



33-35 Manor Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LX.

2006

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EMPLOYER CONTRACTED OUT NUMBER (ECON) ~ NEW INFORMATION

Most employers who make a contracted out pension scheme for their employees will only have a single ECON number and one PAYE number. However there are some employers that need to make returns that cover more than one ECON. In such cases HMRC have issued new information. For more details click ([here](#)).

AGE RESTRICTIONS ON STATUTORY PAYMENTS

Following new legislation, the current age limits of 16 and 65 on entitlement to Statutory Payments will be removed from the 1st October 2006.

This change has now been subject to parliamentary approval and complies with a recent EC ruling on age discrimination.

How will this affect your payroll?

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

The main effect of the new legislation will be on SSP payments. From the 1st October Employers are legally obliged to pay SSP to any employees under the age of 16 or over the age of 65, providing they meet all other existing criteria.

Statutory Maternity / Paternity Pay (SMP / SPP)

The legislation change also covers payment of SMP and SPP, however few Employers are likely to be affected by this. From the 1st October Employers will be responsible for payment of SMP / SPP to all age groups providing all other existing criteria are met.

Note: For the employee to qualify for payment the Qualifying week of the pregnancy must be on or after the 1st October, which means the Expected week of Childbirth (EWC) would be on or after the 14th January 2007.

Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP) SAP is unaffected by this change as the lower age limit to adopt a child remains at 21.

Whilst various payroll systems have been amended, say, to stop certain warning messages being issued, because the final rules for the transition have only just been confirmed, there may be some manual intervention required for SSP.

Final amendments will be included in the following systems:

Intex Earnie	2006/7 Pre-year end release	v1.13.xx
Pegasus Opera 16	Just released	v3.42.00
Pegasus Opera II	Just released	v5.01.00

The above changes do not alter the position for National Insurance Contributions, which remain payable between the ages of 16 and State Pension age, which is currently 60 for a woman and 65 for a man. The state pension age will be aligned at 65 for both men and women over a ten-year period ending in 2020.

Continued on next page...

Computerwise Limited is now part of a much larger group with offices in Bromley, Colchester, Portsmouth, and Wimbledon.

This structure provides you with the stability and expertise that a large company can offer whilst coupling it with the care and responsiveness exercised by a smaller concern.

Support Department

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STATUTORY PAYMENTS – INFORMATION ON IMPENDING CHANGES

HMRC have produced useful detailed information for software developers but equally of interest to employers. The areas covered are:

1. Age Discrimination & Statutory Payments click ([here](#))
2. Changes to Statutory Payments resulting from
The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 click ([here](#))
3. Statutory Maternity Pay ~ 2007 Changes click ([here](#))
4. Statutory Maternity Pay ~ 2007 Q&A click ([here](#))

HAVE YOU CLAIMED BACK YOUR COMPENSATION YET?

If you sent your Payroll end of year submission for the year 2005/6 by way of the Internet (On-line submissions) you are entitled to an incentive payment of £250.

This may be claimed either by reducing your remittance(s) to HMRC by that amount, or by requesting a cheque from them.

Obviously it is better that this sum is in your own bank account at the earliest opportunity! Accordingly, have you arranged for this to be done?

APOLOGIES IF YOU HAVE HAD PROBLEMS

We have been experiencing intermittent problems with our telephone system over the past month.

Whilst some in-coming callers have been hearing a ringing tone, the telephones here have not been flashing or ringing and, accordingly, we may have missed the call.

This was because of a faulty board that has now been replaced (hopefully successfully!)

Should you experience any problems in the future, and we hope that this will not be the case now, please e-mail or fax our Support Department (see details in the left hand column).

OPERA II RELEASES

As Microsoft has now ended support for Windows 98 and has already stopped supporting Windows NT 4.0, Opera II (v5.00.00 onwards) will not be supported on these platforms.

In addition, due to technological advancements made within Opera II (v5.00.00) Pegasus will no longer be supporting Novell with Opera II (v5.00.00 onwards).

If you have any problems concerning this notice, please contact either your account manager or Support Department.

FUTURE TRENDS

We do not normally include any sales pitches in our newsletters, but having a few spare inches left, we thought you might be interested in our main areas of thrust in the next few months.

We are looking at migration incentives from Capital and Opera DOS to Opera II, Provision of the Pegasus CIS facility, XRL implementation opportunities and on-site refresher course training generally. That should keep us busy!

STOP IT!

We hope that you find our e-mailed information sheets of direct help to you and your business. However, if you wish to remove your name from the mailing list or make changes regarding recipients, please contact John Stannard, Support Department.

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