

Substitute Form 540 Specifications

Definitions:	ALPHA	=	A-Z (MUST BE ALL CAPS)	Use Courier 12-point font, not bold, for taxpayer data (print lines 7 - 16) and CTP ID and Doc ID.
	NUMERIC	=	0-9	
	ALPHANUMERIC	=	A-Z, 0-9	
	LEFT JUSTIFY	=	LJ	

Print Line Number	Identification	Begin Print Position	Maximum Field Length	End Print Position	Field Description
1-3	Blank lines	–	–	–	–
4	“Taxable Year” and “Underline”	6	8	13	Conventional form size/style
4	Anchor Mark	59	2	60	Anchor mark, Conventional form size/style
4	“Form” and “Underline”	69	11	79	Conventional form size/style
5	Tax Year Area	7	6	12	Conventional form size/style
5	Title of Form	15	37	51	Conventional form size/style
5	Form Identifier (540) Area	70	9	78	Conventional form size/style
6	Tax Year Area	7	6	12	Conventional form size/style
6	Title of Form	15	37	51	Conventional form size/style
6	Form Identifier (540) Area	70	9	78	Conventional form size/style
6	Bold Line	6	–	80	Conventional form size/style
7	Amended	6	7	12	“AMENDED” If Amended = Yes – print “AMENDED” If Amended = No – leave blank
7	Amended Tax Return	16	1	16	“1” If Amended = Yes – Print “1” If Amended = No – Leave blank
7	Account Period Ending	37	3	39	“APE”
7	Fiscal Year Ending	42	6	47	MMYYYY or leave blank
7	Federal Return Attachment Area Question – Did Taxpayer attach any federal forms or schedules other than Sch A, or Sch B?	52	29	80	Yes – print “ATTACH FEDERAL RETURN” No – print “DO NOT ATTACH FEDERAL RETURN”
8	ARRP Area	78	3	80	Conventional form size/style
9	Taxpayer’s SSN (or ITIN) (mandatory)	6	11	16	Numeric, “–”
9	Name Control (First 4 Letters of Last Name) (mandatory)	19	4	22	Alpha, No Embedded Spaces, No symbols or punctuation
9	If Joint or Separate Tax Return, Spouse’s/RDP’s SSN (or ITIN) (mandatory)	28	11	38	Numeric, “–”
9	Form Year Indicator (mandatory)	52	2	53	“18”
9	Principal Business Activity (PBA)	57	3	59	Print “PBA” only when there is a “PBA” code.
9	Principal Business Activity (PBA) Code	63	6	68	Numeric. If the PBA code is less than 6 characters LJ and do not populate with zeros. If no PBA code, leave PBA field blank.
9	ARRP Area	78	3	80	Conventional form size/style
10	Taxpayer’s First Name (mandatory)	6	11	16	Alpha, No Embedded Spaces
10	Taxpayer’s Middle Initial	19	1	19	Alpha, or blank
10	Taxpayer’s Last Name (mandatory)	22	35	56	Alpha
10	Taxpayer’s Suffix	59	4	62	Alpha, or blank
10	Taxpayer – If Deceased, must Enter Date of Death, otherwise, leave blank	65	10	74	Numeric, “–”, mm-dd-yyyy (e.g., 08-01-2018), or blank
10	ARRP Area	78	3	80	Conventional form size/style

