

This update supplements Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number (EIN) (Rev. January 2010), and provides additional information for filers of the form. Filers should rely on this update for the changes described, which will be incorporated into the next revision of the form and instructions.

In December 2016, the Department of Treasury issued final amendments to the regulations under sections 6038A and 7701 of the Internal Revenue Code (TD 9796). The following information describes modifications to the Form SS-4 and associated instructions necessary to implement these regulations (in conjunction with related international standards of transparency).

### **Filing required by certain disregarded entities**

For tax years of entities beginning on or after January 1, 2017 and ending on or after December 13, 2017, domestic disregarded entities that are wholly owned by one foreign person are treated as reporting corporations for purposes of the reporting and record maintenance requirements under section 6038A. These entities are required to file Form 5472, Information Return of a 25% Foreign-Owned U.S. Corporation or a Foreign Corporation Engaged in a U.S. Trade or Business (Under Sections 6038A and 6038C of the Internal Revenue Code), with respect to each related party with which the reporting corporation has had any reportable transactions. See Regulations section 1.6038A-2. In order to file Form 5472, an entity must have an EIN. See section 6109(a)(1) and Regulations sections 301.6109-1(a)(1)(ii)(C) and 301.6109-1(b).

**Lines 7a–b. Name of responsible party.** The full name (first name, middle initial and last name, if applicable) and SSN or ITIN of the entity's responsible party are required.

**Responsible party defined.** For entities with shares or interests traded on a public exchange, or which are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the responsible party is (a) the principal officer, if the business is a corporation; (b) a general partner, if a partnership; or (c) a grantor, owner, or trustor, if a trust. For tax-exempt organizations, the responsible party is generally the same as the "principal officer" as defined in the Form 990 instructions. For government entities, the responsible party is generally the individual that can legally bind the government entity.

For all other entities, the responsible party is the individual (i.e., the natural person) who ultimately owns or controls the entity or who exercises ultimate effective control over the entity. The individual identified as the responsible party should have a level of control over, or entitlement to, the funds or assets in the entity that, as a practical matter, enables the individual, directly or indirectly, to control, manage, or direct the entity and the disposition of its funds and assets.

### **Line 9a Type of Entity**

**Disregarded entities.** A disregarded entity is an eligible entity that is disregarded as separate from its owner for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities include single-member limited liability companies (LLCs) that are disregarded as separate from their owners, qualified subchapter S subsidiaries (qualified subsidiaries of an S corporation), and certain qualified foreign entities. See the Instructions for Form 8832 and Regulations section 301.7701-3 for more information on domestic and foreign disregarded entities.

The disregarded entity is required to use its name and EIN for reporting and payment of employment taxes; to register for excise tax activities on Form 637; to pay and report excise taxes reported on Forms 720, 730, 2290, and 11-C; to claim any refunds, credits, and payments on Form 8849; and where a U.S. disregarded entity is wholly owned by a foreign person, to file information returns on Form 5472. See the instructions for the employment and excise tax returns and Form 5472 for more information.

Complete Form SS-4 for disregarded entities as follows:

- If a disregarded entity is filing Form SS-4 to obtain an EIN because it is required to report and pay employment and excise taxes, or for non-federal purposes such as a state requirement, check the box *Other* for line 9a and write "Disregarded entity" (or "Disregarded entity-sole proprietorship" if the owner of the disregarded entity is an individual).
- If the disregarded entity is requesting an EIN for purposes of filing Form 5472 as required under section 6038A for a U.S. disregarded entity that is wholly owned by a foreign person, check the box *Other* for line 9a and write "Foreign-owned U.S. disregarded entity – Forms 1120 and 5472."

- If the disregarded entity is requesting an EIN for purposes of filing Form 8832 to elect classification as an association taxable as a corporation, or Form 2553 to elect S corporation status, check the box *Corporation* for line 9a and write “Single-member” and the form number of the return that will be filed (Form 1120 or 1120S).
- If the disregarded entity is requesting an EIN because it has acquired one or more additional owners and its classification has changed to partnership under the default rules of Regulations section 301.7701-3(f), check, the box *Partnership* for line 9a.

