Form 1126
U. S. INTERNAL REVENUE

CERTIFICATE OF INVENTORY

(To be filed with Collector of Internal Revenue with Income Tax Return)

For Calendar Year 1924

Or for period begun _____, *19*_____, *and ended* _____, *19*_____

Name _____

Address _____

PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATE

Number of sheets submitted herewith_____

I swear (or affirm) that the closing inventory of the taxpayer named above, amounting to $_____, was taken under my direction, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief is true and complete in every respect; that the method of pricing the raw material, work in process, and finished goods was at *_____; that I have carefully read all of the instructions on the reverse side of this form; that this inventory was taken in accordance therewith; and that the following-named persons whose separate certificates are subscribed hereon or attached hereto are the officers and

Signature.	*Title or position.*	*Part of inventory taken.*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 19____

_____
(Signature of officer administering oath.) (Title.)

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INSTRUCTIONS

This certificate of inventory must be submitted by all taxpayers engaged in a trade or business in which the production, purchase, or sale of merchandise of any kind is an income-producing factor.

The principal certificate will be signed by the taxpayer or an executive officer and the subsidiary certificate by officers and employees (such as department heads, superintendents, etc.) designated by the taxpayer or executive officer. If the taxpayer who fills in the principal certificate actually directs and observes the taking of the inventory, the subsidiary certificate need not be filled in.

EXTRACTS FROM REGULATIONS 65

ART. 1611. *Need of inventories.*—In order to reflect the net income correctly, inventories at the beginning and end of each year are necessary in every case in which the production, purchase, or sale of merchandise is an income-producing factor. The inventory should include raw materials and supplies on hand that have been acquired for sale, consumption, or use in productive processes, together with all finished or partly finished goods. Only merchandise title to which is vested in the taxpayer should be included in the inventory. Accordingly the seller should include in his inventory goods under contract for sale but not yet segregated and applied to the contract and goods out upon consignment, but should exclude from inventory goods sold, title to which has passed to the purchaser. A purchaser should include in inventory merchandise purchased, title to which has passed to him, although such merchandise is in transit or for other reasons has not been reduced to physical possession, but should not include goods ordered for future delivery transfer of title to which has not yet been effected. In cases where inventories are required, the taxpayer should file with his return a certificate of inventory on Form 1126.

ART. 1612. *Valuation of inventories.*—The Act provides two tests to which each inventory must conform: (1) It must conform as nearly as may be to the best accounting practice in the trade or business, and (2) it must clearly reflect the income. It follows, therefore, that inventory rules can not be uniform but must give effect to trade customs which come within the scope of the best accounting practice in the particular trade or business. In order clearly to reflect income, the inventory practice of a taxpayer should be consistent from year to year, and greater weight is to be given to consistency than to any particular method of inventorying or basis of valuation so long as the method or basis used is substantially in accord with these regulations. An inventory that can be used under the best accounting practice in a balance sheet showing the financial position of the taxpayer can, as a general rule, be regarded as clearly reflecting his income.

The basis of valuation most commonly used by business concerns and which meets the requirements of the Revenue Act is (*a*) cost or (*b*) cost or market, whichever is lower, (For inventories by dealers in securities, see article 1615.) Any goods in an inventory which are unsalable at normal prices or unusable in the normal way because of damage, imperfections, shop wear, changes of style, odd or broken lots, or other similar causes, including second-hand goods taken in exchange, should be valued at bona fide selling prices less cost of selling whether basis (*a*) or (*b*) is used, or if such goods consist of raw materials or partly finished goods held for use or consumption, they shall be valued upon a reasonable basis, taking into consideration the usability and the condition of the goods, but in no case shall such value be less than the scrap value. Bona fide selling price means actual offering of goods during a period ending not later than 30 days after inventory date.

The burden of proof will rest upon the taxpayer to show that such exceptional goods as are valued upon such selling basis come within the classifications indicated above, and he shall maintain such records of the disposition of the goods as will enable a verification of the inventory to be made.

In respect to normal goods whichever basis (*a*) or (*b*) is adopted must be applied with reasonable consistency to the entire inventory. Taxpayers were given an option to adopt the basis of either (*a*) cost or (*b*) cost or market, whichever is lower, for their 1920 inventories. The basis adopted for that year is controlling and a change can now be made only after permission is secured from the Commissioner. Goods taken in the inventory which have been so intermingled that they can not be identified with specific invoices will be deemed to be either (*a*) the goods most recently purchased or produced, and the cost thereof will be the actual cost of the goods purchased or produced during the period in which the quantity of goods in the inventory has been acquired, or (*b*) where the taxpayer maintains book inventories in accordance with a sound accounting system in which the respective inventory accounts are charged with the actual cost of the goods purchased or produced and credited with the value of goods used, transferred, or sold, calculated upon the basis of the actual cost of the goods acquired during the taxable year (including the inventory at the beginning of the year) the net value as shown by such inventory accounts will be deemed to be the cost of the goods on hand. The balances shown by such book inventories should be verified by physical inventories at reasonable intervals and adjusted to conform therewith.

