporations not required to pay by EFT may elect to do so. For more information, visit the Department of Revenue’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/eserv/eftgen.html, e-mail, DOR-SalesandUse@wisconsin.gov, call (608) 264-9918, or write to Electronic Funds Transfer Assistance, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, PO Box 8949, Madison, WI 53708-8949.

If you are not required to use EFT, you may make your estimated payments using Form Corp-ES, *Wisconsin Corporation Estimated Tax Voucher*. You may download vouchers from the Department’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/html/formpub.html, or you may request vouchers by calling any Department of Revenue office.

Required Disclosures and Attachments

In addition to filing Form 4 itself, the corporation may be required to disclose certain types of transactions included on the return or file information returns. The corporation must also provide a complete copy of the corporation’s federal income tax return and other schedules to supplement the return. Each of these requirements is described below.

Disclosure of Related Entity Expenses. If the corporation will be deducting more than \$100,000 (after considering the effect of apportionment), of interest, rent, management fees, or intangible expenses paid, accrued, or incurred to a related person or entity, the corporation must generally file Schedule RT, *Wisconsin Related Entity Expenses Disclosure Statement*, with its franchise or income tax return. The Schedule RT instructions explain the reporting requirements.

However, even if you are not required to file Schedule RT, if you are taking deductions for interest, rent, management fees, or intangible expenses, paid, accrued, or incurred to related entities, you must add those expenses back to federal

income as a Wisconsin addition modification. To the extent the expenses meet the tests for deductibility, you may subtract them out as a subtraction modification. See the Schedule 4V instructions and Schedule 4W instructions for details.

Corporation's Disclosure of Reportable Transactions. If a corporation was required to include any form with its federal tax return to disclose a "reportable transaction," as defined under sec. 71.81(1)(c), Wis. Stats., it must file a copy of that form with the Department of Revenue within 60 days of the date it is required to file it for federal income tax purposes, provided that it is otherwise required to file a Wisconsin return.

This includes federal Form 8886, *Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement*, and federal Form 114, *Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts*. To file these forms for Wisconsin purposes, check the "yes" box for question 53 on Form 4, and submit the form with your return.

Material Advisor's Disclosure of Reportable Transactions. A material advisor that is required to file a form with the IRS to disclose a reportable transaction must file a copy of that form with the Department of Revenue within 60 days of the date it is required for federal income tax purposes, provided that the form relates to a taxpayer that is required to file a Wisconsin franchise or income tax return.

For federal purposes, the form required for this disclosure is Form 8918, *Material Advisor Disclosure Statement*. To file this form for Wisconsin purposes, send a paper copy, separate from the Wisconsin return, to Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Tax Shelters Program, PO Box 8958, Madison, WI 53708-8958. Include a listing of the names and identification numbers of each Wisconsin taxpayer for whom the advisor provided services to.

A "material advisor" means any person who provides any material aid, assistance, or advice with respect to organizing, managing, promoting, selling, implementing, insuring, or carrying out any reportable transaction (as defined in the U.S. Treasury Regulations) and who, directly or indirectly, derives gross income from providing such aid, assistance, or advice in an amount that exceeds the threshold amount. See sec. 71.81(1)(e), Wis. Stats., for details of the threshold amount that applies.

NOTE: For disclosures of related entity expenses, submit Schedule RT with your Wisconsin franchise or income tax return. However, for disclosures of reportable transactions, mail a copy of the federal form, *separate from the return*, to the Tax Shelters Program address.

Uncertain Tax Positions. If you were required to file federal Schedule UTP-Uncertain Tax Position Statement,

check the "yes" box on line 52 and include a copy of the schedule with your Wisconsin tax return.

Information Return for Miscellaneous Income. If the corporation paid \$600 or more in rents, royalties, or certain nonwage compensation to one or more individuals, the corporation must file an information return to report those payments. You may use Wisconsin Form 9b, *Miscellaneous Income*, or you may use federal Form 1099 instead of Form 9b. For more information, see the Form 9b instructions.

Federal Income Tax Return. All corporations filing Form 4 must include a complete copy of their federal income tax return, including all supporting schedules that were submitted to the IRS with the federal return.

Supporting Schedules for Return. The line-by-line instructions of the Wisconsin form you are filing often indicate that specific schedules are required to support amounts reported on the return. In some cases, the schedules must be on specific Department-prescribed forms, and in other cases you must prepare your own schedule. Follow the line-by-line instructions carefully.

Internal Revenue Service Adjustments, Amended Returns, and Claims for Refund

Internal Revenue Service Adjustments. If a corporation's federal tax return is adjusted by the IRS and the adjustments affect the Wisconsin net tax payable, the amount of a Wisconsin credit, a Wisconsin net business loss carryforward, or a Wisconsin capital loss carryforward, you must report the adjustments to the Department of Revenue within 90 days after they become final by either filing an amended Wisconsin franchise/income tax return or mailing a copy of the final federal audit report.

Send a copy of the final federal audit reports and any associated amended Wisconsin returns to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, PO Box 8908, Madison, WI 53708-8908. If submitting a federal audit report without an amended return, mail it to the Audit Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Mail Stop 3-107, PO Box 8906, Madison, WI 53708-8906. Don't attach these items to the tax return for the current year.

Amended Returns. After you have filed a complete, original tax return, you may file an amended return to correct a tax return as you originally filed it or as it was later adjusted by an amended return, a claim for refund, or an office or field audit.

If you file an amended federal return and the changes affect the Wisconsin net tax payable, the amount of a Wisconsin credit, a Wisconsin net business loss carryforward, or a Wisconsin capital loss carryforward, you must file an amended

Wisconsin return with the Department of Revenue within 90 days after filing the amended federal return.

To file an amended Wisconsin return, put a check mark on the designated line in item D on the front of the return, complete the return, and include an explanation of any changes made. Show computations in detail, including any applicable supplemental forms or schedules. Also show how you figured your refund or additional amount owed. Where applicable, the line-by-line instructions in these instructions provide specific instructions for how to compute the amounts on an amended return. **Do not include a copy of the original return.**

File your amended return electronically by using one of the third party software providers:

revenue.wi.gov/eserv/corp/third.html

If you have an approved electronic filing waiver, send amended returns to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, PO Box 8908, Madison, WI 53708-8908. **Don't attach amended returns to other tax returns that you are filing.**

Claims for Refund. A claim for refund must be filed within 4 years of the unextended due date of the return. However, a claim for refund to recover all or part of any tax or credit paid as a result of an office or field audit must be filed within 4 years after such an assessment. That assessment must have been paid and must not have been protested by filing a petition for redetermination. See s. Tax 2.12, Wisconsin Administrative Code, for more information on claims for refund and other amended returns.

