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Cash Versus Accrual Basis of Accounting: An Introduction

By Congressional Research Service

Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This report introduces two general methods of accounting-the cash basis method and accrual basis method. The choice of accounting method determines the timing of the recognition of revenue and expenses. Under cash basis accounting, revenue and expenses are recorded when cash is actually paid or received. Under accrual basis accounting, revenue is recorded when it is earned and expenses are reported when they are incurred. Understanding the differences between these two accounting methods could be helpful to Congress as it considers reforming the tax system and changing the federal government s financial reporting requirements. Currently with certain exceptions, the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) requires some companies with gross receipts in excess of \$5 million to use accrual basis, instead of cash basis, of accounting to determine their tax liabilities. The IRC s requirement to use the accrual method, arguably, ensures that revenue and the expenses incurred to generate that revenue are realized in the same year. Types of companies that may be excepted from using accrual basis of accounting for income taxes are sole proprietors and certain qualified...



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