

# Instructions for Form 8900

(Rev. February 2020)



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

## Qualified Railroad Track Maintenance Credit

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

## General Instructions


### Future Developments

For the latest information about developments related to Form 8900 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to [IRS.gov/Form8900](https://www.irs.gov/Form8900).

### What's New

**Credit extension.** The qualified railroad track maintenance credit was retroactively extended to cover qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures paid or incurred in tax years beginning in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022. A safe harbor rule allows assignments, including related expenditures paid or incurred, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, and ending before January 1, 2020, to be treated as effective as of the close of that tax year if made pursuant to a written agreement entered into no later than March 19, 2020.

**Periodic updating.** Form 8900 and its instructions will no longer be updated annually. Instead, they'll only be updated when necessary. Use these instructions and the Form 8900 (Rev. February 2020) for tax years beginning after 2017. For previous tax years, see the applicable Form 8900 and instructions. For example, use the 2017 Form 8900 with the 2017 Instructions for Form 8900 for tax year ending December 31, 2017.

 *For 2018 claims, use Form 8900 (Rev. February 2020) because it has lines 1 through 5 available if needed.*

### Who Must File

Eligible taxpayers use Form 8900 to claim the railroad track maintenance credit (RTMC) for qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures (QRTME) paid or incurred during the tax year. If you are an assignor of miles of eligible railroad track, you must file Form 8900 even if you do not claim any RTMC. See the instructions for line 3b for the additional information that must be provided by assignors.

Partnerships and S corporations must file this form to claim the credit. All other taxpayers are not required to complete or file this form if their only source for this credit is a partnership or S corporation. Instead, they can report this credit directly on line 4g in Part III of Form 3800, General Business Credit.

### Definitions

**Eligible taxpayers.** Eligible taxpayers include the following.

1. Any Class II or Class III railroad, as these terms are defined by the Surface Transportation Board.
2. Any person (including a Class I railroad (see below)) who transports property using the rail facilities of a Class II or Class III railroad.
3. Any person (including a Class I railroad (see below)) who furnishes railroad-related services or property to a Class II or Class III railroad.

For purposes of (2) or (3) above, the taxpayer is only eligible to claim the credit for miles of eligible railroad track assigned to it by a Class II or Class III railroad for purposes of the credit. See the instructions for line 3c.

Class I railroads include only the following seven entities.

- BNSF.
- CSX.
- Grand Trunk Corporation (a holding company for all of Canadian National's U.S. railroad operations).
- Kansas City Southern.
- Norfolk Southern.
- Soo Line (owned by Canadian Pacific).
- Union Pacific.

**Rail facilities.** Rail facilities of a Class II or Class III railroad are railroad yards, tracks, bridges, tunnels, wharves, docks, stations, and other related assets that are used in the transport of freight by a railroad and owned or leased by that railroad.

**Railroad-related property.** Railroad-related property is property that is provided directly to a Class II or Class III railroad and is unique to railroads. For a complete description, see Regulations section 1.45G-1(b)(7).

**Railroad-related services.** Railroad-related services are services that are provided directly to, and are unique to, a railroad and that relate to railroad shipping, loading and unloading of railroad freight, or repairs of rail facilities or railroad-related property. For examples of what are and what are not railroad-related services, see Regulations section 1.45G-1(b)(8).

**Eligible railroad track.** Eligible railroad track is railroad track located within the United States that is owned or leased by a Class II or Class III railroad at the close of its tax year. The railroad is treated as owning the railroad track if it is subject to depreciation under section 167 by the railroad. Double track is treated as multiple lines of railroad track, rather than as a single line of railroad track. That is, 1 mile of single track is 1 mile, but 1 mile of double track is 2 miles.

**Qualifying railroad structure.** Qualifying railroad structure is property located within the United States that includes, in part, tunnels, bridges, and railroad track. For a complete description, see Regulations section 1.45G-1(b)(4).

**Qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures (QRTME).** QRTME are expenditures (whether or not otherwise chargeable to a capital account) for maintaining, repairing, and improving a qualifying railroad structure that is owned or leased as of January 1, 2015, by a Class II or Class III railroad. If you paid or incurred QRTME during the tax year, you do not have to reduce that QRTME by any amount of direct or indirect reimbursement to which you are entitled from a Class II or Class III railroad which made an assignment of eligible railroad track to you.

### Adjustments to Basis

Some or all of the QRTME paid or incurred by an eligible taxpayer may be required to be capitalized as a tangible asset or an intangible asset, if applicable. See Regulations section 1.45G-1(e)(1).

