

**Requirements Specification for  
Preparation of IR56F Data File Using Employer's Self-developed Software**

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# **Requirements Specification for**

## **Preparation of IR56F Data File Using Employer’s Self-developed Software**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Inland Revenue Department (“the Department”) encourages employers to submit the IR56 forms in electronic format. Employers can prepare the required data file by using the IR56 Forms Preparation Tool provided by the Department or develop their own software (“Self-developed Software”) in accordance with the Department’s requirements specifications. In the latter case, employers must obtain **written approval** before they can file the respective IR56 forms in computerized format to the Department by using Self-developed Software.
- 1.2 Before the introduction of this new requirements specification (“Requirements Specification”) for the preparation of Notification by an Employer of an Employee who is about to Ceased to be Employed (“IR56F”), employers who have sought approval from the Department under the previous requirements specification (the “[Old Specification](#)”\*) of form IR56F can only file the form in printed copy generated from Self-developed Software. This document sets out the requirements for preparing IR56F data file for submission to the Department.
- 1.3 The data file prepared under this Requirement Specification can only be filed via “Online Mode” or “Mixed Mode” through the Employer’s Return e-Filing Services (“ER e-Filing Services”). For details of the submission process, please refer to paragraph 3 below. You may also visit the following webpage for more details:

<https://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/tax/err.htm>

Submission of the computerized printout or a removable storage device is **NO LONGER** acceptable under this Requirements Specification.

- 1.4 For enquiry regarding the Requirements Specification, please call 183 5310 during office hours.

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\* Employers may continue to submit the IR56F forms printed by the approved Self-developed Software under the Old Specification until further notice. However, employers are encouraged to make changes to their software so as to comply with the Data Specification detailed in paragraph 4.1 so that they can file IR56F data file through the ER e-Filing Services as stated in paragraph 3. A fresh approval application in accordance with the procedures stated in paragraph 2 below is required.

## 2. **Procedures for Application of Approval to Submit IR56F Data File**

2.1 Employers who wish to submit IR56F data file by using Self-developed Software must first seek approval from the Department. To apply for approval, the employers should furnish:

- A duly signed application form ([IR1474](#)); and
- A data file with 10 to 20 IR56F testing data records (original, additional and replacement IR56F should be included in the same data file) for checking the **compliance with the specification in paragraph 4.1**; and
- Hard copies of three IR56F Forms (as per Appendix A) selected from the testing data. You should add the wording “Additional” or “Replacement” at the top-right corner of the respective IR56F forms

### **Note:**

- 1. If the data files are stored in a removable storage device, the device should be marked with the wording “For Testing Only” with the employer’s name, employer’s file number and the form type for identification.**
- 2. Do not use real data of employee to prepare the testing data records.**
- 3. Make sure that the words “For Testing Only” are prominently printed at the top on each of the sample form submitted.**

2.2 The items referred in paragraph 2.1 should be sent to:

Computer Section,  
Inland Revenue Department,  
Revenue Tower,  
5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

2.3 All applications submitted must comply with paragraph 4.1 of this Requirements Specification\*.

2.4 As the format of IR56F is reviewed from time to time, the Department reserves the right to make any amendments to the Requirements Specification when necessary. However, the Department will give reasonable notice to allow employers to make necessary amendments. The approval for submission of IR56F data file will be withdrawn if the submitted data file does not meet the requirements as specified by the Department.

2.5 For employers making enhancement to their Self-developed Software to comply with the Requirements Specification, they should submit an application per paragraph 2.1 and 2.2 above.

2.6 For any enquiry regarding the application of approval, please contact us via email at [sto\\_c2@ird.gov.hk](mailto:sto_c2@ird.gov.hk).

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\* Application under the Old Specification is no longer accepted.

### 3. **Requirements and Important Notes for Submission of IR56F Data File**

3.1 Employers who have been obtained approval to use Self-developed Software under the Requirements Specification should submit the IR56F data file to the Department through the **ER e-Filing Services** via one of the following modes of submission:-

(i) **Online Mode**

- Authorized Signer\* can submit the IR56F data file via the ER e-Filing Services after logging in his/her eTAX account. He/she has to use his/her eTAX Password, MyGovHK Password, “iAM Smart+” account (with digital signing function) or recognized personal digital certificate to sign the IR56F data file.

(ii) **Mixed Mode**

- Employers can designate a person to upload the IR56F data file via the ER e-Filing Services without logging in eTAX account.
- After successful uploading of the data file, a paper Control List (with Transaction Reference Number and QR Code) will be generated from the system for employer’s printing.
- The Authorized Signer is required to sign on each and every page of the Control List.
- To complete the submission process, the duly signed paper Control List must be submitted to the Department in person or by post. Submission of the photocopy / facsimile / scanned copy of the Control List is not acceptable.

3.2 **The maximum number of IR56F records that can be uploaded or submitted in each transaction is 800.** If more than 800 IR56F records are required to be submitted, employers can do so by uploading or submitting several data files (each contains not greater than 800 records) one by one through the ER e-Filing Services. **Hard copy of IR56F is not required to be submitted to the Department again.**

3.3 **Submission of IR56F data file prepared according to the Requirements Specification via removable storage device is NOT acceptable.**

3.4 For further details regarding the ER e-Filing Services, please refer to the [User Guide of the ER e-Filing Services](#).

