

**Application for
Approval of Master or Prototype
Defined Contribution Plan**

(Form of Plan Under Section 401(a) and Related Trust Under Section 501(a))

This Form Is Open to Public Inspection

For IRS Use Only

File This Form with Internal Revenue Service

Note: Form 3672 must be used for plans covering self-employed individuals.

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code

File folder number ▶

1 Approval requested: (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Initial application (b) <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment—Enter ▶		(1) Latest letter serial number or notification letter number	(2) Date letter issued	(3) File folder number	(4) Effective date of amendment
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2 (a) Name of sponsoring organization Address (number and street) City or town, State, and ZIP code		2 (b) Employer identification number of sponsor
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3 (a) Name of person to be contacted	3 (b) Telephone number () ()
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4 Type of sponsoring organization: (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Bank (b) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance company	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Regulated investment company (d) <input type="checkbox"/> Trade or professional association (e) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) ▶	5 (a) Form of plan: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Master plan (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Prototype plan (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Field prototype plan
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6 Name of plan	(b) Plan is: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Standardized (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Variable
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Note: Items 7 through 9 do not apply to prototype plans.	7 If plan is trustee, enter name, address, and ZIP code of fiduciary (trustee or custodian)	8 Date trust or custodial account executed
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9 Month in which accounting period of trust or custodial account ends:	10 Type of plan: (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Money-purchase (b) <input type="checkbox"/> Profit-sharing (c) <input type="checkbox"/> Target benefit
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11 Is this plan integrated with social security or railroad retirement? Yes No

12 Type of funding entity: (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust described in section 401(a)	(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-trusteed (fully insured) (c) <input type="checkbox"/> Custodial account described in section 401(f)
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13 Medium of funding (check each applicable box): (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual annuity contracts (b) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual contracts containing life insurance (c) <input type="checkbox"/> Group deposit administration contracts (d) <input type="checkbox"/> Group deferred annuity contracts (e) <input type="checkbox"/> Group permanent contracts	(f) <input type="checkbox"/> Other group annuity contracts (g) <input type="checkbox"/> Stock of regulated investment companies (mutual funds) (h) <input type="checkbox"/> Face amount certificates (i) <input type="checkbox"/> General investments
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14 Indicate the article or section and page number of the plan or trust where the following provisions are contained. All questions must be answered. If not applicable, check "N/A" column.	Yes	N/A	Article or Section and Page Number	FOR IRS USE ONLY
(a) Definitions:				
(1) Does the plan define the following terms—				
(i) Compensation (if plan is integrated, all wages subject to tax under section 3101, without the dollar limitation of section 3121(a), must be included)?				(1)
(ii) Break in service?				(2)
(iii) Hour of service (under Department of Labor Regulations)?				(3)
(iv) Qualified joint and survivor annuity?				(4)
(v) Net profits (profit-sharing plans only)?				(5)
(vi) Normal retirement age (including a prohibition that this age may not exceed any mandatory retirement age enforced by the employer)?				(6)
(vii) Plan year?				(7)
(viii) Taxable wage base (integrated plans only)?				(8)
(ix) Year of service?				(9)

14 (b) Minimum participation standards:

Yes	N/A	Article or Section and Page Number	FOR IRS USE ONLY
			(10)
			(11)
			(11)
			(12)
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(c) Employer contributions:

- (1) Under a money purchase plan, are contributions on behalf of each employee definite?
- (2) Under a profit-sharing plan, are contributions allocated under a definite formula?
- (3) Under a profit-sharing plan, are contributions limited to current and/or accumulated profits?
- (4) Under a target benefit plan, does the plan contain a formula for computing the targeted benefit at normal retirement age?
- (5) Under a target benefit plan, does the plan prohibit contributions on behalf of a participant after normal retirement age?
- (6) Under a target benefit plan, does the plan provide interest factor tables for calculation of contributions?
- (7) Is the contribution or allocation formula properly integrated?
- (8) Are annual additions limited as required by section 415?

