credit losses on the balance sheet, in Schedule RI–B, and in the regulatory capital schedule (Schedule RC–R). For consistency, the agencies also proposed to recaption the items labelled ''Provision for loan and lease losses'' as ''Provision for credit losses'' in the income statement (Schedule RI) and in Schedule RI–B. Two commenters addressed this proposal. One supported it while the second favored only the risk-based capital treatment of the allowance for credit losses, preferring to have Schedule RI–B, part II, cover only the allowance for loan and lease losses. The FFIEC and the agencies considered this suggestion, but did not accept it. There has been an absence of bank objections during 1997 to the reporting method which the agencies proposed to retain for Schedule RI–B, part II.

Reporting of Securitized Consumer Loans for Vehicle Purchases—The agencies proposed to revise the instructions for reporting securitized consumer loans so that loans for the purchase of pickup trucks, other light trucks, and vans for personal use would be included in ''Loans to purchase private passenger automobiles'' rather than in ''All other consumer credit.'' The only commenter commenting on this instructional change agreed with the change. The FFIEC and the agencies are implementing the change as proposed.

Categorization of Industrial Development Bonds on the Balance Sheet—In September 1997, the FFIEC printed and distributed revised, updated Call Report instruction books to all banks and invited comments on the accuracy, adequacy, and clarity of the revised instructions. One commenter recommended that the agencies simplify the instructions for reporting industrial development bonds (IDBs) in the Call Report. More specifically, the commenter suggested that the agencies replace the existing Call Report instructions governing whether a bank should report its IDBs as securities or as loans with instructions stating that IDBs should be reported as securities or as loans on the Call Report consistent with the manner in which the bank reports these instruments on its balance sheet for other financial reporting purposes. The FFIEC and the agencies agree and are revising the instructions accordingly.

Other Comments—Three commenters discussed the effect of the provisions of FASB Statement No. 125, ''Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities,'' that took effect for transfers occurring after December 31, 1997. These newly effective provisions relate to the accounting for collateral and secured borrowings, repurchase agreements, securities lending, and similar transactions. If certain conditions are met, collateral received by a creditor must be recorded as an asset on the creditor's balance sheet. Under previous GAAP, the collateral may not have been recorded on the creditor's balance sheet. As a result of this change in accounting standards, some banks will see their total on-balance sheet assets increase, which would increase the denominators in the calculation of these banks' leverage capital and risk-based capital ratios. The effect of these provisions of FASB Statement No. 125 will appear for the first time in the March 31, 1998, Call Report.

These commenters stated that regulatory capital ratios should be computed using a pre-FASB Statement No. 125 approach to collateralized transactions so that regulatory capital is not allocated twice for the same transaction. These commenters recommended that the FFIEC change the Call Report instructions in 1998 to say that amounts added to the balance sheet because of the collateral provisions of FASB Statement No. 125 should be excluded from average total assets and risk-weighted assets. When it considered these comments, the FFIEC concluded that this was primarily a regulatory capital issue that should be addressed as a supervisory matter under the FFIEC's Task Force on Supervision. The Task Force on Supervision has requested that its capital working group evaluate the issue these commenters have raised.

Five commenters indicated that the proposed changes do not significantly reduce the reporting burden imposed by the Call Report. They urged the FFIEC and the agencies to do more to reduce burden, eliminate items not related to safety and soundness, and work to fulfill the mandate of Section 307 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994. Section 307 requires the four federal banking and thrift agencies to work jointly to develop a single form for the filing of core information by banks, savings associations, and bank holding companies. It also directs the agencies to review the information they collect from these institutions that supplements the core information and eliminate those reporting requirements that are not warranted for safety and soundness or other public purposes. Thus, it is clear from Section 307 that Call Report data should not be collected exclusively to meet the agencies' safety and soundness needs. Nevertheless, the agencies regularly review the existing Call Report requirements in order to identify items that are no longer sufficiently useful to warrant their continued collection. Since 1995 these reviews have led to the elimination of numerous items and reductions in the level of detail in several areas. For 1998, as discussed above, the FFIEC and the agencies also decided not to implement certain proposed revisions about which commenters' expressed concern about burden.

In addition to eliminating a number of items that were considered unnecessary for safety and soundness and other public purposes, the FFIEC and the agencies have, as part of their Section 307 efforts, adopted GAAP as the reporting basis for the Call Report, combined the four sets of Call Report instructions into a single comprehensive set which includes an index, made the Call Report forms and instructions available on the Internet, and implemented an electronic filing requirement for the Call Report. The FFIEC and the agencies are continuing to analyze the specific uses of the individual Call Report items in order to ascertain their relative importance to the agencies and assist in the agencies' ongoing effort to eliminate information with the least practical utility. Furthermore, the banking and thrift agencies are continuing their work on a common core report that will satisfy the requirements of Section 307.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 17, 1998.

