

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

(Form 9620)

1. CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATING COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

Form 9620 is an optically scannable form that is used to collect race and national origin data on all employees and new hires. The form is a valuable tool in allowing the Service to meet its diversity/EEO goals and as a component of its referral and tracking system. The information is used to help insure that agency personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law. The Service has determined that the data currently being collected is valuable in the measurement of how effective our recruitment program is vis-à-vis our diversity effects.

2. USE OF DATA

Form 9620, combined with other tracking forms, allows the IRS to determine how its diversity/EEO efforts are progressing, and to determine adverse impact on the selection process. This form also enhances our recruitment plan. The information is used for administrative purposes and by researchers at the IRS for aggregate statistical reports.

3. USE OF IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE BURDEN

IRS Publications, Regulations, Notices and Letters are to be electronically enabled on an as practicable basis in accordance with the IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998.

4. EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION

We have attempted to eliminate duplication within the agency whenever possible.

5. METHODS TO MINIMIZE BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES OR OTHER SMALL ENTITIES

Not applicable.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF LESS FREQUENT COLLECTION ON FEDERAL PROGRAMS OR POLICY ACTIVITIES

All applicants who apply and employees who are hired need to fill out this background form. This allows the IRS to obtain complete data and make the proper analysis on its recruitment plan. The applicant is only required to complete the form once and may only be asked to verify the information at some future time.

7. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING DATA COLLECTION TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES IN 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)

Not applicable.

8. CONSULTATION WITH INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE OF THE AGENCY ON AVAILABILITY OF DATA, FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION, CLARITY OF INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS, AND DATA ELEMENTS

The Service has discussed the form and its purpose with OPM. They do not have a scannable form nor are they aware of any agency having one.

In response to the **Federal Register Notice** dated **April 23, 2008 (73 FR 22008)**, we received no comments during the comment period regarding Form 9620.

10. ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSES

Information will be kept in strictest confidence and access is limited. Only researchers with IRS will have access to the information. The information is confidential, and is restricted on "a need to know basis".

11. JUSTIFICATION OF SENSITIVE QUESTIONS

Not applicable.

12. ESTIMATED BURDEN OF INFORMATION COLLECTION

Number of Total	Time per
----------------------------	-----------------

			<u>Responses Hours</u>	<u>Response Hours</u>
Form 9620	50,000	.05	2,500	

Estimates of the annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens shown are not available at this time.

13. ESTIMATED TOTAL ANNUAL COST BURDEN TO RESPONDENTS

As suggested by OMB, our **Federal Register Notice** dated **April 23, 2008 (73 FR 22008)**, requested public comments on estimates of cost burden that are not captured in the estimates of burden hours, i.e., estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information. However, we did not receive any response from taxpayers on this subject. As a result, estimates of the cost burdens are not available at this time.

14. ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

After consultation with various sources, we have determined that the cost of developing, printing, processing, distribution and overhead for the form is about \$25,000.

15. REASONS FOR CHANGE IN BURDEN

There is no change in the paperwork burden previously approved by OMB. We are making this submission to renew the OMB approval.

16. PLANS FOR TABULATION, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

17. REASONS WHY DISPLAYING THE OMB EXPIRATION DATE IS INAPPROPRIATE

See attachment.

18. EXCEPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT ON OMB FORM 83-I

Not applicable.

Note: The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information in this submission:

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.

OMB EXPIRATION DATE

We believe the public interest will be better served by not printing an expiration date on the form(s) in this package.

Printing the expiration date on the form will result in increased costs because of the need to replace inventories that become obsolete by passage of the expiration date each time OMB approval is renewed. Without printing the expiration date, supplies of the form could continue to be used.

The time period during which the current edition of the form(s) in this package will continue to be usable cannot be predicted. It could easily span several cycles of review and OMB clearance renewal. In addition, usage fluctuates unpredictably. This makes it necessary to maintain a substantial inventory of forms in the supply line at all times. This includes supplies owned by both the Government and the public. Reprinting of the form cannot be reliably scheduled to coincide with an OMB approval expiration date. This form may be privately printed by users at their own expense. Some businesses print complex and expensive marginally punched continuous versions, their expense, for use in their computers. The form may be printed by commercial printers and stocked for sale. In such cases, printing the expiration date on the form could result in extra costs to the users.

Not printing the expiration date on the form(s) will also avoid confusion among taxpayers who may have identical forms with different expiration dates in their possession.

For the above reasons we request authorization to omit printing the expiration date on the form(s) in this package.