Instructions for Form 5307
(Rev. May 2008)
Application for Determination for Adopters of Master or Prototype (M&P) or Volume Submitter (VS) Plans

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

What's New for Defined Contribution Plans

Requirements for Switching to 6-Year Remedial Amendment Cycle. All applications must be accompanied by new Form 8905, Certification of Intent To Adopt a Pre-approved Plan, if an employer intends to switch from the 5-year remedial amendment cycle to the 6-year remedial amendment cycle by meeting one of the eligibility requirements for the 6-year remedial amendment cycle. For more information, see Rev. Proc. 2007-44, which is on page 54 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 2007-28 at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb07-28.pdf.

Who May File
This form may be filed by an adopter of:
- An approved non-standardized M&P plan,
- An approved VS plan, or

Standardized Plans
Standardized plans will generally satisfy the requirements of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) if they follow the terms of their plan document. Specific determinations regarding sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) are not routinely issued for these plans since a standardized plan operated in accordance with its terms will satisfy the requirements of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4).

Who May Not File
This form may not be filed to request a determination letter for:
- An M&P adopter that amends the plan other than through the choice of elections offered under the approved adoption agreement. However, an M&P adopter may amend the adoption agreement to add overriding language for sections 415 or 416 because of the aggregation of plans or may amend the trust or custodial account document to make any permitted changes;
- A cash balance plan (use Form 5300, Application for Determination for Employee Benefit Plan);
- A multiemployer or multiple-employer plan (use Form 5300);
- An employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) (attach Form 5309, Application for Determination of Employee Stock Ownership Plan, to Form 5300);
- An individually designed plan (other than an approved VS plan) (use Form 5300); or
- A request to determine if you are a member of an affiliated service group (use Form 5300).

Where To File
File Form 5307 at the address indicated below:
Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 192
Covington, KY 41012-0192.

Private Delivery Services. In addition to the United States mail, you can use certain private delivery services designated by the IRS to meet the "timely mailing as timely filing/paying" rule for tax returns and payments. These private delivery services include only the following:
- DHL Express (DHL): DHL Same Day Service, DHL Next Day 12:00 pm, DHL Next Day 3:00 pm, and DHL 2nd Day Service.

The private delivery service can tell you how to get written proof of the mailing date.

How To Complete the Application
Applications are screened for completeness. The application must be signed by the employer, plan administrator, or authorized representative.
Specific Plans—Additional Requirements

(See Procedural Requirements Checklist)

1. If this application is filed for a standardized plan, complete only lines 1 through 5, 7 through 9, and 10c through 10g. Explain in a cover letter why the application is being filed.

2. For a governmental or nonelecting church plan, complete Form 5307 but skip line 10a. A nonreturning church plan is a plan for which an election under section 410(d) has not been made.

3. For plans of controlled groups of corporations, trades or businesses under common control, and affiliated service groups, submit the statement specified in the instructions for lines 6a and 6b.

4. File Form 5310, Application for Determination for Terminating Plan, to request a determination letter for the complete termination of a DBP or DCP.

Specific Instructions

Lines 1b through 1g. Enter the name, address, and telephone number of the plan sponsor/employer. A “plan sponsor” means:

1. In the case of a plan that covers the employees of one employer, the employer.

2. In the case of a plan sponsored by two or more entities required to be combined under sections 414(b), (c), or (m), one of the members participating in the plan; or

3. In the case of a plan that covers the employees and/or partner(s) of a partnership, the partnership.

The name of the plan sponsor/employer should be the same name that was or will be used when the Form 5500, Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan, or Form 5500-EZ, Annual Return of One-Participant (Owners and Their Spouses) Retirement Plan, is filed for the plan.

Address. Include the suite, room, or other unit number after the street address. If the Post Office does not deliver mail to the street address and the plan has a P.O. box, show the box number instead of the street address. The address should be the address of the sponsor/employer.

Line 1h. Enter the nine-digit employer identification number (EIN) assigned to the plan sponsor/employer. This should be the same EIN that was or will be used when the Form 5500 or Form 5500-EZ is filed for the plan.

Do not use a social security number of the EIN of the trust.

The plan sponsor/employer must have an EIN. A plan sponsor/employer without an EIN can apply for one.

Online—Generally, a plan sponsor/employer can receive an EIN by Internet and use it immediately to file a return. Go to the IRS website at www.irs.gov/businesses/small and click on Employer ID numbers.
• By telephone—Call 1-800-829-4933.
• By mail or fax—Send in a completed Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number. Form SS-4 can be obtained by calling 1-800-829-3676.

