

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

These synopses are intended only as aids to the reader in identifying the subject matter covered. They may not be relied upon as authoritative interpretations.

EMPLOYEE PLANS

Rev. Proc. 2003-4, page 123.

Rulings and information letters; issuance procedures. Revised procedures are provided for furnishing ruling letters, information letters, etc., on matters related to sections of the Code currently under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division. Rev. Proc. 2002-4 superseded.

Rev. Proc. 2003-5, page 163.

Technical advice. Revised procedures are provided for furnishing technical advice to area managers and appeals offices by the Office of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, regarding issues in the employee plans area (including actuarial matters) and in the exempt organizations area. Rev. Proc. 2002-5 superseded.

Rev. Proc. 2003-6, page 191.

Employee plans determination letters. Revised procedures are provided for issuing determination letters on the qualified status of employee plans under sections 401(a), 403(a), 409, and 4975 of the Code. Rev. Proc. 2002-6 superseded.

Rev. Proc. 2003-8, page 236.

User fees for employee plans and exempt organizations. Up-to-date guidance for complying with the user fee program of the Service as it pertains to requests for letter rulings, determination letters, etc., on matters under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, is provided. Rev. Proc. 2002-8 superseded.

EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

Rev. Proc. 2003-4, page 123.

Rulings and information letters; issuance procedures. Revised procedures are provided for furnishing ruling letters, information letters, etc., on matters related to sections of the Code currently under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division. Rev. Proc. 2002-4 superseded.

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Cumulative List of Declaratory Judgment Proceedings Under Section 7428 for 2002 begins on page 249.

Finding List of Previously Published Items published in the Bulletin from July through December 2002 begins on page iv.

Index of items published in the Bulletin from July through December 2002 begins on page vi.

Numerical Finding List of Revenue Rulings, Revenue Procedures, Treasury Decisions, etc., published in the Bulletin from July through December 2002 begins on page ii.



Rev. Proc. 2003-5

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SECTION 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REVENUE PROCEDURE?

This revenue procedure explains when and how Employee Plans Technical or Exempt Organizations Technical gives technical advice to an Employee Plans (EP) Examinations Area manager, an Exempt Organizations (EO) Examinations Area manager, an Employee Plans (EP) Determinations manager, an Exempt Organizations (EO) Determinations manager, or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE in the employee plans areas (including actuarial matters) and exempt organizations areas. It also explains the rights a taxpayer has when an EP or EO Examinations Area manager, an EP or EO Determinations manager, or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE requests technical advice regarding a tax matter.

SECTION 2. WHAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO REV. PROC. 2002-5?

This revenue procedure is a general update of Rev. Proc. 2002-5, 2002-1 I.R.B. 173, which contains the general procedures for technical advice requests for matters within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division.

SECTION 3. WHAT IS TECHNICAL ADVICE?

“Technical advice” means advice or guidance in the form of a memorandum furnished by the Employee Plans Technical or Exempt Organizations Technical office, (hereinafter referred to as “EP or EO Technical”), upon the request of an EP or EO Examinations Area manager, an EP or EO Determinations manager or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, submitted in accordance with the provisions of this revenue procedure in response to any technical or procedural question that develops during any proceeding on the interpretation and proper application of tax law, tax treaties, regulations, revenue rulings, notices or other precedents published by the headquarters office to a specific set of facts. (The references in this revenue procedure to an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE include, when appropriate, an Appeals Area Director, LMSB, a Deputy Appeals Area Director, LMSB, a Deputy Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE or an Appeals Team Manager.) Such proceedings include (1) the examination of a taxpayer’s return, (2) consideration of a taxpayer’s claim for refund or credit, (3) a taxpayer’s request for a determination letter, (4) any other matter involving a specific taxpayer under the jurisdiction of EP or EO Examinations, EP or EO Determinations, or an appeals office or (5) processing and considering nondocketed cases of a taxpayer in an appeals office. However, they do not include cases in which the issue in the case is in a docketed case for any year.

For purposes of technical advice, the term “taxpayer” includes all persons subject to any provision of the Internal Revenue Code (including tax-exempt entities such as governmental units which issue municipal bonds within the meaning of § 103), and when appropriate, their representatives. However, the instructions and the provisions of this revenue procedure do not apply to requests for technical advice involving any matter pertaining to tax-exempt bonds or to § 457 plans maintained by state or local governments or tax-exempt organizations or to mortgage credit certificates. Instead, in those instances the procedures under Rev. Proc. 2003-2, page 76, this Bulletin must be followed.

Technical advice resolves complex issues and helps establish and maintain consistent holdings throughout the Internal Revenue Service. An EP or EO Examinations, an EP or EO Determinations or an appeals office may raise an issue in any tax period, even though technical advice may have been asked and furnished for the same or similar issue for another tax period.

Technical advice does not include legal advice furnished to the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office in writing or orally, other than advice furnished pursuant to this revenue procedure. In accordance with section 12.01 of this revenue procedure, a taxpayer’s request for referral of an issue for technical advice will not be denied merely because EP or EO Technical has provided legal advice, other than advice fur-

nished pursuant to this revenue procedure, to the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office on the matter.

SECTION 4. ON WHAT ISSUES MAY OR MUST TECHNICAL ADVICE BE REQUESTED UNDER THIS PROCEDURE?

Issues under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division

Farmers' cooperatives

.01 Generally, the instructions of this revenue procedure apply to requests for technical advice on any issue under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division.

.02 If an EP or EO Examinations, an EP or EO Determinations, an appeals office or a taxpayer requests technical advice on a determination letter under § 521 of the Code, the procedures under this revenue procedure, Rev. Proc. 90-27, 1990-1 C.B. 514, as modified by Rev. Proc. 2003-8, page 236, as well as § 601.201(n) of the Statement of Procedural Rules, must be followed.

Basis for requesting technical advice

.03 Requests for technical advice are encouraged on any technical or procedural questions arising in connection with any case of the type described in section 3 at any stage of the proceedings in an EP or EO Examinations, an EP or EO Determinations or an appeals office that cannot be resolved on the basis of law, regulations, or a clearly applicable revenue ruling or other published precedent.

Areas of mandatory technical advice

.04 Requests for § 7805(b) relief are mandatory technical advice with respect to all exempt organizations and employee plans matters.

Except for those exemption application cases handled in EO Technical in accordance with section 6.02 of Rev. Proc. 90-27, EO Examinations, EO Determinations and appeals offices are required to request technical advice on their exempt organization cases concerning qualification for exemption or foundation status for which there is no published precedent or for which there is reason to believe that non-uniformity exists.

Regarding employee plans matters, a request for technical advice is required in cases concerning (1) proposed adverse or proposed revocation letters on collectively-bargained plans, (2) plans for which the Service is proposing to issue a revocation letter because of certain fiduciary actions that violate the exclusive benefit rule of § 401(a) of the Code and are subject to Part 4 of Subtitle B of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-406, 1974-3 C.B. 1, 43, (3) amendments to defined contribution plans pursuant to Rev. Proc. 94-41, 1994-1 C.B. 711, in connection with a waiver of the minimum funding standard and a request for a determination letter (*see* section 15 of Rev. Proc. 2003-6, page 191, this Bulletin, and section 3.04 of Rev. Proc. 94-41), (4) termination/reestablishment and spinoff-termination cases in which EP Examinations or EP Determinations proposes that the Implementation Guidelines are not applicable, (5) a situation in which the employer has had a prior termination/reestablishment or spinoff-termination within 15 years of the time of the transaction or (6) any determination letter case or any examination case involving a plan amendment to convert an existing defined benefit formula to a cash balance type benefit formula that was not previously subject to technical advice on the conversion.

Special procedures for certain conversions

.05 In the instance of section 4.04(6) above, the requirements of the first sentence of section 10.01 below will be deemed met by the Service by the use of the following (or similar) statement: Technical advice is requested on the effect on the plan's qualified status of the conversion of an existing defined benefit plan formula to a cash balance type benefit formula.

