Hands – On Payroll

A-Z Practicals



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Date: 14.12.2022

- These payroll errors can be very costly and can also add several days of unnecessary work for the payroll department.
- Something very important to take into consideration is the potential damage to employee relations and morale + reputational damage



 What do you think are the most costly mistakes that one should avoid?



1. Administration

Many businesses, especially smaller ones, still carry out their payroll process in-house and manually. This is a huge administrative burden. It creates a ton of work and involves a lot of paper work. Errors in data entry are more common.



2. Payroll Documents

A common problem is the disorganisation of documents such as employee records. This is usually a matter of work flow: not keeping files and documents in a central location or creating a uniform filing process.



3. Software and Payroll Setup

Not all programs are compatible. For example T&A and the Payroll software. This leads to mistakes and hours of human intervention



4. Employee Absences

Manually tracking employees vacation and sick days is a task that has great potential for mistakes. In addition tracking which employees are not available due to various types of absences is critical for effective planning and optimum productivity



5. Payroll deductions

Errors in Tax and Social security contributions can result in a great deal of grief for both employer and employees.



6. Overtime Rules

There is very strict WRO & Laws that have to be adhered to with regards to overtime. Various taxes also apply



7. Court Ordered Garnishees

Though not uncommon, the infrequent occurrence of court orders requirement garnishments from employee's income means the potential for errors. In these situations the employer is required to fulfil the court's terms. Failure to do so, or to do so correctly leaves the company subject to penalties and legal implications.



8. Regulatory Compliance

As noted earlier, payroll rules and regulations change. These changes do not happen only annually. While we all strive to stay updated with changes that may occur, too often the overwhelming amount of information leads to compliance gaps.



9. Employee Classification

Most companies make use of different types of workers. This can include permanent & temporary, full-time & Part-Time, freelance contractors etc.

Tax Misclassification can lead to miscalculation of taxes.



10. Submissions

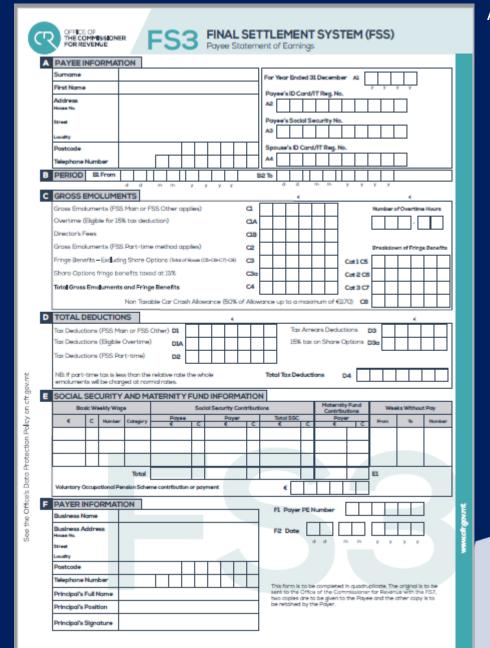
FS3, FS4, FS5 and FS7 submissions are to be done in correct and timely manner. Late or lack of payments and submissions can lead to criminal proceedings for the employer.

FS3 and FS7 are carried out electronically if you have 9 or more employees on your payroll



Employee's Annual Reconciliation Statement

- Issued on an annual basis
- On termination of employment
- Signed copy must be provided to the employee
- Required by the employee for correct tax deduction from new employment during a calendar year

