

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 2163(c), Employment—Reference Inquiry.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before April 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Faye Bruce, (202) 622-6665, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Employment—Reference Inquiry.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0274.

*Form Number:* 2163(c).

*Abstract:* Form 2163(c) is used by the Internal Revenue Service to verify past employment history and to question listed and developed references as to the character and integrity of current and potential Internal Revenue Service employees. The information received is incorporated into a report on which a security determination is based.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations, non-profit institutions, farms, Federal government, and state, local or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 12 mins.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 4,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material

in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**Request for Comments**

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 27, 2000.

**Garrick R. Shear,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-2993 Filed 2-9-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 6765**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 6765, Credit for Increasing Research Activities.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before April 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5242, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Credit for Increasing Research Activities.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0619.

*Form Number:* 6765.

*Abstract:* IRC section 38 allows a credit against income tax (Determined under IRC section 41) for an increase in research activities in a trade or business. Form 6765 is used by businesses and individuals engaged in a trade or business to figure and report the credit. The data is used to verify that the credit claimed is correct.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations and individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 23,947.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 22 hours, 22 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 535,694.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**Request for Comments:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information

technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 28, 2000.

**Garrick R. Shear,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-2994 Filed 2-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### **Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 5304-SIMPLE, Form 5305-SIMPLE, and Notice 98-4**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 5304-SIMPLE, Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) (Not Subject to the Designated Financial Institution Rules), Form 5305-SIMPLE, Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) (for Use With a Designated Financial Institution), and Notice 98-4, SIMPLE IRA Plan Guidance.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before April 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collections should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) (Not Subject to the Designated Financial Institution Rules) (Form 5304-SIMPLE); Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) (for Use With a Designated Financial Institution) (Form 5305-

SIMPLE); SIMPLE IRA Plan Guidance (Notice 98-4).

*OMB Number:* 1545-1502.

*Form Number:* Form 5304-SIMPLE, Form 5305-SIMPLE, and Notice 98-4.

*Abstract:* Form 5304-SIMPLE is a model SIMPLE IRA agreement that was created to be used by an employer to permit employees who are not using a designated financial institution to make salary reduction contributions to a SIMPLE IRA described in Internal Revenue Code section 408(p). Form 5305-SIMPLE is also a model SIMPLE IRA agreement, but it is for use with a designated financial institution. Notice 98-4 provides guidance for employers and trustees regarding how they can comply with the requirements of Code section 408(p) in establishing and maintaining a SIMPLE IRA, including information regarding the notification and reporting requirements under Code section 408.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the information collections at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, and individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 600,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 3 hr., 33 min.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,127,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

#### **Request for Comments**

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 19, 2000.

**Garrick R. Shear,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-2995 Filed 2-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### **Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Revenue Procedure 2000-16**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Revenue Procedure 2000-16, Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before April 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the revenue procedure should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5242, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1673.

*Revenue Procedure Number:* Revenue Procedure 2000-16.

*Abstract:* The information requested in Revenue Procedure 2000-16 is required to enable the Internal Revenue Service to make determinations regarding the issuance of various types