

Type of Review: Extension.
Title: Excise Tax Program Order Blank for Forms and Publications.

Description: Form 9117 allows taxpayers who must file Form 720 returns a systemic way to order additional tax forms and informational publications.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 15,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent: 2 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.
Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 500 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1143.

Form Number: IRS Form 706-GS(D-1).

Type of Review: Extension.
Title: Notification of Distribution from a Generation-Skipping Trust.

Description: Form 706-GS(D-1) is used by trustees to notify the IRS and distributees of information needed by distributees to compute the Federal GST tax imposed by Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 2601. IRS uses the information to enforce this tax and to verify that the tax has been properly computed.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 80,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeepers:

Recordkeeping—1 hr., 33 min.

Learning about the law or the form—1 hr., 46 min.

Preparing the form—42 min.

Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS—20 min.

Frequency of Response: Annually.
Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 348,800 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1144.

Form Number: IRS Form 706-GS(D).

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Return for Distributions.

Description: Form 706-GS(D) is used by the distributees to compute and report the Federal GST tax imposed by Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 2601. IRS uses the information to enforce this tax and to verify that the tax has been properly computed.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 1,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeeper:

Recordkeeping—6 min.

Learning about the law or the form—13 min.

Preparing the form—24 min.
 Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS—20 min.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/

Recordkeeping Burden: 1,080 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1440.

Regulation Project Number: INTL-64-93 Final.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Conduit Arrangements Regulations.

Description: This document contains regulations relating to when the district director may recharacterize a financing arrangement as a conduit arrangement. Such recharacterization will affect the amount of withholding tax due on financing transactions that are part of the financing arrangement. These regulations will affect withholding agents and foreign investors.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Recordkeepers: 1,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent: 10 hours.

Estimated Total Recordkeeping Burden: 10,000 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1447.

Regulation Project Number: CO-46-94 Final.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Losses on Small Business Stock.

Description: Records are required by the Service to verify that the taxpayer is entitled to a section 1244 loss. The records will be used to determine whether the stock qualifies as section 1244 stock.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Recordkeepers: 10,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Recordkeeper: 12 minutes.

Estimated Total Recordkeeping Burden: 2,000 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1550.

Notice Number: Notice 97-45.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Highly Compensated Employee Definition.

Description: This notice provides guidance on the definition of a highly compensated employee within the meaning of section 414(q) of the Internal Revenue Code as simplified by section 1431 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, including an employer's option to make a top-paid group election under section 414(q)(1)(B)(ii).

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Recordkeepers: 218,683.

Estimated Burden Hours

Recordkeeper: 18 minutes.

Estimated Total Recordkeeping Burden: 65,605 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1551.

Revenue Procedure Numbers:

Revenue Procedure 97-36, Revenue Procedure 97-38, Revenue Procedure 897-39, and Revenue Procedure 2002-9.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Changes in Methods of Accounting.

Description: The information collected in the four revenue procedures is required in order for the Commission to determine whether the taxpayer properly is requesting to change its method of accounting and the terms and conditions of the change.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households, Not-for-profit institutions, Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 23,545.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeeper: 9 hours, 27 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion, Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 222,454 hours.

Clearance Officer: R. Joseph Durbala, (202) 622-3634. Internal Revenue Service, Room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., (202) 395-7316. Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-29397 Filed 11-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Privacy Act of 1974; Systems of Records

AGENCY: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of alterations of three Privacy Act systems of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), Department of the Treasury (Treasury), gives notice of proposed alterations to three existing systems of records entitled "Treasury/DO .200—FinCEN Data Base—Treasury/DO," "Treasury/DO .212—Suspicious Activity Reporting System—Treasury/DO," and "Treasury/DO .213—Bank

Secrecy Act Reports System—Treasury/DO”. The systems of records were last published in their entirety on February 19, 2002, at 67 FR 7492, 67 FR 7496, and 67 FR 7498, respectively.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than December 26, 2003. The revised systems of records will be effective as of January 5, 2004, unless comments are received that result in a contrary determination and notice is published to that effect.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Office of Chief Counsel, FinCEN, P.O. Box 39, Vienna, VA 22183-0039, Attention: Revisions to PA Systems of Records—Comments. Comments also may be submitted by electronic mail to the following Internet address: regcomments@fincen.treas.gov, with the above caption in the body of the text.