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# Application for Employer Identification Number

(For use by employers, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, churches, government agencies, Indian tribal entities, certain individuals, and others.)

EIN

▶ See separate instructions for each line. ▶ Keep a copy for your records.

<b>Type or print clearly.</b>	<b>1</b> Legal name of entity (or individual) for whom the EIN is being requested	
	<b>2</b> Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1)	<b>3</b> Executor, administrator, trustee, "care of" name
	<b>4a</b> Mailing address (room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. box)	<b>5a</b> Street address (if different) (Do not enter a P.O. box.)
	<b>4b</b> City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)	<b>5b</b> City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)
	<b>6</b> County and state where principal business is located	
	<b>7a</b> Name of responsible party	<b>7b</b> SSN, ITIN, or EIN
<b>8a</b> Is this application for a limited liability company (LLC) (or a foreign equivalent)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>8b</b> If 8a is "Yes," enter the number of LLC members ▶	
<b>8c</b> If 8a is "Yes," was the LLC organized in the United States? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>9a</b> <b>Type of entity</b> (check only one box). <b>Caution.</b> If 8a is "Yes," see the instructions for the correct box to check.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietor (SSN) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Estate (SSN of decedent) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Plan administrator (TIN) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (enter form number to be filed) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Trust (TIN of grantor) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Personal service corporation _____ <input type="checkbox"/> National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> State/local government _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Church or church-controlled organization _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government/military _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other nonprofit organization (specify) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> REMIC <input type="checkbox"/> Indian tribal governments/enterprises _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____ Group Exemption Number (GEN) if any ▶ _____		
<b>9b</b> If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where incorporated	State	Foreign country
<b>10</b> <b>Reason for applying</b> (check only one box)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Started new business (specify type) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Banking purpose (specify purpose) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Hired employees (Check the box and see line 13.) <input type="checkbox"/> Changed type of organization (specify new type) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with IRS withholding regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased going business _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Created a trust (specify type) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Created a pension plan (specify type) ▶ _____		
<b>11</b> Date business started or acquired (month, day, year). See instructions.	<b>12</b> Closing month of accounting year	
<b>13</b> Highest number of employees expected in the next 12 months (enter -0- if none). If no employees expected, skip line 14.	<b>14</b> If you expect your employment tax liability to be \$1,000 or less in a full calendar year <b>and</b> want to file Form 944 annually instead of Forms 941 quarterly, check here. (Your employment tax liability generally will be \$1,000 or less if you expect to pay \$4,000 or less in total wages.) If you do not check this box, you must file Form 941 for every quarter. <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>15</b> First date wages or annuities were paid (month, day, year). <b>Note.</b> If applicant is a withholding agent, enter date income will first be paid to nonresident alien (month, day, year) ▶		
<b>16</b> Check <b>one</b> box that best describes the principal activity of your business.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Rental & leasing <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & warehousing <input type="checkbox"/> Health care & social assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-agent/broker <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation & food service <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-other <input type="checkbox"/> Retail <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____		
<b>17</b> Indicate principal line of merchandise sold, specific construction work done, products produced, or services provided.		
<b>18</b> Has the applicant entity shown on line 1 ever applied for and received an EIN? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If "Yes," write previous EIN here ▶		
<b>Third Party Designee</b>	Complete this section <b>only</b> if you want to authorize the named individual to receive the entity's EIN and answer questions about the completion of this form.	
	Designee's name	Designee's telephone number (include area code)
	Address and ZIP code	Designee's fax number (include area code)
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.		Applicant's telephone number (include area code)
Name and title (type or print clearly) ▶		Applicant's fax number (include area code)
Signature ▶	Date ▶	

## Do I Need an EIN?

File Form SS-4 if the applicant entity does not already have an EIN but is required to show an EIN on any return, statement, or other document.<sup>1</sup> See also the separate instructions for each line on Form SS-4.