The plan of a group of entities required to be combined under section 411(b), (c), or (m) whose sponsor is more than one of the entities required to be combined should only enter the EIN of one of the sponsoring members.

This EIN must be used in all subsequent filings of determination letter requests and annual returns/reports unless there is a change of sponsor.

Line 1k. Enter the two digits representing the month the employer’s tax year ends. This is the employer whose EIN was entered on line 1h.

Line 2. The contact person will receive copies of all amendments as authorized in a Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, Form 2848, or Tax Information Authorization, Form SS-821. Either complete the contact’s information on this line, or check the box and attach a power of attorney or other written designation.

Line 3a. Enter the number(s) that correspond to the request(s) being made.

Enter 1 if the IRS has not issued a determination letter for this plan.

Enter 2 if the IRS has previously issued a determination letter for this plan.

Enter 3 if this is a standardized plan.


Line 3c. If more than four amendments, list amendments on a separate piece of paper using the same format as shown on form and label it as an attachment to line 3c.

Line 3d. Enter the date(s) the amendment(s) was/were signed. If an amendment is proposed, enter “09/09/9999.”

Line 3e. Enter the effective date(s) of each amendment listed in line 3d. The term “date amendment effective” means the date the amendment becomes operative or takes effect.

Line 3f. If you do not have a copy of the latest amendment, or if no determination letter has ever been received by the employer, submit copies of the initial plan (or adoption agreement along with the appropriate opinion or advisory letter), or the latest plan (or adoption agreement along with the appropriate opinion or advisory letter), and any subsequent amendments and/or restatements.

Note. If any amendments that are submitted predate the last favorable determination letter, they will not be ruled on. Also, if any amendments are made while the application is pending, it is recommended that you contact the Service to associate the amendment(s) with the current application. See Rev. Proc. 2008-6, which is on page 192 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 2008-1 at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb08-01.pdf.

Line 3i. Section 3001 of ERISA requires the applicants subject to section 410 to provide evidence that each employee who qualifies as an interested party has been notified of the filing of the application. If “Yes” is checked, it means that each employee has been notified as required by Regulations section 1.7476-1. If this is a one-person plan or if this plan is not subject to section 410, a copy of the notice is not required to be attached to this application. If “No” is checked or this line is blank, your application will be returned.

Rules defining “interested parties” and the form of notification are in Regulations section 1.7476-1. For an example of an acceptable format, see Rev. Proc. 2008-6, which is on page 192 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 2008-1 at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb08-01.pdf.

Line 3n. Even if a ruling is not being requested on Schedule Q, Demo 8, submit a copy of the pertinent plan provisions regarding the offset.

Line 4a. Due to space restrictions, this field is limited to 70 characters, including spaces. Please complete this item with how the plan name is going to be printed on all proofs including departmental reproduction proofs. MUST be removed before printing.

Line 4b. Enter the three-digit number, beginning with “001” and continuing in numerical order for each plan you adopt (001-499). This numbering will differentiate your plans. The number assigned to a plan must not be changed or used for any other plan. This should be the same number that was or will be used when the Form 5500 or Form 5500-EZ is filed for the plan.

Line 4c. Plan month means the two-digit (mm) calendar, policy, or fiscal month on which the records of the plan are kept.

Line 4e. Enter the total number of participants. A “participant” means:

1. The total number of employees participating in the plan including employees under a section 401(k) qualified cash or deferred arrangement who are eligible but do not make elective deferrals,

2. Retirees and other former employees who have a nonforfeitable right to benefits under the plan, and

3. The beneficiaries of a deceased employee who is receiving or will in the future receive benefits under the plan.

Include one beneficiary for each deceased employee regardless of the number of individuals receiving benefits. Payment of a deceased employee or a number of children is considered a payment to one beneficiary.

Line 5. Cash balance plan. For this purpose, a “cash balance” formula is a benefit formula in a defined benefit plan by whatever name (for example, personal account plan, pension equity plan, life cycle plan, cash account plan, etc.) that rather than, or in addition to, expressing the accrued benefit as a life annuity commencing at normal retirement age, defines benefits for each employee in terms more common to a defined contribution plan such as a single sum distribution amount (for example, 10 percent of final average pay times years of service, or the amount of the employer’s hypothetical account balance). Use Form 5300 rather than Form 5307, to request a letter for a cash balance plan.

Lines 6a and 6b. If the plan employer is a member of a controlled group of corporations, trades or businesses under common control, or an affiliated service group, all employees of the group will be treated as employed by a single employer for purposes of certain qualification requirements.

