

THIS LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND ELECTION FORM IS FOR USE ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PLAN OF ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING SOLANA RESOURCES LIMITED, THE SOLANA SECURITYHOLDERS, GRAN TIERRA ENERGY INC. AND GRAN TIERRA EXCHANGE CO INC.

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND ELECTION FORM

### FOR HOLDERS OF OPTIONS OF SOLANA RESOURCES LIMITED

FOR YOUR ELECTION TO BE VALID, THIS LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND ELECTION FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M. (CALGARY TIME) ON OR BEFORE THE THIRD BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

Please read the Instructions set out below carefully before completing this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form.

TO: SOLANA RESOURCES LIMITED  
 AND TO: GRAN TIERRA ENERGY INC.  
 AND TO: GRAN TIERRA EXCHANGE CO INC.  
 AND TO: COMPUTERSHARE INVESTOR SERVICES INC., AS DEPOSITARY

This Letter of Transmittal and Election Form is for use by holders of options ("**Optionholders**") to acquire common shares (the "**Solana Options**") of Solana Resources Limited ("**Solana**") in connection with the proposed arrangement (the "**Arrangement**") involving Solana, the holders of common shares of Solana (the "**Shareholders**"), the Optionholders, holders of warrants ("**Warrantholders**") to acquire Solana Shares, (collectively, the "**Solana Securityholders**"), Gran Tierra Energy Inc. ("**Gran Tierra**") and Gran Tierra Exchange Co Inc., that will be submitted for approval at the special meeting of Solana Securityholders, and any adjournment thereof (the "**Meeting**"), to be held on November 14, 2008, or the date of any such adjournment (the "**Effective Date**"). Optionholders are referred to the Notice of Special Meeting of Solana Securityholders and the joint management information circular and proxy statement (the "**Joint Proxy Statement**") of Solana and Gran Tierra dated October 10, 2008. **Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form are defined in the Joint Proxy Statement and have the meaning set out in the Joint Proxy Statement.**

Please make the following election if you will be a "**Continuing Optionholder**" (An Optionholder who will be any of a director, officer, employee or consultant of Gran Tierra or a subsidiary of Gran Tierra immediately subsequent to the Effective Date of the Arrangement). **IF YOU ARE NOT A CONTINUING OPTIONHOLDER, PROCEED TO THE OPTIONHOLDER ELECTION BELOW.**

CONTINUING OPTIONHOLDER ELECTION		
Pursuant to the Arrangement, the undersigned Continuing Optionholder hereby elects to receive on completion of the Arrangement (please check any one or more of the following options and indicate how many Solana Options are to be elected for each option, specifying the exercise price for each Solana Option):		
Number of Solana Options to be Elected for Each Option, Specifying the Exercise Price for Each Option		
	<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1:	ROLL-OVER ELECTION: If a Continuing Optionholder elects to receive Gran Tierra Options, for any portion or all of its Solana Options deposited by the undersigned pursuant to this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form, the Continuing Optionholder will receive, for each such deposited Solana Option, that number of options to purchase shares of Gran Tierra common stock (" <b>Gran Tierra Options</b> ") as is equal to the product obtained when

			one (1) is multiplied by 0.9527918 (the " <b>Exchange Ratio</b> "), with the exercise price being equal to the exercise price of each Solana Option exchanged divided by the Exchange Ratio and shall be denominated in United States dollars based on a conversion rate equal to the noon buying rate or the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on the Effective Date. The expiration date of each Gran Tierra Option issued under this roll-over election will remain the same as the Solana Option exchanged.; AND/OR
	<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTION 2:	EXCHANGE ELECTION: If a Continuing Optionholder elects to receive Solana Shares for any portion or all of its Solana Options deposited by the undersigned pursuant to this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form (an " <b>Exchange Option</b> "), each such Exchange Option will be deemed to be surrendered to Solana by cashless exercise in exchange for the number of Solana Shares equal to, for each share subject to the Exchange Option, the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the "Imputed Transaction Value" less the exercise price of the Exchange Option, by (ii) the "Imputed Transaction Value". "Imputed Transaction Value" is the five day volume weighted trading price, ending on the seventh trading day before the Effective Date, on the TSX of a share of Gran Tierra common stock multiplied by the Exchange Ratio. The Solana Shares will then be exchanged for shares of Gran Tierra stock or GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares pursuant to the Arrangement; AND/OR
	<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTION 3:	DEFAULT ELECTION: By checking this box, or where no roll-over election or exchange election, as set forth above, is made for any portion or all of its Solana Options deposited by the undersigned pursuant to this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form, the Continuing Optionholder will receive a cash payment in respect of each such deposited Solana Option equal to the Imputed Transaction Value less the exercise price of the Solana Option.

Where no election is made or where the election is not properly made, or where no Letter of Transmittal and Election Form is returned to the Depositary, the depositing holder of Solana Options will be deemed to have elected to receive on completion of the Arrangement the Default Election (Option 3) in respect of all of such Continuing Optionholder's Solana Options subject to such Default Election. The election may have material income tax consequences and holders of Solana Options are urged to consult their tax advisors as to their election.

Please make the following election if the undersigned will NOT be a "Continuing Optionholder" (A Continuing Optionholder does not have to make the below Election):

OPTIONHOLDER ELECTION		
Pursuant to the Arrangement, the undersigned Optionholder hereby elects to receive on completion of the Arrangement (please check any one or more of the following options and indicate how many Solana Options are to be elected for each option, specifying the exercise price for each Solana Option):		
Number of Solana Options to be Elected for Each Option, Specifying the Exercise Price for Each Option		

	<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTION 1:	EXCHANGE ELECTION: If an Optionholder elects to receive Solana Shares for any portion or all of its Solana Options deposited by the undersigned pursuant to this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form (an " <b>Exchange Option</b> "), each such Exchange Option will be deemed to be surrendered to Solana by cashless exercise in exchange for the number of Solana Shares equal to, for each share subject to the Exchange Option, the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the "Imputed Transaction Value" less the exercise price of the Exchange Option, by (ii) the "Imputed Transaction Value". "Imputed Transaction Value" is the five day volume weighted trading price, ending on the seventh trading day before the Effective Date, on the TSX of a share of Gran Tierra common stock multiplied by the Exchange Ratio. The Solana Shares will then be exchanged for shares of Gran Tierra stock or GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares pursuant to the Arrangement; AND/OR
	<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTION 2:	DEFAULT ELECTION: By checking this box, or where no exchange election, as set forth above, is made for any portion or all of its Solana Options deposited by the undersigned pursuant to this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form, the Optionholder will receive a cash payment in respect of each deposited Solana Option equal to the Imputed Transaction Value less the exercise price of the Solana Option.

Where no election is made or where the election is not properly made, or where no Letter of Transmittal and Election Form is returned to the Depositary, such holder of Solana Options will be deemed to have elected to receive on completion of the Arrangement the Default Election (Option 2) in respect of all of such holder's Solana Options subject to such Default Election. The election may have material income tax consequences and holders of Solana Options are urged to consult their tax advisors as to their election.

The undersigned delivers to you the enclosed option agreement(s) representing Solana Options to be exchanged for Gran Tierra Options, certificate(s) representing Solana Shares to be exchanged for certificate(s) representing GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra common stock and/or cash, as the case may be, pursuant to and in accordance with the Arrangement described in the Joint Proxy Statement.

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION AGREEMENTS DEPOSITED		
Date of Option Agreements	Name in which Solana Options are Registered	Number of Solana Options
<b>TOTAL:</b>		

(If space is not sufficient, please attach a list in the above form.)