Final Return

If the corporation liquidated during the taxable year, put a check mark on the designated line in item D on the front of the return. Enter the date of liquidation as the taxable year ending date at the top of the return. Submit a copy of your plan of liquidation and a copy of federal Form 966 with your Wisconsin return.

Generally, the final return is due on or before the federal due date. In most cases, this is the 15th day of the 3rd month after the date the corporation dissolved. The tax is payable by the 15th day of the 3rd month after the date of dissolution, regardless of the due date of the final return.

Penalties for Not Filing or Filing Incorrect Returns

If you don't file a franchise or income tax return that you are required to file, or if you file an incorrect return due to negligence or fraud, interest and penalties may be assessed against you. The interest rate on delinquent taxes is 18% per year. Civil penalties may be as much as 100% of the amount of tax not reported on the return. Criminal penalties for filing a false return include a fine of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment.

Further, if you fail to disclose reportable transactions, you may be subject to the penalties described in sec. 71.81, Wis. Stats., including a \$30,000 penalty for failure to disclose a listed transaction.

Conformity with Internal Revenue Code and Exceptions

The Wisconsin income and franchise tax law is based on the federal Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The IRC generally applies for Wisconsin purposes at the same time as for federal purposes. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, Wisconsin's definition of the IRC is the IRC as of December 31, 2013 with exceptions. Below is a listing of the exceptions.

NOTE: The exceptions and provisions adopted by Wisconsin listed below are those in effect as of the publication date of these instructions. It is possible that subsequent changes in Wisconsin law may add or eliminate some exceptions applicable to taxable years beginning in 2016.

Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code Not Adopted by Wisconsin:

- Section 13113 of P.L. 103-66, which created sec. 1202 of the IRC effective for small business stock issued after August 10, 1993.
- Sections 1, 3, 4, and 5 of P.L. 106-519, which repealed foreign sales corporation provisions and replaced with extraterritorial income provisions.
- Sections 101, 102, and 422 of P.L. 108-357, which repealed the exclusion for extraterritorial income, domestic production activities deduction, and the creation of sec. 965 – incentives to reinvest foreign earnings in the U.S.

- Sections 1310 and 1351 of P.L. 109-58, which provides for the modification to special rules for nuclear decommissioning costs, repeal of the limitation on contract research expenses paid so small businesses, universities, and federal laboratories.
- Section 11146 of P.L. 109-59, the tax treatment of state ownership of railroad real estate investment trust.
- Section 403(q) of P.L. 109-135, which provides incentives to reinvest foreign earnings from controlled foreign corporations in the U.S.
- Section 513 of P.L. 109-222, which repeals foreign sales corporation/extraterritorial income exclusion binding contract relief.
- Sections 104 and 307 of P.L. 109-432, which increases the rates of the alternative incremental credit and provides a new alternative simplified credit and that gross income does not include an IRA distribution used to fund an HSA.
- Sections 8233 and 8235 of P.L. 110-28, which created a special rule for banks required to change from the reserve method of accounting in becoming tax-option (S) corporations and the elimination of all earnings and profits attributable to pre-1983 years.
- Section 11(e) and (g) of P.L. 110-172, which provides clerical amendments to research credits for controlled corporations and common control, and clerical amendments to the FSC Repeal and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000.
- Section 301 of P.L. 110-245, which provides for tax responsibilities of expatriation.
- Sections 15303 and 15351 of P.L. 110-246, related to the deduction for endangered species recovery, and limits the amount of farm losses that may offset non-farming business income is limited to \$300,000.
- Section 302 of division A, section 401 of division B, and sections 312, 322, 502(c), 707, and 801 of division C of P.L. 110-343, which limits executive compensation for employers participating in troubled assets relief program for the taxable year in which the troubled assets exceed \$300,000,000. Caps the domestic production activities deduction at 6% for oil-related activities. The deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities in Puerto Rico applies to the first 8 taxable years beginning before January 1, 2010. Tax incentives for investment in the District of Columbia includes exclusion for gain on sale of an asset held from more than 5 years. Defines wages for purposes of the domestic production activities deduction. Creates sec. 198A to provide for expensing of disaster expenses for control of hazardous substances. Specifies treatment of nonqualified deferred compensation plans maintained by foreign corporations.
- Sections 1232, 1241, 1251, 1501, and 1502 of division B of P.L. 111-5, which suspends the special rules for original issue discount on high yield obligations issued during the period 9/1/2008 and 12/31/2009. Allows a 75% exclusion for small business stock issued between 1/17/2009 and 12/31/2009. Provides that no built-in gain tax is imposed on a tax-option (S) Corporation for a taxable year beginning in 2009 and 2010 if the seventh taxable year in the corporation's recognition period preceded such taxable year. Tax-exempt obligations held by financial institutions, in an amount not to exceed 2 percent of the adjusted basis of the financial institution's assets, are not taken into account for determining the portion of the financial institutions interest expense subject to the pro rata interest disallowance rule of sec. 265(b). Modification of the small insurer exception to tax-exempt interest expense allocation rules for financial institutions.
- Sections 211, 212, 213, 214, and 216 of P.L. 111-226, which adopts a matching rule to prevent the separation of foreign taxes from the associated foreign income, denies a foreign tax credit for the disqualified portion of any foreign income tax paid in connection with a covered asset acquisition, provides a separate application of foreign tax credit limitation to items resourced under treaties, limits the amount of foreign taxes deemed paid with respect to sec. 956 inclusions, treats a foreign corporation as a member of an affiliated group for interest allocation and apportionment purposes in more than 50% of gross income is effectively connected income and at least 80% of either the vote or value of all outstanding stock is owned directly or indirectly by members of the affiliated group.
- Sections 2011 and 2122 of P.L. 111-240, which provides a 100% exclusion for the gain on the sale of small business stock acquired after 9/27/2010 and before 1/1/2011, and clarifies the income sourcing rules for guarantee fees.
- Sections 753, 754, and 760 of P.L. 111-312, which excludes 60% of the gain on the sale of small business stock in an empowerment zone business to gain attributable to periods before 1/1/2016, specifies that gross income does not include gain on stock acquired before 1/1/2012 and held for more than 5 years, and excludes the gain on sale of small business stock acquired in 2011.
- Section 1106 of P.L. 112-95, which allows airline employees to contribute airline payment amounts under a bankruptcy claim to a traditional IRA as a rollover contribution.
- Sections 104, 318, 322, 323, 324, 326, 327, and 411 of P.L. 112-240, which makes the alternative minimum tax exemption permanent and indexed for inflation, extends through 2013 the deduction with respect to income attributable to domestic production activities in Puerto Rico, extends the subpart F exception for active financing income, extends the look-thru treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations under foreign personal holding company, provides 100% exclusion for gain on small business stock acquired in 2012 and 2013, extends through 2013 the reduction in tax-option (S) Corporation built-in gains tax and clarifies treatment of installment sales, provides a 60% exclusion for gain on small business stock acquired before 2019, and

