

# F-tax for the self-employed

This information is intended for

- companies/self-employed persons
- persons paying remuneration for work

The folder contains a summary of the rules surrounding registration for F-tax. You will also find information on what it means to be registered for F-tax. The information is intended for persons who have are registered and for persons paying remuneration for work. More information is available at [www.skatteverket.se](http://www.skatteverket.se).

## F-tax and A-tax

### Forms of tax

There are two forms of preliminary tax, F-tax and A-tax. The form of tax debited to a person by the Tax Agency determines how both the preliminary tax and the social security contributions are to be paid on remuneration for work and who is liable to pay. A person registered for F-tax (entrepreneur) and who pays his/her own preliminary tax and social security contributions. Wage-earners and pensioners generally have A-tax. If you pay remuneration for work, you must make a tax deduction from the employee's remuneration and pay employer contributions for natural persons. Legal entities (limited companies, partnerships, incorporated associations, etc.) must also make tax deductions if they are not registered for F-tax.

### Decisions concerning preliminary tax

The Swedish Tax Agency makes decisions concerning preliminary tax. A person who wishes to register for F-tax must apply to the Swedish Tax Agency. In order to register for F-tax, you must be carrying on or intending to carry on business activity. A person who is not registered for F-tax has A-tax by default. A natural person or legal entity who is an entrepreneur but is not registered for F-tax therefore has A-tax.

A person who has A-tax may also be liable to pay what is known as special A-tax, if the preliminary tax paid via tax deductions is not expected to entirely cover the final tax. The special A-tax is therefore a supplement to the "regular" A-tax.

Natural persons with an income both from employment and business activity may register for both F-tax and A-tax. This is known as FA-tax. Read more under the heading "Both F-tax and A-tax".

### Obligation to make tax deductions and pay employer contributions

If you pay remuneration for work, the payee's form of tax (F-tax or A-tax) dictates who is liable to make tax deductions and pay social security contributions. A person who is registered for F-tax must make the payments for tax and social security contributions themselves.

If you pay remuneration for work to someone who has A-tax, you must almost always make a tax deduction, regardless of whether they are a natural person or legal entity. If they are a natural person, you must also pay employer contributions. There are few exceptions to this.

The exceptions which exist are detailed in the brochure "Skatteavdrag och arbetsgivaravgifter" (SKV 401) [Tax deductions and employer contributions].

### What does F-tax registration entail?

If you employ a person who is registered for unconditional F-tax, you neither make tax deductions nor pay employer contributions on the remuneration for work. A person registered for F-tax pays their preliminary tax themselves in the form of debited F-tax. A natural person must also pay their social security contributions themselves in the form of personal contributions.

Partnerships can also be registered for F-tax. In general, they do not pay any tax, as the tax on the company's profit margin is paid by the partners. Read more under the heading "Partnerships and partners".

Foreign entrepreneurs may register for F-tax on the same terms as Swedish persons. Read more under the heading "Foreign entrepreneurs".

## Is the payee registered for F-tax?

The payee can show that she or he is registered for F-tax by providing the information in a document produced in connection with the job, e.g., invoice, tender, agreement. The document must contain the partners' names and addresses as well as the personal identity number or corporate identity number of the payee.

The payee can always obtain an abstract from the Swedish Tax Agency register. The abstract contains information on e.g. registration for F-tax. If no document is produced in connection with the job, the payee can instead submit a signed and dated extract from the register.

You can also make F-tax enquiries (answered by fax) via the Swedish Tax Agency service phone, **020-567 000**. Wait for a response, then dial extension **8102**. You may of course also call the Swedish Tax Agency to check or receive information on the payees form of tax.

If the payee is registered for conditional F-tax, i.e., F-tax and A-tax (FA-tax), he or she must always make written reference to their F-tax registration if it is to apply for a job. See also "Both F-tax and A-tax".

## Applying for F-tax registration

A person who wishes to register for F-tax must apply to the Swedish Tax Agency.

The previous F-tax card has been replaced by registration with the Swedish Tax Agency; "F-tax registration". Registration is valid until further notice, i.e. until the registration is revoked. Paper F-tax cards no longer exist. Now, an abstract from the register is sent out, in which it is explained that the applicant is registered for F-tax from a certain date.

The Swedish Tax Agency will only send a new abstract from the register if there are any changes or upon request from the person registered for F-tax.