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\* An Authorized Signer must be holding one of the following capacities:

- ◆ Proprietor for a sole proprietorship business.
- ◆ Precedent Partner for a partnership business.
- ◆ Director, Company Secretary, Manager, Investment Manager (only applicable to a corporation that is an open-ended fund company), Provisional Liquidator or Liquidator for a corporation.
- ◆ Principal Officer for a body of persons.

3.5 Original / additional / replacement IR56F records can be submitted in the same data file.

3.6 **It is the employer's obligation to ensure that all data furnished for the employees in the IR56F data file are correct before uploading or submitting the data file.**

3.7 Employers should provide their employees a copy of the IR56F records or printed forms in respect of the IR56F submitted to the Department for employees' information.

#### 4. **Data Specification of IR56F Data File and Guidance Notes**

4.1 The data specification is as follows:

4.1.1 The data file should be in standard XML format and comply with the Record Layout as listed in paragraph 4.1.2 and the Department's pre-defined specifications below:

- (i) The XML file should be encoded and saved in UTF-8 format with Byte Order Mark (BOM).
- (ii) The file should contain the XML Declaration as follows:-

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>  
<IR56F xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"  
xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="ir56f.xsd">
```

- (iii) Chinese and English characters shall be coded in:
  - (a) ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000, and the set of Chinese characters is restricted to the Chinese characters within the Chinese-Japanese-Korean(CJK) Unified Ideographs defined in ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000 or the characters included in the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set - 2001 (HKSCS-2001); or
  - (b) ISO/IEC 10646:2003 with Amendment 1, and the set of Chinese characters is restricted to the Chinese characters within the CJK Unified Ideographs defined in ISO/IEC 10646:2003 with Amendment 1 or the characters included in HKSCS-2004.
- (iv) Uppercase and lowercase letters of Element Name as provided in the Record Layout in paragraph 4.1.2 should be strictly followed.
- (v) All XML elements are mandatory. For element with blank value, an empty-Element Name should still be provided. For example, if there is no Chinese name of the employee, the particular IR56F record should still contain the Element Name <NameInChinese></NameInChinese>.

- (vi) All character fields must be LEFT justified except the employee's Hong Kong Identity Card No. which should be RIGHT justified leading by a space if the HKIC No. only has one leading alphabet in the number.
- (vii) All numeric fields must NOT be blank and should be filled with zero(s) as default value.

## 4.1.2 Record Layout

Item No. marked with (m) are mandatory input fields for which blank or null values are not accepted.

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
0	Root Element - IR56F						
1 <sup>(m)</sup>	Section	Section	One	Character	3		First 3 characters of Employer's File No. shown on the BIR56A
2 <sup>(m)</sup>	ERN	ERN	One	Numeric	8		Last 8 digits of the Employer's File No.
3 <sup>(m)</sup>	Submission Date	SubDate	One	Numeric	8		In format 'YYYYMMDD' e.g. 20190420
4 <sup>(m)</sup>	Employer's Name	ErName	One	Character	70*		
5 <sup>(m)</sup>	Name of Signer	NAME_OF_SIGNER	One	Character	27*		
6 <sup>(m)</sup>	Designation	Designation	One	Character	25*		Proprietor/Precedent Partner or Nature of Office Held
7 <sup>(m)</sup>	No. of Records in Batch	NoRecordBatch	One	Numeric	5		The maximum number of records that can be submitted in one data file via ER e-Filing Services is 800. Thus, the acceptable range is from 00001 to 00800.
8 <sup>(m)</sup>	Total Income in Batch	TotIncomeBatch	One	Numeric	11		The aggregate sum of the "Total Income" for all the IR56F records.
9 <sup>(m)</sup>	Version Number	IR56VER	One	Character	5	F0001	The Version Number must be inputted and the value must be "F0001".
10	Employee's IR56F record	Employee	One or More				
10.1 <sup>(m)</sup>	Sheet No.	SheetNo	One	Numeric	6	000001 to 999999	If multiple data files are to be submitted, please allocate continuous range, e.g. 000001 to 000800 and 000801 to 001600.

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.2	Employee's HKID with Check Digit	HKID	One	Character	9		In format AANNNNNNNC Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.1 Open and close brackets before and after the check digit should be excluded
10.3 <sup>(m)</sup>	Status	TypeOfForm	One	Character	1	O, A, R	"O" means Original IR56F record. "A" means Additional IR56F record. "R" means Revised IR56F record. Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.2
