



Instructions for Form 3520-A

Annual Information Return of Foreign Trust With a U.S. Owner

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

Changes To Note

- Form 3520-A is filed by the trustee of the foreign trust. However, each U.S. person treated as an owner of the foreign trust under sections 671 through 679 is responsible for ensuring that the foreign trust files Form 3520-A. See **Who Must File** below.
- If the trust does not furnish the information required under section 6048(b), the U.S. owner is subject to a penalty equal to 5% of the gross value of the portion of the trust's assets treated as owned by that person.
- Form 3520-A must be filed by the 15th day of the 3rd month after the end of the trust's tax year. However, an extension of time to file may be granted. See **When and Where To File** below.
- The Foreign Grantor Trust Owner Statement (see page 3 of the form), and the Foreign Grantor Trust Beneficiary Statement (see page 4 of the form), are new and must be furnished to the U.S. owners and U.S. beneficiaries by the 15th day of the 3rd month after the end of the trust's tax year or later, if pursuant to an extension of time to file.

General Instructions

Purpose of Form

Form 3520-A is the annual information return of a foreign trust with at least one U.S. owner. The form provides information about the foreign trust, its U.S. beneficiaries, and any U.S. person who is treated as the owner of any portion of the foreign trust.

Who Must File

A foreign trust must file Form 3520-A to satisfy its annual information reporting requirements. Each U.S. person treated as an owner of a foreign trust under sections 671 through 679 is responsible for ensuring that the foreign trust files an annual return setting forth a full and complete accounting of all trust activities, trust operations, and other relevant information. In addition, the U.S. owner is responsible for ensuring that the trust annually furnishes such information (as the Secretary prescribes) to U.S. owners and U.S. beneficiaries of the trust.

Exceptions to filing Form 3520-A: Form 3520-A does not have to be filed by the following foreign trusts:

- A trust that is a Canadian Registered Retirement Savings Plan if the trust would qualify for treaty benefits under the Convention Between the United States of America and Canada with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital. However, if for any taxable year the trust relies on the tax treaty with Canada to avoid information reporting, the U.S. owner is required to disclose this position pursuant to section 6114. See **Pub. 901**, U.S. Tax Treaties.
- A foreign trust described in section 402(b), 404(a)(4), or 404A.

When and Where To File

File a complete Form 3520-A with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255, by the 15th day of the 3rd month after the end of the trust's tax year. Furnish copies of the Foreign Grantor Trust Owner Statement and the Foreign Grantor Trust Beneficiary Statement to the U.S. owners and U.S. beneficiaries by the 15th day of the 3rd month after the end of the trust's tax year. An extension of time to file Form 3520-A (including the statements) may be granted. For details, get **Form 2758**, Application for Extension of Time To File Certain Excise, Income, Information, and Other Returns.

Definitions

A **distribution** is any gratuitous transfer of money or other property from a trust, whether or not the trust is treated as owned by another person under the grantor trust rules, and without regard to whether the recipient is designated as a beneficiary by the terms of the trust. A distribution includes the receipt of trust corpus and the receipt of a gift or bequest described in section 663(a).

A distribution also includes constructive transfers from a trust. For example, if charges you make on a credit card are paid by a foreign trust or guaranteed or secured by the assets of a foreign trust, the amount charged will be treated as a distribution to you by the foreign trust. Similarly, if you write checks on a foreign trust's bank account, the amount will be treated as a distribution.

Also, if you receive a payment from a foreign trust in exchange for property transferred to the trust or services rendered to the trust, and the fair market value (FMV) of the payment received exceeds the FMV of the property transferred or services rendered, the excess will be treated as a distribution to you.

For example:

- If you sell stock with a FMV of \$100 to a foreign trust and receive \$150 in exchange, you have received a distribution of \$50.
- Similarly, if you receive \$100 from the trust for services performed by you for the trust, and the services have a FMV of \$20, you have received a distribution of \$80.

