



Instructions for Form 8275-R

(July 1992)

Regulation Disclosure Statement

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

General Instructions

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information if you wish to use this form to make adequate disclosure to avoid the portion of the accuracy-related penalty due to a substantial understatement of income tax or negligence or disregard of regulations, or to avoid certain preparer penalties. 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.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

Recordkeeping 2 hr., 38 min.

**Learning about the law
or the form** 18 min.

**Preparing and sending
the form to the IRS** 21 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form more simple, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to both the IRS and the Office of Management and Budget at the addresses listed in the instructions of the tax return with which this form is filed.

Purpose of Form

Form 8275-R is used by taxpayers and income tax preparers to disclose one or more positions taken on a tax return that are contrary to Treasury regulations. The form is filed to avoid the portions of the accuracy-related penalty due to negligence or disregard of regulations or to a substantial understatement of income tax. It can also be used for disclosures relating to preparer penalties for income tax

understatements due to positions taken contrary to regulations.

Because of the importance to the self-assessment system of disclosing positions contrary to regulations, the requirements for making such disclosures are stringent:

- The disclosure is adequate **only** if it is separately made on a Form 8275-R, and
- The penalty for reckless or intentional disregard of a regulation may be avoided through disclosure only if the position represents a good faith challenge to the validity of the regulation.

Instead of Form 8275-R, use **Form 8275**, Disclosure Statement, for the disclosure of items or positions which are not contrary to regulations but which are not otherwise adequately disclosed.

Caution: *With the availability of Form 8275-R, use of Form 8275 to disclose items or positions contrary to regulations will no longer be adequate.*

Who Should File

Form 8275-R is filed by individuals, corporations, pass-through entities, and income tax return preparers.

For items attributable to a pass-through entity, disclosure should be made on the tax return of the entity. If the entity does not make the disclosure, the partner (or shareholder, etc.) may make adequate disclosure of these items.

How To File

File all Forms 8275-R with your original tax return. You also may be able to file Forms 8275-R with an amended return. See Regulation section 1.6664-2(c)(3) for more information. Keep a copy for your records.

If you are making adequate disclosure for items reported by a pass-through entity, you must complete and file a separate Form

8275-R for items reported by each entity.

Carrybacks, Carryovers, and Recurring Items.—If you have **carryover** items which you disclosed on a prior year tax return, you do not have to file another Form 8275-R for those items in subsequent tax years.

If you have **carryback** items which you disclosed on a tax return filed for the year in which the carryback originated, you do not have to file another Form 8275-R for those items in prior tax years.

However, if you are disclosing items that are of a **recurring nature** (such as depreciation expense), you must file Form 8275-R for each tax year in which the item occurs.

Accuracy-Related Penalty

The accuracy-related penalty is 20% of any portion of a tax underpayment attributable to (a) negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, (b) substantial understatement of income tax, or (c) other misconduct with regard to asset valuation or pension liability overstatement.

You can avoid the negligence or disregard of regulations and substantial understatement portions of the accuracy-related penalty through adequate disclosure when the position is contrary to regulations only by filing Form 8275-R.

The penalty will not be imposed on any part of an underpayment for which it can be shown that there was reasonable cause for your position and that you acted in good faith with respect to the position.

If you failed to keep proper books and records or failed to substantiate items properly, you cannot avoid the penalty. Disclosure will never avoid the penalty for a frivolous position.

Negligence or Disregard of Regulations

If you disclose an item or position taken on your return by filing a properly completed disclosure statement, you can avoid the negligence or disregard of regulations portion of the accuracy-related penalty. However, your disclosure must be complete and specifically identify the item or position which is being disclosed.

Your position will not be considered adequately disclosed by just completing and filing a form, schedule, or line item according to the applicable instructions.

Substantial Understatement

There is a substantial understatement of income tax if the amount of the understatement for any year exceeds the greater of 10% of the tax required to be shown on the return for the tax year, or \$5,000 (\$10,000 for a corporation other than an S corporation or a personal holding company as defined in section 542).

An **understatement** is the excess of:

- The amount of tax required to be shown on the return for the taxable year, **over**
- The amount of the tax shown on the return for the taxable year, reduced by any rebates.

For purposes of the substantial understatement portion of the accuracy-related penalty, the amount of the understatement will be reduced by the part that is attributable to:

- An item (other than a tax shelter item) for which there was substantial authority for the treatment claimed at the time the return was filed or on the last day of the taxable year to which the return relates.
- An item (other than a tax shelter item) that is adequately disclosed on this form.
- A tax shelter item if (1) there was substantial authority for the treatment at the time the return was filed or on the last day of the taxable year to which the return relates, and (2) you held the reasonable belief that the tax treatment of the item was more likely than not the proper tax treatment.

Tax Shelter Items.—A tax shelter, for purposes of the substantial understatement portion of the

accuracy-related penalty, is a partnership or other entity, plan, or arrangement whose principal purpose is to avoid or evade Federal income tax.

A tax shelter item is any item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit which is directly or indirectly attributable to the principal purpose of the tax shelter to avoid or evade Federal income tax.

Income Tax Return Preparer Penalties

A preparer who files an income tax return or claim for refund is subject to a \$250 penalty for taking a position which understates any part of the liability if:

- The position has no realistic possibility of being sustained on its merits, and
- The preparer knew (or reasonably should have known) of the position, and
- The position is frivolous or not adequately disclosed on the return or on the appropriate disclosure statement.

The penalty will not apply if it can be shown that there was reasonable cause for the understatement and that the preparer acted in good faith.

In cases where any part of the understatement of the liability is due to a willful attempt by the return preparer to understate the liability, or if the understatement is due to reckless or intentional disregard of rules or regulations by the preparer, the preparer is subject to a \$1,000 penalty.

As with negligence or disregard of rules or regulations and the substantial understatement portions of the accuracy-related penalty, the preparer penalties under section 6694 generally may be avoided if a position is sufficiently disclosed and is not frivolous.

Note: For more information about the accuracy-related penalty and preparer penalties, and disclosure as a means of avoiding these penalties, see Regulations sections 1.6662, 1.6664, and 1.6694.

Specific Instructions

Be sure to supply all of the information requested in Parts I and II, and, if applicable, Part III. Your

disclosure will be considered adequate if you supply the information requested in detail.

Part I

Column (a).—Enter a complete description of the item you are disclosing. If you are claiming the same tax treatment for a group of similar items in the same tax year, enter a description identifying the group of items you are disclosing rather than a separate description of each item within the group.

Column (b).—Enter a detailed citation for each regulation for which you have taken a contrary position.

Part II

Your disclosure must include:

- A description of the relevant facts affecting the tax treatment of the item and the nature of the controversy concerning the tax treatment of the item, or
- A concise description of the legal issues presented by these facts.

In addition, your disclosure must include a statement as to why you believe this regulation to be invalid.

Note: *Disclosure will not be considered adequate unless the above information is provided. For example, if instead of supplying the above information using this form, you attach a copy of an acquisition agreement to your return to disclose the issues involved in determining the basis of certain acquired assets, your disclosure will not be considered adequate. Even if you do provide all of the above information somewhere on your tax return, but do not make the disclosure on Form 8275-R, the disclosure will not be considered valid. You may use a continuation sheet(s) if the space provided on the form is not adequate.*

Part III

Line 4.—Contact your pass-through entity if you do not know where its return was filed. However, for partners and S corporation shareholders, information for line 4 can be found on the Schedule K-1 (Form 1065) or on the Schedule K-1 (Form 1120S) that you received from the partnership or S corporation.