10.4 <sup>(m)</sup>	Employee's Surname	Surname	One	Character	20		Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.3
10.5 <sup>(m)</sup>	Employee's Given Names in Full	GivenName	One	Character	55		
10.6	Employee's Full Name in Chinese	NameInChinese	One	Character	25		UTF-8 encoding
10.7 <sup>(m)</sup>	Employee's Sex	Sex	One	Character	1	M, F	M - Male F - Female
10.8	Employee's Marital Status	MaritalStatus	One	Numeric	1	1, 2	1 - Single/ Widowed/ Divorced/ Living Apart 2 - Married
10.9	Employee's Passport No. and Place of Issue	PpNum	One	Character	40*		To be filled only if the employee does not have HKID
10.10	Spouse's Name	SpouseName	One	Character	50*		Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.4
10.11	Spouse's HKID with Check Digit	SpouseHKID	One	Character	9		Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.1
10.12	Spouse's Passport No. and Place of Issue	SpousePpNum	One	Character	40*		To be filled only if the employee's spouse does not have HKID
10.13 <sup>(m)</sup>	Employee's Residential Address Line 1	RES_ADDR_LINE1	One	Character	30*		Exclude the area, e.g. Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories, in this item
10.14	Employee's Residential Address Line 2	RES_ADDR_LINE2	One	Character	30*		



<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.15	Employee's Residential Address Line 3	RES_ADDR_LINE3	One	Character	30*		Exclude the area, e.g. Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories, in this item
10.16 <sup>(m)</sup>	Area Code of Employee's Residential Address	AreaCodeResAddr	One	Character	1	H, K, N, F	H - Hong Kong K - Kowloon N - New Territories F - Others
10.17	Employee's Postal Address Line 1	POS_ADDR_LINE1	One	Character	30*		Exclude the area, e.g. Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories, in this item
10.18	Employee's Postal Address Line 2	POS_ADDR_LINE2	One	Character	30*		
10.19	Employee's Postal Address Line 3	POS_ADDR_LINE3	One	Character	30*		
10.20	Area Code of Employee's Postal Address	POS_ADDR_AREA	One	Character	1	H, K, N, F	H - Hong Kong K - Kowloon N - New Territories F - Others
10.21	Capacity in which Employed	Capacity	One	Character	40*		
10.22 <sup>(m)</sup>	Date of Cessation of Employment	CESSATION_DATE	One	Numeric	8		In format YYYYMMDD e.g. 20190630
10.23 <sup>(m)</sup>	Reason for cessation	CESSATION_REASON	One	Numeric	1	1,2,3,4,5	1 - Resignation 2 - Retirement 3 - Dismissal 4 - Death 5 - Others
10.24	Reason for cessation (Other)	CESSATION_REASON_OTHER	One	Character	30*		To be filled only if Reason 5 is inputted in item 10.23.
10.25 <sup>(m)</sup>	Year of the Reported Employment Period	RTN_ASS_YR	One	Numeric	4		For example, if the reported income is for the period within 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019, this "Year" field should be inputted as "2019"
10.26 <sup>(m)</sup>	Start Date of Employment	StartDateOfEmp	One	Numeric	8		In format YYYYMMDD e.g. 20180401
10.27 <sup>(m)</sup>	End Date of Employment	EndDateOfEmp	One	Numeric	8		In format YYYYMMDD e.g.20190331

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	
10.28	Period of Salary/Wages	PerOfSalary	One	Character	19	}	Income should be expressed in Hong Kong dollars (refer to Guidance Note 4.2.7) and cents should be omitted in amount fields. The period should be reported as YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD (e.g. 20180401-20190331)	
10.29	Amount of Salary/Wages	AmtOfSalary	One	Numeric	9			
10.30	Period of Leave Pay	PerOfLeavePay	One	Character	19			
10.31	Amount of Leave Pay	AmtOfLeavePay	One	Numeric	9			
10.32	Period of Director's Fee	PerOfDirectorFee	One	Character	19			
10.33	Amount of Director's Fee	AmtOfDirectorFee	One	Numeric	9			
10.34	Period of Commission /Fees	PerOfCommFee	One	Character	19			
10.35	Amount of Commission /Fees	AmtOfCommFee	One	Numeric	9			
10.36	Period of Bonus	PerOfBonus	One	Character	19			
10.37	Amount of Bonus	AmtOfBonus	One	Numeric	9			
10.38	Period of Back Pay, Payment in Lieu of Notice, Terminal Awards or Gratuities	PerOfBpEtc	One	Character	19			
10.39	Amount of Back Pay, Payment in Lieu of Notice, Terminal Awards or Gratuities	AmtOfBpEtc	One	Numeric	9			Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.6
10.40	Period of Certain Payments from Retirement Schemes	PerOfPayRetire	One	Character	19			}
10.41	Amount of Certain Payments from Retirement Schemes	AmtOfPayRetire	One	Numeric	9			
10.42	Period of Salaries Tax Paid by Employer	PerOfSalTaxPaid	One	Character	19			
10.43	Amount of Salaries Tax Paid by Employer	AmtOfSalTaxPaid	One	Numeric	9			
10.44	Period of Education Benefits	PerOfEduBen	One	Character	19			
10.45	Amount of Education Benefits	AmtOfEduBen	One	Numeric	9			
10.46	Period of Gain Realized Under Share Option Scheme	PerOfGainShareOption	One	Character	19			

