

Form W-8BEN Certification FAQs



Q: What is Form W-8BEN?

A: Form W-8BEN is a form that is required to be completed by a nonresident alien who is not subject to U.S. tax reporting or backup withholding.

Q: What is backup withholding?

A: Backup withholding is a form of tax withholding that all brokers, including Fidelity, are required to make on income from stock sales, interest income, dividends, or other kinds of payments that are reported on the various types of Form 1099, if you have not completed and filed Form W-8BEN with the broker. The current rate of backup withholding is 24%.

Q: What happens if I do not complete Form W-8BEN?

A: Failure to complete Form W-8BEN can result in automatic tax withholding of an additional 24% of any equity compensation proceeds in your Fidelity account.

Q: When do I fill out Form W-8BEN?

A: The completion of this form is part of the process of opening your Fidelity account.

Q: How often do I have to complete Form W-8BEN?

A: Form W-8BEN expires at the end of the third calendar year after its completion. Before the form expires, you must complete a new form (recertify) to continue the exemption from backup withholding.



Q: How can I complete Form W-8BEN?

A: You can log in to [NetBenefits®](#) to complete your Form W-8BEN online. This is the easiest and most convenient way to complete your Form W-8BEN certification. When you log in, please have your participant number or username available. Select the link to your Stock Plan Account and follow the prompts and instructions, which include steps for your W-8BEN certification.

If you would prefer to print and complete the form, [click here](#). For instructions, [click here](#).

Q: What are some of the key points to note when completing Form W-8BEN?

- A:
- Please provide your individual tax identification number (ITIN) or an explanation of why you have not been issued one.
 - Do not provide an address with a post office or PO Box number unless the address is in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia.
 - Do not provide an address in care of a financial institution, employer, or another person.
 - After submitting the form online, please allow three to five business days to review your tax information. Unless notified, please do not complete another form.

Q: Where do I send Form W-8BEN?

A: Form W-8BEN goes back to Fidelity, not the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. If you prefer to complete, sign, and return Form W-8BEN, please write your Fidelity Participant Number on the form to ensure accurate processing. Please return the form to Fidelity Stock Plan Services, PO Box 770001, Cincinnati, OH 45277-0002, USA.

For further assistance, contact a Fidelity Stock Plan Services Representative. Calling instructions can be found at [Fidelity.com/globalcall](https://www.fidelity.com/globalcall).

