COMPUTER-ASSISTED AUDITING

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Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

WHAT IS A COMPUTER-ASSISTED AUDIT?

The Audit Division supports and maintains two programs used in conducting a computer-assisted audit. Using the CAMS (Computer Audit Menu System) programs, the auditor creates homogenous groups of data and samples transactions based on dollar value strata. This results in a more representative sample for the taxpayer and the auditor.

CAMS-MAINFRAME

Uses Easytrieve to process large numbers of records from tapes or PC-based media. The computer audit specialist in Audit Headquarters processes the files, runs reports and converts the files to the CAMS standard format. The auditor then runs reports, defines the population, sets stratification layers and selects samples.

CAMS-PC

Uses Visual Basic and TrueDB Reports to process smaller numbers of records from imported data. The auditor runs all reports, defines the population, sets stratification layers and selects samples.

FILES

Computer files commonly requested include (but are not limited to):

- General Ledger detail files
- Purchase detail files
- Sales Invoice detail files
- Vendor/Customer master files

DATA FORMATS

- Detailed sequential transaction file
- Mainframe-based data:
- IBM-readable format—EBCDIC or ASCII
- Delimited files—'pipe' delimited, comma delimited, etc.
- csv, .txt, .mdb files
- Report files
- Quickbooks and Peachtree generated files

MEDIA REQUIREMENTS

- Mainframe-based media:
  3480, 3490, 3490e, 9840 tape cartridges—max. block size 32760.
  RISC6000, 8 mm, 4 mm tapes—data is copied by an outside vendor to compatible media
- PC-based data:
  ZIP disks—250 MB, 100 MB; CDs; diskettes

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Record layout, file layout
- Dump or printout of 10 records
- Data Information Form—supplied by the auditor, completed by the taxpayer
- Explain the files provided—DCB information, tape volumes, program used to create the files, etc.

COMPUTER DATA IS CONSIDERED BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Comptroller's Legal Counsel has interpreted the books and records provision of the Tax Code (Vernon's TEXAS CODES ANN., Tax Code, Sec. 111.004) to include computer records.

Audit and **time efficiency** are achieved when the auditor analyzes the taxpayer's computer files, evaluates populations of data, sets dollar ranges and randomly selects samples from those homogeneous ranges.

This publication is intended as a general guide and not as a comprehensive resource on the subjects covered. It is not a substitute for legal advice.

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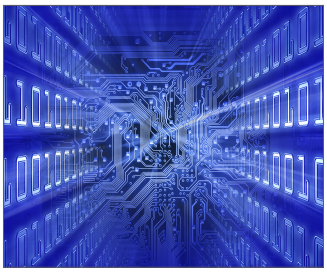

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