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.47	Amount of Gain Realized Under Share Option Scheme	AmtOfGainShareOption	One	Numeric	9	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<p>Income should be expressed in Hong Kong dollars (refer to Guidance Note 4.2.7) and cents should be excluded in the amount fields.</p> <p>The period should be reported as YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD (e.g. 20180401-20190331)</p>
10.48	Nature of 1st Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	NatureOtherRAP1	One	Character	35*		
10.49	Period of 1st Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	PerOfOtherRAP1	One	Character	19		
10.50	Amount of 1st Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	AmtOfOtherRAP1	One	Numeric	9		
10.51	Nature of 2nd Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	NatureOtherRAP2	One	Character	35*		
10.52	Period of 2nd Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	PerOfOtherRAP2	One	Character	19		
10.53	Amount of 2nd Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	AmtOfOtherRAP2	One	Numeric	9		
10.54	Nature of 3rd Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	NatureOtherRAP3	One	Character	35*		
10.55	Period of 3rd Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	PerOfOtherRAP3	One	Character	19		
10.56	Amount of 3rd Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites	AmtOfOtherRAP3	One	Numeric	9		

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.57	Nature of Payments that have not been declared above but will be made AFTER the employee has left employment	NATURE_PAYMENT_LEFT	One	Character	35*	}	Income should be expressed in Hong Kong dollars (refer to Guidance Note 4.2.7) and cents should be excluded in the amount fields.
10.58	Payments that have not been declared above but will be made AFTER the employee has left employment	OTHER_PAYMENTS_AMT	One	Numeric	9		
10.59 <sup>(m)</sup>	Total Income	TotalIncome	One	Numeric	9		The total income aggregated from Item No. 10.28 to 10.58. Cents should be excluded.
10.60 <sup>(m)</sup>	Place of Residence Indicator	PlaceOfResInd	One	Numeric	1	0, 1	0 - Place of Residence is not Provided by Employer 1 - Place of Residence Provided by Employer
10.61	Address of 1st Place of Residence	AddrOfPlace1	One	Character	90*	}	Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.7 The period should be reported as YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD (e.g. 20180401-20190331) and cents should be excluded in the amount fields.
10.62	Nature of 1st Place of Residence	NatureOfPlace1	One	Character	19*		
10.63	Period of 1st Place of Residence	PerOfPlace1	One	Character	19		
10.64	Rent of 1st Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employer	RentPaidEr1	One	Numeric	7		
10.65	Rent of 1st Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employee	RentPaidEe1	One	Numeric	7		
10.66	Rent of 1st Place of Residence Refunded to Employee by Employer	RentRefund1	One	Numeric	7		
10.67	Rent of 1st Place of Residence Paid to Employer by Employee	RentPaidErByEe1	One	Numeric	7		
10.68	Address of 2nd Place of Residence	AddrOfPlace2	One	Character	90*		

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Element Name</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Characters</u>	<u>Accepted Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.69	Nature of 2nd Place of Residence	NatureOfPlace2	One	Character	19*	}	Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.7 The period should be reported as YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD (e.g. 20180401-20190331) and cents should be excluded in the amount fields.
10.70	Period of 2nd Place of Residence	PerOfPlace2	One	Character	19		
10.71	Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employer	RentPaidEr2	One	Numeric	7		
10.72	Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employee	RentPaidEe2	One	Numeric	7		
10.73	Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Refunded to Employee by Employer	RentRefund2	One	Numeric	7		
10.74	Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Paid to Employer by Employee	RentPaidErByEe2	One	Numeric	7		
10.75 <sup>(m)</sup>	Non-Hong Kong Income Indicator	OverseaIncInd	One	Numeric	1	0, 1	0 - Not wholly or partly paid by a Non-Hong Kong company 1 - Yes
10.76	Amount Paid by Non-Hong Kong Company	AmtPaidOverseaCo	One	Numeric	9	}	Refer to Guidance Note 4.2.9
10.77	Name of Non-Hong Kong Company	NameOfOverseaCo	One	Character	60*		
10.78	Address of Non-Hong Kong Company	AddrOfOverseaCo	One	Character	60*		

\*Each Chinese Character would be counted as 2 Character bytes.

Example 1: “稅務局” would be counted as 6 Character bytes (3 Chinese Characters x 2 bytes)

Example 2: “IRD 稅務局” would be counted as 9 Character bytes (3 Characters x 1 byte + 3 Chinese Characters x 2 bytes)

4.1.3 See Appendix B for a sample file or download the sample file from the Department’s website [[www.ird.gov.hk/eng/ese/erc.htm](http://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/ese/erc.htm)].

4.1.4 See Appendix C for the XML Schema or download the schema from the Department’s website [[www.ird.gov.hk/eng/ese/erc.htm](http://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/ese/erc.htm)].

