

Internal Revenue Service

MEMORANDUM

Date:	12/19/2006	OMB NO. 1545- <i>1432</i>	
To:	Michael Robinson IT Policy and Management Offi	ce	
From:	Glenn P. Kirkland IRS Reports Clearance Officer	SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP	
Subject:	IRS Submission for OMB Revi	ew	
	Attached is a submission for: Vo	oluntary Customer Surveys to plement EO-12862 (06-025).	
	Approval is needed by: January	<u>4, 2007.</u>	
	Received by	on//	
	Date sent to OMB/		
	Please sign the duplicate copy of	this memo and return to us.	

1545-1432

Note to: Glenn P. Kirkland

IRS Reports Clearance Office

Tax Forms and Publication SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP

From: Kevin Cecco

Chief, Statistical Support Section Statistics of Income RAS:S:S:S

Subject: OMB Approval Request W&I CSCO Study, 06-25

Attached is the documentation needed by the Office of Management and Budget for W&I CSCO Study-06-025. The total estimated burden for this study is 211 hours.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please direct them to me at (202) 874-0464.

Attachments:
Cover Memorandum to OMB
OMB Form 83-C
Clearance Request
Attachments
Questionnaire

NOTE TO THE REVIEWER OF: OMB Clearance # 1545-1432

From: Kevin Cecco

Chief, Statistical Support Section Statistics of Income RAS:S:S:S

Subject: OMB Approval Request for W&I CSCO Study, 06-025

Please accept the enclosed materials for approval under the OMB Clearance package 1545-1432, "Customer Satisfaction". In accordance with our agreement with OMB, I am submitting a brief description of the study and the materials to be used in the study at least two weeks in advance of the start of the study.

The total estimated burden for this study is 211 hours.

If there are any questions regarding this project, please direct them to me at (202) 874-0464.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT CHANGE WORKSHEET

Agency/Subagency		OMB Control Number
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		1 5 4 5 - 1432
	Enter only items that change	
	Current Record	New Record
Agency form number(s) Cognitive and Psychological Research		06 025
Annual reporting and recordkeeping hour burden		
Number of respondents		
Total annual responses		
Percent of these responses collected electronically	%	%
Total annual hours		
Difference		
Explanation of difference		
Branner Channe		
Program Change		
Adjustment	J	
Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (in thousands of dollars)		
Total annualized Capital/Startup costs		
Total annual costs (O&M)		
Total annualized cost requested		
Difference		
Explanation of difference		
Program change		
Adjustment		
Other Change** New Hal	12/20/04	
Signature of Senior Official or designee:	Date:	For OIRA Use

^{**}This form cannot be used to extend an expiration date. OMB 83-C

OMB SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR COMPIANCE SERVICE COLLECTION OPERATION (CSCO) – CY07 TO MEASURE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IRS, WAGE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION TIRNO-05-Z-00014

Introduction

IRS has replaced its traditional measures of accomplishment with a balanced measurement system consisting of business results, customer satisfaction, and employee satisfaction The Compliance Service Collection Operation (CSCO) section within the Compliance Operating Unit (OU) of Wage and Investment (W&I) will be responsible for resolving balance due and return delinquency customer account issues through the mail, providing account settlement (payment options), and working related issues. As an important customer interface, CSCO will need feedback from customers to continuously improve its operations. This initiative is part of the Service-wide effort to establish a system of balanced organizational performance measures mandated by the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. This is also a result of Executive Order 12862, which requires all government agencies to survey their customers and incorporate customer preferences in their process improvement efforts.

The key goals of the survey are to track customer satisfaction at W&I CSCO sites and to identify operational improvements.

<u>Customer Satisfaction Survey</u>

The customer satisfaction survey questionnaire is attached. Completion of the survey is expected to take approximately three minutes.

The objective of the survey will be to gauge customer expectations and perceptions about the CSCO process. The questionnaire is based on the vendor's Net Impression methodology, which asks respondents to evaluate various aspects of their experience and to provide an overall summary evaluation. The results should facilitate more effective management of W&I CSCO by:

- Providing insight from the customer's perspective about possible improvements.
- Providing useful input for program evaluation and execution at the programmatic and field office level of service delivery.

The survey will include several rating questions evaluating service delivery during the CSCO process as well as demographic items. In addition, ample space will be provided for suggestions for improvement.

Survey scoring for this contract will be based on the Customer Satisfaction Survey Score response average to the keystone question – "How would you rate your overall experience with the way your case was handled?" Questions will utilize a 5-point rating scale, with 1 being very dissatisfied and 5 being very satisfied. All survey responses generated will be confidential. The vendor shall ensure that taxpayers responding to the survey are guaranteed anonymity.

