

customer service by identifying problems and making recommendations for improvement of IRS systems and procedures; elevate the identified problems to the appropriate IRS official and monitor the progress to effect change; and refer individual taxpayers to the appropriate IRS office for assistance in resolving their problems. The South Florida Panel will consist of 7-12 volunteer members who serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Treasury and will function solely as an advisory body.

The Panel is seeking applicants who have an interest in good government, a personal commitment to volunteer approximately 100 hours a year, and a desire to help improve IRS customer service. To the extent possible, the IRS would like to ensure a balanced membership representing a cross-section of the tax paying public in the South Florida Tax District. Potential candidates must be US citizens, legal residents of one of the counties in the South Florida Tax District, compliant with Federal, State, and Local taxes, and pass an FBI background check.

For the South Florida CAP to be most effective, members should have experience in some of the following areas: community affairs; development of effective communications networks within the community; representing the interests of diverse groups; communicating in a multi-cultural/multi-lingual environment; listening, communicating, negotiating, and resolving conflicts; formulating, developing, and presenting proposals; and customer service.

Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., will manage the selection process. Interested applicants should first call the following toll free number, 1-888-449-1071, and complete an initial phone screen. If the applicant passes the phone screen, an application package will be sent to them directly. Completed applications will be reviewed, tax background checks and FBI checks will be conducted, and panel interviews will be scheduled for the most qualified candidates. Final candidates will be ranked by skills/experience and suitability. The Secretary of the Treasury will review the candidates and make final selections.

Questions regarding the establishment and selection of the IRS South Florida Citizen Advocacy Panel may be directed to Michael Lewis, Director, IRS Citizen Advocacy Panel, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief

Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 2426, Washington, DC 20220 (202) 622-3068.

Angel E. Ray,

Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Revenue Procedure 98-27

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Revenue Procedure 98-27, Qualified Intermediaries (QI).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before June 8, 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 information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Qualified Intermediaries (QI).

OMB Number: 1545-1597.

Revenue Procedure Number: Revenue Procedure 98-27.

Abstract: This revenue procedure gives guidance for entering into a withholding agreement with the IRS to be treated as a Qualified Intermediary (QI) under regulation section 1.1441-1(e)(5). It describes the application procedures for becoming a QI and the terms that the IRS will ordinarily require in a QI withholding agreement. The objective of a QI withholding

agreement is to simplify withholding and reporting obligations with respect to payments of income made to an account holder through one or more foreign intermediaries.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the revenue procedure at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 88,504.

Estimated Time for QI Account Holder: 30 minutes.

Estimated Time for a QI: 2,093 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Reporting/Recordkeeping Hours: 301,393.

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: April 2, 1998.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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