

1996



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Instructions for Form 3468

Investment Credit

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

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 average time is:

Recordkeeping	11 hr., 29 min.
Learning about the law or the form	2 hr., 59 min.
Preparing and sending the form to the IRS	3 hr., 18 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. You can write to the IRS at the address listed in the instructions for the tax return with which this form is filed.

General Instructions

Purpose of Form

Use Form 3468 to claim the investment credit. The investment credit consists of the rehabilitation, energy, and reforestation credits. Also, use Form 3468 to claim a regular investment credit for transition property.

If you are a partner in a partnership, beneficiary of an estate or trust, shareholder in an S corporation, or lessee, use Form 3468 to figure the credit based on your share of the investment that was allocated to you by the partnership, estate, trust, S corporation, or lessor.

Investment Credit Property

Investment credit property is any depreciable or amortizable property that qualifies for the rehabilitation, energy, or reforestation credit. For details on the rehabilitation credit, see the instructions for lines 1a through 1c. For details on the energy credit, see the instructions for line 2. For details on the reforestation credit, see the instructions for line 3.

You **cannot** claim a credit for property that is:

1. Used mainly outside the United States (except for property described in section 168(g)(4)),
2. Used by a governmental unit or foreign person or entity (except for a qualified rehabilitated building leased to that unit, person, or entity; and property used under a lease with a term of less than 6 months),
3. Used by a tax-exempt organization (other than a section 521 farmers' cooperative) unless the property is used mainly in an unrelated trade or business or is a qualified rehabilitated building leased by the organization, or
4. Used for lodging or for furnishing the lodging (see section 50(b)(2) for exceptions).

Transition Property

Property of certain taxpayers specified in sections 204(a)(8), 204(a)(12), and 204(c)(4) of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 (TRA) may be eligible for the regular investment credit under the transitional rules of section 49 (as in effect on November 4, 1990). Also, certain projects specified in TRA sections 251(d)(3) and (4) may be eligible for the rehabilitation credit under the transitional rules of TRA section 251(d)(5). For property that qualifies under the transitional rules, do not use lines 1 through 4. Instead, attach a statement that shows how you figured the allowable credit. Include the credit on line 5 of Form 3468 and write on the dotted line to the left of line 5 "TRA" and the section number that lists your property as qualifying for the credit. If you are claiming the rehabilitation credit, see the instructions for lines 1a through 1c for other information that must be attached.

Election for Certain Leased Property

If you lease property to someone else, you may elect to treat all or part of your

investment in new property as if it were made by the person who is leasing it from you. Lessors and lessees should see section 48(d), (as in effect on November 4, 1990), and related regulations for rules on making this election. For limitations, see sections 46(e)(3) and 48(d) (as in effect on November 4, 1990).

At-Risk limit for Individuals and Closely Held Corporations

The cost or basis of property for investment credit purposes may be limited if you borrowed against the property and are protected against loss, or if you borrowed money from a person who is related or who has other than a creditor interest in the business activity. The cost or basis must be reduced by the amount of this "nonqualified nonrecourse financing" related to the property as of the close of the tax year in which it is placed in service. If, at the close of a tax year following the year property was placed in service, the nonqualified nonrecourse financing for any property has increased or decreased, then the credit base for the property changes accordingly. The changes may result in an increased credit or a recapture of the credit in the year of the change. See sections 49 and 465 for details.

Recapture of Credit

You may have to refigure the credit and recapture all or a portion of it if:

- You dispose of the property before the end of 5 full years after the property was placed in service (recapture period),
- You change the use of the property,
- The business use of the property decreases so that it no longer qualifies (in whole or in part) as investment credit property,
- Any building to which section 47(d) applies will no longer be a qualified rehabilitated building when placed in service,
- You reduce your proportionate interest in a partnership or other pass-through entity that allocated the cost or basis of property to you for which you claimed a credit, or
- You return leased property (on which you claimed a credit) to the lessor before the end of the recapture period.

For more information, get **Form 4255**, Recapture of Investment Credit.

Specific Instructions

Partnerships, S Corporations, Estates, and Trusts

To figure the cost or basis of property to pass through to the individual partners, shareholders, or beneficiaries, complete only the following:

- The qualified rehabilitation expenditures on lines 1b and 1c (or the attached statement for line 5),
- The basis of energy property on line 2,
- The amortizable basis of qualified timber property on line 3, and
- The qualified investment for transitional regular investment credit property on the attached statement for line 5.

Attach the form (with applicable lines of Part I completed) to the partnership, S corporation, estate, or trust income tax return to show the total cost or basis (or unused credit from a cooperative) that is passed through.

Regulated Investment Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts

For regulated investment companies and real estate investment trusts, the following amounts are limited to a percentage of the amounts otherwise determined:

- The qualified rehabilitation expenditures on lines 1b and 1c (or the attached statement for line 5).
- The basis of energy property on line 2.
- The amortizable basis of qualified timber property on line 3.
- The qualified investment for transitional regular investment credit property on the attached statement for line 5.
- The \$25,000 amount used to figure the tax limitation on line 12.

