### Form 5304-SIMPLE

(Rev. August 2005)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

### Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE)—Not for Use With a Designated Financial Institution

OMB No. 1545-1502

**Do not** file with the Internal Revenue Service

	establishes t	ne following SIMPLE
IRA	Name of Employer A plan under section 408(p) of the Internal Revenue Code and pursuant to the instructions contained in this form.	
	rticle I—Employee Eligibility Requirements (complete applicable box(es) and blanks—see instruc	ctions)
1		·
a b	b Limited Eligibility. Eligibility is limited to employees who are described in both (i) and (ii) below:  (i) Current compensation. Employees who are reasonably expected to receive at least \$	in compensation (not
	to exceed \$5,000) for the calendar year.  (ii) Prior compensation. Employees who have received at least \$ in compensation (not to	exceed \$5,000)
2	during any calendar year(s) (insert 0, 1, or 2) preceding the calendar year.	,
Δrti	The Employer elects to exclude employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement for which retirement ber of good faith bargaining. Note: This box is deemed checked if the Employer maintains a qualified plan covering only stricted II—Salary Reduction Agreements (complete the box and blank, if applicable—see instruction in the complete that the box and blank is applicable.	uch employees.
1	·	period reduced. The
2	2 Timing of Salary Reduction Elections	
а	a For a calendar year, an eligible employee may make or modify a salary reduction election during the 60-day period im January 1 of that year. However, for the year in which the employee becomes eligible to make salary reduction contribution during which the employee may make or modify the election is a 60-day period that includes either the date the emple eligible or the day before.	outions, the period
b	<b>b</b> In addition to the election periods in 2a, eligible employees may make salary reduction elections or modify prior election. If the	ons, e Employer chooses
	this option, insert a period or periods (for example, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or daily) that will apply uniformly employees.	to all eligible
С	c No salary reduction election may apply to compensation that an employee received, or had a right to immediately received execution of the salary reduction election.	eive, before
	d An employee may terminate a salary reduction election at any time during the calendar year. Ull If this box is checked terminates a salary reduction election not in accordance with 2b may not resume salary reduction contributions during	
Arti	rticle III—Contributions (complete the blank, if applicable—see instructions)	
1	<b>Salary Reduction Contributions.</b> The amount by which the employee agrees to reduce his or her compensation will be Employer to the employee's SIMPLE IRA.	be contributed by the
2a		
	(i) For each calendar year, the Employer will contribute a matching contribution to each eligible employee's SIMPLE employee's salary reduction contributions up to a limit of 3% of the employee's compensation for the calendar ye	•
	(ii) The Employer may reduce the 3% limit for the calendar year in (i) only if:	ar nariad anding with
	(1) The limit is not reduced below 1%; (2) The limit is not reduced for more than 2 calendar years during the 5-year the calendar year the reduction is effective; and (3) Each employee is notified of the reduced limit within a reasonable before the employees' 60-day election period for the calendar year (described in Article II, item 2a).	
b	b Nonelective Contributions	
	(i) For any calendar year, instead of making matching contributions, the Employer may make nonelective contribution compensation for the calendar year to the SIMPLE IRA of each eligible employee who has at least \$ than \$5,000) in compensation for the calendar year. No more than \$210,000* in compensation can be taken into a determining the nonelective contribution for each eligible employee.	, (not more
	<ul><li>(ii) For any calendar year, the Employer may make 2% nonelective contributions instead of matching contributions or</li><li>(1) Each eligible employee is notified that a 2% nonelective contribution will be made instead of a matching contr</li><li>(2) This notification is provided within a reasonable period of time before the employees' 60-day election period for (described in Article II, item 2a).</li></ul>	ibution; and
3	Time and Manner of Contributions	
а	a The Employer will make the salary reduction contributions (described in 1 above) for each eligible employee to the SIMPLE IRA establish institution selected by that employee no later than 30 days after the end of the month in which the money is withheld from the employee	

b The Employer will make the matching or nonelective contributions (described in 2a and 2b above) for each eligible employee to the

including extensions, for the taxable year that includes the last day of the calendar year for which the contributions are made.