Inventories should be recorded in a legible manner, properly computed and summarized, and should be preserved as a part of the accounting record of the taxpayer. The inventories of taxpayers on whatever basis taken will be subject to investigation by the Commissioner, and the taxpayer must satisfy the Commissioner of the correctness of the prices adopted.

The following methods, among others, are sometimes used in taking or valuing inventories, but are not in accord with these regulations, viz:

(*a*) Deducting from the inventory a reserve for price changes, or an estimated depreciation in the value thereof.

(*b*) Taking work in process, or other parts of the inventory, at a nominal price or at less than its proper value.

(*c*) Omitting portions of the stock on hand.

(*d*) Using a constant price or nominal value for a so-called normal quantity of materials or goods in stock.

(*e*) Including stock in transit, either shipped to or from the taxpayer, the title of which is not vested in the taxpayer.

ART. 1613. *Inventories at cost.*—Cost means:

(1) In the case of merchandise on hand at the beginning of the taxable year, the inventory price of such goods.

(2) In the case of merchandise purchased since the beginning of the taxable year, the invoice price less trade or other discounts, except strictly cash discounts, approximating a fair interest rate, which may be deducted or not at the option of the taxpayer, provided a consistent course is followed. To this net invoice price should be added transportation or other necessary charges incurred in acquiring possession of the goods.

(3) In the case of merchandise produced by the taxpayer since the beginning of the taxable year (*a*) the cost of raw materials and supplies entering into or consumed in connection with the product, (*b*) expenditures for direct labor, (*c*) indirect expenses incident to and necessary for the production of the particular article, including in such indirect expenses a reasonable proportion of management expenses, but not including any cost of selling or return on capital, whether by way of interest or profit.

(4) In any industry in which the usual rules for computation of cost of production are inapplicable, costs may be approximated upon such basis as may be reasonable and in conformity with established trade practice in the particular industry. Among such cases are (*a*) farmers and raisers of live stock (see article 1616), (*b*) miners and manufacturers who by a single process or uniform series of processes derive a product of two or more kinds, sizes or grades, the unit cost of which is substantially alike (see article 1617), and retail merchants who use what is known as the "retail method" in ascertaining approximate cost (see article 1618).

ART. 1614. *Inventories at market.*—Under ordinary circumstances, and for normal goods in an inventory, "market" means the current bid price prevailing at the date of the inventory for the particular merchandise in the volume in which usually purchased by the taxpayer, and is applicable in the cases (*a*) of goods purchased and on hand, and (*b*) of basic elements of cost (materials, labor, and burden) in goods in process of manufacture and in finished goods on hand; exclusive, however, of goods on hand or in process of manufacture for delivery upon firm sales contracts (i. e., those not legally subject to cancellation by either party) at fixed prices entered into before the date of the inventory, which goods must be inventoried at cost. Where no open market exists or where quotations are nominal, due to stagnant market conditions, the taxpayer must use such evidence of a fair market price at the date or dates nearest the inventory as may be available, such as specific purchases or sales by the taxpayer or others in reasonable volume and made in good faith, or compensation paid for cancellation of contracts for purchase commitments. Where the taxpayer in the regular course of business has offered for sale such merchandise at prices lower than the current price as above defined, the inventory may be valued at such prices less proper allowance for selling expense, and the correctness of such prices will be determined by reference to the actual sales of the taxpayer for a reasonable period before and after the date of the inventory. Prices which vary materially from the actual prices so ascertained will not be accepted as reflecting the market.

ART. 1615. *Inventories by dealers in securities.*—A dealer in securities, who in his books of account regularly inventories unsold securities on hand either (*a*) at cost or (*b*) at cost or market, whichever is lower, or (*c*) at market value, may make his return upon the basis upon which his accounts are kept; provided that a description of the method employed shall be included in or attached to the return, that all the securities must be inventoried by the same method, and that such method must be adhered to in subsequent years, unless another be authorized by the Commissioner. For the purpose of this rule a dealer in securities is a merchant of securities, whether an individual, partnership, or corporation, with an established place of business, regularly engaged in the purchase of securities and their resale to customers; that is, one who as a merchant buys securities and sells them to customers with a view to the gains and profits that may be derived therefrom. If such business is simply a branch of the activities carried on by such person, the securities inventoried as here provided may include only those held for purposes of resale and not for investment. Taxpayers who buy and sell or hold securities for investment or speculation, and not in the course of an established business, and officers of corporations and members of partnerships, who in their individual capacities buy and sell securities, are not dealers in securities within the meaning of this rule. A dealer in securities is not entitled to the benefits of section 208 with reference to the gain from the sale of securities.

