

country were produced into goods in a second)?

13. Have you established a reliable maintenance program or procedure to ensure you can produce any required entry documentation and supporting information, including any required certificates of origin?

#### *Intellectual Property Rights*

**Basic Question:** Have you determined or established a reliable procedure to permit you to determine whether your merchandise or its packaging bear or use any trademarks or copyrighted matter or are patented and, if so, that you have a legal right to import those items into, and/or use those items in, the U.S.?

1. If you are importing goods or packaging bearing a trademark registered in the U.S., have you checked or established a reliable procedure to ensure that it is genuine and not restricted from importation under the "gray-market" or parallel import requirements of U.S. law (see 19 CFR 133.21), or that you have permission from the trademark holder to import such merchandise?

2. If you are importing goods or packaging which consist of, or contain registered copyrighted material, have you checked or established a reliable procedure to ensure that it is authorized and genuine? If you are importing sound recordings of live performances, were the recordings authorized?

3. Have you checked or developed a reliable procedure to see if your merchandise is subject to an International Trade Commission or court ordered exclusion order?

4. Have you established a reliable procedure to ensure that you maintain and can produce any required entry documentation and supporting information?

#### *Miscellaneous Questions*

1. Have you taken measures or developed reliable procedures to ensure that your merchandise complies with other agency requirements (e.g., FDA, EPA/DOT, CPSC, FTC, Agriculture, etc.) prior to or upon entry, including the procurement of any necessary licenses or permits?

2. Have you taken measures or developed reliable procedures to check to see if your goods are subject to a Commerce Department dumping or countervailing duty investigation or determination, and if so, have you complied or developed reliable procedures to ensure compliance with Customs reporting requirements upon entry (e.g., 19 CFR 141.61)?

3. Is your merchandise subject to quota/visa requirements, and if so, have

you provided or developed a reliable procedure to provide a correct visa for the goods upon entry?

4. Have you taken reliable measures to ensure and verify that you are filing the correct type of Customs entry (e.g., TIB, T&E, consumption entry, mail entry, etc.), as well as ensure that you have the right to make entry under the Customs Regulations?

#### *Additional Questions for Textile and Apparel Importers*

**Note:** Section 333 of the Uruguay Round Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 1592a) authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a list of foreign producers, manufacturers, suppliers, sellers, exporters, or other foreign persons who have been found to have violated 19 U.S.C. 1592 by using certain false, fraudulent or counterfeit documentation, labeling, or prohibited transshipment practices in connection with textiles and apparel products. Section 1592a also requires any importer of record entering, introducing, or attempting to introduce into the commerce of the United States textile or apparel products that were either directly or indirectly produced, manufactured, supplied, sold, exported, or transported by such named person to show, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that such importer has exercised reasonable care to ensure that the textile or apparel products are accompanied by documentation, packaging, and labeling that are accurate as to its origin. Under section 1592a, reliance solely upon information regarding the imported product from a person named on the list does not constitute the exercise of reasonable care. Textile and apparel importers who have some commercial relationship with one or more of the listed parties must exercise a degree of reasonable care in ensuring that the documentation covering the imported merchandise, as well as its packaging and labeling, is accurate as to the country of origin of the merchandise. This degree of reasonable care must rely on more than information supplied by the named party.

In meeting the reasonable care standard when importing textile or apparel products and when dealing with a party named on the list published pursuant to section 592A an importer should consider the following questions in attempting to ensure that the documentation, packaging, and labeling is accurate as to the country of origin of the imported merchandise. The list of questions is not exhaustive but is illustrative.

1. Has the importer had a prior relationship with the named party?

2. Has the importer had any detentions and/or seizures of textile or apparel products that were directly or indirectly produced, supplied, or transported by the named party?

3. Has the importer visited the company's premises and ascertained

that the company has the capacity to produce the merchandise?

4. Where a claim of an origin conferring process is made in accordance with 19 CFR 102.21, has the importer ascertained that the named party actually performed the required process?

5. Is the named party operating from the same country as is represented by that party on the documentation, packaging or labeling?

6. Have quotas for the imported merchandise closed or are they nearing closing from the main producer countries for this commodity?

7. What is the history of this country regarding this commodity?

8. Have you asked questions of your supplier regarding the origin of the product?

9. Where the importation is accompanied by a visa, permit, or license, has the importer verified with the supplier or manufacturer that the visa, permit, and/or license is both valid and accurate as to its origin? Has the importer scrutinized the visa, permit or license as to any irregularities that would call its authenticity into question?

Dated: December 1, 1997.

**Stuart P. Seidel,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.*

[FR Doc. 97-31802 Filed 12-3-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### **Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds; Termination of Authority: Munich American Reinsurance Company, Munich Reinsurance Company, U.S. Branch**

**SUMMARY:** (Dept. Circ. 570, 1997—Rev., Supp. No. 3).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Surety Bond Branch (202) 874-7102.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that the Certificates of Authority issued by the Treasury to Munich American Reinsurance Company and Munich Reinsurance Company, U.S. Branch, under the United States Code, Title 31, Sections 9304-9308, to qualify as an acceptable surety and as an acceptable reinsuring company on Federal bonds are hereby terminated.

Munich American Reinsurance Company was last listed as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds at 62 FR 35567, July 1, 1997 and Munich

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]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## 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