- Some or all of my option agreements representing Solana Options have been lost, stolen or destroyed. Please review item 7 of the instructions for the procedure to replace lost or destroyed option agreements. (Check box if applicable).

**Shareholders and Warranholders do not need to complete this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form. Solana will send a separate letter of transmittal and instruction to each Shareholder and Warranholder.**

**The undersigned Optionholder, by the execution of this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form:**

1. represents and warrants that the undersigned is the legal owner of the above listed Solana Options and has good title to the rights represented by the above mentioned certificates free and clear of all liens, charges, encumbrances, claims and equities and, together with all rights and benefits, has full power and authority to deliver such agreements;
2. represents and warrants that, other than pursuant to this form, the undersigned has not exercised or purported to exercise the Solana Options into Solana Shares;
3. acknowledges receipt of the Joint Proxy Statement;
4. represents and warrants that the information provided hereunder is true, accurate and complete as of the date hereof;
5. represents and warrants that the option agreement(s) described above, together with any other option agreement(s) submitted with a separate letter of transmittal as required by the attached instructions, represents all of the Solana Options owned by the undersigned;
6. represents and warrants that the undersigned has full power and authority to make the above election and, the undersigned will not, prior to the Effective Date, transfer or permit to be transferred any of such Solana Options;
7. directs the Depository to issue or cause to be issued the Gran Tierra Options, GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra common stock and/or pay or cause to be paid the cash to which the undersigned is entitled on completion of the Arrangement in the name indicated below, and to send the Gran Tierra Options, GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra common stock and/or cash to the address, or hold the same for pick-up, as indicated in this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form, unless otherwise indicated under "Special Registration Instructions" or "Special Delivery Instructions" on the following page;
8. acknowledges that all authority conferred or agreed to be conferred by the undersigned herein may be exercised during any subsequent legal incapacity of the undersigned and shall survive the death or incapacity, bankruptcy or insolvency of the undersigned and all obligations of the undersigned herein shall be binding upon the heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns of the undersigned; and
9. covenants and agrees to execute, upon request, any additional documents, transfers and other assurances as may be necessary or desirable to complete the exchange of options agreement(s) representing Solana Options for agreement(s) representing the Gran Tierra Options, GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra common stock and/or cash.

Unless otherwise indicated under "*Box A - Special Registration Instructions*" or "*Box B -Special Delivery Instructions*" on page 7 (in which case registration or delivery should be made in accordance with those instructions), the option agreements representing Gran Tierra Options, certificate(s) for the GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or the shares of common stock of Gran Tierra and/or the cheque for the cash, as the case may be, should be issued in the name of the undersigned and forwarded to the undersigned at the address specified below the signature of the undersigned (or if no such address or delivery instructions are made, to the latest address of record on Solana's option register). If the option agreements representing Gran Tierra Options, GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or the shares of common stock of Gran Tierra and/or the cheque for the cash are to be held for pick-up at the office of the Depository, "*Box C - Hold for Pick-Up*" the following page must be completed. If the Arrangement is not completed and the Arrangement Agreement is terminated or Solana terminates its obligations thereunder, the undersigned directs the Depository to return the enclosed certificate(s) in accordance with the instructions contained in this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form.

Signature guaranteed by (if required under Instructions 4 and 5 below):

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature of Guarantor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Optionholder or Authorized Representative (see Instructions 4 and 6 below)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Guarantor (please print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Optionholder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Guarantor (please print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number of Optionholder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Facsimile Number of Optionholder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Insurance Number or U.S. Resident Taxpayer Identification Number (must be provided)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Optionholder (please print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Authorized Representative, if applicable (please print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of Solana Options Held, Directly or indirectly, by the Optionholder

<b>BOX A</b> <b>SPECIAL REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS</b> (See Instruction 2)	<b>BOX B</b> <b>SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS</b> (See Instruction 2)
<p><i>To be completed only if the option agreements for Gran Tierra Options, certificates for the GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra stock and/or cheque for the cash are NOT to be issued in the name of the undersigned.</i></p> <p>In the Name of _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>(include postal or zip code)</i></p>	<p><i>To be completed only if the option agreements, for the Gran Tierra Options, certificates for the GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra stock and/or cheque for the cash are to be sent to a name or an address other than the name and address of the undersigned specified below the signature of the undersigned.</i></p> <p>In the Name of _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>(include postal or zip code)</i></p>

<b>BOX C</b> <b>HOLD FOR PICK-UP</b>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the option agreements for the Gran Tierra Options, certificates for the GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra stock and/or cash are to be held for pick-up at the office of the Depository at which this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form is deposited.</p>

## INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Use of Letter of Transmittal and Election Form

- (a) This Letter of Transmittal and Election Form (or a manually executed copy hereof) properly completed and signed as required by the instructions set forth below, together with accompanying documents representing the Solana Options and all other documents required by the terms of the Arrangement must be received by the Depository at its office specified on the page 11 of this document.
- (b) The method used to deliver this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form and any accompanying documents representing Solana Options and all other required documents is at the option and risk of the person depositing the same, and delivery will be deemed effective only when such documents are actually received. It is recommended that the necessary documentation be hand delivered to the Depository, at their office specified on page 11 of this document, and a receipt obtained. However, if such documents are mailed, it is recommended that registered mail be used and that proper insurance be obtained.

### 2. Special Registration and Delivery Instructions

The boxes entitled "*Box A - Special Registration Instructions*" and "*Box B - Special Delivery Instructions*" and "*Box C - Hold for Pick-Up*", as applicable, should be completed if the agreements for the Gran Tierra Options, certificates for the GTE-Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra stock and/or cheque for the cash to be issued pursuant to the Arrangement are to be: (a) issued in the name of a person other than the person signing the Letter of Transmittal and Election Form; (b) sent to someone other than the person signing the Letter of Transmittal and Election Form; (c) sent to the person signing the Letter of Transmittal and Election Form at an address other than that appearing below that person's signature; or (d) held by the Depository for pick-up. See also Instruction 4 "*Guarantee of Signatures*" below.

### 3. Signatures

This Letter of Transmittal and Election Form must be completed and signed by the holder of Solana Options or by such holder's duly authorized representative (in accordance with paragraph 5 below).

### 4. Guarantee of Signatures

If this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form is executed by a person other than the registered owner(s) of the Solana Option, such signature must be guaranteed by an Eligible Institution (as defined below), or in some other manner satisfactory to the Depository (except that no guarantee is required if the signature is that of an Eligible Institution).

An "Eligible Institution" means a Canadian schedule I chartered bank, a member of the Securities Transfer Agent Medallion Program (STAMP), a member of the Stock Exchange Medallion Program (SEMP) or a member of the New York Stock Exchange Inc. Medallion Signature Program (MSP). Members of these programs are usually members of a recognized stock exchange in Canada, members of the National Investment Dealers Association of Canada, members of the National Association of Securities Dealers or banks and trust companies in the United States.