GUIDELINES FOR SUBSTITUTE FORM 540

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Print Line Number	Identification	Begin Print Position	Maximum Field Length	End Print Position	Field Description
11	If Joint Tax Return, Spouse's/RDP's First Name (mandatory)	6	11	16	Alpha, No Embedded Spaces
11	If Joint Tax Return, Spouse's/RDP's Middle Initial	19	1	19	Alpha, or blank
11	If Joint Tax Return, Spouse's/RDP's Last Name (mandatory)	22	35	56	Alpha
11	If Joint Tax Return, Spouse's/RDP's Suffix	59	4	62	Alpha, or blank
11	If Joint Tax Return, Spouse/RDP – If Deceased, must Enter Date of Death, otherwise, leave blank	65	10	74	Numeric, "-", mm-dd-yyyy (e.g., 08-01-2018), or blank
11	ARRP Area	77	4	80	Conventional form size/style
12	Additional Information for In-Care-Of Name or Supplemental Address Information	6	35	40	Alphanumeric, Embedded spaces, No punctuation, no symbols other than "/". If no "in-care-name" and supplemental address information, leave blank.
12	Executor/Guardian	43	35	77	Alphanumeric
12	ARRP Area	78	3	80	Conventional form size/style
13	Street Address (mandatory)	6	35	40	Alphanumeric, Embedded spaces, No punctuation, No symbols other than "/" or "-"
13	APT, STE, SP, RM, FL, BLDG, and UN	43	5	47	Alpha, LJ, "APT, STE, Sp, RM, FL, BLDG, or UN". Print only if there is a Number or Letter.
13	APT, STE, SP, RM, FL, BLDG, AND UN Number or Letter	49	5	53	Alphanumeric, LJ, no symbols
13	Private Mail Box (PMB)	56	3	58	Print "PMB" only when there is a "PMB" number or letter.
13	Private Mail Box Number or Letter	60	6	65	Alphanumeric, LJ, or blank
13	ARRP Area	78	3	80	Conventional form size/style
13	ARRP Area (continued) RP Codes:	79	2	80	Alpha only, Courier 12-point font, any order, or blank D = Taxpayer deceased C = Spouse/RDP deceased
14	City (mandatory)	6	17	22	Alphanumeric, Embedded spaces
14	State (mandatory) Use the Standard Abbreviations in this publication.	25	2	26	Alpha. If foreign address, leave State field blank.
14	ZIP Code	29	10	38	Numeric, "-", LJ. If foreign address, leave Zip Code field blank.
14	ARRP Area	77	4	80	Conventional form size/style
14	ARRP Area (continued) RP Codes:	77	4	80	Alphanumeric, Courier 12-point font, any order, or blank E = IRC 965 O = Outside the USA U = Military 9 = Disaster
15	If Foreign Country Name	6	19	24	Alphanumeric, Embedded spaces, or blank. 2-character County Abbreviation may be used.
15	If Foreign Province/State/County	27	17	43	Alphanumeric, Embedded spaces, or blank
15	If Foreign Postal Code	46	16	61	Alphanumeric, Embedded spaces, or blank

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Print Line Number	Identification	Begin Print Position	Maximum Field Length	End Print Position	Field Description
16	Taxpayer's Date of Birth	6	10	15	Numeric, "-", mm-dd-yyyy (eg., 06-13-1948), or blank
16	If Joint or Separate Tax Return, Spouse's/RDP's Date of Birth	18	10	27	Numeric, "-", mm-dd-yyyy (eg., 06-13-1948), or blank
16	Taxpayer's Prior Name (if applicable)	30	17	46	Alpha, Last name only, or leave blank (e.g., A legal name change done in 2018)
16	If Joint Tax Return, Spouse's/RDP's Prior Name (if applicable)	49	17	65	Alpha, Last name only, or leave blank (e.g., Marriage/RDP in the current tax year changes spouse's/RDP's maiden name)
18-51	540 Scanband – See specifications that begin on the next page.	-	-	-	-
52-61	Filing Status and Dependent Check Box Information Area	6	-	80	Conventional form size/style
62-63	Privacy Language, Bottom Registration Mark, Anchor Mark, and conventional area of scannable Form 540	-	-	-	End of bottom registration mark, anchor mark, and conventional form size/style
63	CTP ID (mandatory)	32	3	34	Numeric
63	Doc. ID (mandatory)	40	7	46	Numeric, "3101184" (Side 1), "3102184" (Side 2), "3103184" (Side 3), "3104184" (Side 4), and "3105184" (Side 5)
63	Paper Return Survey	53	1	53	Vendor specific print reason codes, numeric, "1", "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", or blank

Advanced Draft
as of 12/1/18

