

**Employee Suggestion 50-20-13-006**  
**Digital Date Stamp of Returns**

I am recommending a monetary award in the amount of \$8823.75 for adoption of this employee suggestion. This suggestion was determined to have both tangible and intangible benefits. The value of the benefit meets the exceptional value category. The adoption of this tool will significantly improve the quality of a critical program and service to the public. The extent of the application meets the broad category. Adoption of this employee suggestion affects all field collection offices nationwide as well as the SFR/ASFR campus Exam function.

This employee suggestion uses E-fax and use of a digital date stamp through Adobe PDF as the "official" IRS received date stamp. As technology progresses and the service now utilizes E-fax at the campus and field level, this employee suggestion will promote efficiency and quality. Presently, when an RO receives a document in the field office they affix an Official date stamp on the document using the date stamp machine. If they are in their telework place an RO can write the words "Received" with the date, their signature and title in the upper left hand corner of the document as an acceptable received date for processing.

The current process with E-fax causes the RO to print the documents so they can affix the official date stamp, then scan the documents back into email and forward to the appropriate campus for processing. The digital date stamp that is proposed would increase efficiency, reduce cost, increase quality and increase customer satisfaction for taxpayers, tax preparers and the Service through the implementation of this E-fax server technology. All the necessary components of an official IRS received date are on the digital date stamp.

A pilot program was conducted utilizing three field collection groups and the ASFR tax examiners in Brookhaven campus. This pilot was conducted as a limited scope pilot using SFR/ASFR reconsideration tax returns. The error rate for ASFR/SFR reconsideration returns with a missing or illegible IRS received date for FY14 was 20.31% nationwide. The pilot produced a quality product and was 100% successful. There were no errors when utilizing this tool to affix the official IRS received date on documents. Prior to this pilot, the campus would reject documents received with no IRS received date back to the field to secure an IRS received date. This digital date stamp will eliminate documents being rejected by the campus which will save time and money for both the campus and field collection.