14 (c) Employer contributions (Continued):

	Yes	N/A	Article or Section and Page Number	FOR IRS USE ONLY
(9) Does the plan provide that if a shareholder-employee is covered, only the first \$200,000 of compensation of each employee covered under the plan will be taken into account for purposes of determining contributions or allocations under the plan?				(29)
(10) Does the plan provide that if a shareholder-employee is covered, and compensation over \$100,000 is taken into account, contributions on behalf of each common law employee may not be less than 7.5%?				(30)
(11) If the plan is fully insured or provides an insured pre-retirement death benefit, and there is a provision for purchasing additional contracts due to increases in compensation, will additional contracts be purchased when contributions are sufficient to purchase a policy with a face amount of \$1,000 or a \$10 additional monthly benefit?				(31)
(12) Does the plan require separate accounting for each employee's accrued benefit?				(32)
(13) If an employee completes 1,000 hours of service but terminates employment before the end of the plan year, does the plan provide an employer contribution or allocation on behalf of either (i) all of such employees, or (ii) none of such employees?				(33)
(d) Employee contributions:				
(1) Are all employee contributions and earnings on those contributions nonforfeitable at all times?				(34)
(2) Are nondeductible voluntary contributions limited to 10% for all qualified plans?				(35)
(3) If the plan provides for mandatory contributions does the adoption agreement provide an election for the adopting employer to specify the level of these contributions?				(36)
(4) If the plan provides for deductible voluntary contributions, answer (i)-(v).				
(i) Does the plan provide for a separate account for these contributions?				(37)
(ii) Does the plan limit these to cash contributions not in excess of the lesser of (a) \$2,000 or (b) the individual's compensation includible in gross income for the tax year for which the contribution is made?				(37)
(iii) Does the plan provide that these contributions will not be deductible in the individual's tax year at the end of which the individual has reached age 70½ and in later tax years of the individual?				(37)
(iv) Does the plan provide that voluntary contributions will be treated as deductible unless the individual has designated (by notifying the plan administrator) the contribution as nondeductible by the earlier of (a) April 15 of the calendar year after the calendar year during which the contribution is made, or (b) the date prescribed by the plan administrator?				(37)
(v) Does the plan provide that if the deductible voluntary contributions (or the earnings on them) are used to buy life insurance the amount so used will be treated as a distribution?				(37)
(5) Does the plan either (i) provide separate accounts maintained for employer and nondeductible employee contributions, or (ii) identify what portion of an account balance is attributable to employer and nondeductible employee contributions according to section 411(c)(2)?				(38)
(e) Forfeiture provisions:				
(1) If this is a money purchase or target benefit plan, are forfeitures required to be used to reduce employer contributions?				(39)
(2) If this is a profit-sharing plan under which forfeitures may be used to increase benefits, are such forfeitures allocated on the basis of compensation?				(40)
(3) Under a profit-sharing plan, does the plan provide that forfeitures attributable to any tax year of the employer during which it is an electing small business corporation may not inure to the benefit of any individual who is a shareholder-employee for that tax year?				(41)
(4) Does the plan provide that forfeitures resulting from contributions of an adopting employer cannot be reallocated for the benefit of another adopting employer?				(42)
(5) If participants may withdraw their contributions or earnings, may the withdrawal be made without forfeiting vested benefits based on employer contributions?				(43)
(6) If benefits under the plan are forfeited when a participant or beneficiary cannot be located does the plan provide a reinstatement of the benefit if a claim is made?				(44)

14 (f) Distribution provisions:

Complete lines (1) through (4) only if the plan provides for any form of a life annuity benefit.

