

Before you file an FBAR

No income tax return required? Check foreign-account reporting separately.

1 Set the scope

Reporting calendar year:

Income tax return status confirmed by / still to review:

- ☐ U.S. person status reviewed, or a question listed for the preparer.
- ☐ Foreign accounts, ownership and signature authority listed.
- ☐ Statements cover the full year, including accounts closed during that year.

2 Check the separate account question

The FBAR generally applies when reportable foreign accounts exceed \$10,000 in aggregate at any time during the calendar year. Exceptions matter.

Example: \$6,000 + \$5,000 at the same time = \$11,000 (hypothetical).

No interest earned or a low December balance does not settle the test.

3 Gather the records

- ☐ Full-year statements and account institution / country details.
- ☐ Each account's maximum value and original currency.
- ☐ Year-end Treasury exchange rate, or another verifiable rate if unavailable.
- ☐ Prior FBAR confirmations, missing years, and any notices.
- ☐ Full account numbers kept separately in a private records folder.

Need preparation help?

Send Chip a short inquiry; he will review your situation and follow up.

FileAbroad.com/intake

Your private account organizer

Use nicknames or last four digits here. Duplicate this page for additional accounts.

Account 1

Nickname / last four digits

Institution and country

Type; owner / joint owner / signature authority

Maximum / currency

Rate and source

Maximum in USD

Account 2

Nickname / last four digits

Institution and country

Type; owner / joint owner / signature authority

Maximum / currency

Rate and source

Maximum in USD

Questions, missing years or records to resolve

Submission checklist

☐

Report reviewed, authorized and submitted; confirmation saved.

☐

Keep required account records for five years from the FBAR due date.

Official instructions: fincen.gov/report-foreign-bank-and-financial-accounts