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PROCEDURE TO REQUEST THE EMPLOYEE RETENTION TAX CREDIT

On June 8, 2018, the Puerto Rico Treasury Department (PRTD) issued Internal Revenue Circular Letter No. 18-11 (IR CL 18-11) to establish the requirements to qualify for the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) and to provide guidance.

Please refer to Deloitte Tax LLP Tax Alert - June 2018 - Number 4 Employee Retention Tax Credit for additional information regarding the ERTC.

<u>All</u> the requirements detailed below <u>must be met</u> for an employer to be eligible for the ERTC.

- 1. Conducted a trade or business at the time Puerto Rico was impacted by hurricanes Irma and/or María;
- 2. Had employees on payroll at the time Puerto Rico was impacted by both hurricanes (Eligible Employees);
- 3. The business became inoperable due to the damages sustained by the hurricanes;
- 4. Continued paying Qualified Wages to Eligible Employees during the period it was not in operation;
- 5. Has filed all required payroll tax forms for taxable year 2017; and,
- 6. Is a Registered Merchant with the PRTD.

The request for the ERTC must be submitted electronically through the employer's platform for filing the Employer's Quarterly Return of Income Tax Withheld (Form 499R-1B) and the benefit will be paid electronically by direct deposit to the Eligible Employer. The platform will be available until December 31, 2018 and can be accessed through www.hacienda.pr.gov, under the "Hacienda Virtual" employer section at http://www.hacienda.pr.gov/beneficio-por-retencion-de-empleados-patronos-afectadostras-el-paso-de-los-huracanes-irma-y-maria. The PRTD will not accept paper requests.

The information provided in the electronic request must be consistent with the information provided in the following payroll forms:

- 1. Quarterly Unemployment & Disability Insurance Contribution Report (Form PR-SD-10) for the quarters ending on September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2017, and
- 2. Withholding Statements (Form 499R-2/W-2PR) electronically filed with PRTD for taxable year 2017.

The PRTD has issued additional guidance thru a Question and Answer Guide called (Guía para el Beneficio por Retención de Empleados a Patronos Afectados por el Paso de los Huracanes Irma y Maria) which may be accessed thru www.hacienda.pr.gov.

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