- (1) If benefits in the form of a life annuity become payable to a married participant, are they paid in the form of a qualified joint and survivor annuity (unless otherwise elected in writing) if:
 - (i) The participant begins to receive the annuity benefits on or after reaching normal retirement age?
 - (ii) The participant dies on or after reaching normal retirement age while in the employer's active service?
 - (iii) The participant begins to receive the benefits on or after reaching the qualified early retirement age (as defined in regulations section 1.401(a)-11(b)(4))?
 - (iv) The participant separates from service on or after reaching normal retirement age (or qualified early retirement age) and dies before beginning to receive the annuity benefits?
- (2) Is the participant given an opportunity to elect out of the joint and survivor annuity, when item (1) applies, during an election period that meets the requirements of regulations section 1.401(a)-11(c)(1)?
- (3) Does the plan provide that a participant must express in writing the form in which benefits are to be paid?
- (4) Answer this question only if the plan provides payment of benefits before normal retirement age (on termination of employment or early retirement).
 - (i) Does the plan provide for (1) an election (meeting the requirements of regulations section 1.401(a)-11(c)(2)) by a married participant of an early survivor annuity in the event of death before retirement, or (2) a survivor benefit at least equal in value to the vested portion of the participant's account balance as of the date of death?
 - (ii) If the plan provides the election in (i)(1), does the plan also require that payments to the survivor not be less than the amount specified in section 401(a)(11)(C)?
- (5) If the plan permits distributions prior to a break in service (upon termination of employment, hardship distributions, change to ineligible class, etc.), does the plan contain either (i) payback provisions, or (ii) separate account provisions required under sections 1.411(a)-7(d)(4) and (5) of the Income Tax Regulations?
- (6) Are distributions limited so that no more than incidental death benefits are provided?
- (7) Are annuity contracts nontransferable when distributed?
- (8) Do benefits under the plan begin, unless otherwise elected in writing, no later than the 60th day after the later of (1) the end of the plan year in which the participant attains the earlier of age 65 or the plan's normal retirement age or (2) the end of the plan year in which the participant terminates his or her service with the employer?
- (9) If the plan contains an early retirement provision which may require both a minimum age and service for eligibility, does it provide that a participant who meets the service requirement but separates before meeting the age requirement will begin receiving benefits when he or she meets the age requirement unless he or she elects otherwise?

(g) Vesting provisions:

- (1) Is a computation period for vesting purposes specified in the plan?
- (2) Is the computation period for determining a break in service the same period which is used to complete a year of service for vesting?
- (3) Does the plan provide that a participant will be fully vested on reaching normal retirement age?
- (4) Does the plan contain vesting options which satisfy the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of section 411(a)(2)?
- (5) Does the "four-forty" vesting schedule provide that all years of employment are counted?
- (6) If the plan contains other vesting options, are they limited so that at all times they will provide a percentage of nonforfeitable rights which is not less than the percentage that would be provided under any one of the options under section 411(a)(2)?
- (7) If all years of service are not counted for vesting purposes, is the service not counted excludible under section 411(a)(4)?
- (8) If a participant separates from service with a nonforfeitable interest, does the plan require that upon re-employment the participant's pre-break service will be considered for vesting purposes in the post-break account balance after he or she has completed no more than a year of service?

Yes	N/A	Article or Section and Page Number	FOR IRS USE ONLY
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			(59)

14 (g) Vesting provisions (Continued):

	Yes	N/A	Article or Section and Page Number	FOR IRS USE ONLY
(9) If an employee who has no vested interest separates from service and is re-employed before the number of consecutive one year breaks in service equals or exceeds the number of years of service whether or not consecutive ("Rule of Parity"), does the plan require that upon re-employment his or her pre-break service will be considered for vesting purposes in the post-break account balance after he or she has completed a year of service?				(60)
(10) If years of service after a 1-year break in service are not taken into account for purposes of determining the nonforfeitable percentage of a participant's pre-break accrued benefit derived from employer contributions, does the plan provide for separate accounts for pre-break and post-break accrued benefits or otherwise meet the requirements of section 1.411(b)-1(e)(2) of the Income Tax Regulations?				(61)
(11) Does a participant who has at least 5 years of service have a reasonable period of time after the adoption of an amendment which directly or indirectly affects the calculation of his or her nonforfeitable percentage to elect to have his or her nonforfeitable percentage computed without regard to the amendment?				(62)
(h) Death benefits:				
(1) If life insurance is provided, are premiums properly limited?				(63)
(2) If ordinary life insurance contracts are purchased, will such contracts be either converted to cash or an annuity contract at or before retirement or distributed to the participant?				(64)
(i) Investment provisions:				
(1) Are trust assets valued—				
(i) At least annually?				(65)
(ii) At current fair market value?				(65)
(iii) On a specified date?				(65)
(2) Are trust earnings and losses allocated on the basis of account balances?				(65)
(3) If the plan provides for the investment in insurance contracts, does it provide for the disposition of dividends and other credits?				(66)
(4) If investments, including insurance contracts, may be earmarked, are such investments subject to the employee's consent or purchased ratably where employee consent is not required?				(67)
(5) If the participant's account is self-directed, and the account may acquire collectibles (as defined in section 408(n)(2)), does the plan provide that the cost to the account of any collectible acquired is treated as a distribution to the participant?				(67)
(j) Amendment and termination:				
(1) Is there a provision for the sponsor to amend the plan?				(68)
(2) Does the plan prohibit adopting employers from amending other than elective provisions unless the employer wants to cease participation in the master or prototype plan?				(68)
(3) Are amounts credited to participants' accounts nonforfeitable upon termination or partial termination of the plan?				(69)
(4) Under a profit-sharing plan are the employees' rights under the plan nonforfeitable upon complete discontinuance of contributions?				(69)
(k) Miscellaneous plan provisions:				
(1) Does the plan prohibit the assignment or alienation of benefits?				(70)
(2) Does the plan provide that corpus or income may not be diverted for purposes other than the exclusive benefit of employees or their beneficiaries?				(71)
(3) Does the plan provide that after its merger, transfer of assets or liabilities, or consolidation, benefits will be no less than before the merger, consolidation or transfer?				(72)
(4) Does the plan provide that if an adopting employer does not attain or retain qualification, the employer can no longer participate under the master or prototype plan?				(73)
(5) Does the plan provide that funds held in a master trust on behalf of an adopting employer will be removed as soon as administratively feasible if the employer does not attain or retain qualified status?				(74)