Design and Methodology

The sample universe will consist of taxpayers with closed CSCO cases pulled at each of the 5 site locations. The vendor will select 3,333 cases per year Assuming a 60% response rate, this will yield 2,000 completed questionnaires per year (400 per site).

The vendor will administer the survey by mail on a monthly basis. Standard procedures will be used in order to obtain the highest response rate possible for the mail survey. These will include: 1) an advance letter about the survey; 2) the initial survey with a cover letter; 3) a postcard reminder; and, 4) a second letter and survey to non-respondents.

The vendor will, on a semi-annual basis, summarize the quantitative ratings and produce a national report showing customer satisfaction scores on all CSCO survey items and overall improvement priorities for the function. The vendor will deliver a national report each semi-annual period. On an annual basis, the vendor will prepare 5 site reports containing individual site scores on each of the survey items and improvement priorities for the individual sites. The vendor will include any relevant database variables in the analysis and will weight the survey responses as necessary to reflect accurately the entire customer base.

Reports of survey findings will be distributed to the IRS each semi-annual period, Each report will be delivered approximately seven weeks after the survey cut-off date for the semi-annual period.

Evaluation

For the reports, the vendor will use basic and advanced statistical techniques including, but not limited to, analysis of variance and the prioritization of improvement priorities using vendor's established technique.

- · Survey counts and overall response rates.
- The overall level of customer satisfaction with services provided by CSCO
- The averages and frequencies for all rating questions.
- The differences in satisfaction ratings and attitudes across customer segments.
- Which areas of service, in priority order, CSCO should focus its resources to improve overall satisfaction.
- Cross tabulations of variables for the customer surveys.
- Analysis of the relationship between survey responses.
- Analysis of the one open-ended question for improvement suggestions. The vendor shall transcribe and code the responses to the open-ended question and will conduct content analysis in order to provide CSCO with the top ten categories of concern.

Estimates of the Burden of Data Collection

The CSCO survey has been designed to minimize burden on the taxpayer. The time that a respondent takes to complete the survey has been carefully considered and only the most important areas are being surveyed. The average time of survey completion is expected to be 3 minutes, plus 2 minutes to read the pre-notification letter. This is based on the questionnaire consisting of 19 satisfaction questions and 1 demographic question, plus one open-ended question on suggestions for improvement. The questions are generally one sentence in structure and on an elementary concept level.

We have made every attempt in designing this survey to maximize response rate.

Using the response rate of 60 percent, then the total burden for respondents in hours is estimated to be 167 hours (2,000 surveys x 3 minutes / 60 minutes + 2,000 prenotification letters x 2 minutes / 60 minutes).

For non-respondents, the total number of burden hours is estimated to be 44 hours (1,333 pre-notification letters x 2 minutes/ 60 minutes).

The grand total burden is estimated to be 211 hours for the year.

Privacy, Security, Disclosure and Confidentiality

All participants will be subject to the provisions of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights II during this study and the contractor will ensure that all participants are treated fairly and appropriately.

The security of the data used in this project and the privacy of taxpayers will be carefully safeguarded at all times. Security requirements are based on the Computer Security Act of 1987 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130, Appendices A & B. Physical security measures include a locked, secure office. Notes are stored in locked cabinets or shredded. Data security at the C-2 level is accomplished via the Windows NT operating system. Systems are password protected, users profiled for authorized use, and individual audit trails generated and reviewed periodically.

The IRS will apply and meet fair information and record-keeping practices to ensure privacy protection of all taxpayers. This includes criteria for disclosure—laid out in the Privacy Act of 1974, the Freedom of Information Act, and Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code—all of which provide for the protection of taxpayer information as well as its release to authorized recipients.

The survey will not contain tax return or taxpayer information. Survey participants will not be identified in any of the documents or files used for this project. We will limit and control the amount of information we collect to those items that are necessary to accomplish the research questions. We will carefully safeguard the security of data utilized as well as the privacy of the survey respondents. We will apply the fair information and record-keeping practices to ensure protection of all survey respondents. The criterion for disclosure laid out in the Privacy Act, the Freedom of Information Act,

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and section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code provides for the protection of information as well as its releases to authorized recipients.

Other Information

The survey will be administered between January and December 2007.