You can apply for F-tax either via the Swedish Tax Agency's e-services for the registration of companies, at [www.verksam.se](http://www.verksam.se), or by sending in the form "Skatteoch avgiftsanmälan" (SKV 4620) [Tax and Payroll Application]. Information on how to apply for registration is found in the brochure "Företagsregistrering" (SKV 418) [Company registration].

You can download forms and brochures from [www.skatteverket.se](http://www.skatteverket.se), order them via the Swedish Tax Agency's service phone (**020-567 000**, extension for brochures **7605** and for forms **6801**) or collect them at a service office.

Read more under the heading "Foreign entrepreneurs" about the rules for foreign companies.

## Conditions for F-tax registration

Following application from a person stating that they are carrying on or intending to carry on business activity in Sweden, the Swedish Tax Agency shall register the person for F-tax. Read more about the definition of

business activity in the brochure "Företagsregistrering" (SKV 418) [Company registration].

An application is however *not* approved if

- there is reason to expect that the applicant is neither carrying on nor intending to carry on business activity
- the application is based solely on the revenues of one partner in a Swedish partnership. Read more under the heading "Partnerships and partners"
- the applicant
  - has within the last two years breached the conditions issued upon registration for F-tax or in any other way abused a registration for F-tax to a not inconsiderable extent
  - has not declared or paid Swedish or foreign taxes to a not inconsiderable extent
  - has not followed instructions to submit an income tax return or specific information for partnerships or has submitted information that is insufficient as grounds for taxation
  - is banned from engaging in business
  - is bankrupt.

Under special circumstances, the Swedish Tax Agency may decide to register the applicant for F-tax despite the deficiencies stated under the third bullet point above.

When the Swedish Tax Agency examines these deficiencies, the group of persons/companies with expressed deficiencies expands in addition to the applicant applying for F-tax registration. The expanding covers the following cases:

- If the applicant is a close company or close partnership, the examination also applies to managers in close companies and other close companies in which he or she is a manager or has been within the last two years.
- If the applicant is a manager in a close company or close partnership, or has been within the last two years, the requirements also apply to this company.

Examination of the close company or close partnership shall concern solely impropriety which can be linked to the manager.

Information on the definition of a close company and who the managers are can be found in the brochure "Skatteregler för delägare i fåmansföretag" (SKV 292) [Tax regulations for partners in close companies].

With regard to the obstacles to registration listed under the third bullet point above, there is a waiting time of two years associated with the first of these, i.e., breach of the terms of your registration for F-tax. This period starts from when the breach is committed. With regard to other obstacles under the third bullet point, registration can be granted as soon as the impropriety which prevents the registration has been resolved, for example via payment of tax debts or submission of a declaration.

## Foreign entrepreneurs

Foreign entrepreneurs, both legal entities and natural persons, who are carrying on or intend to carry on business activities in this country can also register for F-tax. This applies even if the foreign entrepreneur is not liable for income tax in Sweden. A foreign entrepreneur with limited liability for income tax becomes liable for income tax only if the business activities are carried on from a permanent place of business in Sweden.

It is also necessary for a foreign entrepreneur to have declared and paid taxes and contributions in his/her own country. Before an application can be granted it is therefore necessary to enclose a certificate from the authority concerned showing that the applicant has no tax debts in his/her own country. Such a certificate may also be needed by managers of foreign companies that are classed as close companies. Read more under “Applying for F-tax registration”.

Foreign companies should normally use the form “Skattemålan för utländska företagare” (SKV 4632) [Tax Application for Foreign Entrepreneurs]. More information is available at [www.skatteverket.se](http://www.skatteverket.se).

## Both F-tax and A-tax

Natural persons who have income from both business activity and employment may register for conditional F-tax (both F-tax and A-tax at the same time, known as FA-tax). The condition means that you may only use the F-tax registration in your business activity, whilst preliminary A-tax applies for income from employment.

The payee must always make written reference to their F-tax registration if it is to apply for a job. The headings “What does F-tax registration entail” and “Is the payee registered for F-tax?” explain the procedure.

The combination is applicable for e.g., persons who wish to start their own business activity whilst still receiving income from employment and for employees who carry on business activity alongside their employment.

