

2023 Instructions for Schedule CMS

Credit Manager Schedule

Taxpayers must complete and submit a Credit Manager Schedule (Schedule CMS) with their tax return to report all credits available for use and the total amount of credits actually used (either taken or shared) in the current tax year. Failure to enclose a completed Schedule CMS may delay processing of your tax return.

General Instructions

The method for reporting credits by a taxpayer is on Schedule CMS. Credits reported on Schedule CMS are generally identified by either:

- A certificate number assigned by the issuing agency (which may be the Department of Revenue) or
- The tax period end date in which the credit originated.

If a credit has been assigned a certificate number, only the certificate number should be entered on Schedule CMS. A taxpayer with an assigned certificate number should not enter a tax period end date. Enter the certificate number from left to right, omitting hyphens, spaces, decimals and other special symbols. If a credit has not been assigned a certificate number, include on Schedule CMS only the tax period end date in which the credit originated. A taxpayer that does not include either the assigned certificate number or the tax period end date in which the credit originated will not be allowed the claimed credit on the tax return and will have their tax liability adjusted by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

When a taxpayer is participating in a Massachusetts combined group and is eligible to share credits with other combined group members, it must directly report the amount of the credit being shared with other combined group members on Schedule CMS. It should not apply to DOR for a transfer of the credit certificate in order to share it with another group member. Limitations on sharing of credits among combined group members are set forth in the Massachusetts combined reporting regulation 830 CMR 63.32B.2 and in other DOR public written statements.

Every taxpayer that has credits available for use or credits that are being used in the current tax year must submit Schedule CMS with their tax return. Taxpayers must list all credits available on Schedule CMS even if the credits are not being used (either taken or shared) in the current tax year. Schedule CMS requires the reporting of all non-refundable or refundable credits regardless of whether they are tracked by an assigned certificate number or generated by operation of law. The total amount of credits claimed on the tax return may be disallowed if a taxpayer fails to complete and file Schedule CMS.

Reporting Credits Tracked by Certificate Number

Some credits are tracked by a certificate number issued by DOR or by another state agency. When a credit is tracked by a certificate number, the taxpayer must enter the certificate number and the credit type associated with it on Schedule CMS. This includes a pass-through entity that is passing a credit to a partner or shareholder, and also a partner or shareholder that received a credit on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule from a pass-through entity or by credit transfer.

Note: The Film Incentive and Brownfields credits cannot be passed on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule from a pass-through entity, nor can such credits be transferred to another entity using the same certificate number. Instead, the taxpayer must apply to the DOR to request a transfer of such credits to a partner, shareholder or beneficiary. If approved, DOR will issue a new certificate number to the partner, shareholder or beneficiary who is receiving such credit.

Reporting Credits Not Tracked by Certificate Number

For credits not tracked by a certificate number, the taxpayer must enter each credit separately on Schedule CMS by credit type and tax period end date.

Credit Table

The Credit Table at the end of these instructions lists all of the Massachusetts credit types with their respective attributes. The taxpayer should refer to this table for guidance when completing Schedule CMS.

Harbor Maintenance Tax Credit Repealed

Eligibility for obtaining the Harbor Maintenance Tax Credit has been repealed for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. As a result Schedule HM will no longer be available. Taxpayers can no longer generate the credit going forward but should continue to report and claim any unused available carryover credits from prior years on Schedule CMS to the extent they are allowed to do so.

Section Instructions

The taxpayer must enter the beginning and ending dates of its taxable year and its name and identification number. It must also enter the total credits it has taken in the current tax year (by adding together lines 1h and 3i from sections 1 and 3 respectively) and the total refundable credits allowable to the taxpayer in the current tax year (by adding together lines 2g and 4h from sections 2 and 4 respectively).

Following is a brief overview of each section of Schedule CMS and where certain credits should be reported.