\* This is the amount for 2005. For later years, the limit may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments. The IRS announces the increase, if any, in a news release, in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, and on the IRS's internet website at www.irs.gov.

SIMPLE IRA established at the financial institution selected by that employee no later than the due date for filing the Employer's tax return,

#### **Article IV—Other Requirements and Provisions**

1 Contributions in General. The Employer will make no contributions to the SIMPLE IRAs other than salary reduction contributions (described in Article III, item 1) and matching or nonelective contributions (described in Article III, items 2a and 2b).

- 2 Vesting Requirements. All contributions made under this SIMPLE IRA plan are fully vested and nonforfeitable.
- 3 No Withdrawal Restrictions. The Employer may not require the employee to retain any portion of the contributions in his or her SIMPLE IRA or otherwise impose any withdrawal restrictions.
- 4 Selection of IRA Trustee. The employer must permit each eligible employee to select the financial institution that will serve as the trustee, custodian, or issuer of the SIMPLE IRA to which the employer will make all contributions on behalf of that employee.
- 5 Amendments To This SIMPLE IRA Plan. This SIMPLE IRA plan may not be amended except to modify the entries inserted in the blanks or boxes provided in Articles I, II, III, VI, and VII.
- 6 Effects Of Withdrawals and Rollovers
- a An amount withdrawn from the SIMPLE IRA is generally includible in gross income. However, a SIMPLE IRA balance may be rolled over or transferred on a tax-free basis to another IRA designed solely to hold funds under a SIMPLE IRA plan. In addition, an individual may roll over or transfer his or her SIMPLE IRA balance to any IRA after a 2-year period has expired since the individual first participated in any SIMPLE IRA plan of the Employer. Any rollover or transfer must comply with the requirements under section 408.
- **b** If an individual withdraws an amount from a SIMPLE IRA during the 2-year period beginning when the individual first participated in any SIMPLE IRA plan of the Employer and the amount is subject to the additional tax on early distributions under section 72(t), this additional tax is increased from 10% to 25%.

#### **Article V—Definitions**

- 1 Compensation
- a General Definition of Compensation. Compensation means the sum of the wages, tips, and other compensation from the Employer subject to federal income tax withholding (as described in section 6051(a)(3)), the amounts paid for domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority, and the employee's salary reduction contributions made under this plan, and, if applicable, elective deferrals under a section 401(k) plan, a SARSEP, or a section 403(b) annuity contract and compensation deferred under a section 457 plan required to be reported by the Employer on Form W-2 (as described in section 6051(a)(8)).
- **b** Compensation for Self-Employed Individuals. For self-employed individuals, compensation means the net earnings from self-employment determined under section 1402(a), without regard to section 1402(c)(6), prior to subtracting any contributions made pursuant to this plan on behalf of the individual.
- 2 Employee. Employee means a common-law employee of the Employer. The term employee also includes a self-employed individual and a leased employee described in section 414(n) but does not include a nonresident alien who received no earned income from the Employer that constitutes income from sources within the United States.
- 3 Eligible Employee. An eligible employee means an employee who satisfies the conditions in Article I, item 1 and is not excluded under Article I, item 2.
- 4 SIMPLE IRA. A SIMPLE IRA is an individual retirement account described in section 408(a), or an individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b), to which the only contributions that can be made are contributions under a SIMPLE IRA plan and rollovers or transfers from another SIMPLE IRA.

**Article VI—Procedures for Withdrawal** (The employer will provide each employee with the procedures for withdrawals of contributions received by the financial institution selected by that employee, and that financial institution's name and address (by attaching that information or inserting it in the space below) unless: **(1)** that financial institution's procedures are unavailable, or **(2)** that financial institution provides the procedures directly to the employee. See **Employee Notification** on page 5.)