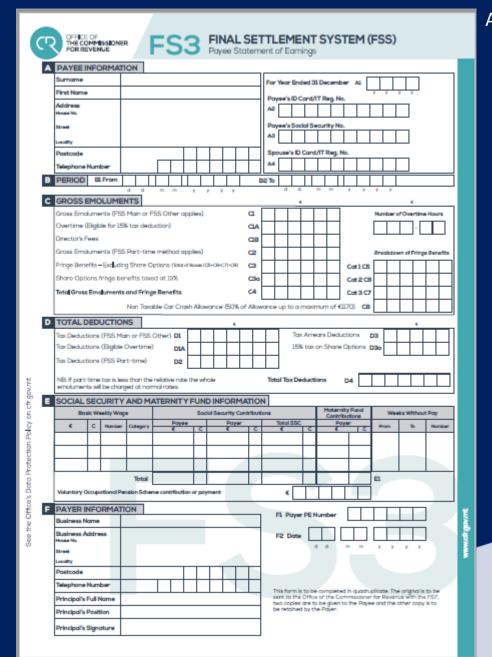






The FS3 is to contain

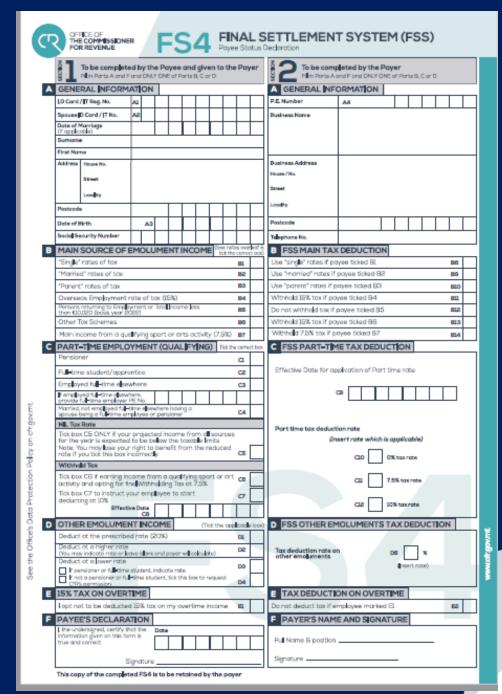
- Employer and employee details
- Gross emoluments from full-time / parttime qualifying employment
- Total taxable fringe benefits, directorship fees and share options
- Total tax deducted from all employment income, directorship fees and share options
- Any additional tax deducted in cases of outstanding employee tax liability
- Social security and maternity fund contributions paid throughout the year, both by the employee and employer





- Complete and submit FS4 (email PDF to fss.cfr@gov.mt)
- Used in case of new employee
- Used in case of change in tax status

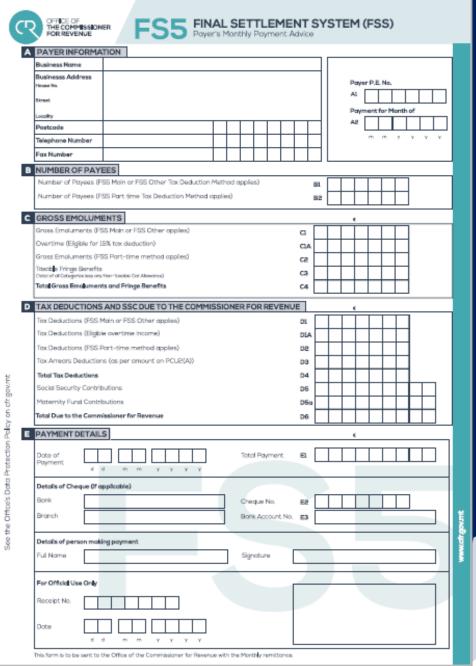
- Used in case of marriage (include the spouse details)





Monthly payroll summary

- To be submitted to the CfR electronically and payments are to be processed via internet banking by the last working day of the following month
- The submission of the FS5 will generate a reference number which is to be included in the payment
- Any adjustments to the FS5 and/or payment may be settled via cheque payment at the post office, payable to the Commissioner for Revenue

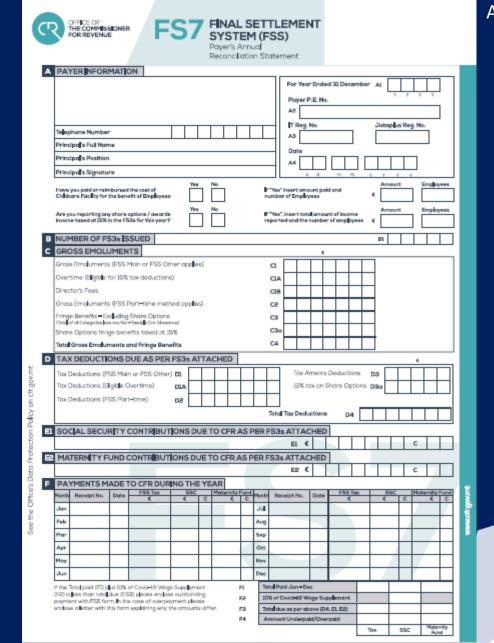




Payor's Annual Reconciliation Statement

- Issued on an annual basis

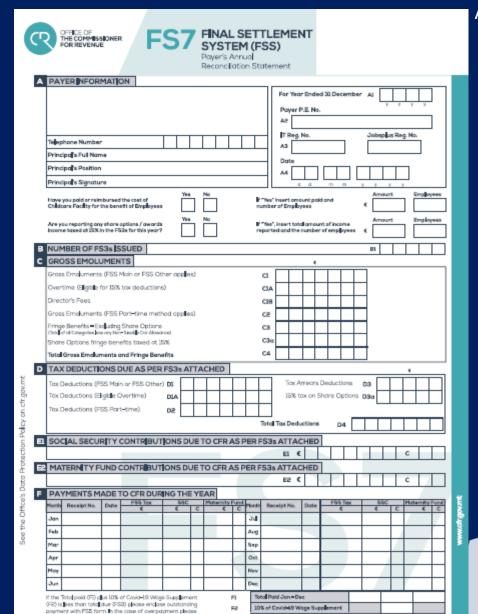
- Ideally submitted online via CfR portal using the E-filing sheet (Excel)
- Must be submitted online if more that nine FS3s have been issued





