

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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SC INFORMATION LETTER #15-9

- SUBJECT: Abandoned Building, Textile Mill, and Retail Facility Tax Credits Summary Chart (Income and Property Taxes)
- DATE: July 8, 2015
- REFERENCE: Title 12, Chapter 67 (Supp. 2014) and 2015 Act No. 68 Title 12, Chapter 65 (2014) Title 6, Chapter 34 (Supp. 2014)
- AUTHORITY: S.C. Code Ann. Section 12-4-320 (2014) SC Revenue Procedure #09-3
- SCOPE: An Information Letter is a written statement issued to the public to announce general information useful in complying with the laws administered by the Department. An Information Letter has no precedential value.

South Carolina has available several tax credits for the rehabilitation of abandoned buildings, in addition to a credit for the rehabilitation of state historic structures. Each statute contains a number of requirements including qualification of the site, qualification of expenses incurred in the rehabilitation, and information required to be submitted to the Department. The rules and requirements can be complex.

The Department has issued guidance regarding the provisions of the income tax credit and a general overview of the property tax credit for the following tax credits:

- Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Credit SC Revenue Ruling #15-7 (Title 12, Chapter 67)
- Textile Mill Revitalization Credit SC Revenue Ruling #15-8 (Title 12, Chapter 65)
- Retail Facility Revitalization Credit SC Revenue Ruling #15-9 (Title 6, Chapter 34)

As a reference tool for practitioners, a general summary of the main requirements of the abandoned building, textile mill, and retail facility credits are attached to this Information Letter. It is comprised of two parts:

- Part 1 provides a summary of the main requirements for the abandoned building, textile mill and retail facility <u>income tax credits</u>. Note: See "Special Rules" section for provisions regarding building sites placed in service before June 9, 2015, for the abandoned building tax credit, as well as the transitional rules for the textile mill tax credit.
- Part 2 provides a summary of the main requirements for the abandoned building, textile mill, and retail facility property tax credits.

Again, this credit summary is intended to be a reference tool and is written in general terms. It is <u>not</u> to be relied on as a substitute for reading the relevant statutes.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF ABANDONED BUILDING, TEXTILE, AND RETAIL TAX CREDITS (CAUTION: This summary is written in general terms. It may not be relied on as a substitute for researching original sources of authority.)

Part 1 – Income Tax Credits

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
		2008, and after)	
Code Section	Title 12, Chapter 67	Title 12, Chapter 65	Title 6, Chapter 34
Form	TC-55	TC-23	TC-31
Repeal Date	December 31, 2019 Does not affect remaining credit installments or carryforward period of any credit earned	none	July 1, 2016 Does not affect remaining credit installments or carryforward period of any credit earned
Taxpayer (TP) Qualifying for Credit	TP who rehabilitates an abandoned building, incurs minimum rehabilitation expenses, and places building site in service for income producing purposes	TP who rehabilitates a textile mill site and places site in service for its intended use	TP who improves, renovates, or redevelops an eligible site and places it in service
Taxes Credit Available Against	Income taxes - Ch. 6, Title 12 Bank franchise tax - Ch.11, Title 12 Savings & Loan - Ch. 13, Title 12 Corp. license fee - Ch. 20, Title 12 Insurance premium tax – Title 38, Ch.7 For building sites placed in service before June 9, 2015, see "Special Rules" below	Income taxes - Ch. 6, Title 12 Bank franchise tax - Ch. 11, Title 12 Corp. license fee - Ch. 20, Title 12 Insurance premium tax - Title 38, Ch. 7	Income taxes - Ch. 6, Title 12 Bank franchise tax - Ch. 11, Title 12 Savings & Loan - Ch. 13, Title 12