SECTION 5. ON WHAT ISSUES MUST TECHNICAL ADVICE BE REQUESTED UNDER DIFFERENT PROCEDURES?

Matters (other than farmers' cooperatives) under the jurisdiction of the Associate Chief Counsel (Corporate), the Associate Chief Counsel (Financial Institutions & Products), the Associate Chief Counsel (Income Tax & Accounting), the Associate Chief Counsel (International), the Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs & Special Industries), the Associate Chief Counsel (Procedure & Administration), and the Division Counsel/Associate Chief Counsel (TE/GE)

.01 All procedures for obtaining technical advice on issues (other than farmers' cooperatives) under the jurisdiction of the Associate Chief Counsel (Corporate), the Associate Chief Counsel (Financial Institutions & Products), the Associate Chief Counsel (Income Tax & Accounting), the Associate Chief Counsel (International), the Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs & Special Industries), the Associate Chief Counsel (Procedure & Administration), and the Division Counsel/Associate Chief Counsel (TE/GE) including any matter pertaining to tax-exempt bonds or mortgage credit certificates, § 457 plans, § 526 of the Code (shipowners' protection and indemnity associations), § 528 (certain homeowners' associations) and issues involving the interpretation or application of the federal income tax laws and income tax treaties relating to international transactions are contained in Rev. Proc. 2003-2.

Alcohol, tobacco, and firearms taxes

.02 Procedures for obtaining technical advice specifically applicable to federal alcohol, tobacco, and firearms taxes under subtitle E of the Code are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Excise taxes

.03 Technical advice procedures regarding excise taxes (other than excise taxes imposed under Chapters 41, 42 and 43 of the Code), and employment taxes that employee plans and exempt organizations are subject to, are set forth in Rev. Proc. 2003-2.

SECTION 6. MAY TECHNICAL ADVICE BE REQUESTED FOR A § 301.9100-1 REQUEST DURING THE COURSE OF AN EXAMINATION?

A § 301.9100-1 request is a letter ruling request

.01 Except with regard to exemption application matters involving §§ 505(c) and 508, requests for an extension of time for making an election or other application for relief under § 301.9100-1 of the Procedure and Administration Regulations made after the examination of the taxpayer's return has begun or made after the issues in the return are being considered by an appeals office or a federal court are letter ruling requests. Therefore, § 301.9100-1 requests should be submitted pursuant to Rev. Proc. 2003-4, page 123, this Bulletin, and require payment of the applicable user fee listed in section 6 of Rev. Proc. 2003-8.

Statute of limitations

.02 The running of any applicable period of limitations is not suspended for the period during which a § 301.9100-1 request has been filed. *See* § 301.9100-3(d)(2). If the period of limitations on an assessment under § 6501(a) for the taxable year in which an election should have been made, or any taxable year that would have been affected by the election had it been timely made, will expire before receipt of a § 301.9100-1 letter ruling, the Service ordinarily will not issue a § 301.9100-1 ruling. *See* § 301.9100-3(c)(1)(ii). Therefore, the taxpayer must secure a consent under § 6501(c)(4) to extend the period of limitations on assessment. Note that the filing of a protective claim for refund under § 6511 does not extend the period of limitations on assessment. If § 301.9100-1 relief is granted, the Service may require the taxpayer to consent to an extension of the period of limitations for assessment. *See* § 301.9100-3(d)(2).

Address to send a § 301.9100–1 request

.03 Requests made under § 301.9100–1, pursuant to Rev. Proc. 2003–4, together with the appropriate user fee, must be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service by the taxpayer and addressed as follows:

Requests involving employee plans matters:

Internal Revenue Service
Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
Attn: T:EP:RA
P. O. Box 27063
McPherson Station
Washington, DC 20038

Requests involving exempt organization matters:

Internal Revenue Service
Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
Attn: T:EO:RA
P. O. Box 27720
McPherson Station
Washington, DC 20038

A § 301.9100–1 request may also be hand delivered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. where a receipt will be given at the Courier's Desk. In each instance, the package should be marked RULING REQUEST SUBMISSION. See Rev. Proc. 2003–8 for the appropriate user fee. Deliver to:

Courier's Desk
Internal Revenue Service
Attn: T:EP:RA or T:EO:RA
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224

If return is being examined or considered by an appeals office or a federal court, the taxpayer must notify EP or EO Technical who will notify the EP or EO Examinations Area manager, Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE or government counsel

.04 If the taxpayer's return for the taxable year in which an election should have been made or any taxable year that would have been affected by the election had it been timely made is being examined by EP or EO Examinations or the issues in the return are being considered by an appeals office or a federal court, the taxpayer must notify EP or EO Technical. *See*, § 301.9100–3(e)(4)(i) and section 6.04 of Rev. Proc. 2003–4. EP or EO Technical will notify the appropriate EP or EO Examinations Area manager or Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, or government counsel considering the return that a request for § 301.9100–1 relief has been submitted. The EP or EO specialist, appeals officer or government counsel is not authorized to deny consideration of a request for § 301.9100–1 relief. The letter ruling will be mailed to the taxpayer and a copy will be sent to the appropriate EP or EO Examinations Area manager, or Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, or government counsel.

SECTION 7. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REQUESTING TECHNICAL ADVICE?

EP or EO Examinations Area manager or EP or EO Determinations manager or Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE determines whether to request technical advice

.01 The EP or EO Examinations Area manager, the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, determines whether to request technical advice on any issue being considered. Each request must be submitted through proper channels and signed by a person who is authorized to sign for the EP or EO Examinations Area manager, the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE. The mandatory technical advice described in section 4.04(3) of this revenue procedure, for cases concerning amendments to defined contribution plans in connection with a waiver of the minimum funding standard and a request for a determination letter, is treated as if it had been a request for technical advice submitted by the EP Determinations manager. *See* section 15 of Rev. Proc. 2003–6 and section 3.04 of Rev. Proc. 94–41 for the procedural rules applicable to this particular mandatory technical advice.

Taxpayer may ask that issue be referred for technical advice

.02 While a case is under the jurisdiction of EP or EO Examinations, EP or EO Determinations, or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, a taxpayer may request that an issue be referred to the EP or EO Technical office for technical advice.

SECTION 8. WHEN SHOULD TECHNICAL ADVICE BE REQUESTED?

Uniformity of position lacking

.01 Technical advice should be requested when there is a lack of uniformity regarding the disposition of an issue or when an issue is unusual or complex enough to warrant consideration by EP or EO Technical

When technical advice can be requested

.02 The provisions of this revenue procedure apply only to a case under the jurisdiction of EP or EO Examinations, EP or EO Determinations or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE. Technical advice may also be requested on issues considered in a prior appeals disposition, not based on mutual concessions for the same tax period of the same taxpayer, if the appeals office that had the case concurs in the request.

EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations may not request technical advice on an issue if an appeals office is currently considering an identical issue of the same taxpayer (or of a related taxpayer within the meaning of § 267 or a member of an affiliated group of which the taxpayer is also a member within the meaning of § 1504). A case remains under the jurisdiction of EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations even though an appeals office has the identical issue under consideration in the case of another taxpayer (not related within the meaning of § 267 or § 1504) in an entirely different transaction. With respect to the same taxpayer or the same transaction, when the issue is under the jurisdiction of an appeals office, and the applicability of more than one kind of federal tax is dependent upon the resolution of that issue, EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations may not request technical advice on the applicability of any of the taxes involved.

EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, also may not request technical advice on an issue if the same issue of the same taxpayer (or of a related taxpayer within the meaning of § 267 or a member of an affiliated group of which the taxpayer is also a member within the meaning of § 1504) is in a docketed case for the same taxpayer (or for a related taxpayer or a member of an affiliated group of which the taxpayer is also a member) for any taxable year.

At the earliest possible stage

.03 Once an issue is identified, all requests for technical advice should be made at the earliest possible stage in any proceeding. The fact that the issue is raised late in the examination, determination or appeals process should not influence, however, EP or EO Examinations', EP or EO Determinations' or an Appeals Area Director's, SB/SE-TE/GE decision to request technical advice.