Figure this percentage by dividing taxable income for the year by taxable income figured without regard to the deduction for dividends paid. For more details, see Regulations section 1.46-4(b).

Part I—Current Year Credit

Lines 1a through 1c.—Rehabilitation Credit

You are allowed a credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures made for any qualified rehabilitated building. The credit is 10% of the expenditures for any qualified rehabilitated building other than a certified historic structure and 20% of the expenditures for a certified historic structure. You must reduce your depreciable basis by the amount of the credit.

To be a qualified rehabilitated building, your building must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. The building was originally placed in service before 1936 or it is a certified

historic structure. A certified historic structure is any building **(a)** listed in the National Register of Historic Places or **(b)** located in a registered historic district (as defined in section 47(c)(3)(B)) and certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being of historic significance to the district. Certification requests are made through your State Historic Preservation Officer on National Park Service (NPS) Form 10-168, Historic Preservation Certification Application.

2. The building must be substantially rehabilitated. A building is considered substantially rehabilitated if your qualified rehabilitation expenditures during a 24-month period that you select and that ends with or within your tax year are more than the greater of \$5,000 or your adjusted basis in the building and its structural components. Figure adjusted basis on the first day of the 24-month period or the first day of your holding period, whichever is later. If you are rehabilitating the building in phases under a written architectural plan and specifications that were completed before the rehabilitation began, substitute "60-month period" for "24-month period."

3. The building must have been placed in service before the beginning of rehabilitation. This requirement is met if the building was placed in service by any person at any time before the rehabilitation began.

4. For a building other than a certified historic structure **(a)** at least 75% of the external walls must be retained with 50% or more kept in place as external walls and **(b)** at least 75% of the existing internal structural framework of the building must be retained in place.

To be qualified rehabilitation expenditures, your expenditures must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. The expenditures must be for **(a)** nonresidential rental property, **(b)** residential rental property (but only if a certified historic structure—see Regulations section 1.48-1(h)), or **(c)** real property that has a class life of more than 12½ years.

2. The expenditures must be incurred in connection with the rehabilitation of a qualified rehabilitated building.

3. The expenditures must be capitalized and depreciated using the straight line method.

4. The expenditures cannot include the costs of acquiring or enlarging any building.

5. If the expenditures are in connection with the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure or a building in a registered historic district, the rehabilitation must be certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being consistent with the historic character of the property or district in which the property is located. This requirement does not apply to a building in a registered historic district if **(a)** the building is not a certified historic structure, **(b)** the Secretary of the Interior certifies that the building is not of historic

significance to the district, and **(c)** if the certification in (b) occurs after the rehabilitation began, the taxpayer certifies in good faith that he or she was not aware of that certification requirement at the time the rehabilitation began.

6. The expenditures cannot include any costs allocable to the part of the property that is (or may reasonably expect to be) tax-exempt use property (as defined in section 168(h)).

For credit purposes, the expenditures are generally taken into account for the tax year in which the qualified rehabilitated building is placed in service. However, with certain exceptions, you may elect to take the expenditures into account for the tax year in which they were paid (or, for a self-rehabilitated building, when capitalized) if **(a)** the normal rehabilitation period for the building is at least 2 years and **(b)** it is reasonable to expect that the building will be a qualified rehabilitated building when placed in service. For more details, see section 47(d). To make this election, check the box on line 1a.

If you are claiming the rehabilitation credit, you must attach a statement to Form 3468 that shows:

1. The beginning and ending dates of the 24- or 60-month period you have selected for purposes of the substantial rehabilitation test,

2. The adjusted basis of the building as of the beginning of the 24- or 60-month period, or the first day of your holding period, whichever is later, and

3. The amount of qualified rehabilitation expenditures incurred, or treated as incurred, during the 24- or 60-month period.

If the adjusted basis of the building is determined in whole or in part by reference to the adjusted basis of a person other than the taxpayer, see Regulations section 1.48-12(b)(2)(viii) for additional information that must be attached.

If you are claiming a credit for a certified historic structure on line 1c, you must attach a copy of the final certification of completed work by the Secretary of the Interior and evidence that the building is a certified historic structure. If the final certification has not been received by the time the tax return is filed, attach a copy of the first page of NPS Form 10-168a, Historic Preservation Certification Application (Part 2—Description of Rehabilitation), with proof that it was received by the Department of the Interior or the State Historic Preservation Officer, together with evidence that the building is a certified historic structure (or that such status has been requested). After the final certification of completed work has been received, attach a copy of the certification to the first tax return filed after receipt of the certification. Enter the building number assigned by the NPS in the space provided. If the qualified rehabilitation expenditures are from a partnership, S corporation, estate, or trust, enter the

identifying number of the flow-through entity in the space provided.

Line 2—Energy Credit

Enter the basis of energy property placed in service during the tax year. Energy property is:

1. Equipment that uses solar energy to generate electricity, to heat or cool (or provide hot water for use in) a structure, or to provide solar process heat, or

2. Equipment used to produce, distribute, or use energy derived from a geothermal deposit (within the meaning of section 613(e)(2)). For electricity produced by geothermal power, equipment qualifies only up to, but not including, the electrical transmission stage.

