§ 6109. Tax return preparers

(a) Supplying of identifying numbers

When required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary:

(1) Inclusion in returns

Any person required under the authority of this title to make a return, statement, or other document shall include in such return, statement, or other document such identifying number as may be prescribed for securing proper identification of such person.

(2) Furnishing number to other persons

Any person with respect to whom a return, statement, or other document is required under the authority of this title to be made by another person or whose identifying number is required to be shown on a return of another person shall furnish to such other person such identifying number as may be prescribed for securing his proper identification.

(3) Furnishing number of another person

Any person required under the authority of this title to make a return, statement, or other document with respect to another person shall request from such other person such identifying number as may be prescribed for securing proper identification of such other person.

(b) Special statistical studies

The Secretary may, upon written request by any party or parties, make special statistical studies and compilations involving return information (as defined in section 6103(b)(2)) and furnish to such party or parties transcripts of any such special statistical study or compilation. A reasonable fee may be prescribed for the cost of the work or services performed for such party or parties.

(c) Anonymous form

No publication or other disclosure of statistics or other information required or authorized by subsection (a) or special statistical study authorized by subsection (b) shall in any manner permit the statistics, study, or any information so published, furnished, or otherwise disclosed to be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer.


AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94–455 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary”, inserted “not less than” after “prepare and publish” and “claimed or” after “income, the amounts”, substituted “internal revenue laws” for “income tax laws”, and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

Effective Date of 1976 Amendment


§ 6109. Identifying numbers

(a) Supplying of identifying numbers

When required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary:

(1) Inclusion in returns

Any person required under the authority of this title to make a return, statement, or other document shall include in such return, statement, or other document such identifying number as may be prescribed for securing proper identification of such person.

(2) Furnishing number to other persons

Any person with respect to whom a return, statement, or other document is required under the authority of this title to be made by another person or whose identifying number is required to be shown on a return of another person shall furnish to such other person such identifying number as may be prescribed for securing his proper identification.

(3) Furnishing number of another person

Any person required under the authority of this title to make a return, statement, or other document with respect to another person shall request from such other person such identifying number as may be prescribed for securing proper identification of such other person.

(4) Furnishing identifying number of tax return preparer

Any return or claim for refund prepared by a tax return preparer shall bear such identif-
ing number for securing proper identification of such preparer, his employer, or both, as may be prescribed. For purposes of this paragraph, the terms “return” and “claim for refund” have the respective meanings given to such terms by section 6696(e).

For purposes of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), the identifying number of an individual (or his estate) shall be such individual’s social security account number.

(b) Limitation

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a return of any person with respect to his liability for tax, or any statement or other document in support thereof, shall not be considered for purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) as a return, statement, or other document with respect to another person.

(2) For purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a), a return of an estate or trust with respect to its liability for tax, and any statement or other document in support thereof, shall be considered as a return, statement, or other document with respect to each beneficiary of such estate or trust.

(c) Requirement of information

For purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to require such information as may be necessary to assign an identifying number to any person.

(d) Use of social security account number

The social security account number issued to an individual for purposes of section 205(c)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act shall, except as shall otherwise be specified under regulations of the Secretary, be used as the identifying number for such individual for purposes of this title.


(f) Access to employer identification numbers by Secretary of Agriculture for purposes of Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 of 1977

(1) In general

In the administration of section 9 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2024) involving the determination of the qualifications of applicants under such Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may, subject to this subsection, require each applicant retail store or wholesale food concern to furnish to the Secretary of Agriculture the employer identification number assigned to the store or concern pursuant to this section. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not have access to any such number for any purpose other than the establishment and maintenance of a list of the names and employer identification numbers of the stores and concerns for use in determining those applicants who have been previously sanctioned or convicted under section 12 or 15 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2021 or 2024).