If you, or a person related to you, received a loan from a related foreign trust, it will be treated as a distribution to you unless the obligation you issued in exchange is a qualified obligation.

A **foreign trust** is any trust other than a domestic trust. A domestic trust is any trust if:

1. A court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust, and
2. One or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

A **grantor** is any person who creates a trust or transfers cash or other property to a trust. A grantor includes any person treated as the owner of any part of a foreign trust's assets under sections 671 through 679, excluding section 678.

A **grantor trust** is any trust to the extent that the assets of the trust are treated as owned by a person other than the trust. See **grantor trust rules** below. A part of the trust may be treated as a grantor trust to the extent that only a portion of the trust assets are owned by a person other than the trust.

The **grantor trust rules** are contained in subpart E of Part I of subchapter J (sections 671 through 679).

Gross reportable amount is the gross value of any portion of a foreign trust treated as owned by a U.S. person under the grantor trust rules.

Gross value is the FMV of property as determined under section 2031 and the regulations thereunder as if the owner had died on the valuation date. Although formal appraisals are not generally required, you should keep contemporaneous records of how you arrived at your good faith estimate.

A **nongrantor trust** is any trust to the extent that the assets of the trust are not treated as owned by a person other than the trust. Thus, a nongrantor trust is treated as a taxable entity. A trust may be treated as a nongrantor trust with respect to only a portion of the trust assets. See the grantor trust rules.

An **owner** of a foreign trust is the person that is treated as owning any of the assets of a foreign trust pursuant to the grantor trust rules.

A **U.S. agent** is a **U.S. person** (defined below) that has a binding contract with a foreign trust that allows the U.S. person to act as the trust's authorized (see instructions for Part I, lines 3a through 3g) U.S. agent in applying sections 7602, 7603, and 7604 with respect to:

- Any request by the Service to examine records or produce testimony related to the proper U.S. tax treatment of amounts distributed by, or required to be taken into account under the grantor trust rules with respect to, a foreign trust, or
- Any summons by the Service for such records or testimony.

A U.S. grantor, a U.S. beneficiary, or a domestic corporation controlled by the grantor or beneficiary may act as a U.S. agent. However, you may not treat the foreign trust as having a U.S. agent unless you enter the name, address, and taxpayer identification number of the U.S. agent on lines 3a through 3g. If the person identified as the U.S. agent does not produce records or testimony when requested or summoned by the IRS, the IRS may redetermine the tax consequences of your transactions with the trust and impose appropriate penalties under section 6677.

The agency relationship must be established by the time the U.S. person files Form 3520-A for the relevant taxable year and must continue as long as the statute of limitations remains open for the relevant taxable year. If the agent resigns, liquidates, or its responsibility as an agent of the trust is terminated, see Notice 97-34, 1997-1 C.B. 422.

A **U.S. beneficiary** includes any person that could possibly benefit (directly or indirectly) from the trust (including an amended trust) at any time, whether or not the person is named in the trust instrument as a beneficiary and whether or not the person can receive a distribution from the trust in the current year. In addition, a U.S. beneficiary includes:

- A foreign corporation that is a controlled foreign corporation (as defined in section 957(a)),
- A foreign partnership if a U.S. person is a partner of the partnership, and
- A foreign estate or trust if the estate or trust has a U.S. beneficiary.

A foreign trust will be treated as having a U.S. beneficiary unless the terms of the trust instrument specifically prohibit any distribution of income or corpus to a U.S. person at any time, even after the death of the U.S. transferor, and the trust cannot be amended or revised to allow such a distribution.

A **U.S. person** is:

- A citizen or resident alien of the United States (see **Pub. 519**, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens, for guidance on determining resident alien status),
- A domestic partnership,
- A domestic corporation,

- Any estate (other than a foreign estate, within the meaning of section 7701(a)(31)), and
- Any trust if it is not a **foreign trust** (defined on page 1).