Inspection of comments. Comments may be inspected at FinCEN between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., in the FinCEN Reading Room in Washington, DC. Persons wishing to inspect the comments submitted must request an appointment by telephoning (202) 354-6400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Del Toro, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel, FinCEN, at (703) 905-3590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The systems of records contain information collected under the authority of the Bank Secrecy Act, the popular name for Titles I and II of Public Law 91-508, as amended, and codified at 12 U.S.C. 1829b, 12 U.S.C. 1951-1959, and 31 U.S.C. 5311-5331. The regulations implementing the authority contained in the Bank Secrecy Act are found at 31 CFR part 103. The authority to administer 31 CFR part 103 has been delegated to FinCEN.

One FinCEN system of records is being revised with the addition of a new routine use to reflect that limited information relating to Money Services Businesses (“MSBs”) that have registered with FinCEN pursuant to 31 CFR 103.41 may be made available to the public. On August 20, 1999, FinCEN published a final rule requiring money services businesses to register with the Department of the Treasury on or before the later of December 31, 2001, and the end of the 180-day period beginning on the day following the date the business is established. See 64 FR 45438-45453 and 31 CFR 103.41. Money services businesses that are required to register with FinCEN include money transmitters, issuers, sellers, and redeemers of money orders and traveler’s checks, check cashers, and currency dealers and exchangers. See

§ 103.11(uu). To register, MSBs must complete and submit Treasury Department form TD F 90-22.55, “Registration of Money Services Business.” Agents of an MSB are not required to register, but are required to be listed on the agent list maintained by the MSB whose products and services the agent offers. See 31 CFR 103.41(a)(2).

The Secretary of the Treasury was granted statutory authority to require MSBs to register by section 408 of the Money Laundering Suppression Act of 1994 (“MLSA”), Title IV of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-325 (September 23, 1994). The Conference Report accompanying passage of the MLSA provides that:

[t]he Conferees recognize that the contents of both the registration of a money transmitting business and the agent list maintained by the business will include privileged and confidential trade secrets, commercial, and financial information * * *. The Conferees also recognize that some of the data to be contained in the registrations will have legitimate uses outside of law enforcement. It is the Conferees’ intent that the Secretary make such information available to the public in a manner which balances the need to protect confidential business information and the need of the public to have access to information about businesses which serve it. Accordingly, the Conferees expect the Secretary to make such information available to the public in as much detail as possible without revealing confidential information. Conference Report 103-652 Aug. 2, 1994 at 193.

Thus, the legislative history of the MLSA indicates that at least part of the information Treasury collects through the MSB registration process was intended by Congress to be made available to the public by Treasury. FinCEN has determined that making certain information about MSB registrants publicly available will be useful to consumers seeking to ensure that the MSBs with which they do business are in compliance with federal regulations, financial institutions charged with implementing anti-money laundering programs, and the law enforcement community.

For the reasons set forth above, the routine uses for the Bank Secrecy Act System of records are being amended to reflect that certain information contained in forms TD F 90-22.55, “Registration of Money Services Business” submitted by MSBs registering with FinCEN may be made available to the public in a manner that protects trade secrets, and privileged and confidential commercial or financial information.

In addition, the FinCEN systems of records are being revised to reflect certain changes in the law made by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-56 (October 26, 2001). Prior to enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act, FinCEN was a Departmental Office of the Department of the Treasury. As a result, the name and number of each of FinCEN’s Privacy Act system of records corresponded with the names and numbers given to systems of records maintained by Treasury’s Departmental Offices. However, section 361 of the USA Patriot Act created a new section 310 in Subchapter I of chapter 3 of Title 31, United States Code, making FinCEN a Treasury Bureau. See Treasury Order 180-01, dated September 26, 2002. Therefore, the system numbers and names of FinCEN’s Privacy Act systems of records are being revised to reflect FinCEN’s status as a Treasury Bureau. FinCEN proposes to alter the system numbers and names of its Privacy Act systems of records as follows: “Treasury/FinCEN .001—FinCEN Data Base—Treasury/FinCEN,” “Treasury/FinCEN .002—Suspicious Activity Reporting System—Treasury/FinCEN,” and “Treasury/FinCEN .003—Bank Secrecy Act Reports System—Treasury/FinCEN.”