The FS7 is to contain the following information

- Employer details
- Number of FS3s issued in respect to the reporting year
- The total amount of gross emoluments paid to payees in respect to full time and other emoluments arising from any other source
- The total gross emoluments paid to part-timers for such qualifying employment
- Total taxable fringe benefits, directorship fees and share options exercised
- Total tax deducted from employment income, directorship fees and share options
- Any additional tax deducted in cases of outstanding employee tax liability
- SSC (employee and employer share)
- Maternity fund contribution paid by the employer



Total due as per above (D4, E1, E2)

550

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Employee Queries

What are the most common questions employees ask regarding their payroll?



Employee Queries

What are the most common questions employees ask regarding their payroll?

- How are hours reflected on the payslip calculated?
- Is the correct amount of tax being deducted?
- Why do social security contributions vary from one month to another?
- Is all the income I receive taxable?



Information

You have 3 minutes to mention the information that you would need from a new employee when he is enrolled in a company



Gathering Employee Information

- All the details required to complete an FS4 and the Jobsplus registration form Important Tax Number and Social Security Number (validate them)
- Relevant information from the employee's contract
- Employee correct banking details (validate them)
- Court Order (request this information from employee)
- FS3 for any previous employment during the current calendar year (for tax deduction purposes)
- Do you retain physical / electronic copies of employee information?
- Monthly changes to be considered in calculation



Social Security

What does this mean to you?



Social Security

The Aim of Social Security is to provide financial protection for the people of that Nation.

The core operations of the Department of Social Security are to:

- assess, pay and provide information on social security benefits
- encourage individuals and organizations' to be aware of, and to comply with their obligations under social security legislation
- keep account of the social security system
- advise the relevant Minister on the development of effective and dynamic policies for social security



Social Security Law

Social Security Act

https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/318/eng/pdf

To establish a scheme of social security and to consolidate with amendments existing provisions concerning the payment of social security benefits, pensions and allowances, social and medical assistance, non-contributory pensions and the payment of social security contributions by employees, employers, self-employed and the State.

Social Security Law

The **Maternity Leave Contribution** that came into effect as of 1st July 2015 through Legal Notice 257 of 2015 (Trusts and Trustees Act Cap. 331.) is to be paid by Employers for all their employees in the private sector. https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/331/eng/pdf

The Maternity Leave Contribution is an employer's expense and is applicable where social security contributions are deducted.



Social Security Law

Exceptions to the Maternity Leave Contributions:

- Employees over 65 years if age who are exempt from SSC but still considered to be in employment
- Directors who are liable to pay SSC class 2
- Employees on unpaid leave for whom no SCC is paid
- Casual employees for whom no SSC is paid
- Expatriate employees for whom no SSC is paid in Malta
- All self-employed employees who are not entitled to Maternity Leave or Maternity Leave Benefit



Benefits

The one that we are most exposed to is the sickness Benefit

- Daily Married Rate €21.85
- Daily Single Rate €14.15

This is deducted from the salary of the person who has taken more than 3 days sick leave in consecutive days







☐ Info

Matthew, a Maltese resident, is a new employee.

His date of birth is 05.11.1975

He has joined a company on 3rd October 2022, on a full-time basis

The employee's tax status is Single and has a basic gross annual salary of €25,000. No other fixed allowances are agreed upon in the contract of employment

The employee was in employment elsewhere till 30.09.2022



What are the required forms / registrations?

- Jobsplus
- ✓ Engagement Form
- ✓ Submit: Online / hriu.jobsplus@gov.mt
- Commissioner for Revenue (CfR)
- ✓FS4
- ✓ Submit: fss.cfr@gov.mt



 What do we need to check / verify before including the employee in payroll software?



- Validation of
 - ➤ Social Security Number
 - Surname and ID Card / Tax Number
 - **IBAN**



• FS3s previous employment



• Calculate:

- What would Matthew's monthly hours be on his payslip?
- What is his basic monthly gross?



- Identify the Social Security category what is the basic weekly wage?
- What would the basic gross salary and Social Security deductions be in December 2022?



• Calculate:

What would Matthew's monthly hours be on his payslip?

Matthew is employed on full-time basis of 40 hours per week



40 hours x 52 weeks = 2080 hours

Divided by 12 months = 173.33 hours per month



• Calculate:

What is his basic monthly gross salary?