14 (k) Miscellaneous plan provisions (Continued):	Yes	N/A	Article or Section and Page Number	FOR IRS USE ONLY
(6) Does the plan provide that all employees of all corporations and trades or businesses under common control will be treated as employed by a single employer?				(75)
(7) Does the plan provide that if the employer is a member of an affiliated service group, all employees of the affiliated service group will be treated as employed by a single employer?				(76)
(8) Where the employer maintains the plan of a predecessor employer, does the plan provide that service with a predecessor employer is counted as service with the employer?				(77)
(9) Does the plan provide that in the event of any conflict between provisions of this plan and the terms of any policy or contract issued under the plan, the provisions of the plan will control?				(78)
(10) If this plan is designated as a master plan, is there only one trust or custodial account for all adopting employers?				(79)
(11) If item 12(c) of this application is checked, and the custodian is not a bank as defined in section 401(d), has the IRS issued a ruling that the custodian qualifies under section 401(f)?				(80)

15 Procedural requirements:

	Yes	No
(a) Has a power of attorney been submitted with this application (or was one previously submitted)?		
(b) In the case of an initial request, have the following documents been submitted as required by instructions—		
(1) Adoption agreement(s) (see specific instructions)?		
(2) Copy of plan?		
(3) Copy of trust indenture or custodial account?		
(4) Cover letter requesting field prototype approval and stating that the sponsor can reasonably expect at least 10 of its clients to adopt the plan?		
(5) If the answer to item 14(k)(11) is "Yes," a copy of the ruling?		
(c) In the case of a request involving an amendment, after initial qualification, have the following documents been included—		
(1) A copy of the amendment(s)?		
(2) A description of the amendment covering the items changed and an explanation of the provisions before and after the amendment?		
(3) A completely restated plan (see specific instructions)?		
(4) A working copy of the plan in which there has been incorporated all of the previous amendments representing the provisions of the plan as currently in effect (see specific instructions)?		
(5) Consent of participating employers to amend the plan (see specific instructions)?		
(d) If this is an amended or restated plan, will you advise those employers who cannot or do not adopt the amended or restated plan that they may not continue to participate under the master or prototype plan?		
(e) Is the plan and trust (or custodial account) agreement patterned after and substantially the same as another plan and trust (or custodial account) agreement on which a favorable letter has been received? If "Yes," see specific instructions.		

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, including accompanying statements and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.

----- (Signature) ----- (Title) ----- (Date) -----

CAUTION: This revision cannot be used after December 31, 1983. Because of changes made by the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, this form will be substantially revised in late 1983. You should check with IRS to be sure that the application you file is the latest revision.

General Instructions

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.—The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 says we must tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether you have to give it to us. We ask for the information to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. We need it to determine whether you meet the legal requirements for plan approval. If you want to have your plan approved by IRS, you are required to give us this information.