IF the applicant...	AND...	THEN...
Started a new business	Does not currently have (nor expect to have) employees	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), and 10-14 and 16-18.
Hired (or will hire) employees, including household employees	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-6, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10-18.
Opened a bank account	Needs an EIN for banking purposes only	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Changed type of organization	Either the legal character of the organization or its ownership changed (for example, you incorporate a sole proprietorship or form a partnership) <sup>2</sup>	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Purchased a going business <sup>3</sup>	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Created a trust	The trust is other than a grantor trust or an IRA trust <sup>4</sup>	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Created a pension plan as a plan administrator <sup>5</sup>	Needs an EIN for reporting purposes	Complete lines 1, 3, 4a-5b, 9a, 10, and 18.
Is a foreign person needing an EIN to comply with IRS withholding regulations	Needs an EIN to complete a Form W-8 (other than Form W-8ECI), avoid withholding on portfolio assets, or claim tax treaty benefits <sup>6</sup>	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (SSN or ITIN optional), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Is administering an estate	Needs an EIN to report estate income on Form 1041	Complete lines 1-6, 9a, 10-12, 13-17 (if applicable), and 18.
Is a withholding agent for taxes on non-wage income paid to an alien (i.e., individual, corporation, or partnership, etc.)	Is an agent, broker, fiduciary, manager, tenant, or spouse who is required to file Form 1042, Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons	Complete lines 1, 2, 3 (if applicable), 4a-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Is a state or local agency	Serves as a tax reporting agent for public assistance recipients under Rev. Proc. 80-4, 1980-1 C.B. 581 <sup>7</sup>	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-5b, 9a, 10, and 18.
Is a single-member LLC	Needs an EIN to file Form 8832, Classification Election, for filing employment tax returns and excise tax returns, or for state reporting purposes <sup>8</sup>	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Is an S corporation	Needs an EIN to file Form 2553, Election by a Small Business Corporation <sup>9</sup>	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).

<sup>1</sup> For example, a sole proprietorship or self-employed farmer who establishes a qualified retirement plan, or is required to file excise, employment, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms returns, must have an EIN. A partnership, corporation, REMIC (real estate mortgage investment conduit), nonprofit organization (church, club, etc.), or farmers' cooperative must use an EIN for any tax-related purpose even if the entity does not have employees.

<sup>2</sup> However, do not apply for a new EIN if the existing entity only (a) changed its business name, (b) elected on Form 8832 to change the way it is taxed (or is covered by the default rules), or (c) terminated its partnership status because at least 50% of the total interests in partnership capital and profits were sold or exchanged within a 12-month period. The EIN of the terminated partnership should continue to be used. See Regulations section 301.6109-1(d)(2)(iii).

<sup>3</sup> Do not use the EIN of the prior business unless you became the "owner" of a corporation by acquiring its stock.

<sup>4</sup> However, grantor trusts that do not file using Optional Method 1 and IRA trusts that are required to file Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, must have an EIN. For more information on grantor trusts, see the Instructions for Form 1041.

<sup>5</sup> A plan administrator is the person or group of persons specified as the administrator by the instrument under which the plan is operated.

<sup>6</sup> Entities applying to be a Qualified Intermediary (QI) need a QI-EIN even if they already have an EIN. See Rev. Proc. 2000-12.

<sup>7</sup> See also *Household employer* on page 4 of the instructions. **Note.** State or local agencies may need an EIN for other reasons, for example, hired employees.

<sup>8</sup> See *Disregarded entities* on page 4 of the instructions for details on completing Form SS-4 for an LLC.

<sup>9</sup> An existing corporation that is electing or revoking S corporation status should use its previously-assigned EIN.