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
		2008, and after)	
Notice of Intent	TP files Notice of Intent with DOR	TP files Notice of Intent with DOR prior	TP files Notice of Election letter
or Notice of	before incurring first rehabilitation	to receiving building permits for site	with DOR before site is placed in
Election to	expenses		service to inform of selection of
Inform DOR of		Failure to timely file results in	either the income tax credit or the
Credit Selection	Failure to timely file results in	qualification only of rehabilitation	property tax credit
(Notice)	qualification only of rehabilitation	expenses incurred after Notice is	
	expenses incurred after Notice is	provided	If failure to affirmatively elect either
	provided		credit with DOR or TP is unable to
		See RR #15-8 for guidance in	obtain county approval, TP is
	See RR #15-7 for guidance in	completing Notice letter	deemed to have elected income tax
	completing Notice letter		credit
Address to Mail	SCDOR	SCDOR	SCDOR
Notice to DOR	Abandoned Buildings Credit Notice	Textile Mill Credit Notice	Retail Facility Credit Notice
	Research & Forms Development	Research & Forms Development	Research & Forms Development
	Columbia, SC 29214-0019	Columbia, SC 29214-0019	Columbia, SC 29214-0019
Credit Amount	25% of actual rehabilitation	25% of actual rehabilitation expenses –	10% of rehabilitation expenses
Earned by TP	expenses – if actual rehabilitation	if actual rehabilitation expenses are	
	expenses are <u>80% - 125%</u> of	<u>125% or less</u> than the estimated expense	
	estimated expense amount reported	amount reported in Notice	
	in Notice		
		25% of 125% of estimated expense	
	25% of 125% of estimated expense	amount reported in Notice - if actual	
	reported in Notice - if actual	rehabilitation expenses exceed 125% of	
	rehabilitation expenses exceed	estimated expense amount reported in	
	125% of estimated expense amount	Notice	
	reported in Notice		
		For textile mill sites acquired before	
	No credit – if actual rehabilitation	January 1, 2008, see "Special Rules"	
	expenses are <u>below 80%</u> of	below	
	estimated expense amount reported		
	in Notice		

	Abandoned Building Income Tax Credit	Textile Mill Income Tax Credit (For sites placed in service Jan. 1, 2008, and after)	Retail Facility Income Tax Credit
Maximum Credit Earned by TP	\$500,000 for each site, each unit, or each parcel	No maximum	No maximum
Abandonment Period and Space Closed to Business	"Abandoned building" – a building or structure (clearly delineated from other buildings or structures) with 66% or more of the space continuously closed to business or nonoperational for income producing purposes for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date the TP files a Notice	"Abandoned" - at least 80% of textile mill has been closed continuously to business or otherwise nonoperational as a textile mill for at least 1 year immediately preceding filing of Notice	"Abandoned" - at least 80% of site's facilities* have been continuously closed to business or nonoperational for at least 1 year preceding time determination is made (can serve as wholesale facility for up to one year during abandonment) *Site's facilities only include the site's building or structure
Subdivision of Site into Units or Parcels	Yes, building may be subdivided into separate parcels or separate units which may be owned by same or different TPs Each unit or parcel is deemed to be an abandoned building site for purposes of determining whether each unit or parcel is abandoned Each unit or parcel must: (a) meet the minimum investment requirement, (b) file a separate Notice and report estimated expense; and (c) meet the Act's purpose and requirements	Yes, site may be subdivided into separate parcels which may be owned by same or different TPs. A site, however, cannot be divided into separate units. Each parcel is deemed to be a textile mill site for purposes of determining whether each parcel is abandoned For any parcel on which there is a building, the building must be renovated or demolished	No, dividing site into separate units or separate parcels is not permitted

	Abandoned Building Income Tax Credit	Textile Mill Income Tax Credit	Retail Facility Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1, 2008, and after)	
Eligible Site	 "Building site" - the abandoned building and the parcel of land it is located on and other improvements on the parcel The area of the building site is limited to the land the abandoned building is located upon and the land immediately surrounding the building used for parking and other similar purposes directly related to the building's income producing use 	"Textile mill" - facility or facilities that were initially used for textile manufacturing, dyeing, or finishing operations and for ancillary uses to those operations "Textile mill site" - the textile mill together with land and other improvements on it which were used directly for textile manufacturing, operations or ancillary uses The area of the site is limited to the land located within the boundaries where the textile manufacturing, dyeing, or finishing facility structure is located and does not include land located outside the boundaries of the structure or devoted to ancillary uses "Ancillary uses" - uses related to the textile manufacturing, dyeing, or finishing operations on a textile mill site consisting of sales, distribution, storage, water runoff, wastewater treatment and detention, pollution control, landfill, personnel offices, security offices, employee parking, dining and recreation areas, and internal roadways or driveways directly associated with such uses	"Eligible site" – an abandoned shopping center, a mall, or freestanding site whose primary use was as a retail sales facility with at least one tenant occupying a 40,000 square foot or larger building