(2) Sharing of information and safeguards

(A) Sharing of information

The Secretary of Agriculture may share any information contained in any list referred to in paragraph (1) with any other agency or instrumentality of the United States which otherwise has access to employer identification numbers in accordance with this section or other applicable Federal law, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may share such information only to the extent that such Secretary determines such sharing would assist in verifying and matching such information against information maintained by such other agency or instrumentality. Any such information shared pursuant to this subparagraph may be used by such other agency or instrumentality only for the purpose of effective administration and enforcement of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or for the purpose of investigation of violations of other Federal laws or enforcement of such laws.

(B) Safeguards

The Secretary of Agriculture, and the head of any other agency or instrumentality referred to in subparagraph (A), shall restrict, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, access to employer identification numbers obtained pursuant to this subsection only to officers and employees of the United States whose duties or responsibilities require access for the purposes described in subparagraph (A). The Secretary of Agriculture, and the head of any agency or instrumentality with which information is shared pursuant to subparagraph (A), shall provide such other safeguards as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be necessary or appropriate to protect the confidentiality of the employer identification numbers.

(3) Confidentiality and nondisclosure rules

Employer identification numbers that are obtained or maintained pursuant to this subsection by the Secretary of Agriculture or the head of any agency or instrumentality with which information is shared pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be confidential, and no officer or employee of the United States who has or had access to the employer identification numbers shall disclose any such employer identification number obtained thereby in any manner. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “officer or employee” includes a former officer or employee.

(4) Sanctions

Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 7213(a) shall apply with respect to the unauthorized willful disclosure to any person of employer identification numbers maintained pursuant to this subsection by the Secretary of Agriculture or any agency or instrumentality with which information is shared pursuant to paragraph (2) in the same manner and to the same extent as such paragraphs apply with respect to unauthorized disclosures of return and return information described in such paragraphs. Paragraph (4) of section 7213(a) shall apply with respect to the willful offer of any item of material value in exchange for any such employer identification number in the same manner and to the same extent as such.
paragraph applies with respect to offers (in exchange for any return or return information) described in such paragraph.

(g) Access to employer identification numbers by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation for purposes of the Federal Crop Insurance Act

(1) In general

In the administration of section 506 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation may require each policyholder and each reinsured company to furnish to the insurer or to the Corporation the employer identification number of each entity that holds or acquires a substantial beneficial interest in the policyholder. For purposes of this subsection, the term “substantial beneficial interest” means not less than 5 percent of all beneficial interest in the policyholder. The Secretary of Agriculture shall restrict, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, access to employer identification numbers obtained pursuant to this paragraph only to officers and employees of the United States or authorized persons whose duties or responsibilities require access for the administration of the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

(2) Confidentiality and nondisclosure rules

Employer identification numbers maintained by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation pursuant to this subsection shall be confidential, and except as authorized by this subsection, no officer or employee of the United States or authorized person who has or had access to such employer identification numbers shall disclose any such employer identification number obtained thereby in any manner. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “officer or employee” includes a former officer or employee. For purposes of this subsection, the term “authorized person” means an officer or employee of an insurer whom the Manager of the Corporation designates by rule, subject to appropriate safeguards including a prohibition against the release of such social security account numbers (other than to the Corporations) by such person.

(3) Sanctions

Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 7213(a) shall apply with respect to the unauthorized willful disclosure to any person of employer identification numbers maintained by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation pursuant to this subsection in the same manner and to the same extent as such paragraphs apply with respect to unauthorized disclosures of return and return information described in such paragraph. Paragraph (4) of section 7213(a) shall apply with respect to the willful offer of any item of material value in exchange for any such employer identification number in the same manner and to the same extent as such paragraph applies with respect to offers (in exchange for any return or return information) described in such paragraph.

(h) Identifying information required with respect to certain seller-provided financing

(1) Payor

If any taxpayer claims a deduction under section 163 for qualified residence interest on any seller-provided financing, such taxpayer shall include on the return claiming such deduction the name, address, and TIN of the person to whom such interest is paid or accrued.

