

Reinsurance Company, U.S. Branch, was last listed as an acceptable reinsuring company on Federal bonds at 62 FR 35581, July 1, 1997.

With respect to any bonds currently in force with both these companies, bond-approving officers may let such bonds run to expiration and need not secure new bonds. However, no new bonds should be accepted. In addition, bonds that are continuous in nature should not be renewed.

The Treasury Department Circular 570 may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet (<http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570.html>) or through our computerized public bulletin board system (FMS Inside Line) at (202) 874-6887. A hard copy may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO), Subscription Service, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 512-1800. When ordering the Circular from GPO, use the following stock number: 048-000-00509-8.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Funds Management Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6A11, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

Charles F. Schwan III,

*Director, Funds Management Division,
Financial Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-31807 Filed 12-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8498

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 8498, Program Sponsor Agreement for Continuing Education for Enrolled Agents.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 2, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 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 Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Program Sponsor Agreement for Continuing Education for Enrolled Agents.

OMB Number: 1545-1459.

Form Number: Forms 8498.

Abstract: Form 8498 is used by the Director of Practice to determine the qualifications of those individuals or organizations seeking to present continuing professional educational programs for persons enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service.

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 and business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 36 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 300.

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: November 26, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-31805 Filed 12-3-97; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Regional Scholar Exchange Program With the New Independent States and Freedom Support Act Fellowships in Contemporary Issues

ACTION: Notice—request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchanges Division, European Programs Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations with at least four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs with the New Independent States and meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop and administer the recruitment, selection, orientation, placement, monitoring, evaluation, and alumni activities for two programs:

The Regional Scholar Exchange Program with the new Independent States: Research fellowships for four months and six months at host institutions in the United States for approximately 130 highly qualified advanced graduate students pursuing dissertation research and university faculty and scholars at the early stages of their careers in one of twenty-five designated fields of the social sciences and humanities who are citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan*, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan and for research fellowships for four months and six months at host institutions in the New Independent States for approximately twenty advanced graduate student pursuing dissertation research or special projects