Attach a statement showing in detail:

1. All members of the group,

2. The relationship of each member to the plan sponsor, and

3. The type(s) of plan(s) maintained by each employer, and

4. Plans common to all members.

If you want to apply for a determination letter to determine if you are in a member of an affiliated service group, file Form 5300 instead of Form 5307.

Line 7d. Answer this “Yes” if you have selected any choice labeled “Other” in the adoption agreement.

Line 8f. If the plan has been involved in a merger, attach a statement which provides the following:

1. Name of plan,

2. Type of plan(s) involved,

3. Date(s) of merger(s),

4. Verification that each plan involved was qualified at the time of merger (copy of prior DL, if any, otherwise provide a signed and dated copy of the most recent restatement and subsequent amendments).
Note.
- The plan and amendments submitted to verify that plans were qualified prior to the merger are for information purposes only and will not be ruled on.
- If applicable, file Form 5310-A, Notice of Plan Merger or Consolidation, Spinoff, or Transfer of Plan Assets or Liabilities; Notice of Qualified Separate Lines of Business, 30 days prior to the merger, consolidation, or transfer of assets or liabilities.

Line 8g. If the plan has been restated to change the type of plan under Regulations section 1.401-1, answer this question "Yes" and attach a statement explaining the change.

Line 9a. If "Yes" is checked, attach a list for each plan, which includes the following information:
- 1. Name of plan.
- 2. Type of plan.
- 3. Form of plan (standardized, non-standardized, VS, or individually designed).
- 4. Plan number.
- 5. Vesting schedule.
- 6. Whether the plan has received a determination letter or an application for a letter is pending with IRS.

Also indicate if the plan is paired (indicate the letter serial number of the paired plan).

Lines 9b and 9c. See M-8, M-12, and M-14 of Regulations section 1.416-1.

Line 10a. Section 411(d)(6) protected benefits include:
- The accrued benefit of a participant as of the later of the amendment’s adoption date or effective date; and
- Any early retirement benefit, retirement-type subsidy, or optional form of benefit from service before such amendment.

If the answer is "Yes," explain on an attachment how the amendment satisfies one of the exceptions to the prohibition on reduction or elimination of section 411(d)(6) protected benefits.

Optional Ratio Percentage Test Determination

Line 11. This question may be used to request an optional determination regarding the ratio percentage test under Regulations section 1.410(b)-2(g)(2). If "No" is checked and a request for a determination regarding the average benefit test is not made on Schedule Q, the determination letter for the plan will not be a determination regarding section 410(b)(1). If "No" is checked but a request for a determination regarding the average benefit test is made on Schedule Q, the determination letter for the plan will also be a determination regarding the average benefit test. Plans using the qualified separate lines of business rules of section 414(r) must file Schedule Q if a determination is desired that the plan satisfies the gateway test of section 410(b)(5)(B) or the special requirements for employer-wide plans.

Line 11a. If a determination is being requested and the plan is a group plan, is an aggregation of plans meeting the requirements of section 410(b)(1) and (2), and includes the following:
- The plan is a group plan.
- The plan is an aggregation of plans meeting the requirements of section 410(b)(1) and (2).

Line 11b. If a determination is being requested and the plan is a group plan, is an aggregation of plans meeting the requirements of section 410(b)(1) and (2), and includes the following:
- The plan is a group plan.
- The plan is an aggregation of plans meeting the requirements of section 410(b)(1) and (2).

Line 11c. If, for purposes of satisfying the minimum coverage requirements of section 410(b), you are applying the daily testing option in Regulations section 1.410(b)(8)(a)(2) or the quarterly testing option in Regulations section 1.410(b)(8)(a)(3), or, if you are using single-day "snapshot" testing as permitted under section 3 of Rev. Proc. 93-42, 1993-2 C.B. 540, enter the most recent eight-digit date (MMDDYYYY) for which the coverage data is submitted. If you are applying the annual testing option in Regulations section 410(b)(8)(a)(4), enter the year for which the coverage data is submitted.

Line 11d. Include all employees of all entities combined under sections 414(b), (c), (m), or (o). Include all self-employed individuals, common law employees, and leased employees as defined in section 414(n) of any of the entities above, other than those excluded by section 414(n)(5). Certain individuals may also be required to be counted as employees. See the definition of employee in Regulations section 1.410(b)-9. Also see Regulations section 1.410(b)-6(i), which may permit the employer to exclude certain former nonhighly compensated employees.