The following information will be provided to the Human Capital Office within 60 days after the close of the survey data collection operations:

- Findings: A brief summary of significant findings that were evidenced in the results.
- Actions taken or lessons learned: A brief summary of any action taken or lessons learned as a result of the findings.
- · Number of completed questionnaires

Statistical Contact

For questions regarding the study or questionnaire design or the statistical methodology, contact:

Elaine Lowitz Pacific Consulting Group 399 Sherman Avenue, Suite 1 Palo Alto, California 94306 (650) 327-8108 Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ATLANTA, GA 30308

WAGE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION 36121999999999111122P

October 11, 2005

ANYTOWN, US 12345-6789

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Dear JOHN Q & MARY Q SAMPLE:

I need your help with an important initiative I am undertaking to improve our service to taxpayers across the country. I want to get feedback from taxpayers like you who have been through the Innocent Spouse process at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In a few days, you will receive a questionnaire asking for your opinions about working with the IRS during and after the processing of your claim. The questionnaire will take about 5 minutes to complete. Your answers will be combined with others to give us an evaluation on Customer Satisfaction with the service IRS provides. To keep all replies confidential, we have asked an independent research company to administer the survey. The Survey Processing Center employees will process the questionnaires and report only statistical totals to us so that we can make improvements.

I am committed to improving IRS service to every taxpayer. Please help me in this effort by completing and returning the questionnaire as soon as possible. If you do not receive a questionnaire within 5 to 7 business days, please contact our Survey Processing Center at 1-866-377-8208.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jim Grimes

Director, Compliance

Wage and Investment Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ATLANTA, GA 30308

WAGE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION

3746099999999111122 P

October 13, 2005

JOHN Q & MARY Q SAMPLE SAMPLE ADDRESS 1

SAMPLE ADDRESS 2

SAMPLE ADDRESS 3

SAMPLE ADDRESS 4

SAMPLE ADDRESS 5

ANYTOWN, US 12345-6789

Dear JOHN Q & MARY Q SAMPLE:

I need your help with an important initiative I am undertaking to improve our service to America's taxpayers. I want to get feedback from taxpayers like you who have recently received a notice informing you of a balance due or return delinquency on your tax return.

In a few days, you will receive a questionnaire asking your opinions about the collection process with the IRS. Please direct it to the person who had the most contact with the IRS on this matter. The questionnaire should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Your answers will be combined with others to give us an evaluation on customer satisfaction with IRS service.

To keep all replies confidential, we have asked an independent research company to administer the survey. The survey processing center employees will process the questionnaires and report only statistical totals to us.

I am committed to improving IRS service to every taxpayer. Please help me in this effort by completing and returning the questionnaire as soon as possible. If you do not receive a questionnaire, please contact our Survey Processing Center at 1-866-377-8208.

Sincerely,

Jim Grimes

Director, Compliance

Wage and Investment Division

Survey Processing Center Post Office Box 344 Claysburg, PA 16625-0344

Do We Have Your Input Yet?

Recently, you received a questionnaire asking your opinions about the service you received from the IRS in a recent contact. If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please take a few minutes to complete it and return it today. We want to be sure we have your opinions and suggestions.

If you did not receive the questionnaire, or it got misplaced, please call 1-866-377-8208.

Dr. Peter H. Webb Project Director

Appendix H

Compliance Services Collection Operation W&I Questionnaire

CSCO W&I Q

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CSCO W&I Questionnaire-Back

1	
A Did you receive the informaton you requested?	Please mark the topic that best describes you nath sens?
No (Skip to Question 6)	☐ Balatice due ☐ Return deluquency
4b If yes, how many days elapsed between the time you submitted this anguiry and the mme you received a	Both balance due and to um delinquence Other
Right away tovet the phone or in person)	
1 15-29 day,	Have vou contacted the JRS about this issue before?
☐ 45-60 days	ž ž
Did not receive a reply	<u>;</u>
Wat this information helpful to you?	
 	Wax your itsne with the IRS completely resolved?
If no, what other infomation did you need?	%;
	D Not sure
Ate 1007	If your issue is not resolved, or if you are unsure, why do you believe your issue has not been
4 tax professional who represented the taxpayer	completely recolved.
Lyonecore dis wife represented trapayer 1. Set this space for additional comments of suggestions for improvement.	for improvement.
If you have been triable to resolve any specific problems with your tax uniter through the normal IRS channels, or now face a significant hardship due to the application of the tax law, we encourage you to contact the Taxpaver Advocate Service at 1-872,777-4778	our fax unter through the normal IRS channels, or now we encourage 100 to contact the Taxpayer Advocate
Thank you for completing the survey. Please return the questionnaire by mail, using the enclosed business return envelope.	cting the survey. g the enclosed business return envelope.
Paparank Reherant Act reports the the the Statistic control harden at Chiefe and Internation requests. The OLB Courts Number on the picks reformation requests. The OLB Courts Number of this state, 1455-143, 146, 176 where any comments regarding the time estimates essectable with this study or suggestions of which proceeds they by the state white to the Marmal Revente Tex Products Centering Committee, AE W. Residence are W. Residence at V. W.	n kit News i marker on all pickle information requests. The OLB Control ing the time estimates associated with this study or suggestions on Iza Products Cest francing Committee, S.E. W.C.LR MP. 7. S.P.
AND	****

Survey Processing Center

PO Box 344 Claysburg, PA 16625 USA

October 13, 2005

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Dear JOHN Q & MARY Q SAMPLE:

A few days ago you received a letter from Jim Grimes, Director, Compliance, Wage & Investment Division, asking for your help with an important research project. If you have already completed the survey, thank you. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to fill in your responses.