ART. 1616. *Inventories of livestock raisers and other farmers.*—(1) Farmers may change the basis of their returns from that of receipts and disbursements to that of an inventory basis provided adjustments are made in accordance with one of the two methods outlined in (*A*) and (*B*) below. It is optional with the taxpayer which method is used, but having elected one method the option so exercised will be binding upon the taxpayer and he will be precluded from filing amended returns upon the basis of the other method.

(*A*) Opening and closing inventories shall be used for the year in which the change is made. There should be included in the opening inventory all farm products (including livestock) purchased or raised which were on hand at the date of the inventory and there must be submitted with the return for the current taxable year an adjustment sheet for the preceding taxable year based on the inventory method, upon the amount of which adjustment the tax shall be assessed and paid (if any be due) at the rate of tax in effect for that year. Ordinarily an adjustment sheet for the preceding year will be sufficient but if, in the opinion of the Commissioner, such adjustment is not sufficient clearly to reflect income, adjustments for earlier years may be accepted or required. Where it is impossible to render complete inventories for the preceding year or years, the department will accept estimates which, in its opinion, substantially reflect the income on the inventory basis for such preceding year or years; but inventories must not include real estate, buildings, permanent improvements, or any other assets subject to depreciation.

(*B*) No adjustment sheets will be required but the net income for the taxable year in which the change is made must be computed without deducting from the sum of the closing inventory and the sales and other receipts, the inventory of livestock, crops, and products at the beginning of the year; provided, however,

(*a*) That if any livestock, grain, or other property on hand at the beginning of the taxable year has been purchased and the cost thereof not charged to expense, only the difference between the cost and the selling price should be reported as income for the year in which sold;

(*b*) But if the cost of such property has been charged to expense for a previous year, the entire amount received must be reported as income for the year in which sold.

(2) Because of the difficulty of ascertaining actual cost of livestock and other farm products, farmers who render their returns upon an inventory basis may at their option value their inventories for the current taxable year according to the "farm-price method," which provides for the valuation of inventories at market price less cost of marketing. If the use of the "farm-price method" of valuing inventories for any taxable year involves a change in method of pricing inventories from that employed in prior years, the opening inventory for the taxable year in which the change is made should be brought in at the same value as the closing inventory for the preceding taxable year. If such valuation of the opening inventory for the taxable year in which the change is made results in an abnormally large income for that year, there may be submitted with the return for such taxable year an adjustment statement for the preceding year based on the "farm-price method" of valuing inventories, upon the amount of which adjustments the tax, if any be due, shall be assessed and paid at the rate of tax in effect for such preceding year. If an adjustment for the preceding year is not, in the opinion of the Commissioner, sufficient clearly to reflect income, adjustment sheets for prior years may be accepted or required.

Where returns have been made in which the taxable net income has been computed upon incomplete inventories, the abnormality should be corrected by submitting with the return for the current taxable year a statement for the preceding year in which such adjustments shall be made as are necessary to bring the closing inventory for the preceding year into agreement with the opening complete inventory for the current taxable year. If necessary clearly to reflect income, similar adjustments may be made as at the beginning of the preceding year or years, and the tax, if any be due, shall be assessed at the rate of tax in effect for such year or years.

ART. 1617. *Inventories of miners and manufacturers.*—A taxpayer engaged in mining or manufacturing who by a single process or uniform series of processes derives a product of two or more kinds, sizes, or grades, the unit cost of which is substantially alike, and who in conformity to a recognized trade practice allocates an amount of cost to each kind, size, or grade of product which in the aggregate will absorb the total cost of production, may use such allocated cost as a basis for pricing inventories, provided such allocation bears a reasonable relation to the respective selling values of the different kinds of product.

ART. 1618. *Inventories of retail merchants.*—Retail merchants who employ what is known as the "retail method" of pricing inventories may make their returns upon that basis, provided that the use of such method is designated upon the return, that accurate accounts are kept, and that such method is consistently adhered to unless a change is authorized by the Commissioner. Under this method the goods in the inventory are ordinarily priced at the selling prices, and the total retail value of the goods in each department or of each class of goods is reduced to approximate cost by deducting the percentage which represents the difference between the retail selling value and the purchase price. This percentage is determined by departments of a store or by classes of goods, and should represent as accurately as may be the amounts added to the cost prices of the goods to cover selling and other expenses of doing business and for the margin of profit. In computing the percentage above mentioned, proper adjustment should be made for all mark-ups and mark-downs.

A taxpayer maintaining more than one department in his store or dealing in classes of goods carrying different percentages of gross profit should not use a percentage of profit based upon an average of his entire business, but should compute and use in valuing his inventory the proper percentages for the respective departments or classes of goods.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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