Note. This note applies only to plans that include a qualified cash or deferred arrangement under section 401(k) or employee or matching contributions under section 401(m). If there are any contributions under the plan that are not subject to the special rule for section 401(k) plans and section 401(m) plans in Regulations section 1.401(a)(4)-1(b)(2)(B) (such as non-employee contributions), complete lines 11e through 11k with respect to the portion of the plan that includes these contributions and enter the ratio percentage for this portion of the plan on line 11l. Otherwise, complete lines 11e through 11k with respect to the section 401(k) portion of the plan (or the section 401(m) plan if there is no section 401(k) arrangement) and leave line 11l blank. In all cases, enter the ratio percentages for the section 401(k) and the section 401(m) portions of the plan, as applicable, on line 11m. These percentages should be based on the actual nonexcludables in the 401(k) and 401(m) portions, respectively. It is suggested that these calculations be submitted with the application but this is optional.

If the plan provides for nonexcludable profit-sharing contributions, do not base the calculations on lines 11m(1) and (2) on the nonexcludable employee reported on line 11g unless all of the disaggregated plans (profit-sharing, 401(k), and 401(m)) have the same nonexcludable employees with the same age and service requirements.

Line 11e(1). Enter the number of employees who are excluded because they have not attained the lowest minimum age and service requirements for any employee under this plan. If the employer is separately testing the portion of a plan that benefits otherwise excludable employees, attach a separate schedule describing which employees are treated as excludable employees on account of the minimum age and service requirements under each separate portion of the plan.

Line 11e(2). Enter the number of employees who are excluded because they are collectively bargained employees as defined in Regulations section 1.410(b)-6(d)(2), regardless of whether those employees benefit under the plan.
the plan. For this purpose, an employee covered under a CBA is not considered a collectively bargained employee if more than 2% of the employees who are covered under the agreement are professional employees as defined in Regulations section 1.410(b)-9.

Line 11e(2). Enter the number of employees who do not receive an allocation or accrue a benefit under the plan only because they do not satisfy a minimum hours of service requirement or a last day of the plan year requirement, provided they do not have more than 500 hours of service, and they are not employed on the last day of the plan year. Do not enter on this line any employees who have more than 500 hours of service, even if they are not employed on the last day of the plan year.

Line 11e(4). If this plan benefits the employees of one QSLOB, enter on this line the number of employees of the employer’s other QSLOBs. This is not applicable if the plan is tested under the special rule for employer-wide plans in Regulations section 1.414(r)-5(c)(2)(ii).

Line 11e(5). Enter the number of employees who are nonresident aliens with no earned income (as defined in section 911(d)(2)) from the employer that constitutes income from sources within the United States (as defined in section 861(a)(3)).

Line 11g. Subtract the total of lines 11e(1) through 11e(5) as reported on line 11f from the total employees reported on line 11d. The result is the number of “nonexcludable employees.” This number includes employees who cannot be excluded from the plan for statutory or regulatory reasons and must be considered in the calculation of the ratio percentage even though they might not “benefit” under the plan. If they meet the age and service requirements of section 410 and are not otherwise excludable employees, they must be included in this number.

Line 11h. Enter the number of employees on line 11g who are highly compensated employees (HCEs) as defined in section 414(q).

Line 11i. In general, an employee is treated as benefiting under the plan for coverage tests purposes only if the employee receives an allocation of contributions or forfeitures or accrues a benefit under the plan for the plan year. Certain other employees are treated as benefiting if they fail to receive an allocation of contributions and/or forfeitures, or to accrue a benefit, solely because they are subject to plan provisions that uniformly limit plan benefits, such as a provision for maximum years of service, maximum retirement benefits, application of offsets or fresh start wear-away formulas, or limits designed to satisfy section 401(m). An employee is treated as benefiting under a plan to which elective contributions under section 401(k) or employee contributions and matching contributions under section 401(m) may be made if the employee is currently eligible to make such elective or employee contributions, or to receive a matching contribution, whether or not the employee actually makes or receives such contributions. (Regulations section 1.401(a)(4)-1(j)(4) and 1.401(m)-1(f)(4)). However, do not apply this rule to determine if an employee is to be counted as benefiting for lines 11i and 11k if, in accordance with the Note following the instruction for line 11d, the information provided in lines 11e through 11k relates to the portion of the plan that is not subject to the rule in Regulations section 1.401(a)(1)-1(b)(2)(i)(B).

Line 11k. See the instructions for line 11i for the meaning of “benefiting under the plan.”