Article VII—Effective Date						
This SIMPLE IRA plan is effectiveinstructions.						See
	*	*	*	*	*	
Name of Employer		-	By: Signature		Date	
Address of Employer			-	Name and title		

#### Model Notification to Eligible Employees

I. Opportunity to Participate in the SIMPLE IRA Plan
You are eligible to make salary reduction contributions to the SIMPLE IRA plan. This notice and the attached summary description provide you with information that you should consider before you decide whether to start, continue, or change your salary reduction agreement.
II. Employer Contribution Election
For the calendar year, the employer elects to contribute to your SIMPLE IRA (employer must select either (1), (2), or (3)):   (1) A matching contribution equal to your salary reduction contributions up to a limit of 3% of your compensation for the year;
(2) A matching contribution equal to your salary reduction contributions up to a limit of% (employer must insert a number from 1 to 3 and is subject to certain restrictions) of your compensation for the year; or
(3) A nonelective contribution equal to 2% of your compensation for the year (limited to \$210,000*) if you are an employee who makes at least \$(employer must insert an amount that is \$5,000 or less) in compensation for the year.
III. Administrative Procedures
To start or change your salary reduction contributions, you must complete the salary reduction agreement and return it to
individual) by (employer should insert a date that is not less than 60 days after notice is given).
IV. Employee Selection of Financial Institution
You must select the financial institution that will serve as the trustee, custodian, or issuer of your SIMPLE IRA and notify your employer of your selection.
Model Salary Reduction Agreement
I. Salary Reduction Election
Subject to the requirements of the SIMPLE IRA plan of
II. Maximum Salary Reduction I understand that the total amount of my salary reduction contributions in any calendar year cannot exceed the applicable amount for that year. See instructions.
III. Date Salary Reduction Begins
I understand that my salary reduction contributions will start as soon as permitted under the SIMPLE IRA plan and as soon as administratively feasible or, if later, (Fill in the date you want the salary reduction contributions to begin. The date must be after you sign this agreement.)
IV. Employee Selection of Financial Institution
I select the following financial institution to serve as the trustee, custodian, or issuer of my SIMPLE IRA.
Name of financial institution
Address of financial institution
SIMPLE IRA account name and number
I understand that I must establish a SIMPLE IRA to receive any contributions made on my behalf under this SIMPLE IRA plan. If the information regarding my SIMPLE IRA is incomplete when I first submit my salary reduction agreement, I realize that it must be completed by the date contributions must be made under the SIMPLE IRA plan. If I fail to update my agreement to provide this information by that date, I understand that my employer may select a financial institution for my SIMPLE IRA.
V. Duration of Election
This salary reduction agreement replaces any earlier agreement and will remain in effect as long as I remain an eligible employee under the SIMPLE IRA plan or until I provide my employer with a request to end my salary reduction contributions or provide a new salary reduction agreement as permitted under this SIMPLE IRA plan.
Signature of ampleyee
Signature of employee Date

#### **General Instructions**

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

#### **Purpose of Form**

Form 5304-SIMPLE is a model Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) plan document that an employer may use to establish a SIMPLE IRA plan described in section 408(p), under which each eligible employee is permitted to select the financial institution for his or her SIMPLE IRA.

These instructions are designed to assist in the establishment and administration of the SIMPLE IRA plan. They are not intended to supersede any provision in the SIMPLE IRA plan.

Do not file Form 5304-SIMPLE with the IRS. Instead, keep it with your records

For more information, see Pub. 560, Retirement Plans for Small Business (SEP, SIMPLE, and Qualified Plans), and Pub. 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).

**Note.** If you used the March 2002 version of Form 5304-SIMPLE to establish a model Savings Incentive Match Plan, you are not required to use this version of the form.