SECTION 9. HOW ARE PRE-SUBMISSION CONFERENCES SCHEDULED?

Pre-submission conference generally is permitted when a request for technical advice is likely and all parties agree to request the conference

.01 In an effort to promote expeditious processing of requests for technical advice, EP or EO Technical generally will meet with the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office and the taxpayer prior to the time any request for technical advice, including mandatory technical advice, is submitted to EP or EO Technical. In cases involving very complex issues, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office and the taxpayer are encouraged to request a pre-submission conference. A request for a pre-submission conference should be made, however, only after the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office determines that it will likely request technical advice and only after all parties agree that a pre-submission conference should be requested.

Purpose of pre-submission conference

.02 A pre-submission conference is intended to facilitate agreement between the parties as to the appropriate scope of the request for technical advice, the factual information to be included in the request for technical advice, any collateral issues that either should or should not be included in the request for technical advice, and any other substantive or procedural considerations that will allow EP or EO Technical to provide the parties with technical advice as expeditiously as possible.

A pre-submission conference is not intended to create an alternate procedure for determining the merits of the substantive positions advocated by the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office or by the taxpayer. The conference is intended only to facilitate the overall technical advice process.

Request for pre-submission conference must be submitted in writing by the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office

.03 A request for a pre-submission conference must be submitted in writing by the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office. The request should identify the office expected to have jurisdiction over the request for technical advice. The request should include a brief explanation of the primary issue so that an assignment to the appropriate group can be made.

An original and one copy of the request should be submitted to the appropriate address listed in section 10.06 of this revenue procedure

Group will contact the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office to arrange the pre-submission conference

.04 Within 5 working days after it receives the request, the group assigned responsibility for conducting the pre-submission conference will contact the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office to arrange a mutually convenient time for the parties to meet in the EP or EO Technical office. The conference generally should be held within 30 calendar days after the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office is contacted. The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office will be responsible for coordinating with the taxpayer as well as with any other Service personnel whose attendance the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office believes would be appropriate.

Pre-submission conference generally held in person

.05 Pre-submission conferences generally will be held in person in EP or EO Technical. However, if the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office personnel are unable to attend the conference, the conference may be conducted by telephone.

Certain information required to be submitted to EP or EO Technical prior to the pre-submission conference

.06 At least 10 working days before the scheduled pre-submission conference, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office and the taxpayer should submit to EP or EO Technical a statement of the pertinent facts (including any facts in dispute), a statement of the issues that the parties would like to discuss, and any legal analysis, authorities, or background documents that the parties believe would facilitate EP or EO Technical's understanding of the issues to be discussed at the conference. The legal analysis provided for the pre-submission conference need not be as fully developed as the analysis that ultimately will accompany the request for technical advice, but it should allow EP or EO Technical to become reasonably informed regarding the subject matter of the conference prior to the meeting. The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office or the taxpayer should ensure that the EP or EO Technical office receives a copy of any required power of attorney, preferably on Form 2848, *Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative*.

Pre-submission conference may not be taped

.07 Because pre-submission conference procedures are informal, no tape, stenographic, or other verbatim recording of a conference may be made by any party.

Discussion of substantive issues is not binding on the Service

.08 Any discussion of substantive issues at a pre-submission conference is advisory only, is not binding on the Service, and cannot be relied upon as a basis for obtaining retroactive relief under the provisions of § 7805(b).

SECTION 10. WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE?

Statement of issues, facts, law, and arguments

.01 Whether initiated by the taxpayer or by an EP or EO Examinations or an EP or EO Determinations or an appeals office, a request for technical advice must include the facts and the issues for which technical advice is requested, and a written statement clearly stating the applicable law and the arguments in support of both the Service's and the taxpayer's positions on the issue or issues.

Taxpayer must submit statement if the taxpayer initiates request for technical advice

(1) If the taxpayer initiates the request for technical advice, the taxpayer must submit to the EP or EO specialist or appeals officer, at the time the taxpayer initiates the request, a written statement—

- (a) stating the facts and the issues;
- (b) explaining the taxpayer's position;
- (c) discussing any relevant statutory provisions, tax treaties, court decisions, regulations, revenue rulings, revenue procedures, notices, or any other authority supporting the taxpayer's position; and
- (d) stating the reasons for requesting technical advice.

If the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer determines that technical advice will be requested, the taxpayer's statement will be forwarded to EP or EO Technical with the request for technical advice.

Taxpayer is encouraged to submit statement if Service initiates request for technical advice

(2) If the request for technical advice is initiated by an EP or EO Examinations office or by an EP or EO Determinations office or by an appeals office, the taxpayer is encouraged to submit the written statement described in section 10.01(1) of this revenue procedure. If the taxpayer's statement is received after the request for technical advice has been forwarded to EP or EO Technical, the statement will be forwarded to EP or EO Technical for association with the technical advice request.

Statement of authorities contrary to taxpayer's position

(3) Whether the request for technical advice is initiated by the taxpayer or by an EP or EO Examinations office or by an EP or EO Determinations office or by an appeals office, the taxpayer is also encouraged to comment on any legislation, tax treaties, regulations, revenue rulings, revenue procedures, or court decisions contrary to the taxpayer's position. If the taxpayer determines that there are no contrary authorities, a statement to this effect would be helpful. If the taxpayer does not furnish either contrary authorities or a statement that none exists, the Service, in complex cases or those presenting difficult or novel issues, may request submission of contrary authorities or a statement that none exists.

Statement pertaining to statute of limitations

.02 As part of the request, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office must submit a statement, in addition to the criteria on Form 5565 referred to below, that (1) the applicable statute of limitations has at least 180 calendar days to run before its expiration or (2) the applicable statute of limitations will run prior to 180 calendar days from the date a request is transferred to EP or EO Technical and the case should be processed on an expedited basis. If the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office obtains an extension of the statute of limitations while the request is being processed in EP or EO Technical, the office obtaining the extension must also submit a revised statement to EP or EO Technical advising it of the new expiration date.

If there are less than 61 calendar days remaining before the expiration of the statute of limitations with respect to a case being processed on an expedited basis, the case will be returned to the office responsible for statute control of the file unless a decision is made pursuant to IRM Multifunctional Handbook section 121.2, Statute of Limitations Handbook that the case can be timely processed. EP or EO Technical will telephone (or fax notice of) its decision to the requesting EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office and will place a memorandum in the file to reflect whatever procedural steps have been taken.

General provisions of §§ 6104 and 6110

.03 Generally, § 6104(a)(1)(B) provides that an application filed with respect to: (1) the qualification of a pension, profit-sharing, or stock bonus plan under § 401(a) or § 403(a) or an individual retirement arrangement under § 408(a) or § 408(b) will be open to public inspection pursuant to regulations as will (2) any application filed for an exemption from tax under § 501(a) of an organization forming part of a plan or account described above. Generally, § 6110(a) provides that except as provided otherwise, written determinations (defined in § 6110(b)(1) as rulings, determination letters, technical advice memorandums and Chief Counsel advice) and any related background file document will be open to public inspection pursuant to regulations.

Application of § 6104

.04 The requirements for submitting statements and other materials or proposed deletions in technical advice memorandums before public inspection is allowed do not apply to requests for any documents to the extent § 6104 applies.

Statement identifying information to be deleted from public inspection

.05 The text of a technical advice memorandum subject to § 6110 may be open to public inspection. The Service deletes certain information from the text before it is made available for inspection. To help the Service make the deletions required by § 6110(c), the taxpayer must provide a statement indicating the deletions desired (“deletions statement”). If the taxpayer does not submit the deletions statement, the Service will follow the procedures in section 11.05 of this revenue procedure.

A taxpayer who wants only names, addresses, and identifying numbers deleted should state this in the deletions statement. If the taxpayer wants more information deleted, the deletions statement must be accompanied by a copy of the technical advice request and supporting documents on which the taxpayer should bracket the material to be deleted. The deletions statement must indicate the statutory basis, under § 6110(c) for each proposed deletion.

