

Form:

IRS Form SS-4 (Application for Employer Identification Number)

Description:

This is the form for a new business to obtain an Employer ID number from the IRS. Review the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov for any revision to this form.

Note: Form SS-4 begins on the next page of this document.

Attention
Limit of one (1) Employer Identification Number (EIN)
Issuance per Business Day

Effective May 21, 2012, to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will limit Employer Identification Number (EIN) issuance to one per responsible party per day. For trusts, the limitation is applied to the grantor, owner, or trustor. For estates, the limitation is applied to the decedent (decedent estate) or the debtor (bankruptcy estate). This limitation is applicable to all requests for EINs whether online or by phone, fax or mail. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Change to Where to File Address and Fax-TIN Number

There is a change to the Instructions for Form SS-4 (Rev. January 2011). On page 2, under the "Where to File or Fax" table, the address and Fax-TIN number have changed. If you are applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN), and you have no legal residence, principal place of business, or principal office or agency in any state or the District of Columbia, file or fax your application to:

Internal Revenue Service Center
Attn: EIN International Operation
Cincinnati, OH 45999
Fax-TIN: 859-669-5987

This change will be included in the next revision of the Instructions for Form SS-4.

Application for Employer Identification Number(For use by employers, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, churches,
government agencies, Indian tribal entities, certain individuals, and others.)

▶ See separate instructions for each line. ▶ Keep a copy for your records.

OMB No. 1545-0003

EIN

Type or print clearly.	1 Legal name of entity (or individual) for whom the EIN is being requested		
	2 Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1)		3 Executor, administrator, trustee, "care of" name
	4a Mailing address (room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. box)		5a Street address (if different) (Do not enter a P.O. box.)
	4b City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)		5b City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)
	6 County and state where principal business is located		
	7a Name of responsible party		7b SSN, ITIN, or EIN
8a Is this application for a limited liability company (LLC) (or a foreign equivalent)? ☐ Yes ☐ No		8b If 8a is "Yes," enter the number of LLC members ▶	
8c If 8a is "Yes," was the LLC organized in the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No			
9a Type of entity (check only one box). Caution. If 8a is "Yes," see the instructions for the correct box to check.			
☐ Sole proprietor (SSN) _____ ☐ Partnership ☐ Corporation (enter form number to be filed) ▶ _____ ☐ Personal service corporation ☐ Church or church-controlled organization ☐ Other nonprofit organization (specify) ▶ _____ ☐ Other (specify) ▶ _____ ☐ Estate (SSN of decedent) _____ ☐ Plan administrator (TIN) _____ ☐ Trust (TIN of grantor) _____ ☐ National Guard ☐ State/local government ☐ Farmers' cooperative ☐ Federal government/military ☐ REMIC ☐ Indian tribal governments/enterprises Group Exemption Number (GEN) if any ▶ _____			
9b If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where incorporated		State	Foreign country
10 Reason for applying (check only one box)			
☐ Started new business (specify type) ▶ _____ ☐ Hired employees (Check the box and see line 13.) ☐ Compliance with IRS withholding regulations ☐ Other (specify) ▶ _____ ☐ Banking purpose (specify purpose) ▶ _____ ☐ Changed type of organization (specify new type) ▶ _____ ☐ Purchased going business ☐ Created a trust (specify type) ▶ _____ ☐ Created a pension plan (specify type) ▶ _____			
11 Date business started or acquired (month, day, year). See instructions.		12 Closing month of accounting year	
13 Highest number of employees expected in the next 12 months (enter -0- if none). If no employees expected, skip line 14.		14 If you expect your employment tax liability to be \$1,000 or less in a full calendar year and want to file Form 944 annually instead of Forms 941 quarterly, check here. (Your employment tax liability generally will be \$1,000 or less if you expect to pay \$4,000 or less in total wages.) If you do not check this box, you must file Form 941 for every quarter. ☐	
AgriculturalHouseholdOther			
15 First date wages or annuities were paid (month, day, year). Note. If applicant is a withholding agent, enter date income will first be paid to nonresident alien (month, day, year) ▶			
16 Check one box that best describes the principal activity of your business.			
☐ Construction ☐ Rental & leasing ☐ Transportation & warehousing ☐ Health care & social assistance ☐ Wholesale-agent/broker ☐ Real estate ☐ Manufacturing ☐ Finance & insurance ☐ Accommodation & food service ☐ Wholesale-other ☐ Retail ☐ Other (specify)			
17 Indicate principal line of merchandise sold, specific construction work done, products produced, or services provided.			
18 Has the applicant entity shown on line 1 ever applied for and received an EIN? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "Yes," write previous EIN here ▶ _____			
Third Party Designee	Complete this section only if you want to authorize the named individual to receive the entity's EIN and answer questions about the completion of this form.		
	Designee's name		Designee's telephone number (include area code) ()
	Address and ZIP code		Designee's fax number (include area code) ()
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.			Applicant's telephone number (include area code) ()
Name and title (type or print clearly) ▶			Applicant's fax number (include area code) ()
Signature ▶			Date ▶

