CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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From the August 2008 Review of Sales & Use Tax Systems

CorpSystem Sales Tax Online is the newly branded sales tax compliance system from CCH, a comprehensive, single-business program. As a "live" sales tax calculation application, the system provides direct integration with a business' financial applications for automated on-the-fly determination and calculation of applicable sales tax at the time of sale. It supports end of period liability reporting by jurisdiction and integrates to the Sales Tax Returns Online application for the generation of signature-ready returns. The system automatically computes taxes and prepares necessary reporting output. It maintains current tax tables for all jurisdictions in the United States and Canada and integrates these into the business' ERP and also offers manual lookup capabilities. Pricing for CorpSystem Sales Tax Online and Sales Tax Returns Online is based upon transaction quantity, starting around \$1,500 per year. CCH also offers various related add-ons and stand-alones, such as the ZIPsales Lookup utility.

Navigation & Data Entry — 5 Stars

One of the key features of Sales Tax Online is that it automatically replaces the limited tax calculation functionality of the business' sales and accounting modules while providing the same tax transaction details required for internal accounting needs. It then produces monthly, quarterly, annual or other jurisdictional

reports as required. This results in a mostly hands-off system since data entry and calculations are automatically performed and sales tax forms, schedules and worksheets are automatically populated via Sales Tax Returns Online. Prior to generating the final returns, however, Sales Tax Returns Online includes

review processes that enable authorized users to override data or otherwise

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for calculating discounts and penalties. All returns and tax data are archived, and an audit trail feature tracks all changes. Forms and reports can be output to PDF format.

Filing, Electronic Compliance & Payment — 5 Stars

Since the program automatically performs most of the preparation work required for compliance reporting to all jurisdictions, users simply need to review and print signature-ready returns, cut a check and mail. The program tracks all due dates and provides full access to filing instructions, notifying appropriate users when returns have been prepared for tax periods. Sales Tax Returns Online also has options for electronic filing and electronic funds remittance to those jurisdictions that support such.

Rate Updates — 5 Stars

All rate tables in the web-based system are automatically updated by CCH, with no action required by end users.

Help/Training — 5 Stars

Most of the complexity in Sales Tax Online is in its initial installation and mapping of GL accounts and integration with sales systems. CCH provides extensive support during this process. Actual usage is quite simple, with the program reminding users of deadlines and preparing the forms. A traditional Help feature and tutorials are available, along with access to the vendor's support website. CCH includes free support and offers several training options.

Relative Value — 4.5 Stars

As an integrated 'live' component of a business' financial management systems, Sales Tax Online and Sales Tax Returns Online automate all of the processes involved with transaction tax reporting. The comprehensive system offers good reporting and managerial processes, and supports all U.S.

and Canadian jurisdictions. It is ideally suited for businesses with high transaction

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