### 5. Fiduciaries, Representatives and Authorizations

Where this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form or any certificate or share transfer power of attorney is executed by a person as an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, attorney-in-fact, or agent or on behalf of a corporation, partnership or association or is executed by any other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence of the authority to act. The Depository, at its discretion, may require additional evidence of authority or additional documentation,

### 6. Miscellaneous

- (a) If the space on this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form is insufficient to list all option agreements for Solana Options, additional option agreements and the number of Solana Options represented thereby may be included on a separate signed list affixed to this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form.
- (b) No alternative, conditional or contingent deposits will be accepted. All depositing holders of Solana Options by execution of this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form (or a copy thereof) waive any right to receive any notice by the Depository.
- (c) The holder of the Solana Options covered by this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form hereby unconditionally and irrevocably attorns to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Alberta and the courts of appeal therefrom.
- (d) Additional copies of the Letter of Transmittal and Election Form may be obtained on request and without charge from the Depository at their office at the address listed on page 11 of this document.

7. Lost Certificates

If an option agreement representing Solana Options has been lost or destroyed, this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form should be completed as fully as possible and forwarded, together with a letter describing the loss or destruction, to the Depository. The Depository will forward such letter to Solana so that Solana may provide replacement instructions. The replacement option agreement must be received by the Depository prior to the Depository issuing the consideration to which such Optionholder is entitled to receive under the Arrangement. If an option agreement representing Solana Options has been lost or destroyed, please ensure that you provide your telephone number to the Depository and Solana so that they can contact you.

8. Fractional Shares

No certificates representing fractional GTE–Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra common stock will be issued under the Arrangement. In lieu of any such fractional shares, each registered holder of Solana Options otherwise entitled to a fractional interest in a GTE–Solana Exchangeable Share or a share of Gran Tierra common stock will receive the nearest whole number of GTE–Solana Exchangeable Shares or shares of Gran Tierra common stock, respectively (with fractions equal to exactly 0.5 being rounded up).

9. U.S. Optionholders: Form W-9

In order to prevent backup withholding of U.S. federal income tax, a Optionholder who is a citizen or resident of the U.S. for U.S. federal tax purposes (a "U.S. Person") is required to provide the Optionholder's current taxpayer identification number ("TIN") by completing Form W-9, see Schedule "A", certifying under penalties of perjury that the TIN provided on that form is correct (or that such Optionholder is awaiting receipt of a TIN), that the Optionholder is a U.S. Person for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and that (i) the Optionholder is exempt from backup withholding, (ii) the Optionholder has not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service that the Optionholder is subject to backup withholding as a result of failure to report all interest or dividends, or (iii) after being so notified, the Internal Revenue Service has notified the Optionholder that the Optionholder is no longer subject to backup withholding. If the correct TIN is not provided or if any other information is not correctly provided, a penalty of up to U.S.\$500 may be imposed on the Optionholder by the Internal Revenue Service and the Optionholder may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 28%. In addition, willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may result in criminal penalties.

Backup withholding is not an additional U.S. income tax. Rather, the U.S. income tax liability of persons subject to backup withholding will be reduced by the amount of tax withheld. If backup withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund may be obtained provided that the required information is furnished in a timely manner to the Internal Revenue Service.

The TIN for a U.S. Person who is an individual is the individual's social security number. Any other Optionholder that is a U.S. Person, and that does not have a TIN, may write "Applied For" in Part I of Form W-9 if such Optionholder has applied for a TIN or intends to apply for a TIN in the near future. If the Optionholder does not then provide a TIN within 60 days, the Optionholder will be subject to backup withholding until a TIN is provided.

Certain Optionholders that are U.S. Persons (including, among others, corporations in certain cases and certain not-for-profit organizations) are not subject to these backup withholding requirements. To avoid possible erroneous backup withholding, a Optionholder that is a U.S. Person and is exempt from backup withholding should complete Form W-9 by providing the Optionholder's correct TIN, signing and dating the form, and checking the box "Exempt from backup withholding". A Optionholder should consult its tax advisor as to the Optionholder's qualification for an exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such exemption.

10. Non-U.S. Optionholders: Form W-8

Exempt persons are not subject to backup withholding. Optionholders that are not U.S. citizens and not U.S. residents for U.S. federal income tax purposes may qualify as exempt persons by submitting Form W-8BEN, signed under penalties of perjury, certifying such shareholder's foreign status. An Optionholder who is not a U.S. Person as defined above must submit the appropriate Form(s) W-8. Generally, a foreign individual or a foreign corporation that is not a pass-through entity for U.S. income tax purposes and is not engaged in a trade or business within the U.S. would provide Form W-8BEN. A foreign entity that is a pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes and is not engaged in a trade or business within the U.S. would generally provide Form W-8BEN and/or Form W-8IMY (which may require an additional Form W-8BEN for its beneficial owners), depending on its particular circumstances. A foreign individual or a foreign entity that is engaged in a trade or business within the U.S. may be required to provide Form W-8ECI. The Form W-8BEN is enclosed herein, see Schedule "A". The Forms W-8IMY and W-8ECI will be provided to you upon request to the Depository at one of the addresses specified on page 11 of this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form. In the event that you are acting on behalf of another individual instructions for the requester of Forms W-9, W-8BEN, W-8ECI and W-8IMY can be obtained upon request to the Depository at one of the addresses specified on page 11 of this Letter of Transmittal and Election Form or on the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**All Optionholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors to determine which Internal Revenue Services Forms should be used and whether they are exempt from backup withholding.**

**Offices of the Depositary**

**Inquiries:**

**COMPUTERSHARE INVESTOR SERVICES INC.**

Toll Free (North America): 1-800-564-6253  
E-Mail: [corporateactions@computershare.com](mailto:corporateactions@computershare.com)  
Website: [www.computershare.com](http://www.computershare.com)

**By Mail:**

Computershare Investor Services Inc.  
P.O. Box 7021, 31 Adelaide St E  
Toronto, ON M5C 3H2

Attention: Corporate Actions

**By Hand, by Courier or by Registered Mail:**

***Calgary***

Computershare Investor Services Inc.  
600, 530 - 8 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 3S8

Attention: Corporate Actions

***Toronto***

Computershare Investor Services Inc.  
9 Floor, 100 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5J 3Y1

Attention: Corporate Actions

**Privacy Note:** Computershare is committed to protecting your personal information. In the course of providing services to you and our corporate clients, we receive non-public personal information about you - from transactions we perform for you, forms you send us, other communications we have with you or your representatives, etc. This information could include your name, address, social insurance number, securities holdings and other financial information. We use this to administer your account, to better serve you and your clients' needs and for other lawful purposes relating to our services. We have prepared a *Privacy Code* to tell you more about our information practices and how your privacy is protected. It is available at our website, [computershare.com](http://computershare.com), or by writing us at 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1. Computershare will use the information you are provided on this form in order to process your request and will treat your signature(s) on this form as your consent to the above.

***Any questions and requests for assistance may be directed by Optionholders to the Depositary at the telephone number and locations set out above.***

**Schedule A**

**[See Attached]**

## Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

**Give form to the  
 requester. Do not  
 send to the IRS.**

Print or type  
 See Specific Instructions on page 2.

Name (as shown on your income tax return)	
Business name, if different from above	
Check appropriate box: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Sole proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (D=disregarded entity, C=corporation, P=partnership) ▶ ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt payee <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶	<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt payee
Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.)	Requester's name and address (optional)
City, state, and ZIP code	
List account number(s) here (optional)	

### Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on Line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

Social security number
or
Employer identification number

**Note.** If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

### Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below).

**Certification instructions.** You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the Certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions on page 4.

**Sign Here**

Signature of  
 U.S. person ▶

Date ▶

### General Instructions

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

#### Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income.

**Note.** If a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

**Definition of a U.S. person.** For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien,
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States,
- An estate (other than a foreign estate), or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

**Special rules for partnerships.** Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax on any foreign partners' share of income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, a partnership is required to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid withholding on your share of partnership income.

