REICHARD & ESCALERA ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

LEGAL UPDATE

October 2, 2019

Tax Update

Postponement of Requirement for Commercial Lease's Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Pursuant to Act 257-2018, also known as the Puerto Rico Tax Reform, in order to enjoy sales and use tax ("SUT") exemption on commercial real property lease payments ("Commercial Lease Exemption"), a lessee must show its landlord evidence of having complied with the requirement of maintaining a fiscal terminal ("Exemption Requirement"). These changes were to be effective on December 10, 2018.

On May 1st, 2019, the Puerto Rico Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") issued Administrative Determination No. 19-01 postponing the effective date for the Exemption Requirement until October 1, 2019. Treasury has now issued Administrative Determination No. 19-05 postponing the effectiveness of the Exemption Requirement until June 30, 2020.

Based on the foregoing, by July 1, 2020 all lessees of commercial real property must show evidence of compliance with the Exemption Requirement to their landlord for the Commercial Lease Exemption to apply. Otherwise, commercial lease payments will be subject to SUT.

Treasury is expected to issue additional guidance on the subject.

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