

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Robert Coar, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622-6665, or at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224. Or through the internet, at [Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov](mailto:Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Claim for Deficiency Dividends Deductions by a Personal Holding Company, Regulated Investment Company, or Real Estate Investment Trust.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0045.

*Form Number:* Form 976.

*Abstract:* Form 976 is filed by corporations that wish to claim a deficiency dividend deduction. The deduction allows the corporation to use the payment of dividends to reduce taxes imposed after the tax return is filed. The IRS uses Form 976 to determine if shareholders have included the dividend amounts in gross income.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 500.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 7 hrs., 40 min.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,830.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 15, 2003.

**Robert Coar,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 973

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 973, Corporation Claim for Deduction for Consent Dividends.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 17, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Robert Coar, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622-6665, or at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the Internet, at [Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov](mailto:Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Corporation Claim for Deduction for Consent Dividends.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0044.

*Form Number:* Form 973.

*Abstract:* Corporations file Form 973 to claim a deduction for dividends paid.

If shareholders consent and the IRS approves, the corporation may claim a deduction for dividends paid, which reduces the corporation's tax liability. IRS uses Form 973 to determine if shareholders have included the dividend in gross income.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 500

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 4 hrs., 25 mins.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,210.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 15, 2003.

**Robert Coar,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

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