

FAQs on Form 185

Format for Accounts under a Recognised Provident Fund

FAQ 1: What is Form 185?

Form 185 is the prescribed format for maintaining individual subscriber accounts under a Recognised Provident Fund (RPF), as required by Rule 294 of the Income-tax Rules.

FAQ 2: What is the purpose of Form 185 ?

Form 185 is used to record annual financial particulars of each subscriber to an RPF, including contributions, interest credited, withdrawals, and closing balance, in order to ensure compliance with the conditions applicable to recognised provident funds.

FAQ 3: Who is required to maintain Form 185 ?

Form 185 is required to be maintained by the trustees or authorised officers of a Recognised Provident Fund trust. It is not required to be filed by individual employees or subscribers.

FAQ 4: Is Form 185 required to be filed with the Income-tax Department?

Part-A of Form 185 is the prescribed format for maintaining records as mandated under Rule 294; however, an abstract or summary of the same is required to be filed with the Assessing Officer in Part-B of Form 185 annually.

FAQ 5: How frequently is Form 185 required to be prepared?

Form 185 is required to be prepared at intervals not exceeding twelve months, reflecting the annual position of each subscriber's provident fund account.

FAQ 6: What details are recorded in Form 185 ?

Part-A of Form 185 records following details for each subscriber:

- Subscriber's personal and employment particulars
- Opening balance at the beginning of the year
- Employee's and employer's contributions month wise
- Interest credited month wise
- Withdrawals or advances taken
- Closing balance at year-end
- Verification by trustee or authorised officer

Part-A of Form 185 is maintained separately for each subscriber and contains month-wise records. In contrast, Part-B of Form 185 contains the same information but presents it in a consolidated annual format, subscriber-wise, for all subscribers.

FAQ 7: What is the statutory basis for Form 185?

The requirement to maintain Form 84 arises from Rule 293 of the Income-tax Rules, read with the provisions governing Recognised Provident Funds under Part A of the Schedule XI of Income-tax Act 2025..

FAQ 8: What is the significance of Form 185 from a taxation perspective?

Form 185 serves as an internal record to support verification of:

- Contributions made to the provident fund
- Interest credited to subscriber accounts
- Withdrawals or payments made

This can be used for the purpose of determining tax treatment under the Income-tax Act.

FAQ 09: Does EPFO require similar account information as Form 185 ?

Yes. EPFO regulations require maintenance of member-wise contribution records, interest calculations, withdrawals, and balances. The funds are required to keep detailed records, which substantially overlap with the information captured in Form 185.

FAQ 10: Is Form 185 considered duplicative in the current regulatory framework?

Form 185 may overlap with information already required to be maintained and reported under the EPF Act and the EPF Schemes. However, the Form is intended to provide in a consolidated and summarised manner for income-tax purposes.

FAQ 12: Is Form 185 essential for tax administration in the present context?

Yes, from a taxation perspective, verification is primarily required to ensure compliance with statutory contribution limits and tax treatment provisions. Form 185 provides a consolidated and summarised version for income-tax purposes.