Section 1. Non-Refundable Credits

Section 1 is for reporting all credits available that the taxpayer did not receive via Massachusetts K-1 schedules (including credits which will not be used in the current year). This includes credits being used (i) to offset or reduce the taxpayer's total tax due (ii) to pass to any partner, shareholder or beneficiary of the taxpayer or (iii) to share with a taxpayer affiliate. Generally a taxpayer must report in section 1 all available credits that the taxpayer is using. Brownfields, Film Incentive or Medical Device credits should always be included in section 1 (unless the taxpayer is requesting a refund of the Film Incentive credit).

Note: A taxpayer that received a credit on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule from a pass-through entity should report such credit in section 3 or section 4 (whichever is applicable) and not in section 1.

Section 2. Refundable Credits

Section 2 is for reporting refundable credits that may result in a refund being issued to the taxpayer. Generally a taxpayer must report all available refundable credits the taxpayer is using in order to request a refund in section 2. The Film Incentive credit should always be included in section 2 to the extent the taxpayer is requesting a refund of it. For each refundable credit, report the amount of the credit available after taking into consideration any amount of credits reported in section 1 that were taken to offset tax liability or were shared. Enter the amount by which the available credit balance is being reduced and the amount to be treated as refundable (which may be either 90% or 100% of the reduction). See TIR 13-6, example 3.

Note: Taxpayers that received a refundable credit on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule from a pass-through entity or by a credit transfer should report such credit in section 4 to the extent the taxpayer is requesting a refund of it.

Section 3. Non-Refundable Credits Received from Massachusetts K-1 Schedules

Section 3 is for reporting credits the taxpayer received on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule (SK-1, 2K-1 or 3K-1). Generally a taxpayer must report in section 3 all available credits received on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule from a pass-through entity that the taxpayer is using (i) to offset or reduce the taxpayer's total tax due (ii) to pass to any partner, shareholder or beneficiary of the taxpayer or (iii) to share with taxpayer affiliates.

Note: The Brownfields, Film Incentive or Medical Device credits should never be included in section 3. These credits are issued new certificate numbers from DOR when they are received from a pass-through entity or by a credit transfer. These credits should always be reported in section 1 unless the taxpayer is requesting a refund of the Film Incentive credit.

Section 4. Refundable Credits Received from Massachusetts K-1 Schedules

Section 4 is for reporting credits that are received on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule and may result in a refund to the taxpayer. Generally a taxpayer must report in section 4 all available refundable credits received on a Massachusetts K-1 schedule for which the taxpayer is requesting a refund. For each refundable credit, report the amount of the credit available after accounting for any amount of credits used to offset tax liability or shared as reported in section 3. Enter the amount by which the available credit balance is being reduced and the amount to be treated as a refundable credit (which may be either 90% or 100% of the reduction). See TIR 13-6, example 3.

Note: Do not report the Film Incentive credit in section 4. These credits are issued new certificate numbers from DOR when they are received from a pass-through entity or by a credit transfer. If the taxpayer is requesting a Film Incentive credit refund it should be reported in section 2.

Online Examples

DOR is compiling examples demonstrating the reporting of credits on Schedule CMS and will make them available at online at mass.gov/dor.