The person who gives Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States is in the following cases:

- The U.S. owner of a disregarded entity and not the entity,

- The U.S. grantor or other owner of a grantor trust and not the trust, and
- The U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

**Foreign person.** If you are a foreign person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 (see Publication 515, Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities).

**Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien.** Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items:

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

**Example.** Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity not subject to backup withholding, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8.

**What is backup withholding?** Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 28% of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

**Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:**

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the Part II instructions on page 3 for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,

4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or

5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See the instructions below and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships* on page 1.

## Penalties

**Failure to furnish TIN.** If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

**Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding.** If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

**Criminal penalty for falsifying information.** Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

**Misuse of TINs.** If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

## Specific Instructions

### Name

If you are an individual, you must generally enter the name shown on your income tax return. However, if you have changed your last name, for instance, due to marriage without informing the Social Security Administration of the name change, enter your first name, the last name shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

If the account is in joint names, list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of the form.

**Sole proprietor.** Enter your individual name as shown on your income tax return on the "Name" line. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as (DBA)" name on the "Business name" line.

**Limited liability company (LLC).** Check the "Limited liability company" box only and enter the appropriate code for the tax classification ("D" for disregarded entity, "C" for corporation, "P" for partnership) in the space provided.

For a single-member LLC (including a foreign LLC with a domestic owner) that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner under Regulations section 301.7701-3, enter the owner's name on the "Name" line. Enter the LLC's name on the "Business name" line.

For an LLC classified as a partnership or a corporation, enter the LLC's name on the "Name" line and any business, trade, or DBA name on the "Business name" line.

**Other entities.** Enter your business name as shown on required federal tax documents on the "Name" line. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on the "Business name" line.

**Note.** You are requested to check the appropriate box for your status (individual/sole proprietor, corporation, etc.).

### Exempt Payee

If you are exempt from backup withholding, enter your name as described above and check the appropriate box for your status, then check the "Exempt payee" box in the line following the business name, sign and date the form.

Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding. Corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, such as interest and dividends.

**Note.** If you are exempt from backup withholding, you should still complete this form to avoid possible erroneous backup withholding.

The following payees are exempt from backup withholding:

1. An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2),
  2. The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities,
  3. A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities,
  4. A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, or
  5. An international organization or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.
- Other payees that may be exempt from backup withholding include:
6. A corporation,
  7. A foreign central bank of issue,
  8. A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States,
  9. A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission,
  10. A real estate investment trust,
  11. An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940,
  12. A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a),
  13. A financial institution,
  14. A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian, or
  15. A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947.

The chart below shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 15.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 9
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 13. Also, a person registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 who regularly acts as a broker
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 5
Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 <sup>1</sup>	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 7 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

<sup>2</sup> However, the following payments made to a corporation (including gross proceeds paid to an attorney under section 6045(f), even if the attorney is a corporation) and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

## Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

**Enter your TIN in the appropriate box.** If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN. However, the IRS prefers that you use your SSN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner (see *Limited liability company (LLC)* on page 2), enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

**Note.** See the chart on page 4 for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

**How to get a TIN.** If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local Social Security Administration office or get this form online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at [www.irs.gov/businesses](http://www.irs.gov/businesses) and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. You can get Forms W-7 and SS-4 from the IRS by visiting [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

**Note.** Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

**Caution:** A *disregarded domestic entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.*

## Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if items 1, 4, and 5 below indicate otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). Exempt payees, see *Exempt Payee* on page 2.

**Signature requirements.** Complete the certification as indicated in 1 through 5 below.

**1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983.** You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

**3. Real estate transactions.** You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

**4. Other payments.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

**5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**What Name and Number To Give the Requester**

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account)	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account <sup>1</sup>
3. Custodian account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor <sup>2</sup>
4. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)	The grantor-trustee <sup>3</sup>
b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The actual owner <sup>3</sup>
5. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner <sup>3</sup>
For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
6. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
7. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity <sup>4</sup>
8. Corporate or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832	The corporation
9. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
10. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
11. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee
12. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity

<sup>1</sup>List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

<sup>2</sup>Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

<sup>3</sup>You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or "DBA" name on the second name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

<sup>4</sup>List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships* on page 1.

**Note.** If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

**Secure Your Tax Records from Identity Theft**

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number (SSN), or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

Call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 if you think your identity has been used inappropriately for tax purposes.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a system problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

**Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes.**

Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS personal property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at: [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov) or contact them at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or 1-877-IDTHEFT(438-4338).

Visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

**Privacy Act Notice**

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons who must file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, and certain other income paid to you, mortgage interest you paid, the acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA, or Archer MSA or HSA. The IRS uses the numbers for identification purposes and to help verify the accuracy of your tax return. The IRS may also provide this information to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation, and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions to carry out their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Payers must generally withhold 28% of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to a payer. Certain penalties may also apply.

**Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner  
 for United States Tax Withholding**

OMB No. 1545-1621

▶ Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code. ▶ See separate instructions.  
 ▶ Give this form to the withholding agent or payer. Do not send to the IRS.

- Do not use this form for:**
- A U.S. citizen or other U.S. person, including a resident alien individual . . . . . **W-9**
  - A person claiming that income is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States . . . . . **W-8ECI**
  - A foreign partnership, a foreign simple trust, or a foreign grantor trust (see instructions for exceptions) . . . . . **W-8ECI or W-8IMY**
  - A foreign government, international organization, foreign central bank of issue, foreign tax-exempt organization, foreign private foundation, or government of a U.S. possession that received effectively connected income or that is claiming the applicability of section(s) 115(2), 501(c), 892, 895, or 1443(b) (see instructions) . . . . . **W-8ECI or W-8EXP**
- Note:** These entities should use Form W-8BEN if they are claiming treaty benefits or are providing the form only to claim they are a foreign person exempt from backup withholding.
- A person acting as an intermediary . . . . . **W-8IMY**
- Note:** See instructions for additional exceptions.

**Part I Identification of Beneficial Owner** (See instructions.)

<b>1</b> Name of individual or organization that is the beneficial owner	<b>2</b> Country of incorporation or organization
<b>3</b> Type of beneficial owner:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Disregarded entity <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Simple trust <input type="checkbox"/> Grantor trust <input type="checkbox"/> Complex trust <input type="checkbox"/> Estate <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> International organization <input type="checkbox"/> Central bank of issue <input type="checkbox"/> Tax-exempt organization <input type="checkbox"/> Private foundation	
<b>4</b> Permanent residence address (street, apt. or suite no., or rural route). <b>Do not use a P.O. box or in-care-of address.</b>	
City or town, state or province. Include postal code where appropriate.	Country (do not abbreviate)
<b>5</b> Mailing address (if different from above)	
City or town, state or province. Include postal code where appropriate.	Country (do not abbreviate)
<b>6</b> U.S. taxpayer identification number, if required (see instructions)	<b>7</b> Foreign tax identifying number, if any (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> SSN or ITIN <input type="checkbox"/> EIN	
<b>8</b> Reference number(s) (see instructions)	

**Part II Claim of Tax Treaty Benefits** (if applicable)

**9 I certify that (check all that apply):**

a  The beneficial owner is a resident of .....within the meaning of the income tax treaty between the United States and that country.

b  If required, the U.S. taxpayer identification number is stated on line 6 (see instructions).

c  The beneficial owner is not an individual, derives the item (or items) of income for which the treaty benefits are claimed, and, if applicable, meets the requirements of the treaty provision dealing with limitation on benefits (see instructions).

d  The beneficial owner is not an individual, is claiming treaty benefits for dividends received from a foreign corporation or interest from a U.S. trade or business of a foreign corporation, and meets qualified resident status (see instructions).

e  The beneficial owner is related to the person obligated to pay the income within the meaning of section 267(b) or 707(b), and will file Form 8833 if the amount subject to withholding received during a calendar year exceeds, in the aggregate, \$500,000.