If the taxpayer decides to ask for additional deletions before the technical advice memorandum is issued, additional deletions statements may be submitted.

The deletions statement must not appear in the request for technical advice but, instead, must be made in a separate document attached to the request.

The deletions statement must be signed and dated by the taxpayer or the taxpayer’s authorized representative. A stamped signature is not permitted.

The taxpayer should follow these same procedures to propose deletions from any additional information submitted after the initial request for technical advice. An additional deletions statement, however, is not required with each submission of additional information if the taxpayer’s initial deletions statement requests that only names, addresses, and identifying numbers are to be deleted and the taxpayer wants the same information deleted from the additional information.

Transmittal Form 5565, Request for Technical Advice — EP/EO

.06 The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office should use Form 5565, Request for Technical Advice — EP/EO, for transmitting a request for technical advice to EP or EO Technical using the addresses listed below.

Address to send requests from EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations offices

Employee Plans
Internal Revenue Service
Attn: T:EP:RA
1111 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20224

Exempt Organizations
Internal Revenue Service
Attn: T:EO:RA
1111 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20224

Address to send requests from appeals offices

Internal Revenue Service
Director, Appeals LMSB Operations
Attn: C:AP:LMSB
Franklin Court Building
1099 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Number of copies of request to be submitted

.07 The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office must submit (3) three copies of the request for technical advice to EP or EO Technical.

Power of attorney

.08 Any authorized representative, as described in section 9.02 of Rev. Proc. 2003-4, whether or not enrolled to practice, must comply with Treasury Department Circular No. 230, as revised, and with the conference and practice requirements of the Statement of Procedural Rules (26 CFR part 601). It is preferred that Form 2848, *Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative*, be used with regard to requests for technical advice under this revenue procedure.

Case files

.09 The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office will submit copies of the original documents (the administrative file) to EP or EO Technical accompanying the applicable Form 5565. The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office will maintain the original documents (including any power of attorney).

SECTION 11. HOW ARE REQUESTS HANDLED?

Taxpayer notified

.01 Regardless of whether the taxpayer or the Service initiates the request for technical advice, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office: (1) will notify the taxpayer that technical advice is being requested; and (2) at or before the time the request is submitted to EP or EO Technical, will give to the taxpayer a copy of the arguments that are being provided to EP or EO Technical in support of its position.

If the EP or EO specialist or appeals officer initiates the request for technical advice, he or she will give to the taxpayer a copy of the statement of the pertinent facts and the issues proposed for submission to EP or EO Technical.

This section 11.01 does not apply to a technical advice memorandum described in section 11.06 of this revenue procedure.

Conference offered

.02 When notifying the taxpayer that technical advice is being requested, the EP or EO specialist or appeals officer will also tell the taxpayer about the right to a conference in EP or EO Technical if an adverse decision is indicated and will ask the taxpayer whether such a conference is desired.

If the taxpayer disagrees with the Service's statement of facts

.03 If the EP or EO specialist or appeals officer initiates the request for technical advice, the taxpayer has 10 calendar days after receiving the statement of facts and specific issues to submit to that specialist or officer a written statement specifying any disagreement on the facts and issues. A taxpayer who needs more than 10 calendar days must justify, in writing, the request for an extension of time. The extension is subject to the approval of the EP or EO Examinations Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE.

After receiving the taxpayer's statement of the areas of disagreement, every effort should be made to reach agreement on the facts and the specific points at issue before the matter is referred to EP or EO Technical. If an agreement cannot be reached, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office will notify the taxpayer in writing. Within 10 calendar days after receiving the written notice, the taxpayer may submit a statement of the taxpayer's understanding of the facts and the specific points at issue. A taxpayer who needs more than 10 calendar days to prepare the statement of understanding

must justify, in writing, the request for an extension of time. The extension is subject to the approval of the EP or EO Examinations Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE. Both the statements of the taxpayer and the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office will be forwarded to EP or EO Technical with the request for technical advice.

When EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, and the taxpayer cannot agree on the material facts and the request for technical advice does not involve the issue of whether a letter ruling or determination letter should be modified or revoked, EP or EO Technical, at its discretion, may refuse to provide technical advice. If EP or EO Technical chooses to issue technical advice, it will base its advice on the facts provided by the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office.

If a request for technical advice involves the issue of whether a letter ruling or determination letter should be modified or revoked, EP or EO Technical will issue the technical advice.

If the Service disagrees with the taxpayer's statement of facts

.04 If the taxpayer initiates the action to request technical advice, and the taxpayer's statement of the facts and issues is not wholly acceptable to the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office, the Service will notify the taxpayer in writing of the areas of disagreement. The taxpayer has 10 calendar days after receiving the written notice to reply to it. A taxpayer who needs more than 10 calendar days must justify in writing the request for an extension of time. The extension is subject to the approval of the EP or EO Examinations Area manager, or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE.

If an agreement cannot be reached, both the statements of the taxpayer and the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office will be forwarded to EP or EO Technical with the request for technical advice. When the disagreement involves material facts essential to the preliminary assessment of the case, the EP or EO Examinations Area manager, EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, may refuse to refer a taxpayer initiated request for technical advice to EP or EO Technical.

If the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, submits a case involving a disagreement of material facts, EP or EO Technical, at its discretion, may refuse to provide technical advice. If EP or EO Technical chooses to issue technical advice, it will base its advice on the facts provided by the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office.

If the taxpayer has not submitted the required deletions statement

.05 When the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office initiates the request for technical advice, the taxpayer has 10 calendar days after receiving the statement of facts and issues to be submitted to EP or EO Technical to provide the deletions statement required under § 6110 if public inspection is permitted pursuant to § 6110 (*see* section 10.05 of this revenue procedure). In such a case, if the taxpayer does not submit the deletions statement, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office, will tell the taxpayer that the statement is required.

When the taxpayer initiates the request for technical advice and does not submit with the request a deletions statement as required by § 6110, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, will ask the taxpayer to submit the statement. If the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, does not receive the deletions statement within 10 calendar days after asking the taxpayer for it, the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, may decline to submit the request for technical advice.

However, if the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, decides to request technical advice, whether initiated by the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office or by the taxpayer, in a case in which the taxpayer has not submitted the deletions statement, EP or EO Technical will make those deletions that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue determines are required by § 6110(c).

Criminal or civil fraud cases

.06 The provisions of this section (about referring issues upon the taxpayer's request, obtaining the taxpayer's statement of the areas of disagreement, telling the taxpayer about the referral of issues, giving the taxpayer a copy of the arguments submitted, submitting proposed deletions, and granting conferences in EP or EO Technical) do not apply to a technical advice memorandum described in § 6110(g)(5)(A) that involves a matter that is the subject of or is otherwise closely related to a criminal or civil fraud investigation, or a jeopardy or termination assessment.

In these cases, a copy of the technical advice memorandum is given to the taxpayer after all proceedings in the investigations or assessments are complete, but before the Service mails the notice of intention to disclose the technical advice memorandum under § 6110(f)(1). The taxpayer may then provide the statement of proposed deletions to EP or EO Technical.

SECTION 12. HOW DOES A TAXPAYER APPEAL AN EP OR EO MANAGER'S OR AN APPEALS AREA DIRECTOR'S DECISION NOT TO SEEK TECHNICAL ADVICE?

Taxpayer notified of decision not to seek technical advice

.01 If the EP or EO specialist's or the appeals officer's referral of an issue to EP or EO Technical for technical advice does not warrant referral, the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer will tell the taxpayer. A taxpayer's request for such a referral will not be denied merely because EP or EO Technical provided legal advice, other than advice furnished pursuant to this revenue procedure, to the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office on the matter.

Taxpayer may appeal decision not to seek technical advice

.02 The taxpayer may appeal the decision of the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer not to request technical advice. To do so, the taxpayer must submit to that specialist or officer, within 10 calendar days after being told of the decision, a written statement of the facts, law, and arguments on the issue and the reasons why the taxpayer believes the matter should be referred to EP or EO Technical for technical advice. A taxpayer who needs more than 10 calendar days must justify in writing the request for an extension of time. The extension is subject to the approval of the EP or EO Examinations Area manager or EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE.