extends through 2013 the rules that allow gain certain sales of electric transmission property to be recognized ratably over 8 taxable years.

Other Exceptions to Internal Revenue Code

The following federal provisions in effect as of December 31, 2013, are specifically excluded for Wisconsin franchise and income tax purposes:

Domestic Production Activities Deduction. For federal purposes, taxpayers may claim a deduction against gross income equal to a percentage of its qualified production activities income or its taxable income without regard to the deduction (sec. 102 of P.L. 108-357). Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, the domestic production activities deduction no longer applies for Wisconsin purposes.

Depreciation and Bonus Depreciation

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, for purposes of computing depreciation, depletion, and amortization, the Internal Revenue Code means the federal Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2014.

The provision that property required to be depreciated for taxable year 1986 under the Internal Revenue Code as amended to December 31, 1980, to continue to be depreciated under the Internal Revenue Code as amended to December 31, 1980, is limited to taxable years beginning before January 1, 2014.

Section 179 Expense

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, sections 179, 179A, 179B, 179C, 179D, and 179E of the Internal Revenue Code, related to expensing of depreciable business assets, apply for Wisconsin tax purposes. "Internal Revenue Code" means the federal Internal Revenue Code in effect for the year in which the property is placed in service.

Capital Losses

Wisconsin generally follows the capital loss limitations and carryovers provided under the IRC for corporations. If a corporation has a net capital loss, the loss must be carried to other taxable years and deducted from capital gains in those years, as provided in IRC section 1212. However, for Wisconsin purposes, a corporation can't carry back a loss to taxable years before 1987. Losses that can't be carried back may be carried forward 5 years.

Limitations on Certain Federal Deductions

You may have to recompute federal deduction limitations for Wisconsin purposes if the amount of your federal taxable income for federal purposes differs from your federal

taxable income as determined under the Internal Revenue Code in effect for Wisconsin. Differences in your federal taxable income for federal and Wisconsin purposes may arise for the following reasons:

- A provision of the federal Internal Revenue Code is excluded from the definition of "Internal Revenue Code" in effect for Wisconsin under sec. 71.22(4), Wis. Stats.
- Different elections under the Internal Revenue Code are made for federal and Wisconsin purposes

The deduction limitations are applied in computing federal taxable income *before* the Wisconsin modifications prescribed in secs. 71.26(2) and (3) and 71.30, Wis. Stats. Therefore, you may not recompute deduction limitations as a result of making Wisconsin modifications.

The following examples further illustrate how the limitations on federal deductions apply in the case of section 179 expense:

Example 1: Corporation B reports federal taxable income of zero for the current taxable year and Wisconsin taxable income of \$20,000. The difference results from adding to federal income the \$20,000 of state income taxes paid that the taxpayer had deducted on its federal return. For federal purposes, the taxpayer has \$25,000 of section 179 expense, but is limited by its business income to claiming a deduction of \$5,000 and carrying forward the \$20,000 balance.

For Wisconsin purposes, the section 179 deduction is limited to \$5,000, the federal amount. The Wisconsin section 179 deduction cannot be recomputed since the addback for state income taxes is a modification prescribed in sec. 71.26(3)(g), Wis. Stats.

Example 2: Corporation F claims no section 179 expense deduction but \$16,000 of bonus depreciation on its federal return for the current taxable year. The taxpayer could have elected to claim a section 179 expense deduction on its federal return in addition to or instead of the bonus depreciation. The taxpayer may elect to claim the \$16,000 as a section 179 expense deduction on its Wisconsin return so that the computation of its regular MACRS allowance is the same for federal and Wisconsin purposes.

Differences Between Federal and Wisconsin Basis of Assets

Assets of Previously Nontaxable Corporations. For the first year a corporation is taxable in Wisconsin, the basis of its assets is its federal basis as computed under the "Internal Revenue Code" as the term is defined for Wisconsin purposes in sec. 71.22(4), Wis. Stats. Provisions of the federal Internal Revenue Code that don't apply for Wisconsin purposes, are ignored when determining the corporation's asset basis for Wisconsin purposes.

General Instructions for Apportionment

Who Must Use Apportionment

A corporation engaged in a unitary business in and outside Wisconsin must report a portion of its total net income to Wisconsin using the apportionment method, unless the Department gives permission to use separate accounting.

To use the apportionment method, a corporation must have business activity sufficient to create nexus in Wisconsin and at least one other state or foreign country. “Nexus” means that a corporation’s business activity is of such a degree that the state or foreign country has jurisdiction to impose an income tax or franchise tax measured by net income.

Wisconsin’s Administrative Code provides more detailed information about when apportionment is required. The following sections may be helpful:

- Tax 2.39, Apportionment Method
- Tax 2.62, Unitary Business
- Tax 2.82, Nexus

Apportionment Method

Under the apportionment method, a corporation shows all of its income and deductions attributable to the unitary business and assigns a part to Wisconsin according to an apportionment percentage.

For most corporations required to use apportionment, the apportionment factor numerator is Wisconsin sales and the denominator is total company sales. This is known as the “single sales factor” method. Corporations that use the single sales factor method use Part I of Form A-1, *Wisconsin Apportionment Data for Single Factor Formulas*, to compute their apportionment percentage.