**10 Special rates and conditions** (if applicable—see instructions): The beneficial owner is claiming the provisions of Article .....of the treaty identified on line 9a above to claim a .....% rate of withholding on (specify type of income): .....  
 Explain the reasons the beneficial owner meets the terms of the treaty article: .....

**Part III Notional Principal Contracts**

**11**  I have provided or will provide a statement that identifies those notional principal contracts from which the income is **not** effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States. I agree to update this statement as required.

**Part IV Certification**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined the information on this form and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete. I further certify under penalties of perjury that:

1 I am the beneficial owner (or am authorized to sign for the beneficial owner) of all the income to which this form relates,

2 The beneficial owner is not a U.S. person,

3 The income to which this form relates is (a) not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, (b) effectively connected but is not subject to tax under an income tax treaty, or (c) the partner's share of a partnership's effectively connected income, **and**

4 For broker transactions or barter exchanges, the beneficial owner is an exempt foreign person as defined in the instructions.

Furthermore, I authorize this form to be provided to any withholding agent that has control, receipt, or custody of the income of which I am the beneficial owner or any withholding agent that can disburse or make payments of the income of which I am the beneficial owner.

**Sign Here** ▶ Signature of beneficial owner (or individual authorized to sign for beneficial owner)      Date (MM-DD-YYYY)      Capacity in which acting

# Instructions for Form W-8BEN

(Rev. February 2006)

## Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

### General Instructions

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

For definitions of terms used throughout these instructions, see *Definitions* on pages 3 and 4.

**Purpose of form.** Foreign persons are subject to U.S. tax at a 30% rate on income they receive from U.S. sources that consists of:

- Interest (including certain original issue discount (OID));
- Dividends;
- Rents;
- Royalties;
- Premiums;
- Annuities;
- Compensation for, or in expectation of, services performed;
- Substitute payments in a securities lending transaction; or
- Other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits, or income.

This tax is imposed on the gross amount paid and is generally collected by withholding under section 1441 or 1442 on that amount. A payment is considered to have been made whether it is made directly to the beneficial owner or to another person, such as an intermediary, agent, or partnership, for the benefit of the beneficial owner.

In addition, section 1446 requires a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States to withhold tax on a foreign partner's distributive share of the partnership's effectively connected taxable income. Generally, a foreign person that is a partner in a partnership that submits a Form W-8 for purposes of section 1441 or 1442 will satisfy the documentation requirements under section 1446 as well. However, in some cases the documentation requirements of sections 1441 and 1442 do not match the documentation requirements of section 1446. See Regulations sections 1.1446-1 through 1.1446-6. Further, the owner of a disregarded entity, rather than the disregarded entity itself, shall submit the appropriate Form W-8 for purposes of section 1446.

If you receive certain types of income, you must provide Form W-8BEN to:

- Establish that you are not a U.S. person;
- Claim that you are the beneficial owner of the income for which Form W-8BEN is being provided or a partner in a partnership subject to section 1446; and

- If applicable, claim a reduced rate of, or exemption from, withholding as a resident of a foreign country with which the United States has an income tax treaty.

You may also be required to submit Form W-8BEN to claim an exception from domestic information reporting and backup withholding for certain types of income that are not subject to foreign-person withholding. Such income includes:

- Broker proceeds.
- Short-term (183 days or less) original issue discount (OID).
- Bank deposit interest.
- Foreign source interest, dividends, rents, or royalties.
- Proceeds from a wager placed by a nonresident alien individual in the games of blackjack, baccarat, craps, roulette, or big-6 wheel.

You may also use Form W-8BEN to certify that income from a notional principal contract is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

A withholding agent or payer of the income may rely on a properly completed Form W-8BEN to treat a payment associated with the Form W-8BEN as a payment to a foreign person who beneficially owns the amounts paid. If applicable, the withholding agent may rely on the Form W-8BEN to apply a reduced rate of withholding at source.

Provide Form W-8BEN to the withholding agent or payer before income is paid or credited to you. Failure to provide a Form W-8BEN when requested may lead to withholding at a 30% rate (foreign-person withholding) or the backup withholding rate.

**Additional information.** For additional information and instructions for the withholding agent, see the Instructions for the Requester of Forms W-8BEN, W-8ECI, W-8EXP, and W-8IMY.

**Who must file.** You must give Form W-8BEN to the withholding agent or payer if you are a foreign person and you are the beneficial owner of an amount subject to withholding. Submit Form W-8BEN when requested by the withholding agent or payer whether or not you are claiming a reduced rate of, or exemption from, withholding.

Do not use Form W-8BEN if:

- You are a U.S. citizen (even if you reside outside the United States) or other U.S. person (including a resident alien individual). Instead, use Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification.
- You are a disregarded entity with a single owner that is a U.S. person and you are not a hybrid entity claiming treaty benefits. Instead, provide Form W-9.

- You are a nonresident alien individual who claims exemption from withholding on compensation for independent or dependent personal services performed in the United States. Instead, provide Form 8233, Exemption from Withholding on Compensation for Independent (and Certain Dependent) Personal Services of a Nonresident Alien Individual, or Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.
- You are receiving income that is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, unless it is allocable to you through a partnership. Instead, provide Form W-8ECI, Certificate of Foreign Person's Claim That Income Is Effectively Connected With the Conduct of a Trade or Business in the United States. If any of the income for which you have provided a Form W-8BEN becomes effectively connected, this is a change in circumstances and Form W-8BEN is no longer valid. You must file Form W-8ECI. See *Change in circumstances* on this page.
- You are filing for a foreign government, international organization, foreign central bank of issue, foreign tax-exempt organization, foreign private foundation, or government of a U.S. possession claiming the applicability of section 115(2), 501(c), 892, 895, or 1443(b). Instead, provide Form W-8EXP, Certificate of Foreign Government or Other Foreign Organization for United States Tax Withholding. However, you should use Form W-8BEN if you are claiming treaty benefits or are providing the form only to claim you are a foreign person exempt from backup withholding. You should use Form W-8ECI if you received effectively connected income (for example, income from commercial activities).
- You are a foreign flow-through entity, other than a hybrid entity, claiming treaty benefits. Instead, provide Form W-8IMY, Certificate of Foreign Intermediary, Foreign Flow-Through Entity, or Certain U.S. Branches for United States Tax Withholding. However, if you are a partner, beneficiary, or owner of a flow-through entity and you are not yourself a flow-through entity, you may be required to furnish a Form W-8BEN to the flow-through entity.
- You are a disregarded entity for purposes of section 1446. Instead, the owner of the entity must submit the form.
- You are a reverse hybrid entity transmitting beneficial owner documentation provided by your interest holders to claim treaty benefits on their behalf. Instead, provide Form W-8IMY.
- You are a withholding foreign partnership or a withholding foreign trust within the meaning of sections 1441 and 1442 and the accompanying regulations. A withholding foreign partnership or a withholding foreign trust is a foreign partnership or trust that has entered into a withholding agreement with the IRS under which it agrees to assume primary withholding responsibility for each partner's, beneficiary's, or owner's distributive share of income subject to withholding that is paid to the partnership or trust. Instead, provide Form W-8IMY.
- You are acting as an intermediary (that is, acting not for your own account, but for the account of others as an agent, nominee, or custodian). Instead, provide Form W-8IMY.
- You are a foreign partnership or foreign grantor trust for purposes of section 1446. Instead, provide Form

W-8IMY and accompanying documentation. See Regulations sections 1.1446-1 through 1.1446-6.

