

# Tax Depreciation Benefits Associated with Demountable Walls

## **Associated Tax Depreciation Benefits**

Depreciation is an income tax deduction that allows businesses to take an annual allowance for wear and tear of property. This deduction is spread out over what is considered the useful life of an item, as defined by the IRS.

In the past, most rooms within buildings have been constructed using drywall. Drywall, doors and traditional glazing are included in CSI Division 8 and considered permanent components of a building. As such, they are depreciated with the building over 39 years.

Personal property includes items that can be moved within a space, such as furniture, partitions, equipment/ computers, markerboards, signage, window coverings, and storage/lockers. Therefore, they can be depreciated over 7 years. Demountable walls are considered to be personal property, and are included in CSI Division 10 - Specialties, within section 10.22.00 Partitions.



#### The key requirements for an item to be considered personal property include:

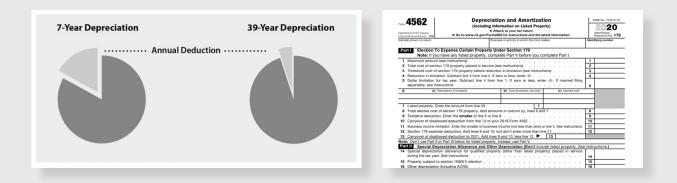
- Installed and removed quickly with little expense
- Not intended to remain permanently in place
- System is NOT damaged and the building is NOT damaged, upon its removal
- Does not service a utility-like function with respect to the building
- Serves the building in its passive functions of containing and protecting the tenants' assets
- Produces income only as a consideration for the use or occupancy of space within a building
- Was NOT installed during construction of the building
- Will NOT remain in place when a tenant vacates the premises



## **Income Tax Implications**

Personal property can be depreciated faster than a building; 7 years vs. 39 years. Using demountable walls affords companies significant tax savings over using drywall.

Although demountable walls can cost more per lineal foot than standard construction, the additional cost is offset by two factors; 1) the reduced time and labor to install them vs. drywall, and 2) the ability to depreciate them in 7 years.



Holoform demountable walls qualify for a Section 179 tax deduction. This deduction may allow a company to expense 100% of the purchase price in the first year up to \$1,040,000, with a limit of the total amount of the equipment, furniture or accessories purchased at \$2,590,000. Any amount over the \$2,590,000 phases out on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

### Section 179 Tax Refund Examples

Demountable Wall Tax Depreciation		Tax Savings in the First 5-Years (Assuming Equal Costs and a 35% Tax Bracket)		
			Conventional Construction	Demountable Walls
Cost of Wall System	\$1,100,000	Year 1 (1/39, 2.6% for Conventional)	\$28,600	\$385,000
Section 179 Deduction	\$1,040,000	Year 2 (1/39, 2.6% for Conventional)	\$28,600	\$0
Bonus Depreciation Deduction	\$60,000	Year 3 (1/39, 2.6% for Conventional)	\$28,600	\$0
Normal 1st Year Depreciation	\$0	Year 4 (1/39, 2.6% for Conventional)	\$28,600	\$0
Total First Year Depreciation	\$1,100,000	Year 5 (1/39, 2.6% for Conventional)	\$28,600	\$0
First Year Cash Savings (assumes 35% tax bracket)	\$385,000			
Cost of Equipment in 1st Year	\$715,000	5-Year Total Savings	\$143,000	\$385,000