However, certain specialized industries do not use the single sales factor method. Instead, they apportion their incomes under provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, or in the case of insurance companies, under a separate subchapter of the Wisconsin Statutes. Companies that don’t use the single sales factor include:

- Direct air carriers
- Interstate air freight forwarders affiliated with a direct air carrier
- Motor carriers
- Railroads
- Pipeline companies
- Financial organizations, including financial institutions, brokers-dealers, investment advisers, investment companies, and underwriters

- Telecommunications companies
- Insurance companies

Among these specialized industries, financial organizations and insurance companies have single-factor formulas that are similar to the single sales factor. Financial organizations use a receipts factor, and insurance companies use a premiums factor.

All corporations that use a single sales factor, receipts factor, or premiums factor use the applicable part of Form A-1 to compute their numerator and denominator. All corporations that use a multiple-factor formula use the applicable part of Form A-2, *Wisconsin Apportionment Data for Multiple Factor Formulas*, to compute their numerator and denominator.

Nonapportionable Income

A corporation that is required to use apportionment may have nonapportionable income. Nonapportionable income is income which is allocable directly to a particular state. It includes income or loss derived from the sale of nonbusiness real or tangible personal property or from rentals and royalties from nonbusiness real or tangible personal property. This income is assigned to the state where the property is located.

Nonapportionable income also includes income that is realized from the sale of or purchase and subsequent sale or redemption of lottery prizes if the winning tickets were originally bought in Wisconsin.

CAUTION: Intangible income of a personal holding company is apportionable unless it qualifies as nonapportionable income under the same standard that applies to other corporations.

Total nonapportionable income (or loss) is removed from net income before the apportionment percentage is applied. The amount allocable to Wisconsin is then combined with the Wisconsin share of apportionable income to arrive at Wisconsin net income. If a corporation has nonapportionable income, it must report that income on Form N, *Wisconsin Nonapportionable and Separately Apportioned Income*.

Separately Apportioned Income

If the corporation has separately apportioned income, the corporation would complete Form N to report the separately apportioned income. See the Form N instructions for details.

Corporate Partners or LLC Members

A corporation that is a general or limited partner of a partnership must include its share of the numerator and denominator of the partnership's apportionment factors in its own apportionment factors. A corporation that is a member of a limited liability company (LLC) treated as a partnership for federal tax purposes must include its share of the numerator and denominator of the LLC's apportionment factors in its own apportionment factors.

NOTE: A corporation that is a general or limited partner in a partnership or a member of an LLC treated as a partnership should obtain a detailed breakdown of the partnership's or LLC's apportionment factors so the corporation can include its share of those factors in the computation of its own apportionment factors.

However, income from a partnership or LLC may be non-taxable under the principles of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Allied-Signal v. Director, Div. of Taxation*, 504 U.S. 768 (1992), if the investment is passive and does not serve an operational function. In this case, the corporation

would not include its share of the partnership's or LLC's apportionment factors in the numerator and denominator of its apportionment factors. Remove this item of income by completing Form C.

Separate Accounting

A corporation that has income or loss from a business outside Wisconsin that is not part of a unitary business cannot use apportionment. Instead, it must determine the income attributable to Wisconsin by separate accounting. Under separate accounting, the corporation must keep separate records of the sales, cost of sales, and expenses for the Wisconsin business. The corporation uses Form C, *Separate Accounting Data*, to report the amount attributable to Wisconsin by separate accounting.

A unitary business may use separate accounting only with the approval of the Department. In the application for approval, the corporation must explain, in detail, why separate accounting more clearly reflects the corporation's Wisconsin income. See the instructions for Form C for how to obtain approval to use separate accounting.

Treatment of Specialized Industries and Entities

Foreign Sales Corporations (FSCs)

FSCs no longer receive special treatment for Wisconsin. The income and tax of FSCs are computed in the same manner as for other corporations.

Interest Charge Domestic International Sales Corporations (IC-DISCs)

IC-DISCs have no special status for Wisconsin tax purposes. An IC-DISC that is a viable corporation with substance and has nexus in Wisconsin is taxed like any other corporation. However, if an IC-DISC doesn't carry on any substantial business activities and does nothing to earn the income that it reports, its net income is allocated to the corporation that earned the income.

Insurance Companies

An insurance company may be required to make certain adjustments that are unique to insurance companies. These adjustments include:

- Adding back loss carryforward deducted in the calculation of federal taxable income and dividend income excluded from federal taxable income
- Adding back the IRC section 847 deduction, relating to an additional deduction for insurers required to discount unpaid losses (this deduction isn't allowed for Wisconsin purposes)
- Subtracting nontaxable income attributable to life insurance operations
- Reducing current year net business loss by the amount of dividends received deduction
- Adjusting net tax liability so that it doesn't exceed 2% of gross premiums plus 7.9% of income realized from lottery prizes

All of these adjustments are computed on Wisconsin Schedule 4I, *Wisconsin Adjustments for Insurance Companies*. The amounts on Schedule 4I flow through to Schedule 4V, Schedule 4W, or Form 4, as appropriate. See the Schedule 4I instructions for details.

If an insurance company is a small company as defined in IRC section 831(b)(2), the company may elect to be taxed on taxable investment income as provided in IRC section 831(b), rather than on net income.

Personal Holding Companies

Personal holding companies no longer receive special treatment for Wisconsin. The intangible income of a personal holding company is apportionable income unless it qualifies as nonapportionable income under the same standard that applies to corporations that aren't personal holding companies.

RICs, REMICs, REITs, and FASITs

Depreciation Differences. For RICs, REMICs, or REITs, the following depreciation differences apply:

- Depreciation and amortization on property located outside Wisconsin and placed in service on or after January 1, 1983, and before January 1, 1987, were to be determined under the December 31, 1980, IRC. However, the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission declared this provision unconstitutional in *Beatrice Cheese, Inc. vs. Wisconsin Department of Revenue* (February 24, 1993). Corporations have the option of either claiming the same depreciation deduction as for federal purposes, or continuing their present method of depreciation.
- IRC section 168(f)(8), relating to a special rule for leases (safe harbor), didn't apply for Wisconsin purposes.
- Depreciation for residential real property and property used in farming (if the corporation's Wisconsin gross farm receipts or sales exceeded \$155,000 for the 1986 taxable year), acquired in the 1986 taxable year, but before January 1, 1987, must be determined under the December 31, 1980, IRC.