EP or EO Examinations Area manager or EP or EO Determinations manager or Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, determines whether technical advice will be sought

.03 The EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer submits the taxpayer's statement through proper channels to the EP or EO Examinations Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, along with the EP or EO specialist's or the appeals officer's statement of why the issue should not be referred to EP or EO Technical. The manager or chief determines, on the basis of the statements, whether technical advice will be requested.

If the manager or chief determines that technical advice is not warranted and proposes to deny the request, the taxpayer is told in writing about the determination. In the letter to the taxpayer, the manager or chief states the reasons for the proposed denial (except in unusual situations when doing so would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Government). The taxpayer has 10 calendar days after receiving the letter to notify the manager or chief of agreement or disagreement with the proposed denial.

Manager or area director's decision may be reviewed but not appealed

.04 The taxpayer may not appeal the decision of the EP or EO Examinations Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, not to request technical advice from EP or EO Technical. However, if the taxpayer does not agree with the proposed denial, all data on the issue for which technical advice has been sought, including the taxpayer's written request and statements, will be submitted to the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division or the Director, Appeals SB/SE-TE/GE Operating Unit as appropriate.

The Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division through the Director, Employee Plans, or the Director, Exempt Organizations or, if appropriate, the Chief, Appeals will review the proposed denial solely on the basis of the written record, and no conference will be held with the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative. The appropriate Director or Chief or his or her representative may consult with EP or EO Technical and the Office of Chief Counsel, if necessary, and will notify the EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or the area appeals office within 45 calendar days of receiving all the data regarding the request for technical advice whether the proposed denial is approved or disapproved. The EP or EO Examinations or the EP or EO Determinations or area appeals office will then notify the taxpayer.

While the matter is being reviewed, the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the area appeals office suspends action on the issue (except when the delay would prejudice the Government's interest).

The provisions of this revenue procedure regarding review of the proposed denial of a request for technical advice continue to be applicable in those situations in which the authority normally exercised by the EP or EO Examinations Area manager, the EP or EO Determinations manager, or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, has been delegated to another official.

SECTION 13. HOW ARE REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE WITHDRAWN?

Taxpayer notified

.01 Once a request for technical advice has been sent to EP or EO Technical, only an EP or EO Examinations Area manager, an EP or EO Determinations manager or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE may withdraw that request for technical advice. He or she may ask to withdraw a request at any time before the responding transmittal memorandum transmitting the technical advice is signed.

The EP or EO Examinations Area manager, the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, as appropriate, must notify the taxpayer in writing of an intent to withdraw the request for technical advice except—

(1) when the period of limitations on assessment is about to expire and the taxpayer has declined to sign a consent to extend the period, or

(2) when such notification would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Government.

If the taxpayer does not agree that the request for technical advice should be withdrawn, the procedures in section 12 of this revenue procedure must be followed.

EP or EO Technical may provide views

.02 When a request for technical advice is withdrawn, EP or EO Technical may send its views to the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, when acknowledging the withdrawal request. In an appeals case, acknowledgment of the withdrawal request should be sent to the appropriate appeals office, through the Director, Appeals LMSB Operations, C:AP:LMSB. In appropriate cases, the subject matter may be published as a revenue ruling or as a revenue procedure.

SECTION 14. HOW ARE CONFERENCES SCHEDULED?

If requested, offered to the taxpayer when adverse technical advice proposed

.01 If, after the technical advice request is analyzed, it appears that technical advice adverse to the taxpayer will be given, and if a conference has been requested, the taxpayer will be informed, by telephone if possible, of the time and place of the conference.

Normally held within 21 days of contact with the taxpayer

.02 The conference must be held within 21 calendar days after the taxpayer is contacted. If conferences are being arranged for more than one request for technical advice for the same taxpayer, they will be scheduled to cause the least inconvenience to the taxpayer. If considered appropriate, EP or EO Technical will notify the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer of the scheduled conference and will offer the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer the opportunity to attend the conference. The Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, the Chief, Appeals, the EP or EO Examinations Area manager, the EP or EO Determinations manager, or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE may designate other Service representatives to attend the conference in lieu of, or in addition to, the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer.

21-day period may be extended if justified and approved

.03 An extension of the 21-day period will be granted only if the taxpayer justifies it in writing, and the group manager (or his or her delegate) of the office to which the case is assigned approves it. No extension will be granted without the approval of the group manager (or his or her delegate). Except in rare and unusual circumstances, EP or EO Technical will not agree to an extension of more than 10 working days beyond the end of the 21-day period.

The taxpayer's request for an extension must be submitted before the end of the 21-day period, and should be submitted sufficiently before the end of this period to allow EP or EO Technical to consider, and either approve or deny, the request before the end of the 21-day period. If unusual circumstances near the end of the period make a timely written request impractical, EP or EO Technical should be told orally before the end of the period about the problem and about the forthcoming written request for an extension. The written request for an extension must be submitted to EP or EO Technical promptly after the oral request. The taxpayer will be told promptly (and later in writing) of the approval or denial of the requested extension.

Denial of extension cannot be appealed

.04 There is no right to appeal the denial of a request for an extension. If EP or EO Technical is not advised of problems with meeting the 21-day period, or if the written request is not sent promptly after EP or EO Technical is notified of problems with meeting the 21-day period, the case will be processed on the basis of the existing record.

Entitled to one conference of right

.05 A taxpayer is entitled by right to only one conference in EP or EO Technical unless one of the circumstances discussed in section 14.09 of this revenue procedure exists. This conference is normally held at the group level in EP Technical or EO Technical, whichever is appropriate. It is attended by a person who has authority to sign the transmittal memorandum discussed in section 16.13 on behalf of the group manager.

When more than one group has taken an adverse position on an issue in the request, or when the position ultimately adopted by one group will affect another group's determination, a representative from each group with authority to sign for the group manager will attend the conference. If more than one subject is discussed at the conference, the discussion constitutes the conference of right for each subject discussed.

To have a thorough and informed discussion of the issues, the conference usually is held after the group has had an opportunity to study the case. However, the taxpayer may request that the conference of right be held earlier in the consideration of the case than the Service would ordinarily designate.

The taxpayer has no right to appeal the action of a group to any other Service official. But see section 14.09 for situations in which the Service may offer additional conferences.

Conference may not be taped

.06 Because conference procedures are informal, no tape, stenographic, or other verbatim recording of a conference may be made by any party.

Conference may be delayed to address a request for relief under § 7805(b)

.07 In the event of a tentative adverse determination, the taxpayer may request in writing a delay of the conference so that the taxpayer can prepare and submit a brief requesting relief under § 7805(b) (discussed in section 19 of this revenue procedure). The group manager (or his or her delegate) of the office to which the case is assigned will determine

whether to grant or deny the request for delaying the conference. If such request is granted, the Service will schedule a conference on the tentatively adverse position and the § 7805(b) relief request within 10 days of receiving the taxpayer's § 7805(b) request. See section 19.06 of this revenue procedure for the conference procedures if the § 7805(b) request is made after the conference on the substantive issues has been held.

Service makes tentative recommendations

.08 The senior Service representative at the conference ensures that the taxpayer has full opportunity to present views on all the issues in question. The Service representatives explain the tentative decision on the substantive issues and the reasons for it.

If the taxpayer requests relief under § 7805(b) (regarding limitation of retroactive effect), the Service representatives will discuss the tentative recommendation concerning the request for relief and the reason for the tentative recommendation.

No commitment will be made as to the conclusion that the Service will finally adopt regarding the outcome of the § 7805(b) issue or on any other issue discussed.

Additional conferences may be offered

.09 The Service will offer the taxpayer an additional conference if, after the conference of right, an adverse holding is proposed on a new issue or on the same issue but on grounds different from those discussed at the first conference.