# Which Employers May Establish and Maintain a SIMPLE IRA Plan?

To establish and maintain a SIMPLE IRA plan, you must meet both of the following requirements:

- 1. Last calendar year, you had no more than 100 employees (including self-employed individuals) who earned \$5,000 or more in compensation from you during the year. If you have a SIMPLE IRA plan but later exceed this 100-employee limit, you will be treated as meeting the limit for the 2 years following the calendar year in which you last satisfied the limit.
- 2. You do not maintain during any part of the calendar year another qualified plan with respect to which contributions are made, or benefits are accrued, for service in the calendar year. For this purpose, a qualified plan (defined in section 219(g)(5)) includes a qualified pension plan, a profit-sharing plan, a stock bonus plan, a qualified annuity plan, a tax-sheltered annuity plan, and a simplified employee pension (SEP) plan. A qualified plan that only covers employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement for which retirement benefits were the subject of good faith bargaining is disregarded if these employees are excluded from

participating in the SIMPLE IRA plan. If the failure to continue to satisfy the 100-employee limit or the one-plan rule described in 1 and 2 above is due to an acquisition or similar transaction involving your business, special rules apply. Consult your tax advisor to find out if you can still maintain the plan after the transaction.

Certain related employers (trades or businesses under common control) must be treated as a single employer for purposes of the SIMPLE IRA requirements. These are: (1) a controlled group of corporations under section 414(b); (2) a partnership or sole proprietorship under common control under section 414(c); or (3) an affiliated service group under section 414(m). In addition, if you have leased employees required to be treated as your own employees under the rules of section 414(n), then you must count all such leased employees for the requirements listed above.

#### What is a SIMPLE IRA Plan?

A SIMPLE IRA plan is a written arrangement that provides you and your employees with an easy way to make contributions to provide retirement income for your employees. Under a SIMPLE IRA plan, employees may choose whether to make salary reduction contributions to the SIMPLE IRA plan rather than receiving these amounts as part of their regular compensation. In addition, you will contribute matching or nonelective contributions on behalf of eligible employees (see Employee Eligibility Requirements below and Contributions on page 5). All contributions under this plan will be deposited into a SIMPLE individual retirement account or annuity established for each eligible employee with the financial institution selected by him or her

# When To Use Form 5304-SIMPLE

A SIMPLE IRA plan may be established by using this Model Form or any other document that satisfies the statutory requirements.

Do not use Form 5304-SIMPLE if:

1. You want to require that all SIMPLE IRA plan contributions initially go to a financial institution designated by you. That is, you do not want to permit each of your eligible employees to choose a financial institution that will initially receive contributions. Instead, use Form 5305-SIMPLE, Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE)—for Use With a Designated Financial Institution.

- 2. You want employees who are nonresident aliens receiving no earned income from you that constitutes income from sources within the United States to be eligible under this plan; or
- 3. You want to establish a SIMPLE 401(k) plan.

### Completing Form 5304-SIMPLE

Pages 1 and 2 of Form 5304-SIMPLE contain the operative provisions of your SIMPLE IRA plan. This SIMPLE IRA plan is considered adopted when you have completed all applicable boxes and blanks and it has been executed by you.

The SIMPLE IRA plan is a legal document with important tax consequences for you and your employees. You may want to consult with your attorney or tax advisor before adopting this plan.

# Employee Eligibility Requirements (Article I)

Each year for which this SIMPLE IRA plan is effective, you must permit salary reduction contributions to be made by all of your employees who are reasonably expected to receive at least \$5,000 in compensation from you during the year, and who received at least \$5,000 in compensation from you in any 2 preceding years. However, you can expand the group of employees who are eligible to participate in the SIMPLE IRA plan by completing the options provided in Article I, items 1a and 1b. To choose full eligibility, check the box in Article I, item 1a. Alternatively, to choose limited eligibility, check the box in Article I, item 1b, and then insert "\$5,000" or a lower compensation amount (including zero) and "2" or a lower number of years of service in the blanks in (i) and (ii) of Article I, item 1b.

In addition, you can exclude from participation those employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement for which retirement benefits were the subject of good faith bargaining. You may do this by checking the box in Article I, item 2. Under certain circumstances, these employees must be excluded. See Which Employers May Establish and Maintain a SIMPLE IRA Plan? above.