Other Federal-Wisconsin Adjustments. The only adjustments that RICs, REMICs, qualified REITs, and FASITs must make to federal taxable income to arrive at Wisconsin net income are:

- Those necessary to account for the depreciation and amortization differences described above,
- Any difference in the Wisconsin and federal basis of any asset disposed of in a taxable transaction, and
- Any other adjustment needed for changes made to the Internal Revenue Code that don't apply for Wisconsin.

None of the other adjustments listed on Schedules 4V or 4W apply to RICs, REMICs, qualified REITs, and FASITs.

Wholly-Owned REIT Subsidiaries. If a wholly-owned REIT subsidiary isn't treated as a separate entity under IRC section 856(i) and all of its assets, liabilities, and items of income and loss are treated as attributes of the REIT, that same treatment applies for Wisconsin purposes.

FASITs. The special rules for financial asset securitization investment trusts (FASITs) generally do not apply after 2004.

Tax Exempt Organizations

If a tax exempt organization is a corporation and has unrelated business income of at least \$1,000 as defined in IRC section 512, it must file Form 4T, *Wisconsin Tax Exempt Organization Business Franchise or Income Tax Return*.

You should not make any Wisconsin addition or subtraction modifications to its federal unrelated business taxable income except to account for IRC provisions which were not adopted for Wisconsin purposes. In addition, you would not make addition modifications to include Wisconsin credits in income.

Urban Transit Companies

Certain urban transit companies are subject to a special tax under sec. 71.39, Wis. Stats. Contact the Department for further information.

Line-by-Line Instructions for Form 4

You must complete pages 1, 2, and 3 of Form 4 and the appropriate schedules referenced on Form 4. Do not enter "See attached" instead of completing the entry spaces. If more space is needed, submit separate sheets using the same size and format as the printed forms.

Round cents to the nearest whole dollar by eliminating amounts less than 50 cents and increasing amounts from 50 cents through 99 cents to the next higher dollar.

NOTE: These instructions are for separate returns only. Corporations that are in combined groups should see the *Form 6 Instructions for Combined Returns*.

CAUTION: Federal line numbers referred to on Form 4 and in these instructions may change.

■ **Header Information** – Before completing items A through I, fill in the corporation's 2016 taxable year at the top of the form and the corporation's name and address. The name and address information should be written on single lines. Do not stack the information on the lines. If more room is needed, abbreviate where possible.

Do not write "None" on the amount lines if there is not an entry for the lines. Instead, leave the lines blank.

If the corporation dissolved, enter the date of dissolution as the ending date of the 2016 taxable year.

■ **Item A. Federal Employer Identification Number** – Enter the corporation's federal employer identification number (FEIN). If you haven't yet applied for a FEIN, you may do so by filing federal Form SS-4 with the IRS, calling the IRS's toll-free number (800) 829-4933, or applying online at irs.gov.

■ **Item B. Business Activity (NAICS) Code** – Enter the corporation's principal business activity code, based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), from your federal return. If your federal return is a consolidated return, go to census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html%20 to find the NAICS code for your principal business activity.

■ **Item C. State and Year of Incorporation** – Enter the 2-letter postal abbreviation for the state (or name of the foreign country) under whose laws the corporation is organized and the year of incorporation.

■ **Item D1. Amended Return** – Check here if this is an amended return. Provide a detailed explanation of the changes made, including any supporting form or schedule.

For example, if you are amending the research credit, submit a corrected Schedule R and an explanation of the change along with your amended return.

■ **Item D2. First Return** – Check here if this is the first year that you are filing a Wisconsin return because the corporation wasn't in existence or didn't do business in Wisconsin in prior years.

■ **Item D3. Final Return** – Check here if the corporation ceased to exist or withdrew from Wisconsin during the year. If the corporation liquidated, provide a copy of your plan of liquidation and federal Form 966.

■ **Items D4 and D5. Short Period** – Check the applicable line if a short period return is being filed due to a change in the corporation's accounting period or a stock purchase or sale.

■ **Item E. Extended Due Date** – Check here if the corporation has an extension of time to file its Wisconsin return, and enter the extended due date.

■ **Item F. No Business Transacted in Wisconsin** – If the corporation was incorporated under Wisconsin law or licensed to do business in Wisconsin but had no property or activity in Wisconsin for the taxable year, check here and provide a complete copy of the corporation's federal return.

■ **Item G. Schedule RT Required** – Check here if the corporation is filing Schedule RT with its return. Schedule RT is generally required if the corporation is claiming a deduction for more than \$100,000 of certain expenses paid, accrued, or incurred to a related person or entity in the taxable year. The \$100,000 threshold amount is determined after accounting for the apportionment percentage.

The types of expenses to which Schedule RT applies, if paid, accrued, or incurred to a related person or entity, are:

- Interest expenses,
- Rent expenses,
- Management fees, and
- Intangible expenses.

See the Schedule RT instructions for details.

CAUTION: Regardless of whether you are required to file Schedule RT, you should be making an addition modification on Schedule 4V for interest, rent, management fees, or intangible expenses paid, accrued, or incurred to a related entity. Then, if the expenses meet the statutory tests required to be deductible, you may make a subtraction modification on Schedule 4W. See the instructions to Schedules 4V and 4W for details.

■ **Item H. Insurance Company Indicator** – Check here if the corporation is an insurance company.

■ **Item I. Internal Revenue Service Adjustments** – If a corporation’s federal tax return is adjusted by the IRS and the adjustments affect the Wisconsin net tax payable, the amount of a Wisconsin credit, a Wisconsin net business loss carryforward, or a Wisconsin capital loss carryforward, you must report the adjustments to the Department of Revenue within 90 days after they become final.

File your amended return electronically by using one of the third party software providers:

revenue.wi.gov/eserv/corp/index.html

If you have an approved [electronic filing waiver](#), send a copy of the final federal audit reports and any associated amended Wisconsin returns to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, PO Box 8908, Madison, WI 53708-8908.

If submitting a federal audit report without an amended return, mail it to the Audit Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Mail Stop 3-107, PO Box 8906, Madison, WI 53708-8906. Don’t attach these items to the tax return for the current year.

