

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments and test items to Office of Personnel Management, Attn: PRDC, Room 6457—Customs Broker Project, 1900 E St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to U.S. Customs Service, Attn: Broker Examination, Room 1328, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20229, Tel. (202) 927-0051.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The written Customs Broker Licensure Examination, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1641(b)(2) and 19 CFR 111.13(a), is designed to determine the applicant's knowledge of Customs and related laws, regulations and procedures, bookkeeping, accounting, and all other appropriate matters and his fitness to render valuable service to importers and exporters. The applicant must obtain a grade of at least 75 percent to pass.

Customs has entered into an interagency agreement with the Office of Personnel Management to assist in the development of the broker examination. Customs invites the general public, other federal agencies and Customs employees to comment on what areas the broker licensure examination should focus and to suggest multiple choice items to be used on the examination.

Comments

Please use the following guidelines when generating your multiple choice items:

First, identify your topic and make sure it covers information:

(1) contained in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of The United States (1996) or Title 19, Code of Federal Regulations (19 CFR Parts 1 to 199) Revised as of April 1, 1996; and

(2) important to the work performed as a Customs Broker.

The use of regulations in your own experience may be a good starting point.

Second, write a question or a stem of a question (e.g., Which of the following is sufficient to establish the right to make entry for * * * ?). The statement may take the form of either a direct question or an incomplete statement. Simplify the item as much as possible. This means eliminating unnecessary information from the question (information not needed to answer the question), using easily understood words where possible, and placing most of the information in the question/stem, not in the response options. Make sure the item only addresses one concept and is not asking multiple questions or

addressing multiple content areas. After the question/stem is written, generate a correct response. The correct response should be defensible as being the only correct answer listed in the options.

Finally, generate at least four parallel and attractive response options. Try to ensure that the response options are similar in grammatical structure, length, and complexity to the correct response. Try to make sure the other response options are good distractors (i.e., they may seem attractive to test takers whose knowledge is superficial). The responses "none of these" or "none of the above" should not be used as options. The following may be helpful in creating distractors: Use of true statements that do not answer the question correctly; use of familiar phrases; and use of common mathematical mistakes or inverted numbers.

All items should contain the following information when complete:

- (1) the item stem or question;
- (2) at least five responses, one of which is the correct answer;
- (3) an indication of the correct answer by marking it with an asterisk;
- (4) a reference for the item (e.g., Title 19, CFR, Section 111.36 paragraph (b)(2)(I)). It is important that all items be referenced to either the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of The United States (1996) or Title 19, Code of Federal Regulations; and
- (5) the item writer's name and work phone number.

If you would like more information on writing appropriate test items, please contact Ernest Paskey at 202-606-1160. Once you have written the test items, please send your items to OPM through either:

(1) fax: (202) 606-1399, Attn: Christelle La Police; or

(2) postal mail: Christelle La Police, Office of Personnel Management, Attn: PRDC, Room 6457- Customs Broker Project, 1900 E St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20415.

Important Note: To ensure security of the test items and avoid misplaced/lost items, we request that you call OPM at (202) 606-0820 and ask for a member of the Customs Broker Team prior to transmitting a FAX. Test items will be accepted no later than January 31, 1997. Copies of the items that you develop and other related materials should not be distributed to anyone else.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Philip Metzger,

Director, Trade Compliance.

[FR Doc. 96-32915 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8851

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8851, Summary of Medical Savings Accounts.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 25, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Summary of Medical Savings Accounts.

OMB Number: 1545-1508.

Form Number: 8851.

Abstract: This form will be used by the IRS to determine whether the numerical limits set forth in Internal Revenue Code section 220(j)(1) regarding the establishment of medical savings accounts have been exceeded.

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

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 7 hr., 42 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,540,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number.

Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 18, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-32991 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8820

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8820, Orphan Drug Credit.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before February 25, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Orphan Drug Credit

OMB Number: 1545-1505

Form Number: 8820

Abstract: Filers use this form to elect to claim the orphan drug credit, which is 50% of the qualified clinical testing expenses paid or incurred with respect to low or unprofitable drugs for rare diseases and conditions, as designated under section 526 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

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

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 8 hr., 27 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 169

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information

technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 18, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-32992 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

Office of Thrift Supervision

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 20, 1996.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the OTS Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the OTS Clearance Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552.

OMB Number: 1550-0072.

Form Number: MCH-1 and MCH-2.

Type of Review: Extension of an already approved collection.

Title: Mutual Holding Company.

Description: This information collection applies to mutual holding companies and their subsidiaries. The collection is necessary to fulfill statutory requirements and facilitate the review of transactions presenting risks to the safety and soundness of an institution.

Respondents: Savings and Loan Associations and Savings Banks.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 375 hours.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 2,625 hours.

Clearance Officer: Colleen M. Devine, (202) 906-6025, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Catherine C. M. Teti,

Director, Records Management and Information Policy.

[FR Doc. 96-32901 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P