To qualify, the property must be constructed, reconstructed, or erected by the taxpayer. If acquired by the taxpayer, the original use of such property must begin with the taxpayer. The property must meet the performance and quality standards, if any, that have been prescribed by regulations and are in effect at the time the property is acquired.

Energy property does not include any property that is public utility property as defined by section 46(f)(5) (as in effect on November 4, 1990).

If energy property is financed in whole or in part by subsidized energy financing or by tax-exempt private activity bonds, the amount that you can claim as basis is the basis that would otherwise be allowed multiplied by a fraction that is 1 reduced by a second fraction, the numerator of which is that portion of the basis allocable to such financing or proceeds, and the denominator of which is the basis of the property. For example, if the basis of the property is \$100,000 and the portion allocable to such financing or proceeds is \$20,000, the fraction of the basis that you may claim the credit on is $\frac{4}{5}$ (i.e., 1 minus \$20,000/\$100,000).

Subsidized energy financing means financing provided under a Federal, state, or local program, a principal purpose of which is to provide subsidized financing for projects designed to conserve or produce energy.

You must reduce the depreciable basis by 50% of the energy credit determined.

Line 3—Reforestation Credit

Enter the portion of the amortizable basis of any qualified timber property that was acquired during the tax year and is taken into account under section 194. Only direct costs for planting and seeding can be amortized. These include costs for site

preparation, seed, seedlings, labor, tools, and depreciation on equipment such as tractors, trucks, and tree planters used in planting or seeding. Depreciation is a direct cost only for the period of time the equipment is used in these activities.

You cannot claim more than \$10,000 (or \$5,000 if married filing separately) of amortizable basis acquired during the tax year. For more information, see Regulations sections 1.194-2 and 1.48-1(p).

You must reduce the amortizable basis by 50% of the reforestation credit determined.

Line 4—Credit from Cooperatives

Section 1381(a) cooperative organizations may claim the investment credit. If the cooperative cannot use any of the credit because of the tax liability limit, the unused credit must be allocated to the patrons of the cooperative. The recapture provisions of section 50 apply as if the cooperative had kept the credit and not allocated it. Patrons should enter their unused investment credit from cooperatives.

Who Must File Form 3800

If for this year you have more than one of the credits included in the general business credit listed below, or have a carryback or carryforward of any of the credits, or have an investment credit from a passive activity, you must complete **Form 3800**, General Business Credit, instead of completing Part II of Form 3468 to figure the tax liability limit.

The general business credit consists of the following credits:

- Investment (Form 3468),
- Work opportunity (Form 5884),
- Alcohol used as fuel (Form 6478),
- Research (Form 6765),
- Low-income housing (Form 8586),
- Enhanced oil recovery (Form 8830),
- Disabled access (Form 8826),
- Renewable electricity production (Form 8835),
- Indian employment (Form 8845),
- Employer social security and Medicare taxes paid on certain employee tips (Form 8846),
- Orphan drug (Form 8820),
- Contributions to selected community development corporations (Form 8847), and
- Trans-Alaska pipeline liability fund.

The empowerment zone employment credit (Form 8844), while a component of the general business credit, is figured

separately on Form 8844 and is never carried to Form 3800.

C corporations that are required to file **Form 4626**, Alternative Minimum Tax—Corporations, may also use Schedule A of Form 3800 to determine if they are entitled to an additional general business credit for any regular investment credit carryforward to 1996 for property placed in service before January 1, 1991, under section 38(c)(2) (as in effect on November 4, 1990).

Part II—Tax Liability Limit

If you must file Form 3800, do **not** complete Part II of Form 3468.

Line 7f—Credit for Fuel From a Nonconventional Source

Corporations, enter the nonconventional source fuel credit from Form 1120, Schedule J, line 4c. For individuals, the credit is included in the total for line 43 of Form 1040 (report only the portion of line 43 that is the nonconventional source fuel credit). Other filers, enter the credit from the appropriate line of your return.

Line 11—Tentative Minimum Tax

Enter the tentative minimum tax (TMT) that was figured on the appropriate alternative minimum tax (AMT) form or schedule. Although you may not owe AMT, you must still compute the TMT to figure your credit.

Line 12

If a husband and wife file separate returns, each must use \$12,500 instead of \$25,000. But if one of them has no investment credit (or no carryforwards or carrybacks to the current year), then the other may use the entire \$25,000.

A member of a controlled group must use only its apportioned share of the \$25,000.

A regulated investment company or a real estate investment trust should see **Regulated Investment Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts** on page 2.

For estates and trusts, the \$25,000 amount is reduced by the same proportionate share of income that was allocated to the beneficiaries.

Line 15

If you cannot use all of the credit because of the tax liability limit (line 14 is smaller than line 5), carry the excess back 3 years and then forward 15 years. See the separate Instructions for Form 3800 for details.