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1, 2008, and after)	
Certification of Site by County as Abandoned	 Yes, if TP applies to county or municipality to make determination. TP may rely upon determination. Attach to first tax return for which credit is claimed. For building sites placed in service before June 9, 2015, see "Special Rules" below 	Yes, if TP applies to county or municipality to make determination. TP may rely upon determination. Attach to first tax return for which credit is claimed.	No, burden of proof is on TP
TP or Site Ineligible for Credit	TP who owned building when it was operational and immediately prior to abandonment	TP owned textile mill site when site was operational and immediately prior to abandonment	
	Site with preceding use as a single family residence or the construction of single family residence	TP claiming abandoned building credit for site If facility previously received textile credit	
	TP claiming textile or retail credit for site		
	TP who does not put site into operation for income producing purposes		
	TP who does not meet purpose of Act		
	TP who incurs below the minimum required rehabilitation expense for the site		
	TP whose actual expenses are under 80% of estimated rehabilitation expense amount reported in Notice		

	Abandoned Building Income Tax Credit	Textile Mill Income Tax Credit (For sites placed in service Jan. 1, 2008, and after)	Retail Facility Income Tax Credit
Rehabilitation Expenses	 Expenses or capital expenditures incurred in rehabilitation, demolition, renovation, or redevelopment of building site Includes renovation or redevelopment of existing buildings, demolition expenses (complete destruction), environmental remediation, site improvements and construction of new buildings and other improvements Excludes (a) cost of acquiring building site, (b) expenses associated with increase in square footage of building site more than double the size of the existing buildings, (c) demolition expenses for historic building, and (d) cost of 	 2008, and after) Expenses or capital expenditures incurred in rehabilitation, renovation, or redevelopment of textile mill site Includes demolition (complete destruction) of existing buildings, environmental remediation, site improvements and construction of new buildings and other improvements Excludes cost of acquiring textile mill site or cost of personal property located at textile mill site Excludes expenses incurred prior to filing Notice if Notice is filed after receiving building permit for the textile mill site Note: For expenses to qualify, textile mill and buildings on site must be 	 Expenses incurred in the rehabilitation of eligible site Include demolition costs, (complete destruction), environmental remediation, site improvements, new construction, and renovation to existing buildings Excludes cost of acquiring eligible site or cost of personal property maintained at eligible site
	personal property at building site Note: For expenses to qualify, the abandoned buildings on the building site must be renovated or redeveloped	renovated or demolished	

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
		2008, and after)	
Real Property or	Depends on facts and circumstances.	Depends on facts and circumstances.	Depends on facts and circumstances.
Personal	Personal property is generally not	Personal property is generally not	Personal property is generally not
Property Costs	permanent. DOR considers: (a) mode	permanent. DOR considers: (a) mode of	permanent. DOR considers: (a) mode of
	of attachment, (b) character of item, (c)	attachment, (b) character of item,	attachment, (b) character of item, (c)
	intent of parties, (d) relationship of	(c) intent of parties, (d) relationship of	intent of parties, (d) relationship of
	parties, and (e) if removal would be	parties, and (e) if removal would be costly,	parties, and (e) if removal would be
	costly, time consuming, and	time consuming, and destructive to building	costly, time consuming, and destructive
	destructive to building		to building
Date Expense	On date expense would be considered	On date expense would be considered	On date expense would be considered
Incurred	incurred under accrual method of	incurred under accrual method of accounting	incurred under accrual method of
	accounting		accounting
Minimum	TP must incur the following	None	None
Investment	rehabilitation expenses based on		
Requirement	location:		
	• Over \$250,000 if building is in		
	area with more than 25,000		
	people;		
	• Over \$150,000 if building is in		
	area with 1,000 – 25,000 people;		
	• Over \$75,000 if building is in area		
	with under 1,000 people		
Date Credit	Entire credit is earned in tax year when	Entire credit is earned in tax year textile mill	Entire credit is earned in tax year
Earned	building site (or phase) is placed in	site (or phase or portion) is placed in service	eligible site is placed in service
	service		
	If placing phases in service, credit is		
	not earned until costs incurred to date		
	are 80% or more of the estimated		
	expense amount reported in the Notice		
	for the entire site		

