

PRIOR APPROVAL Q&A

Q: What is “Prior Approval” and why do I need to sign a form?

A: The Federal Election Commission (FEC) requires our political action committee (RetailPAC) to obtain written approval from NRF Members before it can solicit and accept contributions from their employees.

Granting Prior Approval simply gives NRF permission to communicate to certain of your employees (shareholders, principals, managers and other salaried, exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act) about RetailPAC and the role it plays in advancing and protecting the retail industry’s interests in Washington. It does not obligate your company or employees to support or contribute to RetailPAC.

Q: Can anyone from my company sign the Prior Approval form?

A: Prior Approval may be granted by anyone so authorized by your company. This includes the company’s chief executive, but may also include those designated to represent the firm at NRF meetings.

Q: Do I have to sign a Prior Approval form every year? Can I withdraw approval?

A: Prior Approval maybe granted for up to five (5) consecutive years by your company and may be withdrawn for future years at any time. Only one approval form is required per member.

Q: Will RetailPAC directly solicit my employees?

A: That’s up to you. By signing a Prior Approval form, you could allow RetailPAC to solicit all principals and senior executives in your firm, or only certain individuals in the company. RetailPAC will tailor its solicitation to whatever group or individuals you designate.

Q: Our company has its own federal PAC. Can we still contribute to RetailPAC?

A: Yes. Even if your company has a federally registered PAC, your employees (and their spouses) may still contribute up to \$5,000 each year to both RetailPAC and to the company’s PAC.

Q: If our company signs a Prior Approval form, can employees contribute to other PACs?

A: Yes. When a company signs a RetailPAC Prior Approval form, it does not preclude company employees from contributing to a state PAC, federal PAC, candidate PAC, corporate PAC, or an ideological PAC. The only restrictions are that a company cannot give approval to more than one trade association PAC per calendar year and company employees may not be solicited to contribute to the PAC of a trade association which has not received the company’s prior approval.

Q: Why should a company sign a Prior Approval form?

A: In practical terms, granting Prior Approval allows company employees who wish to support RetailPAC the ability do to so, since RetailPAC cannot solicit contributions without a signed Prior Approval form. Because RetailPAC is the retail industry’s most effective tool for helping to elect U.S. House and Senate members who support policies favorable to the industry, we need the support of every NRF Member to ensure the industry’s voice is heard on Capitol Hill.