Credit Table

Credit name	Requirements	Refundable?	Credit type	a. MGL Chapter	Section	b. MGL Chapter	Section
Angel Investor	Certificate number*	No	AGLCRD	62	6(t)		
Apprenticeship	Certificate number	Yes, at 100%	APPCRD	62	6(v)	63	38HH
Brownfields	Certificate number	No	BRWFLD	62	6(j)	63	38Q
Certified Housing	Certificate number	No	CRTHOU	62	6(q)	63	38BB
Community Investment	Certificate number	Yes, at 100%	CMMINV	62	6M	63	38EE
Conservation Land	Certificate number	Yes, at 100%	CNSLND	62	6(p)	63	38AA
Cranberry Bog Renovation	Certificate number	Yes, at 100%	CRBCRD	62	6(w)	63	38II
Dairy Farm	Certificate number	Yes, at 100%	DAIFRM	62	6(o)	63	38Z
Disability Employment	Period end date	Yes	DETCRD	62	6(Z)	63	38JJ
EDIP	Certificate number and Schedule EDIP**	If authorized, at 100%	EDIPCR	62	6(g)	63	38N
EDIP-Vacant Store Front	Certificate number	Yes, at 100%	VACSTR	62	6(g)	63	38N
EOAC	Period end date and Schedule EOAC**	If authorized	EOACCR	62	6(g)	63	38N
Farming and Fisheries	Period end date and Schedule FAF**	No	FRMFSH	62	6(s)		
Film Incentive	Certificate number	If authorized, at 90%	FLMCRD	62	6(l)	63	38X
Harbor Maintenance***	Period end date	No	HRBMNT			63	38P
Historic Rehabilitation	Certificate number	No	HISRHB	62	6J	63	38R
Investment Tax	Period end date and Schedule H**	No	INVTAX			63	31A
Lead Paint	Period end date and Schedule LP**	No	LEDPNT	62	6(e)		
Life Science (FDA)	Period end date and Schedule RLSC**	If authorized, at 90%	LFSFDA	62	6(n)	63	31M
Life Science (ITC)	Period end date and Schedule RLSC**	If authorized, at 90%	LFSITC	62	6(m)	63	38U
Life Science (Jobs)	Period end date and Schedule RLSC**	If authorized, at 90%	LFSJOB	62	6(r)	63	38CC
Life Science (RD)	Period end date and Schedule RLSC**	If authorized, at 90%	LFSRDC			63	38W
Low-Income Housing	Certificate number	No	LOWINC	62	6I	63	31H

* As of 2023 the method for reporting the Angel Investor credit on Schedule CMS is by certificate number. Prior to 2023 the method of reporting was by period end date.

** A schedule is required when the credit is generated or awarded in the current year.

*** Eligibility for obtaining the Harbor Maintenance Tax Credit has been repealed for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. Taxpayers must continue to report available carryover credits to the extent they are allowed to use them.

Credit Table

Credit name	Requirements	Refundable?	Credit type	a. MGL Chapter	Section	b. MGL Chapter	Section
Low-Income Housing Donation	Certificate number	No	LIHDON	62	6I	63	31H
Medical Device****	Certificate number	No	MEDDVC	62	61/2	63	31L
National Guard Employee	Certificate number	No	NGHCRD	62	6(aa)	63	38KK
Offshore Wind Facility Capital Investment	Period end date	Yes	OSWITC	62	6(cc)	63	38MM
Offshore Wind Jobs	Period end date	Yes	OSWJTC	62	6(bb)	63	38LL
Pass-Through Entity Excise Tax (Form 63D-ELT)	Period end date	Yes*****	ELTCRD	63D	2		
Research	Period end date and Schedule RC**	No	REARCH			63	38M
Septic	Period end date and Schedule SC**	No	SEPTIC	62	6(i)		
Solar and Wind Energy	Period end date and Schedule EC**	No	SLRWND	62	6(d)		
Vanpool	Period end date and Schedule VP**	No	VANPOL			63	31E
Veteran's New Hire	Certificate number	No	VETHIR	62	6(u)	63	38GG

** A schedule is required when the credit is generated or awarded in the current year.

**** Eligibility for obtaining the Medical Device Tax Credit has been repealed for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. Taxpayers must continue to report available carryover credits to the extent they are allowed to use them.

***** Shareholders, partners, or beneficiaries of an eligible pass-through entity (qualified members) may claim a refundable credit equal to 90% of their allocable share of PTE Excise paid by such pass-through entity. See MGL ch 63D §§ 1-7; TIR 22-6 Pass-through Entity Excise. See also Elective pass-through entity excise FAQs.

Note: Certified life sciences companies with a Research Credit exceeding the amount of credit that may be claimed under section 38M for a taxable year may, to the extent authorized under the Life Sciences Tax Incentive Program, elect to make 90% of the balance of remaining credits refundable. See MGL ch 63, § 38M(j).