We are administering a nationwide survey among people who have had contact with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). We want to know your opinions about the collection process you went through which began with a notice informing you of a balance due or a return delinquency. Your responses are critical to the accuracy of this research.

We are sending questionnaires to a random sample of taxpayers who have gone through the collection process on a recent tax return have had such discrepancies, and your participation is voluntary. We will group your responses with others, so that no individual reply can be traced back to any one person.

The questionnaire is quite brief and should take only two or three minutes to complete. Please use the postage-paid reply envelope to return your completed questionnaire. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Survey Helpline at 1-866-377-8208.

The IRS is committed to improving its performance and service to the American public. A first step in this process is to gather reliable information from those who have had contact with IRS services and employees. Your honest opinions will help bring about this improvement.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Webb Project Director

P. F. Well



IRS WAGE AND INVESTMENT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY COMPLIANCE SERVICES COLLECTION OPERATION

The IRS is trying to improve its service to the public. You can help in this important mission by answering the questions below. This voluntary survey should take less than five minutes to complete. When completing this survey, please mark your responses with an 'x' using a blue or black pen like this example X. Do not mark outside of the response area like this example X. Your responses will be kept completely confidential. If you have any questions about this survey, you may call The Survey Processing Center at 1-866-377-8208.

The questions that follow ask your opinion regarding how the IRS handled your most recent collection process. For each question, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with the final outcome, please indicate your opinion by choosing a number from 1 to 5, where 1 means "Very Dissatisfied" and 5 means "Very Satisfied." If the question does not apply to your situation, mark the box labeled "Don't Know/Not Applicable."

	Please consider only the written notices you received from the IRS when answering the following questions.	Very				Very	Don't
	How satisfied are you with the: a. Ease of obtaining the information you needed from the IRS. b. Explanation of why adjustments were made to your account. c. Length of time you were given to respond to the IRS, if a response was requested. d. Consideration given to the information you submitted. c. Length of the correspondence collection process, from when you first wrote the IRS to finish. f. Follow through of the IRS on what they said they were going to do. g. Understanding that you have payment options. h. Resolving this matter through written correspondence. i. Awareness of phone option to inquire about this matter. j. Fairness of treatment by the IRS. k. Ease of understanding the notice you received in response to your written inquiry. l. Accuracy of information provided in response to your written inquiry. m. Time IRS took to respond to your written inquiry. n. Keeping you informed of the status of your case.		² ▼ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	3 ▼□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□	▼ □□ □□ □□□□□□	Satisfied 5 Image: Control of the control of th	know/Not applicable U IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
2	Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with the final outcome, how would you rate your overall satisfaction with the way your correspondence collection issue was handled? If you marked a 1 or 2 for this question, please tell us what could have to correspondence collection process is handled:	□ been done dij	□ (ferently	□ to impr	ove the	way the	,
		·	1				
1	☐ Yes ☐ No (Skip to Question 6)	yes, how did Mail Email Phone In person	1 you r	equest tl	ais info	rmation	7



Did you receive the information you requested? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Skip to Question 5b)	If by mail, would you have preferred that the IRS reply by phone? Yes No
If yes, how many days elapsed between the time you submitted this inquiry and the time you received a reply? Right away (over the phone or in person) Less than 15 days 15-29 days 30-44 days 45-60 days Over 60 days Did not receive a reply	Was your issue with the IRS completely resolved? Yes In how many months? No Not sure How many months has it been in process?
Did the IRS ask for clarification after receiving information you sent in? Yes No (Skip to Question 6) If yes, did the IRS request this clarification by phone or send the reply by mail? Phone (Skip to Question 6) Mail	If your issue was not resolved, why do you believe your issue has not been completely resolved?
Use this space for additional comments or suggestions fo	or improvement.

If you have been unable to resolve any specific problems with your tax matter through the normal IRS channels, or now face a significant hardship due to the application of the tax law, we encourage you to contact the Taxpayer Advocate Service, at 1-877-777-4778.

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please return the questionnaire by mail, using the enclosed business return envelope.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that the IRS display an OMB control number on all public information requests. The OMB Control Number for this study is 1545-1432. Also, if you have any comments regarding the time estimates associated with this study or suggestions on making this process simpler, please write to the: Internal Revenue Service, Tax Products Coordinating Committee, SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW. Washington, DC 20224.