Penalties

The U.S. owner is subject to a penalty of 5% of the gross value of the portion of the trust's assets treated as owned by that person at the close of that year if the foreign trust: **(a)** fails to file a timely Form 3520-A, or **(b)** does not furnish the information required by section 6048(b). See section 6677(b).

- Additional penalties may be imposed if noncompliance continues after the IRS mails a notice of failure to comply with the required reporting. See section 6677(a).
- Criminal penalties for failure to file on time and for filing a false or fraudulent return are provided by sections 7203, 7206, and 7207.

Reasonable cause. No penalties will be imposed if the taxpayer can demonstrate that the failure to comply was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect.

Note: *The fact that a foreign country would impose penalties for disclosing the required information is not reasonable cause. Similarly, reluctance on the part of a foreign fiduciary or provisions in the trust instrument that prevent the disclosure of required information, is not reasonable cause.*

Who Must Sign

If the return is filed by an individual or a fiduciary, it must be signed by that individual or fiduciary. If it is filed by a partnership, it must be signed by a general partner or limited liability company member. If it is filed by a corporation, it must be signed by the president, vice president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, chief accounting officer, or other corporate officer (such as a tax officer) who is authorized to sign. The paid preparer must complete the required preparer information and:

- Sign the return, by hand, in the space provided for the preparer's signature (signature stamps are not acceptable).
- Give a copy of the return to the filer.

Identification Numbers and Addresses

Use social security numbers or individual taxpayer identification numbers to identify individuals. Use employer identification numbers to identify estates, trusts, partnerships, and corporations.

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 U.S. person has a P.O. box, show the box number instead of the street address.

Foreign address. Enter the information in the following order: city, province or state, and country. Follow the country's practice for entering the postal code, if any. Please do not abbreviate the country name.

Specific Instructions

Part I, General Information

Line 2. If the trust did not appoint a U.S. agent, attach the following documents to Form 3520-A:

- A summary of the terms of the trust that includes a summary of any oral agreements or understandings you have with the trustee, whether or not legally enforceable.
- A copy of all trust documents (and any revisions), including the trust instrument, any memoranda of wishes prepared by the trustees summarizing the settlor's wishes, any letter of wishes prepared by the settlor summarizing his/her wishes, and any similar documents.

Lines 3a through 3g, U.S. agent. If a foreign trust with a U.S. owner does not have a U.S. agent, the Secretary may determine the amounts required to be taken into account with respect to the foreign trust by the U.S. owner. See section 6048(b)(2). In order

to avoid this result, a U.S. owner of a foreign trust should ensure that the foreign trust appoints a U.S. person to act as the foreign trust's limited agent for purposes of applying sections 7602, 7603, and 7604 with respect to a request by the Secretary to examine records or produce testimony, or a summons by the Secretary for such records or testimony. Any U.S. citizen, resident alien, or domestic corporation (including a U.S. grantor or U.S. beneficiary of a foreign trust) may act as the U.S. agent of the trust.

In order to authorize a U.S. person to act as an agent under section 6048(b), the trust and the agent must enter into a binding agreement substantially in the format that follows. Attach a copy of the authorization to Form 3520-A.

AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

[Name of foreign trust] hereby expressly authorizes [name of U.S. agent] to act as its agent solely for purposes of sections 7602, 7603, and 7604 of the Internal Revenue Code with respect to any request to examine records or produce testimony related to the proper treatment of amounts required to be taken into account under the rules of section 6048(b)(1)(A) or to any summons for such records or testimony. I certify that I have the authority to execute this authorization of agent to act on behalf of [name of foreign trust].

Signature of trustee (or other authorized person) (title) (date)

Type or print your name below:

Identification Number (if any)

Address

[Name of agent] accepts this appointment to act as agent for [name of foreign trust] for the above purpose. I certify that I have the authority to execute this authorization of agent to act on behalf of [name of foreign trust] and agree to accept service of process for the above purposes.

Signature of agent (title) (date)

Type or print your name below:

Identification Number (if any)

Address

Line 5. Attach a statement that provides the following information concerning the transfer:

1. Name, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and country of organization or residence of the person to whom the property was transferred.