### Salary Reduction Agreements (Article II)

As indicated in Article II, item 1, a salary reduction agreement permits an eligible employee to make a salary reduction election to have his or her compensation for each pay period reduced by a percentage (expressed as a percentage or dollar amount). The total amount of

the reduction in the employee's compensation cannot exceed the applicable amount for any calendar year. The applicable amount is \$10,000 for 2005. After 2005, the \$10,000 amount may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments. In the case of an eligible employee who is 50 or older by the end of the calendar year, the above limitation is increased by \$2,000 for 2005 and by \$2,500 for 2006. After 2006, the \$2,500 amount may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments.

#### Timing of Salary Reduction Elections

For any calendar year, an eligible employee may make or modify a salary reduction election during the 60-day period immediately preceding January 1 of that year. However, for the year in which the employee becomes eligible to make salary reduction contributions, the period during which the employee may make or modify the election is a 60-day period that includes either the date the employee becomes eligible or the day before.

You can extend the 60-day election periods to provide additional opportunities for eligible employees to make or modify salary reduction elections using the blank in Article II, item 2b. For example, you can provide that eligible employees may make new salary reduction elections or modify prior elections for any calendar quarter during the 30 days before that quarter.

You may use the *Model Salary* Reduction Agreement on page 3 to enable eligible employees to make or modify salary reduction elections.

Employees must be permitted to terminate their salary reduction elections at any time. They may resume salary reduction contributions for the year if permitted under Article II, item 2b. However, by checking the box in Article II, item 2d, you may prohibit an employee who terminates a salary reduction election outside the normal election cycle from resuming salary reduction contributions during the remainder of the calendar year.

#### Contributions (Article III)

Only contributions described below may be made to this SIMPLE IRA plan. No additional contributions may be made.

#### Salary Reduction Contributions

As indicated in Article III, item 1, salary reduction contributions consist of the amount by which the employee agrees to reduce his or her compensation. You must contribute the salary reduction

contributions to the financial institution selected by each eligible employee.

#### **Matching Contributions**

In general, you must contribute a matching contribution to each eligible employee's SIMPLE IRA equal to the employee's salary reduction contributions. This matching contribution cannot exceed 3% of the employee's compensation. See *Definition of Compensation*, below.

You may reduce this 3% limit to a lower percentage, but not lower than 1%. You cannot lower the 3% limit for more than 2 calendar years out of the 5-year period ending with the calendar year the reduction is effective.

Note: If any year in the 5-year period described above is a year before you first established any SIMPLE IRA plan, you will be treated as making a 3% matching contribution for that year for purposes of determining when you may reduce the employer matching contribution.

To elect this option, you must notify the employees of the reduced limit within a reasonable period of time before the applicable 60-day election periods for the year. See *Timing of Salary Reduction Elections* above.

#### **Nonelective Contributions**

Instead of making a matching contribution, you may, for any year, make a nonelective contribution equal to 2% of compensation for each eligible employee who has at least \$5,000 in compensation for the year. Nonelective contributions may not be based on more than \$210,000\* of compensation.

To elect to make nonelective contributions, you must notify employees within a reasonable period of time before the applicable 60-day election periods for such year. See *Timing of Salary Reduction Elections* above.

Note: Insert "\$5,000" in Article III, item 2b(i) to impose the \$5,000 compensation requirement. You may expand the group of employees who are eligible for nonelective contributions by inserting a compensation amount lower than \$5,000.

#### **Effective Date (Article VII)**

Insert in Article VII, the date you want the provisions of the SIMPLE IRA plan to become effective. You must insert January 1 of the applicable year unless this is the first year for which you are adopting any SIMPLE IRA plan. If this is the first year for which you are adopting a SIMPLE IRA plan, you may insert any date between January 1 and October 1, inclusive of the applicable year.

#### **Additional Information**

## Timing of Salary Reduction Contributions

The employer must make the salary reduction contributions to the financial institution selected by each eligible employee for his or her SIMPLE IRA no later than the 30th day of the month following the month in which the amounts would otherwise have been payable to the employee in cash.

The Department of Labor has indicated that most SIMPLE IRA plans are also subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Under Department of Labor regulations at 29 CFR 2510.3-102, salary reduction contributions must be made to each participant's SIMPLE IRA as of the earliest date on which those contributions can reasonably be segregated from the employer's general assets, but in no event later than the 30-day deadline described above.