William W. Wiles,

Secretary of the Board.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

Karen Solomon,

Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 20th day of February, 1998.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–4859 Filed 2–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–33–M, 6210–01–M, 6714–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

[T.D. 98–17]

Bonds; Approval To Use Authorized Facsimile Signatures and Seal

The use of facsimile signatures and seal on Customs bonds by the following corporate surety has been approved

effective this date: Aegis Security Insurance Company.

Authorized facsimile signature on file for: Gary C. Bhojwani, Attorney-in-Fact, Deborah A. Briner, Attorney-in-Fact.

The corporate surety has provided the Customs Service with copies of the signatures to be used, a copy of the corporate seal, and a certified copy of the corporate resolution agreeing to be bound by the facsimile signatures and seal. This approval is without prejudice to the surety's right to affix signatures and seals manually.

Dated: February 19, 1998.

Jerry Laderberg,

Chief, Entry Procedures and Carriers Branch.

[FR Doc. 98–4954 Filed 2–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Quarterly IRS Interest Rates Used in Calculating Interest on Overdue Accounts and Refunds on Customs Duties

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public of the quarterly Internal Revenue Service interest rates used to calculate interest on overdue accounts and refunds of Customs duties. For the quarter beginning January 1, 1998, the rates will remain at 8 percent for overpayments and 9 percent for underpayments. This notice is published for the convenience of the importing public and Customs personnel.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald Wyman, Accounting Services Division, Accounts Receivable Group, 6026 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana 46278, (317) 298–1200, extension 1349.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1505 and Treasury Decision 85–93, published in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 1985 (50 FR 21832), the interest rate paid on applicable overpayments or underpayments of Customs duties shall be in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code rate established under 26 U.S.C. 6621 and 6622. Interest rates are determined based on the short-term Federal rate. The interest rate that Treasury pays on overpayments will be the short-term Federal rate plus two percentage points. The interest rate paid to the Treasury for underpayments will be the short-term Federal rate plus three percentage points. The rates will be rounded to the nearest full percentage.

The interest rates are determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on behalf of the Secretary of the Treasury based on the average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the U.S. with remaining periods to maturity of 3 years or less, and fluctuate quarterly. The rates effective for a quarter are determined during the first-month period of the previous quarter.

The IRS announced December 15, 1997, that the rates of interest for the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 1998 (the period of January 1–March 31, 1998) will remain at 8 percent for overpayments and 9 percent for underpayments. These interest rates are subject to change for the third quarter of FY–1998 (the period of April 1–June 30, 1998).

For the convenience of the importing public and Customs personnel the following list of Internal Revenue Service interest rates used, since July 1, 1975 to date, to calculate interest on overdue accounts and refunds of Customs duties, is published in summary format.

Beginning date	Ending date	Under-payments (percent)	Over-payments (percent)
070175 ..	013176	9	9
020176 ..	013178	7	7
020178 ..	013180	6	6
020180 ..	013182	12	12
020182 ..	123182	20	20
010183 ..	063083	16	16
070183 ..	123184	11	11
010185 ..	063085	13	13
070185 ..	123185	11	11
010186 ..	063086	10	10
070186 ..	123186	9	9
010187 ..	093087	9	8
100187 ..	123187	10	9
010188 ..	033188	11	10
040188 ..	093088	10	9
100188 ..	033189	11	10
040189 ..	093089	12	11
100189 ..	033191	11	10
040191 ..	123191	10	9
010192 ..	033192	9	8
040192 ..	093092	8	7
100192 ..	063094	7	6
070194 ..	093094	8	7
100194 ..	033195	9	8
040195 ..	063095	10	9
070195 ..	033196	9	8
040196 ..	063096	8	7
070196 ..	033198	9	8

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Samuel H. Banks,

Acting Commissioner of Customs.

[FR Doc. 98–4953 Filed 2–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 6478

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 6478, credit for Alcohol Used as Fuel.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 27, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 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 Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622–3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Credit for Alcohol Used as Fuel.

OMB Number: 1545–0231.

Form Number: 6478.

Abstract: IRC section 38(b)(3) allows a nonrefundable income tax credit for businesses that sell or use alcohol mixed with other fuels or sold as straight alcohol. Small ethanol producers are also allowed a nonrefundable credit for production of qualified ethanol. Form 6478 is used to compute the credits.

Current Actions: Line 13c was added for the new child tax credit under Internal Revenue Code section 24, and line 13d was added for the new education credits under Code section 25A.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,600.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 14 hr., 16 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 79,912.