

Proposed FORM 9 is a statutory receipt issued for payments received towards an approved scientific research programme under section 45(3)(c) of the Income-tax Act, 2025. It forms a critical link between the approval granted through FORM 8 and the deduction claimed by the sponsor in the return of income.

2. Legislative Framework

Section 45(3)(c) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 allows deduction in respect of expenditure incurred on approved scientific research programmes. Rule 30 of the Income-tax Rules prescribes the conditions, authorities and forms governing approval, monitoring and reporting. FORM 9 operationalises the payment acknowledgment component of this framework.

3. Role of FORM 9 in the Compliance Lifecycle

FORM 9 represents the payment stage in the statutory lifecycle:

1. Application for approval by sponsor in FORM 7;
2. Grant of approval by prescribed authority in FORM 8;
3. Receipt of payments and issuance of FORM 9;
4. Maintenance of accounts, audit and progress reporting;
5. Claim of deduction in the return of income, subject to verification.

4. Issuing Authority

FORM 9 is issued by the National Laboratory, University, Indian Institute of Technology or specified person entrusted with execution of the approved scientific research programme. Each receipt bears a unique serial number for traceability.

5. Contents of FORM 9

FORM 9 records the following key particulars:

- identity and contact details of the sponsor;
- amount paid, both in figures and words;

- mode and date of payment;
- name and details of the approved research programme;
- approved cost and approved tax years;
- reference to the approval order in FORM 8;
- cumulative payments received during the relevant tax year and earlier years.

These details ensure linkage between payment, approval and tax year.

6. Programme-specific Nature of Receipt

FORM 9 is programme-specific. All payments acknowledged through the form must relate to a programme approved under FORM 8. Payments beyond the approved scope or cost are outside the approval framework.

7. Significance for Deduction Claims

FORM 9 serves as a supporting document for sponsors while claiming deduction under section 45(3)(c). However, issuance of the form does not, by itself, confer entitlement to deduction. Allowability remains subject to compliance with statutory conditions and verification by the Income-tax Department.

8. Electronic Issuance and System Integration

Under the Income-tax Act, 2025, FORM 9 is envisaged as an electronically generated receipt. Auto-population of fields from FORM 8 and standardised validation checks are intended to enhance transparency, reduce errors and enable system-driven reconciliation.

9. Post-Issuance Responsibilities

The issuing institution is required to:

- maintain records of receipts issued;
- ensure that payments are utilised in accordance with the approved programme;
- reflect receipts accurately in programme accounts subject to audit.

Sponsors are advised to preserve FORM 9 as part of their tax records.

10. Conclusion

FORM 9 plays a vital role in ensuring financial traceability and accountability within the scientific research incentive regime under section 45(3)(c) of the Income-tax Act, 2025. Proper issuance, retention and reconciliation of FORM 9 are essential for effective administration and compliance.