Matthew has an annual gross salary as per contract of €25,000



€25,000 divided by 12 months = €2,083.33



• Calculate:

 Identify the Social Security category – what is the basic weekly wage?

Matthew has an annual gross salary as per contract of €25,000

€25,000 divided by 52 weeks = €480.77 per week (rounded)



• Identify the Social Security category (€480.77)

	Basic Weekly Wage¹ € Weekly Rate Payable² €					
Category	From	То	by Employee	by Employer	Total	Maternity
Α	0.10	182.83	6.62	6.62	13.24	0.20
В	0.10	182.83	18.28*	18.28	36.56	0.55
*Or if the employee chooses, 10% of the basic weekly wage. This rate of contribution entitles the contributor to pro-rata contributory						
benefits.						
	Persons born up to 31st December 1961					
С	182.84	378.98	10%	10%	n/a	0.30%
D	378.99	n/a	37.90	37.90	75.80	1.14
	Persons born from 1st January 1962 onwards					
C	182.84	499.73	10%	10%	n/a	0.30%
D	499.74	n/a	49.97	49.97	99.94	1.50
E	n/a	n/a	10% Max.4.38	10% Max.4.38	n/a	0.3% Max.0.13
F	n/a	n/a	10% Max.7.94	10% Max.7.94	n/a	0.3% Max.0.24

Basic Weekly Wage or the weekly equivalent of the basic monthly salary



For percentage rates, the weekly rate payable is calculated to the nearest cent

• Calculate:

• What would the basic gross salary be in December 2022?

Basic Salary:

€ 2,083.33

December Bonus

€ 67.55*

Total Gross:

€ 2,150.88



• Calculation of December bonus (full bonus is €135.10)

This is based on the working hours for the previous six months

July to December: 173.33 x 6 = 1040 hours

The employee joined in the beginning of October

Total hours July to December: 173.33 x 3 = 519.99 hours (Oct-Dec)

Formula: 135.10 divided by 1040 hours x total number of hours

Formula: (DIER) €0.74 x total number of days from 03.10.2022 - 31.12.2022

90 days x 0.74 = €66.60



• Calculate:

 What would the Social Security deductions be in December 2022?

Basic Weekly Wage: € 480.77

Category: C2

Formula: 480.77 x 10% x 4 Mondays

SS Deduction (Employee): € 192.31



 \Box Q

How would you manually calculate the tax to be deducted in a given month?

The FSS system would estimate that the gross salary received in a month would be the same for the rest of the months of a calendar year



- If an employee had a gross salary of €2,500 in January 2022 our assumption would be that for the whole of the year the employee's income would be €30,000 (excluding government bonus)
- For this example let's agree that the tax status of the employee is Single and we are calculating the tax to be deducted in January
- With the tax rates in hand, €30,000 per annum would fall under the second 25% bracket
- >€30,000 x 25% €2725 = €4775 tax in a whole year
- Divide €4775 by the twelve months = €398 due in tax



You are calculating this month's payroll (December 2022) and have been informed that an employee was given a salary increase with effect 1st November 2022

- ➤ The previous gross annual salary was €25,000
- ➤ The new gross annual salary is €35,000
- ➤ What factors and calculations must we keep in mind?



➤ Salary Arrears (Difference)

New annual salary less old annual salary divided by twelve x 1 (November)

Social Security Contributions have now changed category with effective date of 1st November 2022

The previous SS category was C2; the new category is D2

In payroll we would need to reverse the 4 contributions at C2 deducted in November and deduct 8 contributions at D2 rate in December



 \Box Q

An employee has joined your company on a part-time basis. The employee is employed full-time elsewhere

➤ What tax rate should be applied

In terms of the budget measures for 2022, the employee should pay tax at 10% on the first €10,000 income from this part-time employment. This should also be reflected in the FS4

If income exceeds €10,000 the percentage of tax to be deducted should be that at the applicable bracket (25% or 35%) when one takes into consideration the income from the full-time and part-time employment

➤ Should we deduct Social Security ?
Since the employee is employed on a full-time basis elsewhere no SS deductions apply



Shift considerations:

- In most cases employees who work on a shift arrangement tend to be unionised. If this is the case, they will therefore be subject to a collective agreement which is crucial for the calculation of payroll.
- There could be different rates applicable for morning, afternoon or night shifts.
- ➤ Each shift may have an applicable allowance over and above the hourly rate. This would be clearly indicated in the collective agreement.

Shift considerations:

➤ When processing payroll you have to consider all information extracted from the T & A system.

➤ The allowance may be in the form of a flat rate or applicable per hour. (flat rate pro-rata / hourly) — this always depends on the collective agreement.





ACADEMY

AWARD IN PAYROLL FUNDAMENTALS