#### **Definition of Compensation**

"Compensation" means the amount described in section 6051(a)(3) (wages, tips, and other compensation from the employer subject to federal income tax withholding under section 3401(a)), and, amounts paid for domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority. Usually, this is the amount shown in box 1 of Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement. For further information, see Pub. 15, Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide. Compensation also includes the salary reduction contributions made under this plan, and, if applicable, compensation deferred under a section 457 plan. In determining an employee's compensation for prior years, the employee's elective deferrals under a section 401(k) plan, a SARSEP, or a section 403(b) annuity contract are also included in the employee's compensation.

For self-employed individuals, compensation means the net earnings from self-employment determined under section 1402(a), without regard to section 1402(c)(6), prior to subtracting any contributions made pursuant to this SIMPLE IRA plan on behalf of the individual.

#### **Employee Notification**

You must notify each eligible employee prior to the employee's 60-day election period described above that he or she can make or change salary reduction elections and select the financial institution that will serve as the trustee,

custodian, or issuer of the employee's SIMPLE IRA. In this notification, you must indicate whether you will provide:

- 1. A matching contribution equal to your employees' salary reduction contributions up to a limit of 3% of their compensation;
- 2. A matching contribution equal to your employees' salary reduction contributions subject to a percentage limit that is between 1 and 3% of their compensation: or
- 3. A nonelective contribution equal to 2% of your employees' compensation.

You can use the *Model Notification to Eligible Employees* on page 3 to satisfy these employee notification requirements for this SIMPLE IRA plan. A *Summary Description* must also be provided to eligible employees at this time. This summary description requirement may be satisfied by providing a completed copy of pages 1 and 2 of Form 5304-SIMPLE (including the information described in Article V—Procedures for Withdrawal).

If you fail to provide the employee notification (including the summary description) described above, you will be liable for a penalty of \$50 per day until the notification is provided. If you can show that the failure was due to reasonable cause, the penalty will not be imposed.

If the financial institution's name, address, or withdrawal procedures are not available at the time the employee must be given the summary description, you must provide the summary description without this information. In that case, you will have reasonable cause for not including this information in the summary description, but only if you ensure that it is provided to the employee as soon as administratively feasible.

#### **Reporting Requirements**

You are not required to file any annual information returns for your SIMPLE IRA plan, such as Forms 5500 or 5500-EZ. However, you must report to the IRS which eligible employees are active participants in the SIMPLE IRA plan and the amount of your employees' salary reduction contributions to the SIMPLE IRA plan on Form W-2. These contributions are subject to social security, Medicare, railroad retirement, and federal unemployment tax.

#### **Deducting Contributions**

Contributions to this SIMPLE IRA plan are deductible in your tax year containing the end of the calendar year for which the contributions are made.

Contributions will be treated as made for a particular tax year if they are made for that year and are made by the due date (including extensions) of your income tax return for that year.

#### **Summary Description**

Each year the SIMPLE IRA plan is in effect, the financial institution for the SIMPLE IRA of each eligible employee must provide the employer the information described in section 408(I)(2)(B). This requirement may be satisfied by providing the employer a current copy of Form 5304-SIMPLE (including instructions) together with the financial institution's procedures for withdrawals from SIMPLE IRAs established at that financial institution. including the financial institution's name and address. The summary description must be received by the employer in sufficient time to comply with the Employee Notification requirements above.

There is a penalty of \$50 per day imposed on the financial institution for each failure to provide the summary description described above. However, if the failure was due to reasonable cause, the penalty will not be imposed.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. 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 this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

**Recordkeeping** . . . . 3 hr., 38 min. **Learning about the** 

law or the form . . . . 2 hr., 26 min. Preparing the form . . . . . 47 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 Internal Revenue Service, Tax Products Coordinating Committee, SE:W:CAR:MP:T:T:SP, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6406, Washington, DC 20224. Do not send this form to this address. Instead, keep it with your records.