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
		2008, and after)	
Placed in Service	The date the building site (or phase or	The date the textile mill site (or phase or	The date the site is suitable for
Definition	portion) is completed and ready for its intended use	portion) is completed and ready for its intended use	occupancy for the purposes intended (may be other than retail use)
Annual Credit	Credit taken in equal installments over	Credit taken in equal installments over 5	Credit taken in equal installments over 8
Installment	3 years beginning with tax year that	years beginning with tax year that site (or	years beginning with tax year that site is
	site (or phase or portion) is placed in service	phase or portion) is placed in service	placed in service
	service		
	For building sites placed in service		
	before June 9, 2015, see "Special		
	Rules" below		
Installment	Credit can offset 100% of income tax,	Credit is limited to 50% of income tax, bank	Credit can offset 100% of income tax,
Amount	bank tax, savings and loan tax,	tax, corporate license fee, and/or insurance	bank tax, or savings and loan tax
Available to Offset Tax	corporate license fee and/or insurance premium tax liability for the tax year	premium tax liability for the tax year	liability
Unset Tax	premium tax natinty for the tax year		
	For building sites placed in service		
	before June 9, 2015, see "Special		
	Rules" below		
Carryforward of	5 years	5 years	5 years
Each Installment			

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
		2008, and after)	
Pass Through and Allocation of Credit	If TP earning credit is a partnership or LLC taxed as partnership, the credit may be passed through to the <u>current</u> partners or members and may be allocated among any of its current partners or members, including an	If TP earning the credit is a partnership or LLC taxed as a partnership, the credit may be passed through to the partners or members and may be allocated among any of its partners or members on an annual basis, including allocation of entire credit to	If credit is earned by a partnership, LLC, or other entity taxed as a partnership, the credit must be passed through to its partners, and may be allocated among any of its partners in a manner agreed to by partners that is consistent with IRC
	allocation of the entire credit to one partner or member, without regard to any IRC provision that may be	any partner or member who was a partner or member at any time during the year the credit is allocated	Subchapter K, including allocation of the entire credit to one partner
	contrary to the allocation, including treatment as a disguised sale A partnership or LLC cannot allocate more than its current year credit	A partnership or LLC cannot allocate more than its current year credit installment amount to any partner or member in a tax year	If credit is earned by S corporation owing corporate level income taxes, then credit must be used first at entity level. Any remaining credit passes through to each shareholder in percentage equal to
	installment amount to any partner or member in a tax year		percentage of ownership A pass through entity cannot allocate more than its current year credit installment amount to any partner, shareholder, or member in a tax year
Transfer of	If TP leases building site (or part of	If TP leases textile mill site (or part of site),	The owner of the eligible site may transfer
Earned Credit by	site), then TP may transfer any	then TP may transfer any applicable	all or part of unused credit to the tenant of
TP to Lessee	remaining credit associated with the rehabilitation expenses incurred with	remaining credit associated with the rehabilitation expenses incurred with respect	the eligible site
	respect to that part of the site to the lessee of the site	to that part of the site to the lessee of the site	Unused credit carryforwards may not be transferred
	Unused credit carryforwards may not be transferred	Unused credit carryforwards may not be transferred	