**Giving Form W-8BEN to the withholding agent.** Do not send Form W-8BEN to the IRS. Instead, give it to the person who is requesting it from you. Generally, this will be the person from whom you receive the payment, who credits your account, or a partnership that allocates income to you. Give Form W-8BEN to the person requesting it before the payment is made to you, credited to your account or allocated. If you do not provide this form, the withholding agent may have to withhold at the 30% rate, backup withholding rate, or the rate applicable under section 1446. If you receive more than one type of income from a single withholding agent for which you claim different benefits, the withholding agent may, at its option, require you to submit a Form W-8BEN for each different type of income. Generally, a separate Form W-8BEN must be given to each withholding agent.

**Note.** If you own the income or account jointly with one or more other persons, the income or account will be treated by the withholding agent as owned by a foreign person if Forms W-8BEN are provided by all of the owners. If the withholding agent receives a Form W-9 from any of the joint owners, the payment must be treated as made to a U.S. person.

**Change in circumstances.** If a change in circumstances makes any information on the Form W-8BEN you have submitted incorrect, you must notify the withholding agent or payer within 30 days of the change in circumstances and you must file a new Form W-8BEN or other appropriate form.

If you use Form W-8BEN to certify that you are a foreign person, a change of address to an address in the United States is a change in circumstances. Generally, a change of address within the same foreign country or to another foreign country is not a change in circumstances. However, if you use Form W-8BEN to claim treaty benefits, a move to the United States or outside the country where you have been claiming treaty benefits is a change in circumstances. In that case, you must notify the withholding agent or payer within 30 days of the move.

If you become a U.S. citizen or resident alien after you submit Form W-8BEN, you are no longer subject to the 30% withholding rate or the withholding tax on a foreign partner's share of effectively connected income. You must notify the withholding agent or payer within 30 days of becoming a U.S. citizen or resident alien. You may be required to provide a Form W-9. For more information, see Form W-9 and instructions.

**Expiration of Form W-8BEN.** Generally, a Form W-8BEN provided without a U.S. taxpayer identification number (TIN) will remain in effect for a period starting on the date the form is signed and ending on the last day of the third succeeding calendar year, unless a change in circumstances makes any information on the form incorrect. For example, a Form W-8BEN signed on September 30, 2005, remains valid through December 31, 2008. A Form W-8BEN furnished with a U.S. TIN will remain in effect until a change in circumstances makes any information on the form incorrect, provided that the withholding agent reports on Form 1042-S at least one payment annually to the beneficial owner who provided the Form W-8BEN. See the instructions for line 6

beginning on page 4 for circumstances under which you must provide a U.S. TIN.

## Definitions

**Beneficial owner.** For payments other than those for which a reduced rate of withholding is claimed under an income tax treaty, the beneficial owner of income is generally the person who is required under U.S. tax principles to include the income in gross income on a tax return. A person is not a beneficial owner of income, however, to the extent that person is receiving the income as a nominee, agent, or custodian, or to the extent the person is a conduit whose participation in a transaction is disregarded. In the case of amounts paid that do not constitute income, beneficial ownership is determined as if the payment were income.

Foreign partnerships, foreign simple trusts, and foreign grantor trusts are not the beneficial owners of income paid to the partnership or trust. The beneficial owners of income paid to a foreign partnership are generally the partners in the partnership, provided that the partner is not itself a partnership, foreign simple or grantor trust, nominee or other agent. The beneficial owners of income paid to a foreign simple trust (that is, a foreign trust that is described in section 651(a)) are generally the beneficiaries of the trust, if the beneficiary is not a foreign partnership, foreign simple or grantor trust, nominee or other agent. The beneficial owners of a foreign grantor trust (that is, a foreign trust to the extent that all or a portion of the income of the trust is treated as owned by the grantor or another person under sections 671 through 679) are the persons treated as the owners of the trust. The beneficial owners of income paid to a foreign complex trust (that is, a foreign trust that is not a foreign simple trust or foreign grantor trust) is the trust itself.

For purposes of section 1446, the same beneficial owner rules apply, except that under section 1446 a foreign simple trust rather than the beneficiary provides the form to the partnership.

The beneficial owner of income paid to a foreign estate is the estate itself.

**Note.** A payment to a U.S. partnership, U.S. trust, or U.S. estate is treated as a payment to a U.S. payee that is not subject to 30% withholding. A U.S. partnership, trust, or estate should provide the withholding agent with a Form W-9. For purposes of section 1446, a U.S. grantor trust or disregarded entity shall not provide the withholding agent a Form W-9 in its own right. Rather, the grantor or other owner shall provide the withholding agent the appropriate form.

**Foreign person.** A foreign person includes a nonresident alien individual, a foreign corporation, a foreign partnership, a foreign trust, a foreign estate, and any other person that is not a U.S. person. It also includes a foreign branch or office of a U.S. financial institution or U.S. clearing organization if the foreign branch is a qualified intermediary. Generally, a payment to a U.S. branch of a foreign person is a payment to a foreign person.

**Nonresident alien individual.** Any individual who is not a citizen or resident alien of the United States is a nonresident alien individual. An alien individual meeting either the "green card test" or the "substantial presence

test" for the calendar year is a resident alien. Any person not meeting either test is a nonresident alien individual. Additionally, an alien individual who is a resident of a foreign country under the residence article of an income tax treaty, or an alien individual who is a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or American Samoa is a nonresident alien individual. See Pub. 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens, for more information on resident and nonresident alien status.



*Even though a nonresident alien individual married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien may choose to be treated as a resident alien for certain purposes (for example, filing a joint income tax return), such individual is still treated as a nonresident alien for withholding tax purposes on all income except wages.*

**Flow-through entity.** A flow-through entity is a foreign partnership (other than a withholding foreign partnership), a foreign simple or foreign grantor trust (other than a withholding foreign trust), or, for payments for which a reduced rate of withholding is claimed under an income tax treaty, any entity to the extent the entity is considered to be fiscally transparent (see below) with respect to the payment by an interest holder's jurisdiction.

For purposes of section 1446, a foreign partnership or foreign grantor trust must submit Form W-8IMY to establish the partnership or grantor trust as a look through entity. The Form W-8IMY may be accompanied by this form or another version of Form W-8 or Form W-9 to establish the foreign or domestic status of a partner or grantor or other owner. See Regulations section 1.1446-1.

**Hybrid entity.** A hybrid entity is any person (other than an individual) that is treated as fiscally transparent (see below) in the United States but is not treated as fiscally transparent by a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty. Hybrid entity status is relevant for claiming treaty benefits. See the instructions for line 9c on page 5.

**Reverse hybrid entity.** A reverse hybrid entity is any person (other than an individual) that is not fiscally transparent under U.S. tax law principles but that is fiscally transparent under the laws of a jurisdiction with which the United States has an income tax treaty. See the instructions for line 9c on page 5.

