



**Proposed regs on Special Enrollment Examination User Fee for Enrolled Agents  
(Prop Reg § 300.4)**

The IRS has issued proposed regulations that would raise IRS user the fee for taking the 3-part enrolled agent Special Enrollment Examination (SEE) from \$11 to \$99 per part. Under the proposed regs, the contractor's fee will remain at \$98 for each part of the exam bringing the total fee for each part to \$197.

According to the IRS, the increase is the result of the added cost to conducting background checks. At this point, NATP has requested the cost analysis used by the IRS to justify the increase ([see request here](#)). NATP will submit a formal response to these regulations prior to the February 25 due date, a copy of which will be available to the membership.

**Fees for 3-Part Enrolled Agent Exam**

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>IRS User Fee</b>	<b>\$33</b>	<b>\$297</b>	<b>\$264</b>	<b>800%</b>
<b>Contractor Fee 5/2015-2/2016</b>	<b>\$294</b>	<b>\$294</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$327</b>	<b>\$591</b>	<b>\$264</b>	<b>81%</b>

**1. NATP's primary concern is that the IRS has done the cost studies and written the proposed regulations with no stakeholder input until now.**

We have a 30-day comment period. Because the increase is based on a cost analysis, NATP has requested that the IRS release the costing methodology. At this point, it comes down to a cost vs. benefit analysis.

**2. NATP feels that this increase in cost heightens the degree of difficulty to enter the industry.**

Increasing the user fee 800% in one year may be what the IRS needs to meet budget, however, for those who aspire to become an enrolled agent under the presumption the testing fees would be \$327, a dramatic fee increase may place a financial burden.

It would appear a more logical approach would be to allocate the increase in costs to the application process rather than upfront at the testing level. Currently the application fee to become an enrolled agent is \$30.

REG-134122-15. Special Enrollment Examination User Fee for Enrolled Agent