## 4.2 Guidance Notes

### 4.2.1 Hong Kong Identity Card No. of Employee and Employee's Spouse

- (a) The Hong Kong Identity Card No. (HKID with Check Digit) should adopt the exact format appearing on the recipient's H.K. Identity Card, i.e.

bANNNNNN(C) or

AANNNNNN(C)

where b denotes space

A denotes alphabet

N denotes numeric character

C denotes numeric character or the alphabet 'A'

(Note: Open and close bracket before and after the check digit must be excluded.)

- (b) Space or hyphen must not be inserted between the alpha and the numeric characters.
- (c) This field should only be left blank if the employee / employee's spouse does not have a H.K. Identity Card. In this case, the passport no. of the employee / employee's spouse and the place of issue should be provided in the respective fields for "Passport Number and Place of Issue".

### 4.2.2 Type of Form

- (a) Original - for form not previously filed for the employee concerned
- (b) Additional - for reporting additional income of an employee that has not been included in the form previous submitted (either paper or electronic)
- (c) Replacement - for correcting errors of the form previously submitted (either paper or electronic)

### 4.2.3 Surname and Given name

Surname and Given name should be the same as that on Hong Kong Identity Card.

### 4.2.4 Spouse's Name

Spouse's name should be in the format as follows :-

English Name: Surname, Given Name, e.g. WONG, MEI MEI

Chinese Name: 姓氏及名字, 例如: 黃美美

#### 4.2.5 Employee's Residential Address / Employee's Postal Address

Please input the FULL ADDRESS (excluding the area) in the address field. Do NOT input "No Change", "Same As Above", "N/A", "-", etc. in the address field.

You are required to state the address of your employee in following format:

For address in English:

Flat → Floor → Name of Building → Building number and name of street → Name of Village, Town or District (Area, e.g Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories, should be excluded)

For address in Chinese:

鄉村、市鎮或地區名稱 → 街道名稱及門牌號數 → 建築物名稱、樓層及單位號碼(不包括地域，例如：香港、九龍、新界)

Example:

- ✓ Flat A, 8/F, 5 Mei Lai Road, Shatin
- ✓ 沙田美麗道 5 號 2501 室
- ✗ 2501 室, 美麗道 5 號, 沙田
- ✗ 沙田, 5 Mei Lai Road, 2501 室
- ✗ Shatin, Flat 2501, /F., Blk , 5 Mei Lai Road

#### 4.2.6 Payment in Lieu of Notice

Following the clarification in the relevant provisions of the law by the Court of Final Appeal, payment in lieu of notice accrued on or after 1 April 2012 (including payments made under section 7 of the Employment Ordinance) will be assessed to Salaries Tax. Employers are required to report payment in lieu of notice (made by employer to employee) accrued on or after 1 April 2012.

#### 4.2.7 Income in Non-Hong Kong Currency

For an employee who has received emoluments in non-Hong Kong currency, the emoluments must be converted to Hong Kong dollars and included in Item 12 under income details of the IR56F record. Average exchange rates of major currencies can be found in the Department's website ([www.ird.gov.hk/eng/tax/ind\\_stp.htm](http://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/tax/ind_stp.htm)).

#### 4.2.8 Particulars of Place of Residence Provided

Full particulars of the place of residence provided must be furnished in the IR56F record of an employee if place of residence is provided. For those employees who were provided with place of residence at **more than two locations** for the same year, paper IR56F should be filed.

#### 4.2.9 Payment Made by Non-Hong Kong Company

If the employee is wholly or partly paid either in Hong Kong or elsewhere by a non-Hong Kong company, the name and address of the non-Hong Kong company, and the amount paid (if known) must be furnished. Any amount in non-Hong Kong currency must be converted to Hong Kong dollars and included in Item 12 under income details of the IR56F record.

### 5. **Submission of Other Computerized IR56 Forms**

The specification above is only applicable to the submission of IR56F in computerized format. If an employer also wishes to submit other IR56 forms, (i.e. IR56B, IR56E, IR56G and IR56M), by using Self-developed Software, separate application for approval has to be lodged with the Department for each form involved. For more information, please call 183 5310 during office hours.



**\*\*\* Important Notes to Employers \*\*\***

1. If the employee is about to depart from Hong Kong, please complete form IR56G instead.
2. The IR56F form should be submitted not later than 1 month before the date of cessation of employment of the employee.
3. If additional income is payable to an employee after he / she ceased to be employed, employers may furnish an “additional” form IR56F by reporting the additional amount in the appropriate item of the form.
4. Do not file form IR56B in the following annual reporting of employees’ income for the same income again if the income has already been reported by way of form IR56F.

**INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
NOTIFICATION**

**BY AN EMPLOYER OF AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS ABOUT TO CEASE TO BE EMPLOYED**

(Under section 52(5) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, Cap. 112)

**56F**

1. Employer's File No. : 6A1-01234567

Name of Employer : ABCD COMPANY

**01234567 \*\*\*\***

**To the best of my knowledge, the employee will NOT be leaving Hong Kong after cessation of employment.**

**The following are the particulars of the employee :-**

2. Name of Employee : CHAN, TAI MAN

Full name in Chinese : 陳大文

**CHAN \*\*\*\***

3. (a) H.K. Identity Card Number :

**A114455(7) \*\*\*\***

(b) Passport Number and place of issue (if Employee has no H.K. Identity Card) :

4. Sex ( M = Male, F = Female ) :

**M \*\*\*\***

5. Marital Status ( 1 = Single / Widowed / Divorced / Living Apart, 2 = Married ) :

**2 \*\*\*\***

6. (a) If married, full name of spouse :

WONG, MEI MEI

(b) Spouse's H.K. Identity Card Number / Passport Number and place of issue (if known) :

A456789(1)

7. Residential Address : Flat A, 8/F, 5 Mei Lai Road, Kowloon

8. Postal Address after cessation of employment (if different from item 7 above) :

9. Capacity in which employed : CLERK

10. Reason for cessation (e.g. resignation, retirement, dismissal, death etc.) : Resignation

11. Period of employment from 1 April to the date of cessation of employment :

**01/04/2018 to 10/02/2019 \*\*\*\***

12. Details of income from 1 April to the date of cessation of employment :

Particulars	Period	Amount (HK\$) (EXCLUDE CENTS)
(a) Salary / Wages	01/04/2018 - 10/02/2019	12,345,678
(b) Leave Pay	01/04/2018 - 10/02/2019	123,456
(c) Director's Fee		
(d) Commission / Fees		
(e) Bonus		
(f) Back Pay, Payment in Lieu of Notice, Terminal Awards or Gratuities		
(g) Certain Payments from Retirement Schemes		
(h) Salaries Tax paid by Employer	01/04/2018 - 10/02/2019	12,345
(i) Education Benefits		
(j) Gain realized under Share Option Scheme		
(k) Any other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites		
(1) Nature :		
(2) Nature :		
(3) Nature :		
(l) Payments that have not been declared above but will be made AFTER the employee has left employment		
Nature : _____		
Total :		<b>12,481,479 ****</b>

**0 \*\*\*\***

13. Particulars of Place of Residence provided ( 0 = Not provided , 1 = Provided ) :

Address 1:

Address 2:

Place of Residence 1

Place of Residence 2

Nature :

Period Provided :

Rent Paid to Landlord by Employer :

Rent Paid to Landlord by Employee :

Rent Refunded to Employee by Employer :

Rent Paid to Employer by Employee :

14. Whether the employee was wholly or partly paid either in Hong Kong or elsewhere

by a non-Hong Kong company ( 0 = No, 1 = Yes ) :

**0 \*\*\*\***

If yes, please state :

Name of the non-Hong Kong company :

Address :

Amount (if known) (This amount must also be included in item 12) :

Space for Employer's official chop

Signature :

Name :

Designation :

Date :

For Official Use

**Sample File in XML Format for Submission of IR56F Data File**

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
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xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="ir56f.xsd">
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  <ERN>01234561</ERN>
  <SubDate>20180823</SubDate>
  <ErName>ABCD COMPANY</ErName>
  <NAME_OF_SIGNER>WONG TAI SIN</NAME_OF_SIGNER>
  <Designation>PARTNER</Designation>
  <NoRecordBatch>00001</NoRecordBatch>
  <TotIncomeBatch>150000</TotIncomeBatch>
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  <Employee>
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    <HKID>A1144556</HKID>
    <TypeOfForm>O</TypeOfForm>
    <Surname>AUYEUNG</Surname>
    <GivenName>TAI MAN</GivenName>
    <NameInChinese>歐陽大文</NameInChinese>
    <Sex>M</Sex>
    <MaritalStatus>2</MaritalStatus>
    <PpNum></PpNum>
    <SpouseName>WONG, MEI MEI</SpouseName>
    <SpouseHKID>A456789A</SpouseHKID>
    <SpousePpNum></SpousePpNum>
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    <RES_ADDR_LINE2>5 MEI LAI ROAD</RES_ADDR_LINE2>
    <RES_ADDR_LINE3></RES_ADDR_LINE3>
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    <POS_ADDR_LINE1></POS_ADDR_LINE1>
    <POS_ADDR_LINE2></POS_ADDR_LINE2>
    <POS_ADDR_LINE3></POS_ADDR_LINE3>
    <POS_ADDR_AREA></POS_ADDR_AREA>
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    <CESSATION_REASON_OTHER></CESSATION_REASON_OTHER>
    <RTN_ASS_YR>2019</RTN_ASS_YR>
    <StartDateOfEmp>20180401</StartDateOfEmp>
    <EndDateOfEmp>20180930</EndDateOfEmp>
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    <AmtOfSalary>100000</AmtOfSalary>
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    <AmtOfLeavePay>0</AmtOfLeavePay>
    <PerOfDirectorFee></PerOfDirectorFee>
  </Employee>
</IR56F>