**Fiscally transparent entity.** An entity is treated as fiscally transparent with respect to an item of income for which treaty benefits are claimed to the extent that the interest holders in the entity must, on a current basis, take into account separately their shares of an item of income paid to the entity, whether or not distributed, and must determine the character of the items of income as if they were realized directly from the sources from which realized by the entity. For example, partnerships, common trust funds, and simple trusts or grantor trusts are generally considered to be fiscally transparent with respect to items of income received by them.

**Disregarded entity.** A business entity that has a single owner and is not a corporation under Regulations section 301.7701-2(b) is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner.

A disregarded entity shall not submit this form to a partnership for purposes of section 1446. Instead, the owner of such entity shall provide appropriate documentation. See Regulations section 1.1446-1.

**Amounts subject to withholding.** Generally, an amount subject to withholding is an amount from sources within the United States that is fixed or determinable annual or periodical (FDAP) income. FDAP income is all income included in gross income, including interest (as well as OID), dividends, rents, royalties, and compensation. FDAP income does not include most gains from the sale of property (including market discount and option premiums).


For purposes of section 1446, the amount subject to withholding is the foreign partner's share of the partnership's effectively connected taxable income.

**Withholding agent.** Any person, U.S. or foreign, that has control, receipt, or custody of an amount subject to withholding or who can disburse or make payments of an amount subject to withholding is a withholding agent. The withholding agent may be an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, or any other entity, including (but not limited to) any foreign intermediary, foreign partnership, and U.S. branches of certain foreign banks and insurance companies. Generally, the person who pays (or causes to be paid) the amount subject to withholding to the foreign person (or to its agent) must withhold.

For purposes of section 1446, the withholding agent is the partnership conducting the trade or business in the United States. For a publicly traded partnership, the withholding agent may be the partnership, a nominee holding an interest on behalf of a foreign person, or both. See Regulations sections 1.1446-1 through 1.1446-6.

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## Specific Instructions

 *A hybrid entity should give Form W-8BEN to a withholding agent only for income for which it is claiming a reduced rate of withholding under an income tax treaty. A reverse hybrid entity should give Form W-8BEN to a withholding agent only for income for which no treaty benefit is being claimed.*

### Part I

**Line 1.** Enter your name. If you are a disregarded entity with a single owner who is a foreign person and you are not claiming treaty benefits as a hybrid entity, this form should be completed and signed by your foreign single owner. If the account to which a payment is made or credited is in the name of the disregarded entity, the foreign single owner should inform the withholding agent of this fact. This may be done by including the name and account number of the disregarded entity on line 8 (reference number) of the form. However, if you are a disregarded entity that is claiming treaty benefits as a hybrid entity, this form should be completed and signed by you.

**Line 2.** If you are a corporation, enter the country of incorporation. If you are another type of entity, enter the country under whose laws you are created, organized, or

governed. If you are an individual, enter N/A (for "not applicable").

**Line 3.** Check the one box that applies. By checking a box, you are representing that you qualify for this classification. You must check the box that represents your classification (for example, corporation, partnership, trust, estate, etc.) under U.S. tax principles. Do not check the box that describes your status under the law of the treaty country. If you are a partnership or disregarded entity receiving a payment for which treaty benefits are being claimed, you must check the "Partnership" or "Disregarded entity" box. If you are a sole proprietor, check the "Individual" box, not the "Disregarded entity" box.



*Only entities that are tax-exempt under section 501 should check the "Tax-exempt organization" box. Such organizations should use Form W-8BEN only if they are claiming a reduced rate of withholding under an income tax treaty or some code exception other than section 501. Use Form W-8EXP if you are claiming an exemption from withholding under section 501.*

**Line 4.** Your permanent residence address is the address in the country where you claim to be a resident for purposes of that country's income tax. If you are giving Form W-8BEN to claim a reduced rate of withholding under an income tax treaty, you must determine your residency in the manner required by the treaty. Do not show the address of a financial institution, a post office box, or an address used solely for mailing purposes. If you are an individual who does not have a tax residence in any country, your permanent residence is where you normally reside. If you are not an individual and you do not have a tax residence in any country, the permanent residence address is where you maintain your principal office.

**Line 5.** Enter your mailing address only if it is different from the address you show on line 4.

**Line 6.** If you are an individual, you are generally required to enter your social security number (SSN). To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5 from a Social Security Administration (SSA) office or, if in the United States, you may call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213. Fill in Form SS-5 and return it to the SSA.

If you do not have an SSN and are not eligible to get one, you must get an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). To apply for an ITIN, file Form W-7 with the IRS. It usually takes 4-6 weeks to get an ITIN.



*An ITIN is for tax use only. It does not entitle you to social security benefits or change your employment or immigration status under U.S. law.*

If you are not an individual or you are an individual who is an employer or you are engaged in a U.S. trade or business as a sole proprietor, you must enter an employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have an EIN, you should apply for one on Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number. If you are a disregarded entity claiming treaty benefits as a hybrid entity, enter your EIN.

A partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States will likely be allocated effectively connected taxable income. The partner is

required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and must have a U.S. taxpayer identification number (TIN).

You must provide a U.S. TIN if you are:

- Claiming an exemption from withholding under section 871(f) for certain annuities received under qualified plans,
- A foreign grantor trust with 5 or fewer grantors,
- Claiming benefits under an income tax treaty, or
- Submitting the form to a partnership that conducts a trade or business in the United States.

However, a U.S. TIN is not required to be shown in order to claim treaty benefits on the following items of income:

- Dividends and interest from stocks and debt obligations that are actively traded;
- Dividends from any redeemable security issued by an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (mutual fund);
- Dividends, interest, or royalties from units of beneficial interest in a unit investment trust that are (or were upon issuance) publicly offered and are registered with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933; and
- Income related to loans of any of the above securities.

**TIP** *You may want to obtain and provide a U.S. TIN on Form W-8BEN even though it is not required. A Form W-8BEN containing a U.S. TIN remains valid for as long as your status and the information relevant to the certifications you make on the form remain unchanged provided at least one payment is reported to you annually on Form 1042-S.*

**Line 7.** If your country of residence for tax purposes has issued you a tax identifying number, enter it here. For example, if you are a resident of Canada, enter your Social Insurance Number.

**Line 8.** This line may be used by the filer of Form W-8BEN or by the withholding agent to whom it is provided to include any referencing information that is useful to the withholding agent in carrying out its obligations. For example, withholding agents who are required to associate the Form W-8BEN with a particular Form W-8IMY may want to use line 8 for a referencing number or code that will make the association clear. A beneficial owner may use line 8 to include the number of the account for which he or she is providing the form. A foreign single owner of a disregarded entity may use line 8 to inform the withholding agent that the account to which a payment is made or credited is in the name of the disregarded entity (see instructions for line 1 on page 4).

## Part II

**Line 9a.** Enter the country where you claim to be a resident for income tax treaty purposes. For treaty purposes, a person is a resident of a treaty country if the person is a resident of that country under the terms of the treaty.

**Line 9b.** If you are claiming benefits under an income tax treaty, you must have a U.S. TIN unless one of the exceptions listed in the line 6 instructions above applies.

**Line 9c.** An entity (but not an individual) that is claiming a reduced rate of withholding under an income tax treaty must represent that it:

- Derives the item of income for which the treaty benefit is claimed, and

- Meets the limitation on benefits provisions contained in the treaty, if any.