Line 11l. To obtain the ratio percentage:

Step 1. Divide the number on line 11k (nonexcludable HCEs benefiting under the plan) by the number on line 11j (nonexcludable HCEs).

Step 2. Divide the number on line 11l (nonexcludable HCEs benefiting under the plan) by the number on line 11h (nonexcludable HCEs).

Step 3. Divide the result from Step 1 by the result from Step 2. If the ratio percentage entered on line 111 and/or line 11m is less than 70%, the plan does not satisfy the ratio percentage test. In this case, the plan must satisfy the average benefit test. A determination regarding the average benefit test can be requested using Schedule Q.

Line 11m. See the Note following the instructions for line 11d. To determine the ratio percentages for the section 401(k) and all section 401(m) (matching and employee contribution) portions of the plan, follow the steps described in the instructions for lines 11d through 11l, but treat an employee as benefiting under the rules for section 401(k) plans and section 401(m) plans described in the instruction for line 11i.

Design-Based Nondiscrimination Safe Harbors

Line 12. This question may be used by certain plans to request an optional determination regarding the design-based safe harbor under section 401(a)(4).

If this is a section 401(k) and/or section 401(m) plan that does not contain a provision for nonelective employer contributions, this option should be marked “No.”

If any disaggregated plan relies on a non-design based safe harbor or a general test this option must be marked “No.” The Schedule Q may be used to request a determination regarding a non-design based safe harbor or a general test.

If this plan has been restructured into component plans, this option must be marked “No.” The Schedule Q may be used to request a determination regarding how each restructured component plan satisfies the nondiscrimination in amount requirement of Regulations section 1.401(a)(4)-1(b)(2).

If “Yes” is checked, or if “No” is checked but a request for a determination regarding a non-design based safe harbor or a general test is made on Schedule Q, the determination letter for the plan will also be a determination regarding the section 401(a)(4) requirement that a plan not discriminate in the amounts of contributions or benefits.

If “No” is checked, and a request for a determination regarding a non-design based safe harbor or a general test is not made on Schedule Q, the determination letter for the plan will not be a determination regarding this requirement, unless the plan is a section 401(k) and/or section 401(m) plan only.

Line 12a. Check “Yes” if the plan is intended to satisfy the permitted disparity requirements of section 401(l).

Line 12b. To satisfy section 401(l), a plan must provide that the overall permitted disparity limits are not exceeded and specify how employer-provided contributions or benefits under the plan are adjusted, if necessary, to satisfy the overall permitted disparity limits. See Regulations section 1.401(l)-5.

The plan will not satisfy the safe harbor requirements of IRC section 401(a)(4) if it does not satisfy section 401(l).

Line 12c. This line provides a list of the design-based nondiscrimination safe-harbor regulations.
How To Get Forms and Publications

Internet
You can access the IRS website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.irs.gov to:
- Download forms, instructions, and publications;
- Order IRS products on-line;
- Research your tax questions on-line;
- Search publications on-line by topic or keyword;
- View Internal Revenue Bulletins (IRBs) published in the last few years; and
- Sign up to receive local and national tax news by email.

CD/DVD
You can order Publication 1796, IRS Tax Products CD/DVD, and obtain:
- Current-year forms, instructions, and publications;
- Prior-year forms, instructions, and publications;
- Bonus: Historical Tax Products DVD - Ships with the final release.
- Tax Map: an electronic research tool and finding aid.
- Tax topics from the IRS telephone response system.
- Fill-in, print, and save features for most tax forms.
- Internal Revenue Bulletins.
- Toll-free and email technical support.
- The CD which is released twice during the year.

The first release will ship the beginning of January 2008. The final release will ship the beginning of March 2008.

Purchase the CD/DVD from National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at www.irs.gov/cdorders for $35 (no handling fee) or call 1-877-CDFORMS (1-877-233-6767) toll-free to buy the CD/DVD for $35 (plus a $5 handling fee). Price is subject to change.

By Phone and in Person
You can order forms and publications by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). You can also get most forms and publications at your local IRS office.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.
We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. If you want to have your plan approved by the IRS, you are required to give us the information. We need it to determine whether you meet the legal requirements for plan approval.

We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, or to federal and state or local agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws and to combat terrorism. You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Sch. Q Form 5307</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recordkeeping</td>
<td>28 hr., 27 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning about the law or the form</td>
<td>7 hr., 28 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing the form</td>
<td>13 hr., 51 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS</td>
<td>1 hr., 36 min.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the Tax Products Coordinating Committee, SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, D.C. 20224.

Do not send any of these forms or schedules to this address. Instead, see Where To File on page 1.