(2) Recipient

If any person receives or accrues interest referred to in paragraph (1), such person shall include on the return for the taxable year in which such interest is so received or accrued the name, address, and TIN of the person liable for such interest.

(3) Furnishing of information between payor and recipient

If any person is required to include the TIN of another person on a return under paragraph (1) or (2), such other person shall furnish his TIN to such person.

(4) Seller-provided financing

For purposes of this subsection, the term “seller-provided financing” means any indebtedness incurred in acquiring any residence if the person to whom such indebtedness is owed is the person from whom such residence was acquired.


References in Text

Section 205 of the Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (d), is classified to section 405 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3101 of Title 7 and Tables.

The Federal Crop Insurance Act, referred to in subsection (g), is subtitle A of title V of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 2008, which is classified generally to subchapter I of chapter 6 of title 7, Agriculture.

CODIFICATION


PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6109 was renumbered section 6116 of this title.

AMENDMENTS


Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 110–28, § 8246(a)(2)(D)(i), which directed amendment of heading by substituting “tax return preparer” for “income return preparer”, was executed by making the substitution for “income tax return preparer”, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.


2007—Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 105–206 substituted “For purposes of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)” for “For purposes of this subsection” in concluding provisions.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104–188, § 1615(a)(2)(A), struck out subsec. (e) which read as follows:

“(e) Furnishing Number for Dependents.—Any taxpayer who claims an exemption under section 151 for any dependent on a return for any taxable year shall include on such return the identifying number (for purposes of this title) of such dependent.”

Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 104–188, § 1704(c)(42), redesignated subsec. (f) relating to access to employer identification numbers for purposes of Federal Crop Insurance Act as subsec. (g).

1994—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103–465 substituted “dependents” for “certain dependents” in heading and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“If—

“(1) any taxpayer claims an exemption under section 151 for any dependent on a return for any taxable year, and

“(2) such dependent has attained the age of 1 year before the close of such taxable year, such taxpayer shall include on such return the identifying number (for purposes of this title) of such dependent.”

Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 103–296, § 316(b)(1), amended subsec. (f) relating to access to employer identification numbers for purposes of Food Stamp Act of 1977 by striking out former par. (2) and inserting new par. (2) “Safeguards” which read as follows: “The Secretary of Agriculture shall restrict, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, access to employer identification numbers obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) only to officers and employees of the United States whose duties or responsibilities require access for the administration or enforcement of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide such other safeguards as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be necessary or appropriate to protect the confidentiality of the employer identification numbers.”

Subsec. (f)(3). Pub. L. 103–296, § 316(b)(2), added subsec. (f) relating to access to employer identification numbers for purposes of Food Stamp Act of 1977 by substituting, in par. (3), “pursuant to this subsection by the Secretary of Agriculture or the head of any agency or instrumentality with which information is shared pursuant to paragraph (2)” for “by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to this subsection”, and “employer identification numbers shall disclose” for “social security account numbers which are shared pursuant to paragraph (2)” for “by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to this subsection”.


1990—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 101–508 substituted “1 year” for “2 years”.


Pub. L. 101–624, § 1735(c), added subsec. (f) relating to access to employer identification numbers for purposes of Food Stamp Act of 1977.

1988—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100–485, § 703(c)(3), substituted “or whose identifying number is required to be known on a return of another person shall furnish” for “shall furnish”.

Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 100–485, § 704(a), substituted “age of 2” for “age of 5”.


1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94–455, §§ 1203(d), 1906(b)(13)(A), struck out in provisions preceding par. (1) “or his delegate” after “Secretary” and added par. (4).


EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT


EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110–28 applicable to returns prepared after May 25, 2007, see section 8246(c) of Pub. L. 110–28, set out as a note under section 6060 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT


EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1615(a)(2)(A) of Pub. L. 104–188 applicable with respect to returns the due date for which, without regard to extensions, is on or after the 30th day after Aug. 20, 1996, with special rule for 1995 and 1996, see section 1615(d) of Pub. L. 104–188, set out as a note under section 21 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103–465 applicable to returns for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1994, but not applicable to returns for taxable years beginning in 1995 with respect to individuals who are born after Oct. 31, 1995, and to returns for taxable years beginning in 1996 with respect to individuals who are born after Nov. 30, 1996, see section 742(c) of Pub. L. 103–465, set out as a note under section 32 of this title.
§ 6110. Public inspection of written determinations

(a) General rule

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the text of any written determination and any background file document relating to such written determination shall be open to public inspection at such place as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe.

(b) Definitions

For purposes of this section—

(1) Written determination

(A) In general

The term ‘‘written determination’’ means a ruling, determination letter, technical advice memorandum, or Chief Counsel advice.

(B) Exceptions

Such term shall not include any matter referred to in subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 6109(b)(2).

(2) Background file document

The term ‘‘background file document’’ with respect to a written determination includes the request for that written determination, any written material submitted in support of the request, and any communication (written or otherwise) between the Internal Revenue Service and persons outside the Internal Revenue Service in connection with such written determination (other than any communication between the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service relating to a pending civil or criminal case or investigation) received before issuance of the written determination.

(3) Reference and general written determinations

(A) Reference written determination

The term ‘‘reference written determination’’ means any written determination which has been determined by the Secretary to have significant reference value.

(B) General written determination

The term ‘‘general written determination’’ means any written determination other than a reference written determination.

(c) Exemptions from disclosure

Before making any written determination or background file document open or available to public inspection under subsection (a), the Secretary shall delete—

(1) the names, addresses, and other identifying details of the person to whom the written determination pertains and of any other person, other than a person with respect to whom a notation is made under subsection (d)(1), identified in the written determination or any background file document;

(2) information specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and which is in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(3) information specifically exempted from disclosure by any statute (other than this title) which is applicable to the Internal Revenue Service;

(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(5) information the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(6) information contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, or on behalf of, or for use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; and

(7) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

The Secretary shall determine the appropriate extent of such deletions and, except in the case of intentional or willful disregard of this subsection, shall not be required to make such deletions (nor be liable for failure to make deletions) unless the Secretary has agreed to such deletions or has been ordered by a court (in a proceeding under subsection (f)(3)) to make such deletions.

Effective Date

Section 1932(c) of Pub. L. 102–486 provided that: ‘‘The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 6724 of this title] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1991.’’

Effective Date of 1990 Amendments

Amendment by subsection (a) [amending this section and section 6676 of this title] shall apply to returns the due date for which (despite any extension) is after December 31, 1987.’’

Effective Date of 1988 Amendments

Amendment by section 703(c)(3) of Pub. L. 100–485 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1988, see section 703(d) of Pub. L. 100–485, set out as a note under section 2012 of Title 7, Agriculture.

Section 1112(b) of Pub. L. 100–428 provided that: ‘‘The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to returns for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1990.’’

Effective Date of 1986 Amendment

Section 1524(c) of Pub. L. 99–514, § 2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that: ‘‘Paragraph (1) of section 6109(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954], as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall apply only in respect of returns, statements, or other documents relating to such section (nor be liable for failure to make deletions) unless the Secretary has agreed to such deletions or has been ordered by a court (in a proceeding under subsection (f)(3)) to make such deletions.’’

Effective Date

Section 1(d) of Pub. L. 87–397, as amended by Pub. L. 99–514, § 2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that: ‘‘Paragraph (1) of section 6109(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954], as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall apply only in respect of returns, statements, and other documents relating to periods commencing after December 31, 1961. Paragraphs (2) and (3) of such section 6109(a) shall apply only in respect of returns, statements, or other documents relating to periods commencing after December 31, 1962.’’

§ 6110. Public inspection of written determinations