Do I Need an EIN?

File Form SS-4 if the applicant entity does not already have an EIN but is required to show an EIN on any return, statement, or other document.¹ See also the separate instructions for each line on Form SS-4.

IF the applicant...	AND...	THEN...
Started a new business	Does not currently have (nor expect to have) employees	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), and 10-14 and 16-18.
Hired (or will hire) employees, including household employees	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-6, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10-18.
Opened a bank account	Needs an EIN for banking purposes only	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Changed type of organization	Either the legal character of the organization or its ownership changed (for example, you incorporate a sole proprietorship or form a partnership) ²	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Purchased a going business ³	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Created a trust	The trust is other than a grantor trust or an IRA trust ⁴	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Created a pension plan as a plan administrator ⁵	Needs an EIN for reporting purposes	Complete lines 1, 3, 4a-5b, 9a, 10, and 18.
Is a foreign person needing an EIN to comply with IRS withholding regulations	Needs an EIN to complete a Form W-8 (other than Form W-8ECI), avoid withholding on portfolio assets, or claim tax treaty benefits ⁶	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (SSN or ITIN optional), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Is administering an estate	Needs an EIN to report estate income on Form 1041	Complete lines 1-6, 9a, 10-12, 13-17 (if applicable), and 18.
Is a withholding agent for taxes on non-wage income paid to an alien (i.e., individual, corporation, or partnership, etc.)	Is an agent, broker, fiduciary, manager, tenant, or spouse who is required to file Form 1042, Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons	Complete lines 1, 2, 3 (if applicable), 4a-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Is a state or local agency	Serves as a tax reporting agent for public assistance recipients under Rev. Proc. 80-4, 1980-1 C.B. 581 ⁷	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-5b, 9a, 10, and 18.
Is a single-member LLC	Needs an EIN to file Form 8832, Classification Election, for filing employment tax returns and excise tax returns, or for state reporting purposes ⁸	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Is an S corporation	Needs an EIN to file Form 2553, Election by a Small Business Corporation ⁹	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).

¹ For example, a sole proprietorship or self-employed farmer who establishes a qualified retirement plan, or is required to file excise, employment, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms returns, must have an EIN. A partnership, corporation, REMIC (real estate mortgage investment conduit), nonprofit organization (church, club, etc.), or farmers' cooperative must use an EIN for any tax-related purpose even if the entity does not have employees.

² However, do not apply for a new EIN if the existing entity only (a) changed its business name, (b) elected on Form 8832 to change the way it is taxed (or is covered by the default rules), or (c) terminated its partnership status because at least 50% of the total interests in partnership capital and profits were sold or exchanged within a 12-month period. The EIN of the terminated partnership should continue to be used. See Regulations section 301.6109-1(d)(2)(iii).

³ Do not use the EIN of the prior business unless you became the "owner" of a corporation by acquiring its stock.

⁴ However, grantor trusts that do not file using Optional Method 1 and IRA trusts that are required to file Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, must have an EIN. For more information on grantor trusts, see the Instructions for Form 1041.

⁵ A plan administrator is the person or group of persons specified as the administrator by the instrument under which the plan is operated.

⁶ Entities applying to be a Qualified Intermediary (QI) need a QI-EIN even if they already have an EIN. See Rev. Proc. 2000-12.

⁷ See also *Household employer* on page 4 of the instructions. **Note.** State or local agencies may need an EIN for other reasons, for example, hired employees.

⁸ See *Disregarded entities* on page 4 of the instructions for details on completing Form SS-4 for an LLC.

⁹ An existing corporation that is electing or revoking S corporation status should use its previously-assigned EIN.