When a proposed holding is reversed at a higher level with a result less favorable to the taxpayer, the taxpayer has no right to another conference if the grounds or arguments on which the reversal is based were discussed at the conference of right.

The limitation on the number of conferences to which a taxpayer is entitled does not prevent EP or EO Technical from inviting a taxpayer to attend additional conferences, including conferences with an official higher than the group level, if EP or EO Technical personnel think they are necessary. Such conferences are not offered as a matter of course simply because the group has reached an adverse decision. In general, conferences with higher level officials are offered only if the Service determines that the case presents significant issues of tax policy or tax administration and that the consideration of these issues would be enhanced by additional conferences with the taxpayer.

In accordance with section 14.02 of this revenue procedure, the EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer may be offered the opportunity to participate in any additional taxpayer's conference, including a conference with an official higher than the group level. Section 14.02 of this revenue procedure also provides that other Service representatives are allowed to participate in the conference.

Additional information submitted after the conference

.10 Within 21 calendar days after the conference, the taxpayer must furnish to EP or EO Technical, whichever is applicable, any additional data, lines of reasoning, precedents, etc., that the taxpayer proposed and discussed at the conference but did not previously or adequately present in writing. This additional information must be submitted by letter with a penalties of perjury statement in the form described in section 16.10 of this revenue procedure.

The taxpayer must also send a copy of the additional information to the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, for comment. Any comments must be furnished promptly to the appropriate group in EP or EO Technical. If the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, does not have any comments, he or she must notify the group representative promptly.

If the additional information would have a significant impact on the facts in the request for technical advice, EP or EO Technical will ask EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, for comments on the facts contained in the additional information submitted. The EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, will give the additional information prompt attention.

If the additional information is not received from the taxpayer within 21 calendar days, the technical advice memorandum will be issued on the basis of the existing record.

An extension of the 21-day period may be granted only if the taxpayer justifies it in writing, and the group manager (or his or her delegate) of the office to which the case is assigned approves the extension. Such extension will not be routinely granted. The procedures for requesting an extension of the 21-day period and notifying the taxpayer of the Service's decision are the same as those in sections 14.03 and 14.04 of this revenue procedure.

Under limited circumstances, may schedule a conference to be held by telephone

.11 Infrequently, taxpayers request that their conference of right be held by telephone. This request may occur, for example, when a taxpayer wants a conference of right but believes that the issue does not warrant the expense of traveling to Washington, DC. If a taxpayer makes such a request, the group manager, or his or her delegate of the group to which the case is assigned, will decide if it is appropriate in the particular case to hold the conference of right by telephone. If the request is approved, the taxpayer will be advised when to call the Service representatives (not a toll-free call).

In accordance with section 14.02 of this revenue procedure, the EP or EO specialist or appeals officer will be offered the opportunity to participate in the telephone conference. Section 14.02 of this revenue procedure also provides that other Service representatives are allowed to participate in the conference.

SECTION 15. HOW IS STATUS OF REQUEST OBTAINED?

Taxpayer or taxpayer's representative may request status from the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office

.01 The taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative may obtain information on the status of the request for technical advice by contacting the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office that requested the technical advice. *See* section 16.08 of this revenue procedure concerning the time for discussing the tentative conclusion with the taxpayer's representative. *See* section 17.02 of this revenue procedure regarding discussions of the contents of the technical advice memorandum with the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative.

EP or EO Technical will give status updates to the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE

.02 The group representative or manager to whom the technical advice request is assigned will give status updates on the request once a month to the EP or EO Examination Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE. In addition, an EP or EO Examinations Area manager or an EP or EO Determinations manager or an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE may get current information on the status of the request for technical advice by calling the person whose name and telephone number are shown on acknowledgment of receipt of the request for technical advice.

See section 16.09 of this revenue procedure about discussing the final conclusions with the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office. Further, the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE will be notified at the time the technical advice memorandum is mailed.

SECTION 16. HOW DOES EP OR EO TECHNICAL PREPARE THE TECHNICAL ADVICE MEMORANDUM?

Delegates authority to group managers

.01 The authority to issue technical advice on issues under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division has largely been delegated to the managers of the Employee Plans Rulings & Agreements Technical and Actuarial groups, and the Technical Guidance and Quality Assurance group (collectively referred to as "EP Technical"); and of the Exempt Organizations Rulings & Agreements Technical groups and the Technical Guidance and Quality Assurance group (collectively referred to as "EO Technical")

Determines whether request has been properly made

.02 A request for technical advice generally is given priority and processed expeditiously. As soon as the request for technical advice is assigned, the technical employee analyzes the file to see whether it meets all of the requirements of sections 7, 8, and 10 of this revenue procedure.

However, if the request does not comply with the requirements of section 10.05 of this revenue procedure relating to the deletions statement, the Service will follow the procedure in the last paragraph of section 11.05 of this revenue procedure.

Contacts the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office to discuss issues

.03 Usually, within 21 calendar days after the group receives the request for technical advice, a representative of the group telephones the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office to discuss the procedural and substantive issues in the request that come within the group's jurisdiction.

Informs the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office if any matters in the request have been referred to another group or office

.04 If the technical advice request concerns matters within the jurisdiction of more than one group or office, a representative of the group that received the original technical advice request generally informs the EP or EO Examinations office or EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office within 21 calendar days of receiving the request that—

(1) the matters within the jurisdiction of another group or office have been referred to the other group or office for consideration, and

(2) a representative of the other group or office will contact the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office about the referral of the technical advice request within 21 calendar days after receiving it in accordance with section 16.03 above.

Informs the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office if additional information is needed

.05 The group representative will inform the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office that the case is being returned if substantial additional information is required to resolve an issue. Cases should be returned for additional information when significant unresolved factual variances exist between the statement of facts submitted by the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office and the taxpayer. They should also be returned if major procedural problems cannot be resolved by telephone. The EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office should promptly notify the taxpayer of the decision to return the case for further factual development or other reasons.

If only minor procedural deficiencies exist, the group will request the additional information in the most expeditious manner without returning the case.

Informs the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office of the tentative conclusion

.06 If all necessary information has been provided, the group representative discusses with the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office his or her tentative conclusion.

If a tentative conclusion has not been reached, gives date estimated for tentative conclusion

.07 If a tentative conclusion has not been reached because of the complexity of the issue, the group representative informs the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office of the estimated date the tentative conclusion will be made.

Advises the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office that preliminary conclusion not final

.08 Because the group representative's tentative conclusion may change during the preparation and review of the technical advice memorandum, the tentative conclusion should not be considered final. Therefore, neither the group representative nor the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations or the appeals office should advise the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative of the tentative conclusion before the scheduling of the adverse conference.

Advises the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals office of final conclusions

.09 In all cases, the group representative should inform the EP or EO specialist or appeals officer of EP or EO Technical's final conclusions. The EP or EO specialist or the appeals officer should be offered the opportunity to discuss the issues and EP or EO Technical's final conclusions before the technical advice memorandum is issued.

If needed, requests additional information

.10 If, following the initial contact referenced in section 16.03 of this revenue procedure, it is determined, after discussion with the appropriate group manager or reviewer, that additional information is needed, a group representative will obtain the additional information from the taxpayer, the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, in the most expeditious manner possible. Any additional information requested from the taxpayer by EP or EO Technical must be submitted by letter, accompanied by a penalties of perjury statement, within 21 calendar days after the request for information is made.

Penalties of perjury statement

Additional information submitted to EP or EO Technical must be accompanied by the following declaration: **"Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this information, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contains all the relevant facts relating to the request, for the information and such facts are true, correct, and complete."** This declaration must be signed and dated by the taxpayer, not the taxpayer's representative. A stamped signature is not permitted.

A written request for an extension of time to submit additional information must be received by EP or EO Technical within the 21-day period, giving compelling facts and circumstances to justify the proposed extension. The group manager (or his or her delegate) of the office to which the case is assigned will determine whether to grant or deny the request for an extension of the 21-day period. No extension will be granted without the approval of the appropriate group manager (or his or her delegate). Except in rare and unusual circumstances, EP or EO Technical will not agree to an extension of more than 10 working days beyond the end of the 21-day period. There is no right to appeal the denial of a request for an extension.

