

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 13, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of notice should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3945, or through the internet at [CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov](mailto:CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) and Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIF).

*OMB Number:* 1545-1865.

*Notice Number:* Notice 2003-75.

*Abstract:* Notice 2003-75 announces an alternative, simplified reporting regime for the owners of certain Canadian Individual retirement plans that have been subject to reporting on Forms 3520 and 3520-A, and it describes the interim reporting rules that taxpayers must follow until a new form is available.

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

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 750,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 2 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,500,000.

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 8, 2003.

**R. Joseph Durbala,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-30824 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[EE-178-78]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, EE-178-78 (TD 7898), Employers' Qualified Educational Assistance Programs (section 1.127-2).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 13, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Larnice Mack at (202) 622-3179, or [Larnice.Mack@irs.gov](mailto:Larnice.Mack@irs.gov), or Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Employers' Qualified Educational Assistance Programs.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0768.

*Regulation Project Number:* EE-178-78.

*Abstract:* Internal Revenue Code section 127(a) provides that the gross income of an employee does not include amounts paid or expenses incurred by an employer if furnished to the employee pursuant to a qualified educational assistance program. This regulation requires that a qualified educational assistance program must be a separate written plan of the employer and that employees must be notified of the availability and terms of the program. Also, substantiation may be required to verify that employees are entitled to exclude from their gross income amounts paid or expenses incurred by the employer.

*Current Actions:* There is no change to this existing regulation.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,200.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 7 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 615.

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 4, 2003.

**R. Joseph Durbala,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-30895 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[LR-58-83]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, LR-58-83 (TD 7959), Related Group Election With Respect to Qualified Investments in Foreign Base Company Shipping Operations (§§ 1.955A-2, and 1.955A-3).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 13, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Larnice Mack at (202) 622-3179, or [Larnice.Mack@irs.gov](mailto:Larnice.Mack@irs.gov), or Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Related Group Election With Respect to Qualified Investments in Foreign Base Company Shipping Operations.

**OMB Number:** 1545-0755.

**Regulation Project Number:** LR-58-83.

**Abstract:** This regulation concerns the election made by a related group of controlled foreign corporations to determine foreign base company shipping income and qualified investments in foreign base company shipping operations on a related group basis. The information required is

necessary to assure that the U.S. shareholder correctly reports any shipping income of its controlled foreign corporations which is taxable to the shareholder.

**Current Actions:** There is no change to this existing regulation.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 100.

**Estimated Time Per Respondent:** 2 hours, 3 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** 205.

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 4, 2003.

**R. Joseph Durbala,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-30896 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[REG-115795-97]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, REG-115795-97 (TD 8870), General Rules for Making and Maintaining Qualified Electing Fund Elections (§§ 1.1295-1 and 1.1295-3).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 13, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Larnice Mack (202) 622-3179, or through the Internet ([Larnice.Mack@irs.gov](mailto:Larnice.Mack@irs.gov)), Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** General Rules for Making and Maintaining Qualified Electing Fund Elections.

**OMB Number:** 1545-1555.

**Regulation Project Number:** REG-115795-97.

**Abstract:** This regulation provides guidance to a passive foreign investment company (PFIC) shareholder that makes the election under Code section 1295 to treat the PFIC as a qualified electing fund (QEF), and for PFIC shareholders that wish to make a section 1295 election that will apply on a retroactive basis. Guidance is also provided on revoking such elections.

**Current Actions:** There is no change to this existing regulation.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households, business or other for-profit