```

<AmtOfDirectorFee>0</AmtOfDirectorFee>  
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<AmtOfCommFee>0</AmtOfCommFee>  
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<AmtOfBonus>50000</AmtOfBonus>  
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<NameOfOverseaCo></NameOfOverseaCo>  
<AddrOfOverseaCo></AddrOfOverseaCo>  
</Employee>  
</IR56F>

**XML Schema for verifying the file for submission via e-filing Service**

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      <xs:sequence>
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              <xs:length value="3" />
              <xs:pattern value="[0-9a-zA-Z]*" />
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          </xs:simpleType>
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              <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
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            <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
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              <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
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          </xs:simpleType>
        </xs:element>
        <xs:element name="ErName"> <!-- Employer's Name -->
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              <xs:maxLength value="70" />
            </xs:restriction>
          </xs:simpleType>
        </xs:element>
        <xs:element name="NAME_OF_SIGNER"> <!-- Name of Signer -->
          <xs:simpleType>
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              <xs:minLength value="1" />
              <xs:maxLength value="27" />
            </xs:restriction>
          </xs:simpleType>
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        </xs:element>
        <xs:element name="NoRecordBatch"> <!-- No. of Records in Batch -->
          <xs:simpleType>
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              <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
            </xs:restriction>
          </xs:simpleType>
        </xs:element>
        <xs:element name="TotIncomeBatch"> <!-- Total Income in Batch -->
          <xs:simpleType>

```



9!#\$\$&\*\(\)\_+|=\\:\&quot;;&apos;&lt;&gt;?,\./@]\*" />

Name in Chinese -->

Status -->

and Country of Issue -->

with Check Digit -->

z]{0,1}[A-Za-z]{1}[0-9]{6}[Aa0-9]{0,1}" />

9]{6}[Aa0-9]{0,1}" />

No. and Country of Issue -->

```
</xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
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Name in Chinese -->
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  </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
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      <xs:enumeration value="F" />
      <xs:enumeration value="m" />
      <xs:enumeration value="f" />
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  </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
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Status -->
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      <xs:enumeration value="2" />
      <xs:enumeration value="" />
    </xs:restriction>
  </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="PpNum"> <!-- Employee's Passport No.
and Country of Issue -->
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    <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
      <xs:maxLength value="40" />
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  </xs:simpleType>
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</xs:element>
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with Check Digit -->
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9]{6}[Aa0-9]{0,1}" />
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No. and Country of Issue -->
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```

```

Residential Address -->
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="RES_ADDR_LINE1"> <!-- Employee's
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            <xs:maxLength value="30" />
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    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
Residential Address -->
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    <xs:simpleType>
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    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
Residential Address -->
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</xs:element>
Employee's Residential Address -->
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    <xs:simpleType>
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            <xs:enumeration value="H" />
            <xs:enumeration value="K" />
            <xs:enumeration value="N" />
            <xs:enumeration value="F" />
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</xs:element>
Postal Address -->
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    <xs:simpleType>
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            <xs:maxLength value="30" />
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</xs:element>
Postal Address -->
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    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
Postal Address -->
<xs:element name="POS_ADDR_LINE3"> <!-- Employee's
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        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="30" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
of Employee's Residential Address -->
<xs:element name="POS_ADDR_AREA"> <!-- Area Code
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="1" />

```



```

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        <xs:enumeration value="K" />
        <xs:enumeration value="N" />
        <xs:enumeration value="F" />
        <xs:enumeration value="" />
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</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
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Employed -->
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</xs:element>
of Cessation -->
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of Cessation -->
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- Reason for other -->
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</xs:element>
of Employment period -->
<xs:element name="RTN_ASS_YR"> <!-- Assessment Year
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Employment -->
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Employment -->
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    <xs:simpleType>

```

```

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Salary/Wages -->
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            <xs:maxLength value="19" />
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    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
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Amount of Salary/Wages -->
<xs:element name="PerOfLeavePay"> <!-- Period of Leave
Pay -->
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    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AmtOfLeavePay" type="amount" /> <!--
Amount of Leave Pay -->
<xs:element name="PerOfDirectorFee"> <!-- Period of
Director's Fee -->
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            <xs:maxLength value="19" />
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    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AmtOfDirectorFee" type="amount" />
<!-- Amount of Director's Fee -->
<xs:element name="PerOfCommFee"> <!-- Period of
Commission /Fees -->
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            <xs:maxLength value="19" />
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</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AmtOfCommFee" type="amount" /> <!--
- Amount of Commission /Fees -->
<xs:element name="PerOfBonus"> <!-- Period of Bonus -->
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Amount of Bonus -->
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Payment in Lieu of Notice, Terminal Awards or
Gratuities, etc. -->
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    </xs:simpleType>
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<xs:element name="AmtOfBpEtc" type="amount" /> <!--
Amount of Back Pay, Payment in Lieu of Notice, Terminal Awards or
Gratuities, etc. -->

