

§ 351.3 Registration and issue.

(a) *Registration.* Bonds may be registered as set forth in subpart B of 31 CFR part 353, also published as Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 3-80.

(b) *Validity of issue.* A bond is validly issued when it (1) is registered as provided in Circular No. 3-80, and (2) bears an issue date, as well as the validation indicia of an authorized issuing agent.

(c) *Taxpayer identifying number.* The inscription of a bond must include the taxpayer identifying number of the owner or first-named coowner. The taxpayer identifying number of the second-named coowner or beneficiary is not required but its inclusion is desirable. If the bond is being purchased as a gift or award and the owner's taxpayer identifying number is not known, the taxpayer identifying number of the purchaser must be included in the inscription on the bond.

(d) *Restrictions on chain letters.* The issuance of bonds in the furtherance of a chain letter or pyramid scheme is considered to be against the public interest and is prohibited. An issuing agent is authorized to refuse to issue a bond if there is reason to believe that a purchase is in connection with a chain letter and the agent's decision is final.

[55 FR 567, Jan. 5, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 14285, Apr. 17, 1992]

§ 351.4 Limitation on purchases.

The amount of Series EE bonds which may be purchased in the name of any one person, in any one calendar year, is limited to \$30,000 (face amount). Subpart C of Circular No. 3-80 (31 CFR part 353) contains the rules governing the computation of amounts and the special limitation for employee plans.

§ 351.5 Purchase of bonds.

(a) *Payroll sales—(1) Payroll savings plans.* Bonds in \$100 and higher denominations may be purchased through deductions from the pay of employees of organizations that maintain payroll savings plans. The bonds must be issued by an authorized issuing agent.

(2) *Employee thrift, savings, vacation, and similar plans.* Bonds registered in

the names of trustees of employee plans may be purchased in book-entry form in \$100 multiples through a designated Federal Reserve Bank after Bureau of the Public Debt approval of the plan as eligible for the special limitation under § 353.13 of this chapter, also published as § 353.13 of Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 3-80.

(b) *Over-the-counter sales—(1) Eligible issuing agents.* Bonds may be purchased through any issuing agent, except that an organization serving as an issuing agent because of its status as an employer or an organization operating an employer's payroll savings plan under § 317.2(c) of this chapter may sell bonds only through payroll savings plans.

(2) *Manner of sale.* An application for the purchase of a bond must be accompanied by a remittance to cover the issue price. The purchase application and remittance may be submitted to an issuing agent by any means acceptable to the issuing agent. An application may authorize purchases on a recurring basis. The issuing agent bears the burden of collection and the risk of loss for non-collection or return of the remittance.

[63 FR 64551, Nov. 20, 1998]

§ 351.6 Delivery of bonds.

Issuing agents are authorized to arrange for the delivery of Series EE bonds. Mail deliveries are made at the risk and expense of the United States to the address given by the purchaser, if it is within the United States, its territories or possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. No mail deliveries elsewhere will be made, except to residents of Mexico and Canada, who participate in payroll saving plans, and to residents of what was formerly the Panama Canal Zone. Bonds purchased by a citizen of the United States residing abroad will be delivered only to such address in the United States as the purchaser directs.

§ 351.7 Payment or redemption.

(a) *Incorporated banks, savings and loan associations and other financial institutions—(1) Payment in general.* A financial institution qualified as a paying agent under the provisions 31 CFR part 321, also published as Department

§ 351.8

31 CFR Ch. II (7-1-02 Edition)

of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 750, will pay the current redemption value of a Series EE bond presented for payment by an individual whose name is inscribed on the bond as owner or coowner, provided:

(i) The bond is in order for payment; and

(ii) The presenter establishes his or her identity to the satisfaction of the agent, in accordance with Treasury instructions and identification guidelines, and signs and completes the request for payment.

(2) *Payment to beneficiary or legal representative.* A paying agent may (but is not required to) pay the current redemption value of a Series EE bond upon the request of a beneficiary, if he or she survives the owner, or a legal representative designated in the bond registration by name and capacity, or a court-appointed legal representative of the last-deceased registrant's estate provided:

(i) The bond is in order for payment; and

(ii) The presenter establishes his or her identity to the satisfaction of the agent in accordance with Treasury instructions and identification guidelines, and otherwise complies with evidentiary requirements.

(b) *Federal Reserve Banks and Branches.* A Federal Reserve Bank or Branch referred to in § 351.12 will pay the current redemption value of a Series EE bond presented for payment, provided the bond is in order for payment and the request for payment on the bond is properly signed and certified in accordance with Circular No. 3-80.

[55 FR 567, Jan. 5, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 14285, Apr. 17, 1992; 59 FR 10540, Mar. 4, 1994]

§ 351.8 Taxation.

(a) *General.* The increment in value, represented by the difference between the issue price of a Series EE bond and the redemption value received for it, is interest. This interest is subject to all taxes imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended. The bonds are subject to estate, inheritance, gift, or other excise taxes, whether Federal or State, but are exempt from all other taxation now or hereafter imposed on the principal or inter-

est by any State, any possession of the United States or any local taxing authority.

(b) *Federal income tax on bonds.* An owner of Series EE bonds may use either of the following two methods for reporting the increase in the redemption value of the bond for Federal income tax purposes:

(1) *Cash basis.* Defer reporting the increase to the year of maturity, redemption, or other disposition, whichever is earlier; or

(2) *Accrual basis.* Elect to report the increase each year as it accrues, in which case the election applies to all Series EE bonds then owned by the taxpayer and those subsequently acquired as well as to any other obligations purchased on a discount basis, such as savings bonds of Series E.

(3) If the method in paragraph (b)(1) of this section is used, the taxpayer may change to the method in paragraph (b)(2) of this section without obtaining permission from the Internal Revenue Service. However, once the election to use the method in paragraph (b)(2) of this section is made, the taxpayer may not change the method of reporting unless he or she obtains permission from the Internal Revenue Service. For further information, the District Director of the taxpayer's district, or the Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC 20224, should be consulted.

(c) *Tax-deferred exchanges.* Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 2-80 (31 CFR part 352), authorizes the exchange of Series EE bonds for Series HH bonds, with a continuation of the tax-deferral privilege. The rules governing tax-deferred exchanges are contained in that circular.

(d) *Reissue.* A reissue that affects the rights of any of the persons named on a Series EE bond may have a tax consequence.

§ 351.9 Education savings bond program.

A bond owner or coowner may be able to exclude from income for Federal income tax purposes all or part of the interest received on the redemption of qualified U.S. Savings Bonds during the year if that owner or coowner paid qualified higher education expenses