■ **Line 1. Federal Taxable Income** – Enter the federal taxable income before the net operating loss deduction and special deductions. Generally, this is the amount from federal Form 1120, line 28. However, for certain types of corporations the applicable line of the federal return may be different. These certain types of corporations and applicable lines include the following:

- Insurance companies generally use total federal taxable income from lines 1 and 2 of Form 1120-PC
- Regulated investment companies (RICs) use Form 1120-RIC, line 26
- Real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs) use Form 1066, Schedule J, line 4 plus line 9
- Real estate investment trusts (REITs) use Form 1120-REIT, line 22
- For corporations that are treated as S corporations federally but are not treated as Wisconsin tax-option corporations, use Form 1120-S, line 21

- Cooperative associations use Form 1120-C, line 25c

■ **Line 2. Wisconsin Additions** – This is where you make addition adjustments to the amount you entered on line 1 in order to account for differences between taxable income under Wisconsin law and under federal law. Compute your addition modifications on Schedule 4V. See the Schedule 4V instructions for details. Enter the total from Schedule 4V on Form 4, line 2, except if you are using the separate accounting method, enter the total from Schedule 4V on Form C, line 11.

■ **Line 4. Wisconsin Subtractions** – This is where you make subtraction adjustments to the amount you entered on line 1 in order to account for differences between taxable income under Wisconsin law and under federal law. Compute your subtraction modifications on Schedule 4W. See the Schedule 4W instructions for details.

NOTE: If you have any dividends that qualify for the Wisconsin dividends received deduction, use Schedule 4Y to compute your subtraction modification for dividends, and enter the total on Schedule 4W, line 1.

Enter the total from Schedule 4W on Form 4, line 4, except if you are using the separate accounting method, enter the total from Schedule 4W on Form C, line 13.

■ **Line 6. Total Nonapportionable and Separately Apportioned Income** – Complete this line only if you have nonapportionable income or are using the separate accounting method. This is the total amount of taxable income under Wisconsin law that is not eligible for apportionment. This amount comes from line 8 of Form N. If you are using separate accounting, you will include the amounts you computed on Form C onto Form N. See the Form N instructions for details.

If any of the amount on line 6 is allocable to Wisconsin, you will enter the Wisconsin amount later on line 10.

■ **Line 8. Wisconsin Apportionment Percentage** – If you are using the apportionment method, complete Wisconsin Form A-1 or Form A-2, as applicable, and enter the apportionment percentage. *Fill all spaces to the right of the decimal point.* Round to the nearest ten-thousandths of a percent (for example, 12.3456%).

If this return is for an insurance company that does business only in Wisconsin, enter “100.0000%” on line 8.

■ **Line 10. Wisconsin Nonapportionable and Separately Apportioned Income** – Complete this line only if you have nonapportionable income or are using the separate accounting method. If any of the amount you entered on line 6 is allocable to Wisconsin, enter the Wisconsin amount on line 10. This amount is computed on Form N, line 14.

■ **Line 12. Loss Adjustment for Insurance Companies** – Complete this line only if the corporation is an insurance company and the amount on line 11 is a loss. This is where insurance companies adjust their current year net business loss so that the carryforward to next year is computed without regard to the dividends received deduction, as required under sec. 71.45(4), Wis. Stats. Compute this amount in Part III of Schedule 4I. See the Schedule 4I instructions for details.

■ **Line 14. Wisconsin Net Business Loss Carryforward** – Enter the total Wisconsin net business loss carryforward from Form 4BL, line 30, column f, but do not enter more than line 13. However, if you choose to use less than the total allowable amount of net business loss carryforward, enter the amount that you will use. See the Tax Releases in *Wisconsin Tax Bulletin* issues 138 (April 2004) and 139 (July 2004) for more details on using carryforwards of net business losses and credits. You may access the *Wisconsin Tax Bulletin* on the Department’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/ise/wtb/index.html.

CAUTION: If line 13 is zero or a loss, do not fill in line 14. If the net business loss carryforward from Form 4BL exceeds the income reported on line 13, do not enter more than the amount on line 13.

Regulated investment companies, real estate mortgage investment conduits, real estate investment trusts, and financial asset securitization investment trusts enter zero on line 14.

■ **Line 15. Wisconsin Net Income (Loss)** – Subtract line 14 from line 13. If line 13 shows a loss, enter the loss from line 13 on line 15.

■ **Line 16. Tentative Gross Tax** – Enter 7.9% of the Wisconsin net income reported on line 15.

■ **Line 17. Tax Adjustment for Insurance Companies** – If the corporation is an insurance company, this is where you adjust the tax liability so that it does not exceed 2% of gross premiums plus 7.9% of income realized from lottery prizes. Compute the adjustment in Part IV of Schedule 4I. See the Schedule 4I instructions for details.

■ **Line 18. Gross Tax** – Subtract the amount on line 17 from the amount on line 16.

■ **Line 19. Nonrefundable Credits** – Enter the total available nonrefundable credits from Schedule CR. However, if you choose to use less than the total available nonrefundable credits, enter the amount that you will use. See the Tax Releases in *Wisconsin Tax Bulletin* issues 138 (April 2004) and 139 (July 2004) for more details on using carryforwards of net business losses and credits. You may access the *Wisconsin Tax Bulletin* on the Department’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/ise/wtb/index.html.

To determine if the corporation qualifies for any credits, see Publication 123, *Business Tax Incentives* (available on the Department of Revenue’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/html/taxpubs.html). To claim a credit, complete the appropriate credit schedule, enter the credit amount on the appropriate line of Schedule CR, and submit the credit schedule and Schedule CR with your return.

NOTE: You must submit both Schedule CR and the applicable credit schedule(s) with your return.

If you are claiming more than one credit, you must claim the credits in a specific order. See the Schedule CR instructions for details.

■ **Line 20. Net Tax** – Subtract line 19 from line 18. If line 19 is more than line 18, enter zero (0).

■ **Line 21. Economic Development Surcharge** – If the corporation is subject to the economic development surcharge, enter the greater of \$25 or 3% of the gross tax on line 18, but not more than \$9,800. See the section for *Economic Development Surcharge*, under *Who Must File Form 4*, for more information on who is subject to the economic development surcharge.

■ **Line 22. Endangered Resources Donation** – Your donation supports the preservation and management of more than 200 endangered and threatened Wisconsin plants and animals. It also helps protect Wisconsin’s finest remaining examples of prairies, forests, and wetlands.

Support endangered resources in Wisconsin. Fill in line 22 with the amount you wish to donate. Your gift will either reduce your refund or be added to tax due.