Only natural persons qualify for FA-tax. A legal entity is only entitled to one or the other. The reason for this is that remuneration for work which is paid out to legal entities is always classed as income from business activity.

If a person is both registered for F-tax and has A-tax, this does not change the legal effects of the form of tax. The obligation to account for tax and contributions depends on whether the person uses F-tax registration or A-tax for a given job. When a person is both registered for F-tax and has A-tax, the following rules apply:

- The F-tax registration may only be used in the person's business activity. This condition is stated in the abstract from the register. It is also stated that the holder also has A-tax.
- The employer/payer shall assume that A-tax applies unless the payee makes reference to their F-tax registration in writing.
- If the payee makes reference to their F-tax registration in writing, this applies for the job in the same

way as for a person who is registered for unconditional F-tax. The payee refers to their F-tax registration in writing by providing the information in a document that is produced in connection with the job and that contains the requisite identification characteristics. Read more under the heading “What does F-tax registration entail?” on page 1.

### Example:

Maria Johansson, an artist, does extra work for the home help service alongside her artistic activity. She is both registered for F-tax and has A-tax. Maria Johansson is commissioned by the municipality to produce a wall painting for the new town hall. The order is a part of Maria Johansson's business activity.

Maria Johansson and the municipality draw up a written contract concerning the work. Maria Johansson states in the contract that she will be using her F-tax for this job. The municipality then makes no tax deduction and does not pay any social security contributions for Maria Johansson. She pays these herself.

When Maria Johansson works extra for the home help service on the other hand she indicates that she will pay A-tax. The employer then deducts tax and pays in employer's contributions for her.

## The registration's legal effects period

The term “legal effects” deals with who is liable to pay tax and social security contributions for employment remuneration. The liability to pay tax and social security contributions normally go hand in hand.

Legal effects for F-tax registration shall apply

- if the person who receives the remuneration is registered for F-tax, *either when the remuneration for work is determined or when it is paid out.*

With this rule, we can clarify at the contracting stage who is to pay social security contributions, so that the amount of remuneration can be calculated with this in mind. At the same time, it is important to also use the time of payment as the time for legal effects, as the matter of whether or not tax deductions are to be made is in many cases more pertinent at this time.

Legal effects for A-tax shall apply

- if the payee is not registered for F-tax when the remuneration is decided nor when it is paid out.

## Duty of notification

An employer/person paying remuneration for work has a duty to notify the Swedish Tax Agency in writing if the person who is registered for F-tax, conditional or unconditional, refers to their registration in writing in their terms of employment.

## F-tax registration can be revoked

The Swedish Tax Agency shall revoke a person's F-tax registration if

- the person who is registered for F-tax requests it
- the prerequisites for F-tax registration are no longer met.

A person who requests that their F-tax registration be revoked can reapply when they carry on or intend to carry on business activity again.

You can also have your registration revoked if you no longer fulfil the requirements for registration; see under the heading "Conditions for F-tax registration".

Following application, a person may only be re-registered for F-tax when the grounds for revocation no longer exist. A person who has had their registration revoked can therefore reapply for registration when, for example, he/she has submitted an income tax return or paid his/her tax and contribution debts.

If the registration has been revoked on the grounds of a breach of the terms of your registration, you cannot be re-registered for a period of two years from the date that you breached the terms of your registration.

## Partnerships and partners in partnerships

Partnerships may apply to the Tax Agency for F-tax registration. Partnerships normally receive an F-tax without a tax being debited. It is instead the partners who are taxed on the income. If the partnership has no F-tax the payer must make a tax deduction of 30 per cent of the remuneration when paying out to the partnership for work done.

### Partners in partnerships

Persons who are partners in partnerships and who only have income from their own partnership cannot be registered for F-tax. They are instead charged special A-tax and must themselves pay in taxes and social security contributions. In cases where partners in the partnership run a business activity outside their own partnership, they can be registered for F-tax for this activity.

### Information in Swedish on F-tax

To find out whether anyone you engage has F-tax you can call on our service phone and receive a reply by fax. Phone **020-567 000**, direct number **8102**.

You can also contact a service office.

### Self-service round the clock:

Website: [skatteverket.se](http://skatteverket.se)  
Service phone: 020-567 000

### Personal service:

Phone Skatteupplysningen,  
in Sweden: 0771-567 567  
from abroad: + 46 8 564 851 60