Because information in the systems of records may be retrieved by personal identifier, the Privacy Act of 1974 requires the Treasury to give general notice and seek public comments when making substantive changes to these Systems. The notices were last published in their entirety on February 19, 2002, beginning at 67 FR 7492. Treasury/DO .212 and Treasury/DO .213 were subsequently amended on May 24, 2002, at 67 FR 36669.

The altered system of records report, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r), has been submitted to the Committee on Government Reform in the House of Representatives, the Committee on Governmental Affairs in the Senate, and Office of Management and Budget, pursuant to Appendix I to OMB Circular A-130, “Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals,” November 30, 2000.

For the reasons set forth above, FinCEN proposes to alter the FinCEN Data Base, the Suspicious Activity Reporting System, and the Bank Secrecy Act Reports System as follows:

Treasury/DO .200

Description of change: Revise the system number to read: "Treasury/FinCEN .001."

SYSTEM NAME:

Description of change: Revise the system name to read: "FinCEN Data Base—Treasury/FinCEN."

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Treasury/DO .212

Description of change: Revise the system number to read: "Treasury/FinCEN .002."

SYSTEM NAME:

Description of change: Revise the system name to read: "Suspicious Activity Report System (the "SAR System")—Treasury/FinCEN."

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Treasury/DO .213

Description of change: Revise the system number to read: "Treasury/FinCEN .003."

SYSTEM NAME:

Description of change: Revise the system name to read: "Bank Secrecy Act Reports System—Treasury/FinCEN."

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ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Description of change: Add routine use (10) to read as follows:

(10) "Disclose to the public information about Money Services Businesses that have registered with FinCEN pursuant to 31 CFR 103.41, other than information that consists of trade secrets, or that is privileged and confidential commercial or financial information."

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Dated: November 18, 2003.

Teresa Mullett Ressel,
Assistant Secretary for Management and
Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-29352 Filed 11-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Internal Revenue Service****Publication of the Tier 2 Tax Rates**

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Publication of the tier 2 tax rates for calendar year 2004 as required by section 3241(d) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 3241). Tier 2 taxes on railroad employees, employers, and employee representatives (a group unique to the railroad industry) fund a private pension benefit of the railroad retirement system.

DATES: The tier 2 tax rates for calendar year 2004 apply to compensation paid in calendar year 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margaret A. Owens,
CC:TEGE:EOEG:ET1, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, Telephone Number (202) 622-6040 (not a toll-free number).

Tier 2 Tax Rates: The tier 2 tax rate for 2004 under section 3201(b) on employees is 4.9 percent of compensation. The tier 2 tax rate for 2004 under section 3221(b) on employers is 13.1 percent of compensation. The tier 2 tax rate for 2004 under section 3211(b) on employee representatives is 13.1 percent of compensation.

Dated: November 18, 2003.

Nancy Marks,
Deputy Division Counsel/Deputy Associate
Chief Counsel (Tax Exempt and Government
Entities).

[FR Doc. 03-29443 Filed 11-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Internal Revenue Service****Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, E-Filing Issue Committee**

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Treasury.

ACTION: Amended notice.

SUMMARY: This is to amend the notice that was published in the **Federal Register** on Monday, November 17, 2003, indicating an Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel meeting. The meeting is actually an open meeting of the E-Filing Issue Committee.

DATES: The meeting will be held Thursday, December 11, 2003, from 3 to 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Ann Delzer at 1-888-912-1227, or (414) 297-1604.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, E-Filing Issue Committee will be held Thursday, December 11, 2003, from 3 to 4 p.m., Eastern standard time via a telephone conference call. You can submit written comments to the panel by faxing to (414) 297-1623, or by mail to Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, Stop 1006MIL, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2221. Public comments will also be welcome during the meeting. Please contact Mary Ann Delzer at 1-888-912-1227 or (414) 297-1604 for dial-in information.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: November 18, 2003.

Tersheia Carter,
Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.
[FR Doc. 03-29442 Filed 11-24-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4830-01-P