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
		(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
		2008, and after)	
Transfer of	If TP sells building site (or any phase	If TP sells textile mill site, (or any phase or	No transfer to new owner
<u>Earned Credit</u> by	or portion of site), then TP may	portion of site), then TP may transfer all or	
TP to Purchaser	transfer all or part of remaining credit	part of remaining credit associated with	
	associated with rehabilitation expenses	rehabilitation expenses incurred with respect	
	incurred with respect to that portion to	to that phase or portion to the purchaser of	
	the purchaser of the applicable portion of the building site	the applicable portion of the textile mill site	
		Unused credit carryforwards may not be	
	Unused credit carryforwards may not be transferred	transferred	
Notice of	Transferor must notify DOR of	Transferor must notify DOR of transfer of	Must notify DOR 30 days before the
Transfer to DOR	transfer within 30 days after transfer	credit within 30 days after transfer	transfer
	See RR #15-7 for information required	See RR #15-8 for information required in the	See RR #15-9 for information required in
	in the Notice	Notice	the Notice
Address to Mail	SCDOR	SCDOR	SCDOR
Notice of	Abandoned Buildings Credit Transfer	Textiles Credit Transfer Notice	Retail Facility Credit Transfer
Transfer to DOR	Research & Forms Development	Research & Forms Development	Research & Forms Development
The of	Columbia, SC 29214-0019	Columbia, SC 29214-0019	Columbia, SC 29214-0019
Use of Transferred	Transferee may only claim that year's credit installment	Transferee may only claim that year's credit installment	Transferee may only claim that year's credit installment
Credit	credit instanment	Instanment	creat instanment
Creuit	Each installment can offset 100% of	Each installment is limited to 50% of the	Each installment has a 5 year carryforward
	the transferee's income tax, bank tax,	transferee's income tax, bank tax, corporate	Each instanment has a 5 year carryforward
	savings and loan tax, corporate license	license fee, and/or insurance premium tax	
	fee, and/or insurance premium tax liability	liability	
	haomey	Each installment has a 5 year carryforward	
	Each installment has a 5 year	Luch instantione has a 5 year carryforward	
	carryforward		
	For building sites placed in service		
	before June 9, 2015, see "Special Rules" below		

	Abandoned Building Income Tax Credit	Textile Mill Income Tax Credit (For sites placed in service Jan. 1, 2008, and after)	Retail Facility Income Tax Credit
Use with Other Credits	May also claim state historic credit (in Code Section 12-6-3535) if eligible If TP claims abandoned buildings credit, TP cannot claim textile or retail credit for same site	May also claim state historic credit (in Code Section 12-6-3535) if eligible If TP claims textile credit, TP cannot claim abandoned building credit	May also claim state historic credit (in Code Section 12-6-3535) if eligible If TP claims retail credit, then TP cannot claim abandoned buildings credit
Special Rules	 Building listed on National Historic Register for Historic Places, see RR #15-7, Question 25 and Code Section 12-67-120(1) and (6) Definition of "state-owned abandoned building" added. See Code Section 12- 67-120(8) For sites placed in service before June 9, 2015: Credit installment period is 5 years Each credit installment is limited to 50% of TP's income tax, bank tax, and/or corporate license fee liability No credit against insurance premium taxes No certification of building site by county or municipality as abandoned; TP has burden of proof. 	 Sites <u>placed in service</u> on or before December 31, 2007 must use provisions in Title 6, Chapter 32. For sites in which a portion but not all of the site was placed in service on or before December 31, 2007, see transitional rules in Code Section 12-65-50(C) Definition of textile mill site expanded for textile mill site located on the Catawba River near Interstate 77. Code Section 12- 65-40(4). For textile mill sites <u>acquired</u> by a TP before January 1, 2008, the following apply (see RR #15-8, Question 26): Definition of textile mill site includes textile mill structure, together with all land and improvements which were used directly for textile manufacturing operations or ancillary uses, or were located on the same parcel within 1,000 feet of any textile mill structure or ancillary uses 	