2. A general description of the transfer, and any wider transaction of which it forms a part, including a chronology of the transfers involved and an identification of the other parties to the transaction to the extent known.

3. A description of the property transferred, including the estimated fair market value and the adjusted basis of the property.

4. A description of the consideration received by the trust, including its estimated FMV, and in the case of stock or securities, the class or type, amount, and characteristics of the

interest received. If no consideration was received by the trust, indicate whether the trust or a U.S. owner exercises any powers over the entity to which the property was transferred (including a description of such powers), and identify the name, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and country of organization or residence of all beneficial owners of such entity.

5. To the extent known, a description of any subsequent transfer of the property, including the name, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and country of organization or residence of the person to whom the property was subsequently transferred.

The statement must also contain a description of the trust ownership structure setting forth the name, U.S. taxpayer identification number (if any), and country of organization of all entities in which the trust has an ownership interest, including an ownership chart showing the trust's position in the chain of ownership and the percentages of ownership.

Part II, Foreign Trust Income Statement

Include all income from U.S. and non-U.S. sources. This financial statement must reasonably reflect the trust's accumulated income under U.S. income tax principles.

Line 1, Interest income. Report the trust's share of all taxable interest income that was received during the tax year. Examples of taxable interest include, but are not limited to, interest from:

- Accounts (including certificates of deposit and money market accounts) with banks, credit unions, and thrifts.
- Notes, loans, and mortgages.
- U.S. Treasury bills, notes, and bonds.
- U.S. savings bonds.
- Original issue discount.
- Income received as a regular interest holder of a real estate mortgage investment conduit (REMIC).

For taxable bonds acquired after 1987, amortizable bond premium is treated as an offset to the interest income instead of as a separate interest deduction. See **Pub. 550**, Investment Income and Expenses.

Line 2, Dividends. Report the trust's share of all ordinary dividends received during the tax year.

Note: Report capital gains on line 5.

Lines 3 and 4, Gross rents, royalties, partnership income, etc. If the trust received a Schedule K-1 from a partnership, S corporation, or other flow-through entity, use the corresponding lines on Form 3520-A to report the interest, dividends, capital gains, etc., from the flow-through entity.

Line 5, Capital gains (losses). Use Schedule D (corporate or individual, whichever applies) to compute any capital gains or (losses).

Line 6, Ordinary gains (losses). Enter the ordinary gain or (loss) from the sale or exchange of property other than capital assets and also from involuntary conversions (other than casualty or theft).

Line 7, Other income. Enter other items of income not included on lines 1 through 6. List the types and amounts on an attached schedule if the trust has more than one item.

Items to be reported on line 7 include any part of a total distribution shown on Form 1099-R, Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc., that is treated as ordinary income. For more information, see the separate instructions for Form 4972, Tax on Lump-Sum Distributions.

Expenses

Line 9, Interest expense. Enter the amount of interest (subject to limitations) paid or incurred by the trust on amounts borrowed by the trust or on debt acquired by the trust.

If the proceeds of a loan were used for more than one purpose (e.g., to purchase a portfolio investment and to acquire an interest in a passive activity), the fiduciary must make an interest allocation according to the rules in Temporary Regulations section 1.163-8T.

Do not include interest paid on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry obligations on which the interest is wholly exempt from income tax.

Line 10a, Foreign taxes. A foreign tax includes only a tax imposed by the authority of a foreign country.

Line 10b, State and local taxes. Enter any deductible taxes paid or incurred during the tax year. Deductible taxes include:

- State and local income or real property taxes.
- The generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax imposed on income distributions.

Do not deduct:

- Federal income taxes.
- Estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, and gift taxes.
- Federal duties and excise taxes.
- State and local sales taxes. Instead, treat these taxes as part of the cost of the property.