If EP or EO Technical does not receive the additional information within 21 calendar days, plus any extensions granted by the appropriate group manager (or his or her delegate), EP or EO Technical will process the technical advice memorandum based on the existing record.

Requests taxpayer to send additional information to the EP or EO Technical and a copy to the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE

.11 Whether or not requested by the Service, any additional information submitted by the taxpayer should be sent to the headquarters office. Generally, the taxpayer needs only to submit the original of the additional information to EP or EO Technical. However, in appropriate cases, EP or EO Technical may request additional copies of the information.

Also, the taxpayer must send a copy to either the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, for comment. Any comments must be furnished promptly to the appropriate group in EP or EO Technical. If the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, does not have any comments, he or she must notify the group representative promptly.

Informs the taxpayer when requested deletions will not be made

.12 Generally, before replying to the request for technical advice, EP or EO Technical informs the taxpayer orally or in writing of the material likely to appear in the technical advice memorandum that the taxpayer proposed be deleted but that the Service has determined should not be deleted.

If so informed, the taxpayer may submit within 10 calendar days any further information or other arguments supporting the taxpayer's proposed deletions.

The Service will attempt to resolve all disagreements about proposed deletions before EP or EO Technical replies to the request for technical advice. However, the taxpayer does not have the right to a conference to resolve any disagreements about material to be deleted from the text of the technical advice memorandum. These matters, however, may be considered at any conference otherwise scheduled for the request.

Prepares reply in two parts

.13 EP or EO Technical's reply to a technical advice request is in two parts. Each part identifies the taxpayer by name, address, identification number, and year or years involved.

The first part of the reply is a transmittal memorandum. In unusual cases, it is a way of giving the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office administrative or other information that under the nondisclosure statutes or for other reasons may not be discussed with the taxpayer.

The second part is the technical advice memorandum, which contains—

- (1) a statement of the issues;
- (2) a statement of the facts pertinent to the issues;
- (3) a statement of the pertinent law, tax treaties, regulations, revenue rulings, and other precedents published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, and court decisions;
- (4) a discussion of the rationale underlying the conclusions reached by EP or EO Technical; and
- (5) the conclusions of EP or EO Technical.

The conclusions give direct answers, whenever possible, to the specific issues raised by the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office. However, EP or EO Technical is not bound by the precise statement of the issues as submitted by the taxpayer or by the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office and may reframe the issues to be answered in the technical advice memorandum. The discussion of the issues will be in sufficient detail so that the EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations or appeals officials will understand the reasoning underlying the conclusion.

Accompanying a technical advice memorandum subject to § 6110, is a notice under § 6110(f)(1) of intention to disclose the technical advice memorandum (including a copy of the version proposed to be open to public inspection and notations of third party communications under § 6110(d)).

Routes replies to appropriate office

.14 Replies to requests for technical advice from EO Examinations Area managers and EO Determinations managers are addressed to:

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: EO Mandatory Review
MC 4920 DAL
1100 Commerce Street
Dallas, TX 75242

The EO Mandatory Review Staff will ensure that copies are forwarded to the EO Examinations Area manager or the EO Determinations manager.

Replies to requests for technical advice (1) from EP Examinations Area managers and (2) from EP Determinations managers that were sent to Headquarters before November 1, 2000, are addressed to:

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: EP Special Review - Room 1550
T:EP:E:PR:SR:Technical Advice Coordinator
P. O. Box 13163
Baltimore, MD 21203

The EP Special Review Staff will ensure that copies are forwarded to the applicable EP manager.

Replies to requests for technical advice from EP Determinations managers sent to Headquarters after October 31, 2000, are addressed to:

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: EP Determinations Quality Assurance
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Replies to requests for technical advice from an Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE are routed to the appropriate appeals office through the Director, Appeals LMSB Operations, C:AP: LMSB.

SECTION 17. HOW DOES EP OR EO EXAMINATIONS or EP OR EO DETERMINATIONS OR AN APPEALS OFFICE USE THE TECHNICAL ADVICE?

Generally applies advice in processing the taxpayer's case

.01 The EP or EO Examinations Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, must process the taxpayer's case on the basis of the conclusions in the technical advice memorandum unless—

(1) the EP or EO Examinations Area manager or the EP or EO Determinations manager or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, decides that the conclusions reached by EP or EO Technical in a technical advice memorandum should be reconsidered, or

(2) the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, in the case of technical advice unfavorable to the taxpayer, decides to settle the issue in the usual manner under existing authority.

Subject to a request for reconsideration of the conclusions in a technical advice memorandum, EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations must follow the conclusions in a technical advice memorandum as to all issues and the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, must follow the conclusions in a technical advice memorandum on issues of an organization's/plan's status or qualification. Thus, if the technical advice memorandum received by EP or EO Examinations or EP or EO Determinations concerns an organization's/plan's status or qualification, the organization/plan has no appeal to the appeals office on those specific issues.

Discussion with the taxpayer

.02 EP or EO Technical will not discuss the contents of the technical advice memorandum with the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative until the taxpayer has been given a copy by the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the appeals office

Gives copy to the taxpayer

.03 The EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, only after adopting the technical advice, gives the taxpayer (1) a copy of the technical advice memorandum described in section 16.13, and (2) the notice under § 6110(f)(1) of intention to disclose the technical advice memorandum (including a copy of the version proposed to be open to public inspection and notations of third party communications under § 6110(d)).

This requirement does not apply to a technical advice memorandum involving a criminal or civil fraud investigation, or a jeopardy or termination assessment, as described in section 11.06 of this revenue procedure, or documents to which § 6104 (document open to public inspection) applies as described in section 10.03.

Taxpayer may protest deletions not made

.04 After receiving the notice under § 6110(f)(1) of intention to disclose the technical advice memorandum, the taxpayer may protest the disclosure of certain information in it. The taxpayer must submit a written statement within 20 calendar days identifying those deletions not made by the Service that the taxpayer believes should have been made. The taxpayer must also submit a copy of the version of the technical advice memorandum proposed to be open to public inspection with brackets around deletions proposed by the taxpayer that have not been made by EP or EO Technical.

Generally, EP or EO Technical considers only the deletion of material that the taxpayer has proposed be deleted or other deletions as required under § 6110(c) before the EP or EO

Technical reply is sent to the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE. Within 20 calendar days after it receives the taxpayer's response to the notice under § 6110(f)(1), EP or EO Technical must mail the taxpayer its final administrative conclusion about the deletions to be made.

When no copy is given to the taxpayer

.05 If EP or EO Technical tells the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, that a copy of the technical advice memorandum should not be given to the taxpayer and the taxpayer requests a copy, the EP or EO Examinations office or the EP or EO Determinations office or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, will tell the taxpayer that no copy will be given.

SECTION 18. WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF TECHNICAL ADVICE?

Applies only to the taxpayer for whom technical advice was requested

.01 A taxpayer may not rely on a technical advice memorandum issued by the Service for another taxpayer.

Usually applies retroactively

.02 Except when stated otherwise, a holding in a technical advice memorandum is applied retroactively, unless the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division exercises discretionary authority under § 7805(b) to limit the retroactive effect of the holding. Section 18.06 below lists the criteria necessary for granting § 7805(b) relief, and section 18 of this revenue procedure describes the effect of § 7805(b) relief.

Generally applied retroactively to modify or revoke prior technical advice

.03 A holding that modifies or revokes a holding in a prior technical advice memorandum is applied retroactively, with one exception. If the new holding is less favorable to the taxpayer than the earlier one, it generally is not applied to the period when the taxpayer relied on the prior holding in situations involving continuing transactions.

