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Got FBARs? But Which One?

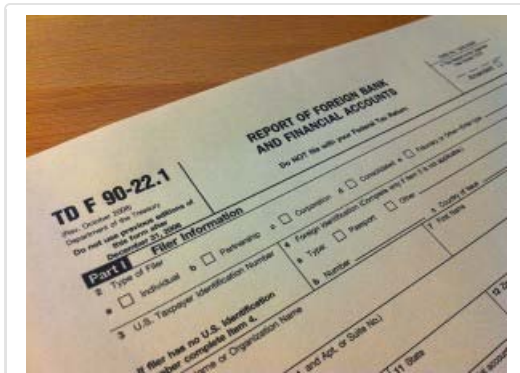


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If you're like me, you hate it when having the **old** version of something means you risk having something rejected or worse. Sure, having annual form changes seems OK—you surely wouldn't file a 2010 tax return on a 2009 form. But elsewhere these issues can be more nettlesome.

And speaking of nettlesome, there's the FBAR. Turns out the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network—after all, an FBAR isn't even an IRS form—has a [new one now](#).

Old and Cold FBARs. Many people these days are filing old FBARs they didn't know were due or somehow didn't file. If you're in that boat, should you use old forms or new? Turns out you can use the current form for any accounts before 2008.

New Model FBARs. But now there may be additional confusion, since there's a March 2011 FBAR and an even newer [November 2011 FBAR](#). Go figure. It may be fine to use the old form, but if you can, only use the new(est) one.

The previous version of the FBAR dates from March of 2011. One difference between the [March 2011](#) and November 2011 forms concerns

amending a previously filed FBAR. The March version says you shouldn't file an amendment until at least [90 calendar days](#) after the original FBAR is filed. The newer FBAR says wait at least 120 calendar days.

Plus, the March version says you should send in a statement **explaining** additions or corrections, plus the new FBAR and a copy of the originally filed one. The newer form doesn't say anything about this. You can get FBARs online at www.IRS.gov or from the Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network website (www.fincen.gov), or by calling the IRS at 800-829-3676.

You can get help in completing FBARs Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, at 866-270-0733 (toll-free inside the U.S.) or 313-234-6146 (not toll-free, for callers outside the U.S.).

By email, you can send questions to FBARquestions@irs.gov.

Amendments. And speaking of amending FBARs, the IRS says you can amend a previously filed FBAR by:

- Checking the “Amended” box in the upper right-hand corner of the FBAR;
- Making the additions or corrections;
- Stapling it to a copy of the **original** FBAR; and
- Attaching a statement explaining the additions or corrections.

Note that these explanations come in [FAQs](#), and not in the form instructions. So unless these FAQs are superseded by the newest form (unlikely I think), I'd still include the explanation of the changes and the original filing along with any amendment.

For more, see:

[Oh Canada! Hating FBARs And FATCA](#)

[Should You File FBAR For The First Time?](#)

[E-Filing And Other FBAR Quirks](#)

[IRS May Find “Innocent” FBAR Violation Willful](#)

[Another F Word? FBAR!](#)

[Are You Getting Enough FBAR?](#)

[FBAR And FATCA Haters Unite](#)

[IRS FAQs Regarding Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts](#)

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