Use the amount of RTMC to reduce the basis of a qualifying railroad structure (including railroad track) asset or intangible asset, if applicable. The reduction is limited to the amount of QRTME capitalized for the asset. For further details, see Regulations section 1.45G-1(e)(2).

### Member of Controlled Group or Business Under Common Control

For purposes of figuring the credit, all members of a "controlled group of corporations" and all members of a "group of businesses under common control" are treated as a single taxpayer. See

Regulations section 1.45G-1(f)(2) for a definition of these terms. As a member, your credit is determined on a proportionate basis to your share of the aggregate QRTME taken into account by the group for the RTMC. Enter your share of the credit on line 5. Attach a statement showing how your share of the credit was figured, and write "See Attached" next to the entry space for line 5.

## Specific Instructions

### Line 1

Qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures must be paid or incurred by an eligible taxpayer during the tax year.

The payment by an eligible taxpayer, as an assignee, to a Class II or Class III railroad, as an assignor, in exchange for an assignment of miles of eligible railroad track for purposes of the credit computation is treated as QRTME paid or incurred by the assignee and not the assignor.


### Line 3a

(This line only applies to you if you are a Class II or Class III railroad.)

Enter the number of eligible railroad track miles (see *Eligible railroad track*, earlier) owned or leased by you.

### Line 3b

(This line only applies to you if you are a Class II or Class III railroad.)

 See [What's New](#), earlier, for a safe harbor rule that may apply.

You must reduce on line 3b the number of miles of eligible railroad track entered on line 3a that you assigned to another eligible taxpayer for purposes of the credit computation. You can only assign each mile of railroad track once during your tax year. Each mile of railroad track you assign is treated as being assigned on the last day of your tax year.

An assigned mile of eligible railroad track need not correspond to any specific mile of eligible railroad track for which the eligible taxpayer actually pays or incurs the QRTME. Further, an assignment requires no transfer of legal title or other indicia of ownership of the eligible railroad track, and need not specify the location of any assigned mile of eligible railroad track. However, the following information must be provided for the assignment in the form of a statement attached to the tax return for the tax year for which the assignment is made.

- The name and taxpayer identification number of each assignee.
- The total number of miles of the assignor's eligible railroad track.
- The number of miles of eligible railroad track assigned by the assignor for the tax year to the assignee.
- The total number of miles of eligible railroad track assigned by the assignor for the tax year to all assignees.

### Line 3c



See [What's New](#), earlier, for a safe harbor rule that may apply.

The following information must be provided for the assignment in the form of a statement attached to the tax return for the tax year for which the assignment is made.

- The total number of miles of eligible railroad track assigned to the assignee for the assignee's tax year.
- Attestation that the assignee has in writing, and has retained as part of the assignee's records for purposes of Regulations section 1.6001-1(a), the following information from each assignor.
  1. The name and taxpayer identification number of each assignor.
  2. The effective date of each assignment (treated as being made by the assignor at the end of its tax year) to the assignee.
  3. The number of miles of eligible railroad track assigned by each assignor to the assignee for the tax year of the assignee.

### Notes

- The assignee cannot reassign miles.
- If the assignor, in its required statement (see the instructions for line 3b above), assigns more miles than it has at the end of its tax year, the excess will be used to reduce each assignee's allocation in the same proportion as the assignee's original allocation of miles bears in relation to the total miles originally assigned.

### Line 6

Enter total qualified railroad track maintenance credits from:

- Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), Partner's Share of Income, Deductions, Credits, etc., box 15 (code P); and
- Schedule K-1 (Form 1120-S), Shareholder's Share of Income, Deductions, Credits, etc., box 13 (code P).

Partnerships and S corporations report the above credits on line 6. All other filers figuring a separate credit on earlier lines also report the above credits on line 6. All others not using earlier lines to figure a separate credit can report the above credits directly on Form 3800, Part III, line 4g.

**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. 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.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated burden for individual and business taxpayers filing this form is approved under OMB control number 1545-0074 and 1545-0123 and is included in the estimates shown in the instructions for their individual and business income tax return. The estimated burden for all other taxpayers who file this form is shown below.

Recordkeeping . . . . .	4 hr., 4 min.
Learning about the law or the form . . . . .	0 hr., 53 min.
Preparing and sending the form to the IRS . . . . .	1 hr., 00 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for the tax return with which this form is filed.