```

Payments from Retirement Schemes -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="PerOfPayRetire"&gt; &lt;!-- Period of Certain     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="19" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
Amount of Certain Payments from Retirement Schemes -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="AmtOfPayRetire" type="amount" /&gt; &lt;!-- </pre>
Salaries Tax Paid by Employer -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="PerOfSalTaxPaid"&gt; &lt;!-- Period of     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="19" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
<!-- Amount of Salaries Tax Paid by Employer -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="AmtOfSalTaxPaid" type="amount" /&gt; </pre>
Education Benefits -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="PerOfEduBen"&gt; &lt;!-- Period of     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="19" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
Amount of Education Benefits -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="AmtOfEduBen" type="amount" /&gt; &lt;!-- </pre>
Gain Realized Under Share Option Scheme -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="PerOfGainShareOption"&gt; &lt;!-- Period of     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="19" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
/> <!-- Amount of Gain Realized Under Share Option Scheme -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="AmtOfGainShareOption" type="amount" </pre>
Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="NatureOtherRAP1"&gt; &lt;!-- Nature of 1st     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="35" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="PerOfOtherRAP1"&gt; &lt;!-- Period of 1st     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="19" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
<!-- Amount of 1st Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="AmtOfOtherRAP1" type="amount" /&gt; </pre>
Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="NatureOtherRAP2"&gt; &lt;!-- Nature of 2nd     &lt;xs:simpleType&gt;       &lt;xs:restriction base="xs:string"&gt;         &lt;xs:maxLength value="35" /&gt;       &lt;/xs:restriction&gt;     &lt;/xs:simpleType&gt;   &lt;/xs:element&gt; </pre>
Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->	<pre> &lt;xs:element name="PerOfOtherRAP2"&gt; &lt;!-- Period of 2nd </pre>

Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->

```
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  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AmtOfOtherRAP2" type="amount" />
```

<!-- Amount of 2nd Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->

```
<xs:element name="NatureOtherRAP3"> <!-- Nature of 3rd
```

Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->

```
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    <xs:maxLength value="35" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="PerOfOtherRAP3"> <!-- Period of 3rd
```

Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->

```
<xs:simpleType>
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    <xs:maxLength value="19" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AmtOfOtherRAP3" type="amount" />
```

<!-- Amount of 3rd Other Rewards, Allowances or Perquisites -->

```
<xs:element name="NATURE_PAYMENT_LEFT"> <!--
```

Nature of Payment -->

```
<xs:simpleType>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
    <xs:maxLength value="35" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="OTHER_PAYMENTS_AMT"
```

type="amount" /> <!-- Amount of Payment -->

```
<xs:element name="TotalIncome"> <!-- Total Income -->
  <xs:simpleType>
    <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
      <xs:minLength value="1" />
      <xs:maxLength value="9" />
      <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
    </xs:restriction>
  </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element><xs:element name="PlaceOfResInd"> <!--
```

Place of Residence Indicator -->

```
<xs:simpleType>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
    <xs:length value="1" />
    <xs:enumeration value="0" />
    <xs:enumeration value="1" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AddrOfPlace1"> <!-- Address of 1st
```

Place of Residence -->

```
<xs:simpleType>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
    <xs:maxLength value="90" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="NatureOfPlace1"> <!-- Nature of 1st
```

Place of Residence -->

```
<xs:simpleType>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
```

```

        <xs:maxLength value="19" />
    </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="PerOfPlace1"> <!-- Period of 1st Place
of Residence -->
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="19" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="RentPaidEr1" type="rentAmt" /> <!--
Rent of 1st Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employer -->
<xs:element name="RentPaidEe1" type="rentAmt" /> <!--
Rent of 1st Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employee -->
<xs:element name="RentRefund1" type="rentAmt" /> <!--
Rent of 1st Place of Residence Refunded to Employee -->
<xs:element name="RentPaidErByEe1" type="rentAmt" />
<!-- Rent of 1st Place of Residence Paid to Employer by Employee -->
<xs:element name="AddrOfPlace2"> <!-- Address of 2nd
Place of Residence -->
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="90" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="NatureOfPlace2"> <!-- Nature of 2nd
Place of Residence -->
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="19" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="PerOfPlace2"> <!-- Period
of 2nd Place of Residence -->
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="19" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="RentPaidEr2" type="rentAmt" /> <!--
Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employer -->
<xs:element name="RentPaidEe2" type="rentAmt" /> <!--
Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Paid to Landlord by Employee -->
<xs:element name="RentRefund2" type="rentAmt" /> <!--
Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Refunded to Employee -->
<xs:element name="RentPaidErByEe2" type="rentAmt" />
<!-- Rent of 2nd Place of Residence Paid to Employer by Employee -->
<xs:element name="OverseaIncInd"> <!-- Overseas Income
Indicator -->
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:length value="1" />
            <xs:enumeration value="0" />
            <xs:enumeration value="1" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="AmtPaidOverseaCo"> <!-- Amount Paid
by Overseas Company -->
    <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
            <xs:maxLength value="9" />
            <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
        </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>

```

```

        </xs:restriction>
      </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="NameOfOverseaCo"> <!-- Name of
Overseas Company -->
      <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
          <xs:maxLength value="60" />
        </xs:restriction>
      </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="AddrOfOverseaCo"> <!-- Address of
Overseas Company -->
      <xs:simpleType>
        <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
          <xs:maxLength value="60" />
        </xs:restriction>
      </xs:simpleType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
<xs:simpleType name="amount">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
    <xs:maxLength value="9" />
    <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
<xs:simpleType name="rentAmt">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
    <xs:maxLength value="7" />
    <xs:pattern value="[0-9]*" />
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
</xs:schema>

```