Applies to continuing action or series of actions until specifically withdrawn, modified, or revoked

.04 If a technical advice memorandum relates to a continuing action or a series of actions, ordinarily it is applied until specifically withdrawn or until the conclusion is modified or revoked by enactment of legislation, ratification of a tax treaty, a decision of the United States Supreme Court, or the issuance of regulations (temporary or final), a revenue ruling, or other statement published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin. Publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking does not affect the application of a technical advice memorandum.

Applies to continuing action or series of actions until material facts change

.05 A taxpayer is not protected against retroactive modification or revocation of a technical advice memorandum involving a continuing action or a series of actions occurring after the material facts on which the technical advice memorandum is based have changed.

Does not apply retroactively under certain conditions

.06 Generally, a technical advice memorandum that modifies or revokes a letter ruling or another technical advice memorandum or a determination letter is not applied retroactively either to the taxpayer to whom or for whom the letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter was originally issued, or to a taxpayer whose tax liability was directly involved in such letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter if—

- (1) there has been no misstatement or omission of material facts;
- (2) the facts at the time of the transaction are not materially different from the facts on which the letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter was based;
- (3) there has been no change in the applicable law;
- (4) in the case of a letter ruling, it was originally issued on a prospective or proposed transaction; and

(5) the taxpayer directly involved in the letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter acted in good faith in relying on the letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter, and the retroactive modification or revocation would be to the taxpayer's detriment. For example, the tax liability of each employee covered by a letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter relating to a pension plan of an employer is directly involved in the letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter. However, the tax liability of members of an industry is not directly involved in a letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter issued to one of the members, and the holding in a modification or revocation of a letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter to one member of an industry may be retroactively applied to other members of the industry. By the same reasoning, a tax practitioner may not obtain the nonretroactive application to one client of a modification or revocation of a letter ruling or technical advice memorandum or determination letter previously issued to another client.

When a letter ruling or determination letter to a taxpayer or a technical advice memorandum involving a taxpayer is modified or revoked with retroactive effect, the notice to the taxpayer, except in fraud cases, sets forth the grounds on which the modification or revocation is being made and the reason why the modification or revocation is being applied retroactively.

In order for a technical advice memorandum that modifies or revokes a letter ruling or another technical advice memorandum or a determination letter not to be applied retroactively either to the taxpayer to whom or for whom the letter ruling, technical advice memorandum or determination letter was originally issued, or to a taxpayer whose tax liability was directly involved in such letter ruling, technical advice memorandum or determination letter, such taxpayer generally must request relief under § 7805(b) in the manner described in section 19 below.

SECTION 19. HOW MAY RETROACTIVE EFFECT BE LIMITED?

Commissioner has discretionary authority under § 7805(b)

.01 Under § 7805(b) the Commissioner or the Commissioner's delegate has the discretion to prescribe the extent, if any, to which a technical advice memorandum will be applied without retroactive effect.

Taxpayer may request Commissioner to exercise authority

.02 A taxpayer who has received a technical advice memorandum or for whom a technical advice request is pending may request that the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue's delegate, exercise the discretionary authority under § 7805(b) to limit the retroactive effect of any holding stated in the technical advice memorandum or to limit the retroactive effect of any subsequent modification or revocation of the technical advice memorandum.

Form of request to limit retroactivity—before an examination

.03 When a technical advice memorandum that concerns a continuing transaction is modified or revoked by, for example, a subsequent revenue ruling or final regulations, a request to limit the retroactive effect of the modification or revocation of the technical advice memorandum must be made in the form of a request for a letter ruling if submitted before examination of the return that contains the transaction that is the subject of the request for the letter ruling. *See* Rev. Proc. 2003-4.

Form of request to limit retroactivity—during course of an examination

.04 When, during the course of an examination of a taxpayer's return by EP or EO Examinations or consideration by the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, a taxpayer is informed that EP or EO Examinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, recommends that a technical advice memorandum be modified or revoked, a request to limit the retroactive application of the modification or revocation of the technical advice memorandum must itself be made in the form of a request for technical advice. *See* sections 7, 8 and 10 of this revenue procedure and sections 19.07 and 19.08 below.

The taxpayer must also submit a statement that the request is being made pursuant to § 7805(b). This statement must also indicate the relief requested and give the reasons and arguments in support of the relief requested. It must also be accompanied by any documents bearing on the request. The explanation should discuss the five items listed in section 18.06 of this revenue procedure as they relate to the taxpayer's situation.

The taxpayer's request, including the statement that the request is being made pursuant to § 7805(b), must be forwarded by EP or EO Examinations or the Appeals Area Director, SB/SE-TE/GE, to EP or EO Technical for consideration.

Form of request to limit retroactivity—technical advice that does not modify or revoke prior memorandum

.05 A request to limit the retroactive effect of a holding in a technical advice memorandum that does not modify or revoke a technical advice memorandum may be made as part of that technical advice request, either initially, or at any time before the technical advice memorandum is issued by EP or EO Technical. In such a case, the taxpayer must also submit a statement in support of the application of § 7805(b), as described in section 19.04 above.

Taxpayer's right to a conference

.06 When a request for technical advice concerns only the application of § 7805(b), the taxpayer has the right to a conference in EP or EO Technical in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of this revenue procedure.

If the request for application of § 7805(b) is included in the request for technical advice on the substantive issues or is made before the conference of right on the substantive issues, the § 7805(b) issues will be discussed at the taxpayer's one conference of right.

If the request for the application of § 7805(b) is made as part of a pending technical advice request after a conference has been held on the substantive issues, and the Service determines that there is justification for having delayed the request, then the taxpayer will have the right to one conference of right concerning the application of § 7805(b), with the conference limited to discussion of this issue.

Exhaustion of administrative remedies — employee plans determination letter requests

.07 Where the applicant has requested EP Determinations to seek technical advice on the applicability of § 7805(b) relief to a qualification issue under § 401(a) pursuant to a determination letter request, the applicant's administrative remedies will not be considered exhausted until EP Technical has a reasonable time to act on the request for technical advice. (*See* section 20 of Rev. Proc. 2003–6.)

Exhaustion of administrative remedies — exempt organization matters

.08 Where technical advice has been requested pursuant to an exempt organization's request for § 7805(b) relief from the retroactive application of an adverse determination within the meaning of § 7428(a)(1), the exempt organization's administrative remedies will not be considered exhausted, within the meaning of § 7428(b)(2), until EO Technical has a reasonable time to act on the request for technical advice.

SECTION 20. WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF THIS REVENUE PROCEDURE ON OTHER DOCUMENTS?

Rev. Proc. 2002–5 is superseded.

SECTION 21. EFFECTIVE DATE

This revenue procedure is effective January 6, 2003.

SECTION 22. PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The collections of information contained in this revenue procedure have been reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. § 3507) under control number 1545–1520.

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 control number.

The collections of information in this revenue procedure are in sections 6.03, 9, 10.01, 10.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05, 12.02, 12.03, 13.01, 14.03, 14.10, 16.10, 16.12, 17.04, 19.03, 19.04, and 19.05. This information is required to evaluate and process the request for a technical

advice memorandum. In addition, this information will be used to help the Service delete certain information from the text of the technical advice memorandum before it is made available for public inspection, as required by § 6110. The collections of information are required to obtain a technical advice memorandum. The likely respondents are businesses or other for-profit institutions and not-for-profit institutions.

The estimated total annual reporting and/or recordkeeping burden is 1,950 hours.

The estimated annual burden per respondent/recordkeeper varies from 4 hours to 60 hours, depending on individual circumstances, with an estimated average of 19.5 hours. The estimated number of respondents and/or recordkeepers is 100.

The estimated annual frequency of responses is one request per applicant.

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 § 6103.

DRAFTING INFORMATION

The principal author of this revenue procedure is Michael Rubin of the Employee Plans, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division. For further information regarding how this revenue procedure applies to employee plans matters, please contact the Employee Plans Customer Assistance Service at 1-877-829-5500 (a toll-free number) or Mr. Rubin at (202) 283-9888 (not a toll-free number). For exempt organizations matters, please contact Mr. Wayne Hardesty at (202) 283-8976 (not a toll-free number).

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