Abandoned Building	Textile Mill	Retail Facility
Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit	Income Tax Credit
	(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	
	2008, and after)	
	• A Notice of Intent is not required to be sent to DOR for the income tax credit	
	• Income tax credit is 25% of actual rehabilitation expenses (25% x 125% estimated expense limitation is not applicable)	

	Abandoned Building	Textile Mill Property Tax Credit	Retail Facility
	Property Tax Credit	(For sites placed in service Jan. 1,	Property Tax Credit
		2008, and after)	
Code Section	Title 12, Chapter 67	Title 12, Chapter 65	Title 6, Chapter 34
Taxes Credit	Real property taxes	Real property taxes	Real property taxes
Available Against			
Credit Amount	If actual rehabilitation expenses are between 80% - 125% of estimated expenses, then credit amount equals 25% of actual rehabilitation expenses x local taxing entity ratio of each consenting entity	If actual rehabilitation expenses are between 80% - 125% of estimated expenses, then credit amount equals 25% of actual rehabilitation expenses x local taxing entity ratio of each consenting entity	25% of rehabilitation expenses x local taxing entity ratio of each consenting entity
	If actual rehabilitation expenses exceed 125% of estimated expenses then credit amount is based on 125% of estimated expenses	If actual rehabilitation expenses exceed 125% of estimated expenses then credit amount is based on 125% of estimated expenses	
	If actual rehabilitation expenses are below 80% of estimated expenses, then credit is not allowed	If actual rehabilitation expenses are below 80% of estimated expenses, then credit is not allowed	
Municipality or County Actions	Municipality or county must approve site and proposed expenses by resolution, ordinance and public hearing	Municipality or county must approve site and proposed expenses by resolution, ordinance and public hearing	Municipality or county must approve site and project by resolution, ordinance and public hearing
	At least 45 days before public hearing, municipality or county must give notice to all affected local taxing entities	At least 45 days before public hearing, municipality or county must give notice to all affected local taxing entities	At least 45 days before public hearing, municipality or county must give notice to all affected local taxing entities

Part 2 – Brief Overview of Property Tax Credits

	Abandoned Building Property Tax Credit	Textile Mill Property Tax Credit (For sites placed in service Jan. 1, 2008, or after)	Retail Facility Property Tax Credit
"Notice" of Intent or Notice of Election to Inform Selection of Property Tax	TP files Notice with municipality or county (if in unincorporated area) where site is located before incurring first rehabilitation expenses	TP files Notice with municipality or county (if in unincorporated area) where site is located before incurring any rehabilitation expenses	TP files Notice of Election letter (selection of income or property credit) with DOR before site is placed in service.
Credit (Notice)	Failure to timely file results in qualification only of rehabilitation expenses incurred after Notice is filed	Failure to timely file results in qualification only of expenses incurred after Notice is filed	Failure to affirmatively elect or inability to obtain county approval, TP deemed to have elected income tax credit
Address to Mail Notice	Municipality or county where site is located	Municipality or county where site is located	SCDOR Retail Credit Notice of Election Research & Forms Development Columbia, SC 29214-0019
Eligible Site Size Reduction by Governing Body	No	No	Yes, the governing body of a county or municipality where site is located, by resolution, may reduce the 40,000 square foot "eligible site" tenant occupancy requirement to not lower than 25,000 square feet
Certification of Site as Abandoned	Yes, if TP applies to county or municipality to make determination. TP may rely upon determination. For building sites placed in service before June 9, 2015, no certification of building site by county or municipality as abandoned; TP has burden of proof.	Yes, if TP applies to county or municipality to make determination. TP may rely upon determination.	No, burden of proof is on TP
Credit Amount and Duration	Credit may be claimed beginning with the property tax year the phase or site is placed in service	Credit may be claimed beginning with the property tax year the phase or site is placed in service	The entire credit vests in the TP in the tax year the site is placed in service
	Credit can be taken against up to 75% of real property taxes due on building site each year for up to 8 years	Credit can be taken against up to 75% of real property taxes due on textile mill site each year for up to 8 years	Credit can be taken against up to 75% of real property taxes due on the site each year for up to 8 years