Line 11, Amortization and depreciation (depletion). A reasonable allowance is allowed as a depreciation deduction for the exhaustion, wear, and tear of:

- property used in the trade or business, or
- property held for the production of income.

A trust is allowed a deduction for amortization, depletion, and depreciation only to the extent the deductions are attributable to the trust.

Line 12, Trustee and advisor fees. Enter the deductible fees paid or incurred to the fiduciary for administering the trust during the tax year.

Line 13, Charitable contributions. Generally, any part of the gross income of a trust (other than a simple trust) that, under the terms of the will or governing instrument, is paid (or treated as paid) during the tax year for a charitable purpose specified in section 170(c) is allowed as a deduction to the trust. It is not necessary that the charitable organization be created or organized in the United States.

Line 14, Other expenses. Enter other items of expense not listed on lines 9 through 13. List the type and amount on an attached schedule if the trust has more than one item.

Lines 17b and c, Distributions to U.S. owners and beneficiaries. Separately list the total amount of distributions to each U.S. owner and beneficiary. List the full name, identification number, date of distribution, and FMV (dollar amount) for each U.S. owner and beneficiary receiving a distribution. If more space is needed, attach a schedule.

Prepare a separate Foreign Grantor Trust Owner Statement or a Foreign Grantor Trust Beneficiary Statement for each U.S. owner or beneficiary that receives a distribution.

Part III, Foreign Trust Balance Sheet

List all assets and liabilities of the trust, including those assets and liabilities attributable to the portion(s) of the trust (if any) not treated as owned by a U.S. person.

The balance sheet should agree with the trust's books and records. Include certificates of deposit as cash on line 1.

Line 18, Accumulated trust income. Include on line 18 the total amount of trust income accumulated and not distributed.

Foreign Grantor Trust Owner Statement

A copy of this statement (page 3 of the form) must be furnished to each U.S. person who is treated as an owner of the foreign trust under grantor trust rules. The statement must be furnished no later than the 15th day of the 3rd month following the end of the trust's tax year or later, if pursuant to an extension of time to file.

Line 8, Trust documents. If the trust did not appoint a U.S. agent, list the documents attached to a Form 3520-A filed within the last 3 years. See the instructions for line 2, Part I, for a list of documents the trust may have been required to attach to Form 3520-A.

Line 9, U.S. owner's gross reportable amount. Include on this line the gross reportable amount attributable to the U.S. owner of the foreign grantor trust. The gross reportable amount is the gross value of any portion of a foreign trust treated as owned by a U.S. person under the grantor trust rules.

Statement of Foreign Trust Income Attributable To U.S. Owner

A copy of this statement (page 3 of the form) is required to be furnished to each U.S. person who is deemed to be an owner of a foreign grantor trust. The U.S. owner must include the income and expenses attributable to the owner on its U.S. income tax return. The statement must be furnished to the U.S. owner no later than the 15th day of the 3rd month after the end of the trust's tax year, or later, if pursuant to an extension of time to file.

The amounts on the statement must include the portion of income reported by the foreign trust deemed attributable to the U.S. owner.

The foreign trust may need to furnish to the U.S. owner additional information, including applicable schedules, to ensure that the owner accurately reports income and expense on the owner's U.S. income tax return.

Foreign Grantor Trust Beneficiary Statement

A copy of this statement (page 4 of the form) must be furnished to each U.S. beneficiary who receives a distribution from the foreign trust during the tax year. The statement must be furnished to the U.S. beneficiary no later than the 15th day of the 3rd month following the end of the trust's tax year, or later, if pursuant to an extension of time to file.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

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 for 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 the form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

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|--|-----------------|
| Recordkeeping | 36 hr., 21 min. |
| Learning about the law or the form | 2 hr., 59 min. |
| Preparing and sending the form to the IRS | 3 hr., 42 min. |

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making the form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the Tax Forms Committee, Western Area Distribution Center, Rancho Cordova, CA 95743-0001. **DO NOT** send the form to this office. Instead, see **When and Where To File** on page one.