You can make an online donation at the following web site:

dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/DonateOnline.asp

You can also send a check directly to the Endangered Resources Fund, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

■ **Line 23. Veterans Trust Fund Donation** – You may designate an amount as a veterans trust fund donation. Your donation will be used by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefit of veterans or their dependents. Fill in line 23 with the amount you wish to donate. Your donation will either reduce your refund or be added to tax due.

■ **Line 25. Estimated Tax Payments** – Enter estimated tax payments made by the corporation, including EFT payments, or overpayments applied from prior years’ returns, minus any “quick refund” applied for on Form 4466W.

CAUTION: You cannot claim estimated tax payments that were made by a related corporation or other related taxpayer.

■ **Line 26. Wisconsin Tax Withheld** – Enter your share of Wisconsin tax withheld from pass-through entities of which you are a member, as reported on Wisconsin Schedules 3K-1 or 2K-1. Include a copy of the Schedule 3K-1 or 2K-1 with the tax return that you file. Also enter the amount of Wisconsin tax withheld from lottery prizes.

If this is an amended return, enter the Wisconsin tax withheld reported on your original return, unless the amount you originally reported was incorrect.

■ **Line 27. Refundable Credits** – Enter the total available refundable credits from Schedule CR. To determine if the corporation qualifies for any credits, see Publication 123, *Business Tax Incentives* (available on the Department of Revenue’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/html/taxpubs.html, under the “Publications” link).

To claim a credit, complete the appropriate credit schedule, enter the credit amount on the appropriate line of Schedule CR, and submit the credit schedule and Schedule CR with your return.

NOTE: You must submit both Schedule CR and the applicable credit schedule(s) with your return.

■ **Line 28. Amended Return - Amount Previously Paid** - Complete this line only if this is an amended 2016 Form 4. Fill in the amount of tax you paid with your original Form 4 plus any additional amounts paid after it was filed.

If you did not pay the full amount shown on your original Form 4, fill in only the portion that you actually paid. Also, include any additional tax that may have resulted if your original return was changed or audited. This includes additional tax paid with a previously filed 2016 amended return and additional tax paid as a result of a department adjustment to your return. Do not include payments of interest or penalties.

■ **Line 30. Amended Return - Amount Previously Refunded** - Complete this line only if this is an amended 2016 Form 4. Fill in the refund from your original 2016 return (not including the amount applied to your 2017 estimated tax).

If your refund was reduced because you owed underpayment interest or any penalties, fill in the amount of your refund before the reduction for underpayment interest or penalty. If your 2016 return was adjusted by the department, fill in the refund shown on the adjustment notice you received. If the adjustment notice shows a tax due rather than a refund, complete line 28 instead of line 30.

■ **Line 32. Interest, Penalty, and Late Fee Due** – Enter any interest, penalty, and late fee due, as computed on Form U, line 17 or 26. Check the box if you figured underpayment interest using the annualized income installment method on Form U, page 2.

If you are filing an amended return and you were previously assessed interest for underpayment of estimated taxes, complete an amended Form U, Part I, based on the total of the amounts shown on Form 4, lines 20 and 21. Enter the difference between the underpayment interest from the amended Form U, line 17, and the amount you previously paid on Form 4, line 32. Show an overpayment as a negative number. File Form U with your amended return. Otherwise, leave Form 4, line 32 blank. The Department will compute interest on the amount of refund approved or tax owed.

■ **Line 33. Tax Due** – If the total of lines 24 and 32 is larger than line 31, subtract line 31 from the total of lines 24 and 32. Pay by electronic funds transfer through [My Tax Account](#), the Department’s free online business tax system, or mail your check with a 2016 Form Corp-ES, *Corporation Estimated Tax Voucher*, to the address shown on the voucher. Otherwise, paper clip your check to the front of Form 4 if filing by paper and you have an approved [electronic filing waiver](#) attached to the return.

■ **Line 34. Overpayment** – If line 31 is larger than the total of lines 24 and 32, subtract the total of lines 24 and 32 from line 31.

CAUTION: If you must recapture a development zones investment credit because the property is disposed of or ceases to be qualified property before the end of the recapture period, add the amount from line 11 of the schedule located on page 5 of the Schedule DC instructions to the tax due on line 33 or reduce the overpayment on line 34.

■ **Line 35. 2017 Estimated Tax** – Enter the amount of any overpayment from line 34 that is to be credited to the corporation’s 2017 estimated tax. The balance of any overpayment will be refunded. An overpayment shown on a corporation’s final return will be refunded to the corporation that made the payments. You cannot claim these payments on the surviving corporation’s return in a merger situation.

If this is an amended return and you have already filed your 2017 return, include on line 35 the overpayment that you claimed as a credit on your 2017 return or on your previously filed original or amended 2016 return. Otherwise, you may allocate the overpayment from line 34 between line 35 and line 36 as you choose.

■ **Line 37. Gross Receipts From All Activities** – Enter total company gross receipts, gross sales, gross dividends, gross interest income, gross rents, gross royalties, the gross

sales price from the disposition of capital assets and business assets, gross receipts passed through from other entities, and all other receipts that are included in gross income before apportionment for Wisconsin franchise or income tax purposes.

■ **Line 38. Total Assets** – Enter the total company assets from the federal return.

■ **Lines 39 and 40. Wisconsin and Total Company Property** – Enter the total amount of the company’s real and tangible property located in Wisconsin (line 39) and the company’s total amount of real and tangible property everywhere (line 40). Use the cost basis of the property as of the end of the year. Include the following types of property:

- Land
- Buildings
- Furniture and Fixtures
- Transportation equipment
- Machinery and other equipment
- Inventories

Include only property that is owned by the corporation; you do not need to include property you are renting.

■ **Lines 41 and 42. Wisconsin and Total Company Payroll** – Enter the total amount of the company’s payroll located in Wisconsin (line 41) and the company’s total amount of payroll everywhere (line 42). Include only amounts attributable to employees of the corporation. In the computation of payroll located in Wisconsin, include individuals that satisfy one or more of the following:

- The individual’s service is performed entirely in Wisconsin.
- The individual’s service is performed in and outside Wisconsin, but the service performed outside Wisconsin is incidental to the individual’s service in Wisconsin.
- A portion of the individual’s service is performed in Wisconsin and the base of operations of the individual is in Wisconsin.
- A portion of the individual’s service is performed in Wisconsin and, if there is no base of operations, the place from which the individual’s service is directed or controlled is in Wisconsin.
- A portion of the individual’s service is performed in Wisconsin and neither the base of operations of the individual nor the place from which the service is directed or controlled is in any state in which some part of the service is performed, but the individual’s residence is in Wisconsin.

