



For your information

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IRS Eliminates Form 5558 Signature Requirement for Form 8955-SSA Extension Request

Effective June 21, 2012, the IRS eliminated the requirement for a signature on Form 5558 (*Application for Extension of Time to File Certain Employee Plan Returns*) when it is filed to request an extension of the filing date for Form 8955-SSA (*Annual Registration Statement Identifying Separated Participants with Deferred Vested Benefits*). Form 8955-SSA is used by retirement plans subject to ERISA to report participants who terminate employment and are entitled to deferred vested benefits.

Change Conforms to Form 5500 Treatment

Form 5558 is used to request an automatic extension for filing Form 5500. In June 2011, Form 5558 was revised to allow the filer to also request an extension of the filing deadline for Form 8955-SSA. In light of the Form 5500 and Form 8955-SSA linked history, practitioners were surprised to find that a plan representative's signature was required to make this request. As was previously the case, no signature is required to request an extension to file Form 5500. The proposed change harmonizes these two types of extension requests that can be made on Form 5558.

INSIGHT

Note that a signature is still required when the Form 5558 is used to extend the filing deadline for Form 5330.

In Closing

The change was announced in the form of [proposed regulations](#) that are set to become effective on June 21. Employers may rely on the proposed regulations until they are finalized.