Note: Be sure to submit a complete and accurate application. Please complete every line on the application. If an item does not apply, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." If your application is not complete, we will return it without processing it.

The questions are designed so that, unless they are not applicable, they should be answered "Yes." If the "N/A" box is shaded the item is a requirement for an opinion or notification letter.

Purpose of Form.—Form 4461 is used to apply for initial approval of, or for approval of amendment to:

- A master or prototype defined contribution pension, annuity, profit-sharing, or target benefit plan that does not include self-employed individuals; or
- A field prototype defined contribution pension or profit-sharing plan that does not include self-employed individuals.

Who May File.—

(A) *Master or prototype plans.*—Trade or professional associations, banks (savings and loan associations that qualify as banks and Federally insured credit unions), insurance companies, regulated investment companies, investment advisors that have an advisory contract with one or more regulated investment companies, and principal underwriters that have an underwriting contract with one or more regulated investment companies, may file Form 4461.

(B) *Field prototype plans.*—A firm (other than one described under "Master or prototype plans" above)

that has at least 10 clients in each IRS region for which the sponsor requests a notification letter for a field prototype plan.

What to File.—For initial approval, file this application and each applicable document listed in item 15(b). For approval of an amendment, file this application and a copy of each applicable document listed in item 15(c).

Where to File.—*Master or prototype plans.*—File the application with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D.C. 20224, Attention: OP:E:EP:T.

Field prototype plans.—File an application with a key District Director according to section 5.02 of Rev. Proc. 77-23, 1977-2 C.B. 530.

Signature.—The application must be signed by a partner or officer of the applicant who is authorized to sign, or other person authorized by a power of attorney. The power of attorney should be filed with the application.

Disclosure Requested by Taxpayers.—The Tax Reform Act of 1976 permits a taxpayer to request the Service to disclose and discuss the return or return information with any person or persons whom the taxpayer designates in a written request. If you want to designate a person or persons to assist in an application for approval, you must provide the IRS office of jurisdiction with a written request that contains:

- (1) The taxpayer's name, address, employer identification number, and plan number(s).
- (2) The name, address, social security number, and telephone number(s) of the person or persons whom you are authorizing to receive return information.
- (3) A paragraph that clearly describes the return or return information that you authorize the IRS to disclose.
- (4) An authorized signature (see above).

approval of an amendment to a previously approved plan. If the application relates to an amendment of a previously approved plan, enter the latest letter serial number or notification letter number, the date of the letter, and the file folder number, and the effective date of the amendment.

Line 5.—*Form of Plan.*—Check the appropriate blocks to indicate the form of the plan and to show whether it is standardized or variable.

A "Master Plan" is a plan that is made available by a sponsoring organization for adoption by employers for which a single funding medium (e.g., a trust or custodial account) is established, as part of the plan, for the joint use of all adopting employers. A "Prototype Plan" is a plan which is made available by a sponsoring organization for adoption by employers under which a separate funding medium is established for each adopting employer.

A "Field Prototype Plan" is a form of plan which sponsors (see Who May File) of employee plans may file with key District Directors for approval as to form.

Line 15.—*Procedural Requirements.*—You must file a separate application for each plan submitted. If there are both trustee and non-trustee versions of the plan, you must incorporate the non-trustee plan in a separate document. List options provided by the plan in a separate document (known as the adoption agreement).

If the plan has been amended at least four times since the last restated plan was submitted, attach a complete plan or a working copy of the plan that incorporates all previous amendments.

If a restated plan is being submitted with this application, a copy of the amendment and a description of such amendment need not be submitted.

If a written consent of participating employers is required, attach copies of the signed consent of each participating employer.

Line 15(e).—If the plan and trust agreement is patterned after another plan, you may attach an exhibit that gives the name of the plan and the file folder number. If the plan has been approved, also give the IRS serial number or notification letter number and the date the plan was approved. If you show the language differences between the two plans and agreements, this information may expedite the review of your plan.

Specific Instructions

Please follow the instructions below when completing this form. Instructions for line items that are self-explanatory are on the form itself.

Line 1.—Check the appropriate box to show whether this is an application for initial approval or for ap-