■ **Line 43. Wisconsin Sales** – Complete this line only if you are using Form A-1 to determine your Wisconsin apportionment percentage. Enter the amount of Wisconsin sales, receipts, or premiums from the applicable line of Form A-1:

- Total Wisconsin sales from Part I, line 10a
- Total Wisconsin receipts from Part II, line 31a
- Total Wisconsin receipts from Part III, line 9a
- Total Wisconsin premiums from Part IV, line 3a

■ **Line 44. Total Company Sales** – Complete this line only if you are using Form A-1 to determine your Wisconsin apportionment percentage. Enter the amount of total sales, receipts, or premiums from the applicable line of Form A-1:

- Total company sales from Part I, line 10 b
- Total company receipts from Part II, line 31b
- Total company receipts from Part III, line 9b
- Total company premiums from Part IV, line 3b

■ **Lines 45 and 46. Limited Liability Companies** – A single-member LLC that is disregarded for federal income tax purposes is also disregarded for Wisconsin franchise or income tax purposes. You must include the income of any disregarded entities owned by the corporation in the corporation’s amounts on the Wisconsin return. Check the "Yes" box if you were the sole owner of any disregarded entities and prepare and submit Schedule DE with this return.

■ **Line 47. Use Tax** – A corporation may be liable for use tax. Use tax is the counterpart of sales tax. All tangible personal property, certain coins and stamps, certain leased properties affixed to real estate, certain digital goods, and selected services, taxable under Wisconsin’s sales tax law, which are stored, used, or consumed in Wisconsin, are subject to use tax if the proper sales tax is not paid. Examples of purchases that frequently result in a use tax liability include the following:

- Mail order and Internet purchases. You owe Wisconsin use tax if you buy such items as computers, furniture, or office supplies from a vendor who is not registered to collect Wisconsin tax.
- Inventory. If you purchase inventory items without tax for resale, and then use these items instead of selling them, you owe use tax.
- Give-aways. Generally, if you purchase items without tax and then give them away in Wisconsin, you owe use tax.

If you hold a seller’s permit, use tax certificate, or consumer’s use tax certificate, report your use tax on your sales and use tax return, Form ST-12. Otherwise, complete and file Form UT-5 to report use tax.

For more information on use tax, visit the Department’s web site at revenue.wi.gov/html/sales.html, call (608) 266-2776, e-mail DORSalesandUse@wisconsin.gov.

■ **Lines 48 through 51. Contact Information and Miscellaneous** – Provide the information as instructed on the form.

■ **Line 52. Uncertain Tax Positions.** If you were required to file federal Schedule UTP-Uncertain Tax Position Statement, include a copy of the schedule with your Wisconsin tax return.

■ **Line 53. Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement** –If you were required to file federal Form 8886-Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement, include a copy of the form with your Wisconsin tax return.

If a corporation was required to include any form with its federal tax return to disclose a “reportable transaction,” as defined under sec. 71.81(1)(c), Wis. Stats., it must file a copy of that form with the Department of Revenue within 60 days of the date it is required to file it for federal income tax purposes, provided that it is otherwise required to file a Wisconsin return.

This includes federal Form 8886, *Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement*, and federal Form 114, *Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts*. To file these forms for Wisconsin purposes, check the “yes” box on line 53 and submit the form with return.

■ **Third Party Designee** – If you want to allow a tax preparer or tax preparation firm, or any other person you choose to discuss your 2016 tax return with the Department of Revenue, check “Yes” in the “Third Party Designee” area of your return. Also, fill in the designee’s name, phone number, and any five digits the designee chooses as his or her personal identification number (PIN). If you check “Yes,” you are authorizing the department to discuss with the designee any questions that may arise during the processing of your return. You are also authorizing the designee to:

- Give the department any information missing from your return,
- Call the department for information about the processing of your return or the status of your refund or payment(s), and
- Respond to certain department notices about math errors, offsets, and return preparation.

You are not authorizing the designee to receive any refund check, bind you to anything (including any additional tax liability), or otherwise represent you before the department. If you want to expand the designee’s authorization, you must submit Form A-222 (*Power of Attorney*). The authorization will automatically end no later than the due date (without regard to extensions) for filing your 2017 tax return.

■ **Signatures** – An officer of the corporation must sign at the bottom of page 3. If the return is prepared by someone other than an employee of the corporation, the individual who prepared the return must sign the form in the space provided for the preparer’s signature and furnish the preparing firm’s federal employer identification number. A self-employed individual must enter “PTIN” and the preparer tax identification number in the space for the preparer’s federal employer identification number.

■ **Supplemental Schedules** – File the following items as supplemental schedules to your Form 4:

- Your federal return with all supporting schedules
- A list of your solely owned LLCs (Schedule DE)
- Any extension of time to file your return
- Supporting schedules for Form 4
- Any attachments required for the supporting schedules you are filing, per the instructions to those schedules

NOTE: If you are filing electronically, you may submit supplemental schedules that are not pre-programmed into your software in one of two ways:

1. Submitting them electronically in .pdf format along with your electronic return, or
2. Mailing them to the Department with a Form W-RA, *Required Attachments for Electronic Filing*.

Additional Information, Assistance, and Forms

Web Resources

The Department of Revenue's web page, available at revenue.wi.gov, has a number of resources to provide additional information and assistance, including:

- Related [forms](#) and their instructions
- [Common questions](#)
- [Publications](#) on specific tax topics
- The [Wisconsin Tax Bulletin](#)
- A home page specifically for [combined reporting topics](#)
- Links to the [Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code](#)

Contact Information

If you cannot find the answer to your question on the Department's web page, contact the Department using any of the following methods:

- E-mail your question to: DORFranchise@wisconsin.gov
- Call (608) 266-2772
(Telephone help is also available using TTY equipment. Call the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System at 711 or, if no answer, (800) 947-3529).
- Send a fax to (608) 267-0834
- Write to the Customer Service and Education Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Mail Stop 3-107, PO Box 8949, Madison, WI 53708-8949
- Call or visit any Department of Revenue office

Obtaining Forms

If you need forms or publications, you may:

- Download them from the Department's web site at revenue.wi.gov
- Request them online at revenue.wi.gov
- Call (608) 266-1961
- Call or visit any Department of Revenue office