An item of income may be derived by either the entity receiving the item of income or by the interest holders in the entity or, in certain circumstances, both. An item of income paid to an entity is considered to be derived by the entity only if the entity is not fiscally transparent under the laws of the entity's jurisdiction with respect to the item of income. An item of income paid to an entity shall be considered to be derived by the interest holder in the entity only if:

- The interest holder is not fiscally transparent in its jurisdiction with respect to the item of income, and
- The entity is considered to be fiscally transparent under the laws of the interest holder's jurisdiction with respect to the item of income. An item of income paid directly to a type of entity specifically identified in a treaty as a resident of a treaty jurisdiction is treated as derived by a resident of that treaty jurisdiction.

If an entity is claiming treaty benefits on its own behalf, it should complete Form W-8BEN. If an interest holder in an entity that is considered fiscally transparent in the interest holder's jurisdiction is claiming a treaty benefit, the interest holder should complete Form W-8BEN on its own behalf and the fiscally transparent entity should associate the interest holder's Form W-8BEN with a Form W-8IMY completed by the entity.

**CAUTION** *An income tax treaty may not apply to reduce the amount of any tax on an item of income received by an entity that is treated as a domestic corporation for U.S. tax purposes. Therefore, neither the domestic corporation nor its shareholders are entitled to the benefits of a reduction of U.S. income tax on an item of income received from U.S. sources by the corporation.*

To determine whether an entity meets the limitation on benefits provisions of a treaty, you must consult the specific provisions or articles under the treaties. Income tax treaties are available on the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**TIP** *If you are an entity that derives the income as a resident of a treaty country, you may check this box if the applicable income tax treaty does not contain a "limitation on benefits" provision.*

**Line 9d.** If you are a foreign corporation claiming treaty benefits under an income tax treaty that entered into force before January 1, 1987 (and has not been renegotiated) on (a) U.S. source dividends paid to you by another foreign corporation or (b) U.S. source interest paid to you by a U.S. trade or business of another foreign corporation, you must generally be a "qualified resident" of a treaty country. See section 884 for the definition of interest paid by a U.S. trade or business of a foreign corporation ("branch interest") and other applicable rules.

In general, a foreign corporation is a qualified resident of a country if any of the following apply.

- It meets a 50% ownership and base erosion test.
- It is primarily and regularly traded on an established securities market in its country of residence or the United States.
- It carries on an active trade or business in its country of residence.
- It gets a ruling from the IRS that it is a qualified resident.

See Regulations section 1.884-5 for the requirements that must be met to satisfy each of these tests.



**If you are claiming treaty benefits under an income tax treaty entered into force after December 31, 1986, do not check box 9d. Instead, check box 9c.**

**Line 9e.** Check this box if you are related to the withholding agent within the meaning of section 267(b) or 707(b) and the aggregate amount subject to withholding received during the calendar year will exceed \$500,000. Additionally, you must file Form 8833, Treaty-Based Return Position Disclosure Under Section 6114 or 7701(b).

## Line 10

Line 10 must be used only if you are claiming treaty benefits that require that you meet conditions not covered by the representations you make in lines 9a through 9e. However, this line should always be completed by foreign students and researchers claiming treaty benefits. See *Scholarship and fellowship grants* below for more information.

The following are additional examples of persons who should complete this line.

- Exempt organizations claiming treaty benefits under the exempt organization articles of the treaties with Canada, Mexico, Germany, and the Netherlands.
- Foreign corporations that are claiming a preferential rate applicable to dividends based on ownership of a specific percentage of stock.
- Persons claiming treaty benefits on royalties if the treaty contains different withholding rates for different types of royalties.

This line is generally not applicable to claiming treaty benefits under an interest or dividends (other than dividends subject to a preferential rate based on ownership) article of a treaty.

### **Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien.**

Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the recipient has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes. The individual must use Form W-9 to claim the tax treaty benefit. See the instructions for Form W-9 for more information. Also see *Nonresident alien student or researcher who becomes a resident alien* later for an example.

**Scholarship and fellowship grants.** A nonresident alien student (including a trainee or business apprentice) or researcher who receives noncompensatory scholarship or fellowship income may use Form W-8BEN to claim benefits under a tax treaty that apply to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on such income. No Form W-8BEN is required unless a treaty benefit is being claimed. A nonresident alien student or researcher who receives compensatory scholarship or fellowship income must use Form 8233 to claim any benefits of a tax treaty that apply to that income. The student or researcher must use Form W-4 for any part of such income for which he or she is not claiming a tax treaty withholding exemption. Do not use Form W-8BEN for compensatory scholarship or

fellowship income. See *Compensation for Dependent Personal Services* in the Instructions for Form 8233.



**If you are a nonresident alien individual who received noncompensatory scholarship or fellowship income and personal services income (including compensatory scholarship or fellowship income) from the same withholding agent, you may use Form 8233 to claim a tax treaty withholding exemption for part or all of both types of income.**

**Completing lines 4 and 9a.** Most tax treaties that contain an article exempting scholarship or fellowship grant income from taxation require that the recipient be a resident of the other treaty country at the time of, or immediately prior to, entry into the United States. Thus, a student or researcher may claim the exemption even if he or she no longer has a permanent address in the other treaty country after entry into the United States. If this is the case, you may provide a U.S. address on line 4 and still be eligible for the exemption if all other conditions required by the tax treaty are met. You must also identify on line 9a the tax treaty country of which you were a resident at the time of, or immediately prior to, your entry into the United States.

**Completing line 10.** You must complete line 10 if you are a student or researcher claiming an exemption from taxation on your scholarship or fellowship grant income under a tax treaty.

### **Nonresident alien student or researcher who becomes a resident alien.**

You must use Form W-9 to claim an exception to a saving clause. See *Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien* on this page for a general explanation of saving clauses and exceptions to them.

**Example.** Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would complete Form W-9.

## Part III

If you check this box, you must provide the withholding agent with the required statement for income from a notional principal contract that is to be treated as income not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States. You should update this statement as often as necessary. A new Form W-8BEN is not required for each update provided the form otherwise remains valid.

## Part IV

Form W-8BEN must be signed and dated by the beneficial owner of the income, or, if the beneficial owner is not an individual, by an authorized representative or

officer of the beneficial owner. If Form W-8BEN is completed by an agent acting under a duly authorized power of attorney, the form must be accompanied by the power of attorney in proper form or a copy thereof specifically authorizing the agent to represent the principal in making, executing, and presenting the form. Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, may be used for this purpose. The agent, as well as the beneficial owner, may incur liability for the penalties provided for an erroneous, false, or fraudulent form.

**Broker transactions or barter exchanges.** Income from transactions with a broker or a barter exchange is subject to reporting rules and backup withholding unless Form W-8BEN or a substitute form is filed to notify the broker or barter exchange that you are an exempt foreign person.

You are an exempt foreign person for a calendar year in which:

- You are a nonresident alien individual or a foreign corporation, partnership, estate, or trust;
- You are an individual who has not been, and does not plan to be, present in the United States for a total of 183 days or more during the calendar year; and
- You are neither engaged, nor plan to be engaged during the year, in a U.S. trade or business that has effectively connected gains from transactions with a broker or barter exchange.

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**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 provide 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 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: **Recordkeeping**, 5 hr., 58 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 3 hr., 46 min.; **Preparing and sending the form to IRS**, 4 hr., 2 min.

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 email us at [\\*taxforms@irs.gov](mailto:taxforms@irs.gov). Please put "Forms Comment" on the subject line. Or you can write to Internal Revenue Service, Tax Products Coordinating Committee, SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6406, Washington, DC 20224. Do not send Form W-8BEN to this office. Instead, give it to your withholding agent.

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