

**(d) 3-year averaging for increases in inventory value**

The beginning inventory for the first taxable year for which the method described in subsection (b) is used shall be valued at cost. Any change in the inventory amount resulting from the application of the preceding sentence shall be taken into account ratably in each of the 3 taxable years beginning with the first taxable year for which the method described in subsection (b) is first used.

**(e) Subsequent inventories**

If a taxpayer, having complied with subsection (a), uses the method described in subsection (b) for any taxable year, then such method shall be used in all subsequent taxable years unless—

- (1) with the approval of the Secretary a change to a different method is authorized; or,
- (2) the Secretary determines that the taxpayer has used for any such subsequent taxable year some procedure other than that specified in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) in inventorying the goods specified in the application to ascertain the income, profit, or loss of such subsequent taxable year for the purpose of a report or statement covering such taxable year (A) to shareholders, partners, or other proprietors, or beneficiaries, or (B) for credit purposes; and requires a change to a method different from that prescribed in subsection (b) beginning with such subsequent taxable year or any taxable year thereafter.

If paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection applies, the change to, and the use of, the different method shall be in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe as necessary in order that the use of such method may clearly reflect income.

**(f) Use of government price indexes in pricing inventory**

The Secretary shall prescribe regulations permitting the use of suitable published governmental indexes in such manner and circumstances as determined by the Secretary for purposes of the method described in subsection (b).

**(g) Conformity rules applied on controlled group basis****(1) In general**

Except as otherwise provided in regulations, all members of the same group of financially related corporations shall be treated as 1 taxpayer for purposes of subsections (c) and (e)(2).

**(2) Group of financially related corporations**

For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “group of financially related corporations” means—

- (A) any affiliated group as defined in section 1504 determined by substituting “50 percent” for “80 percent” each place it appears in section 1504(a) and without regard to section 1504(b), and
- (B) any other group of corporations which consolidate or combine for purposes of financial statements.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 159; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §§1901(b)(36)(A), 1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1802, 1834; Pub. L. 97-34, title

II, §§ 235, 236(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 252; Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §95(a), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 616.)

## AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 98-369 added subsec. (g).

1981—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 97-34, §236(a), substituted “3-year averaging for increases in inventory value” for “Preceding closing inventory” in heading, substituted first sentence reading “The beginning inventory for the first taxable year for which the method described in subsection (b) is used shall be valued at cost.” for “In determining income for the taxable year preceding the taxable year for which the method described in subsection (b) is first used, the closing inventory of such preceding year of the goods specified in the application referred to in subsection (a) shall be at cost.” and inserted “Any change in the inventory amount resulting from the application of the preceding sentence shall be taken into account ratably in each of the 3 taxable years beginning with the first taxable year for which the method described in subsection (b) is first used.”

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 97-34, §235, added subsec. (f).

1976—Subsecs. (a), (c), (e). Pub. L. 94-455, §1906(b)(13)(A), struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 94-455, §1901(b)(36)(A), struck out subsec. (f) which provided for a cross reference relating to involuntary liquidation and replacement of LIFO inventories.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §95(b), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 616, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act [July 18, 1984].”

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 97-34, title II, §236(b), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 252, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1981.”

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1901(b)(36)(A) of Pub. L. 94-455 effective for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1976, see section 1901(d) of Pub. L. 94-455, set out as a note under section 2 of this title.

**§ 473. Qualified liquidations of LIFO inventories****(a) General rule**

If, for any liquidation year—

- (1) there is a qualified liquidation of goods which the taxpayer inventories under the LIFO method, and
- (2) the taxpayer elects to have the provisions of this section apply with respect to such liquidation,

then the gross income of the taxpayer for such taxable year shall be adjusted as provided in subsection (b).

**(b) Adjustment for replacements**

If the liquidated goods are replaced (in whole or in part) during any replacement year and such replacement is reflected in the closing inventory for such year, then the gross income for the liquidation year shall be—

- (1) decreased by an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the aggregate replacement cost of the liquidated goods so replaced during such year, over

(B) the aggregate cost of such goods reflected in the opening inventory of the liquidation year, or

(2) increased by an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the aggregate cost reflected in such opening inventory of the liquidated goods so replaced during such year, over

(B) such aggregate replacement cost.

**(c) Qualified liquidation defined**

For purposes of this section—

**(1) In general**

The term “qualified liquidation” means—

(A) a decrease in the closing inventory of the liquidation year from the opening inventory of such year, but only if

(B) the taxpayer establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that such decrease is directly and primarily attributable to a qualified inventory interruption.

**(2) Qualified inventory interruption defined**

**(A) In general**

The term “qualified inventory interruption” means a regulation, request, or interruption described in subparagraph (B) but only to the extent provided in the notice published pursuant to subparagraph (B).

**(B) Determination by Secretary**

Whenever the Secretary, after consultation with the appropriate Federal officers, determines—

(i) that—

(I) any Department of Energy regulation or request with respect to energy supplies, or

(II) any embargo, international boycott, or other major foreign trade interruption,

has made difficult or impossible the replacement during the liquidation year of any class of goods for any class of taxpayers, and

(ii) that the application of this section to that class of goods and taxpayers is necessary to carry out the purposes of this section,

he shall publish a notice of such determinations in the Federal Register, together with the period to be affected by such notice.

**(d) Other definitions and special rules**

For purposes of this section—

**(1) Liquidation year**

The term “liquidation year” means the taxable year in which occurs the qualified liquidation to which this section applies.

**(2) Replacement year**

The term “replacement year” means any taxable year in the replacement period; except that such term shall not include any taxable year after the taxable year in which replacement of the liquidated goods is completed.

**(3) Replacement period**

The term “replacement period” means the shorter of—

(A) the period of the 3 taxable years following the liquidation year, or

(B) the period specified by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register with respect to that qualified inventory interruption.

Any period specified by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) may be modified by the Secretary in a subsequent notice published in the Federal Register.

**(4) LIFO method**

The term “LIFO method” means the method of inventorying goods described in section 472.

**(5) Election**

**(A) In general**

An election under subsection (a) shall be made subject to such conditions, and in such manner and form and at such time, as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

**(B) Irrevocable election**

An election under this section shall be irrevocable and shall be binding for the liquidation year and for all determinations for prior and subsequent taxable years insofar as such determinations are affected by the adjustments under this section.

**(e) Replacement; inventory basis**

For purposes of this chapter—

**(1) Replacements**

If the closing inventory of the taxpayer for any replacement year reflects an increase over the opening inventory of such goods for such year, the goods reflecting such increase shall be considered, in the order of their acquisition, as having been acquired in replacement of the goods most recently liquidated (whether or not in a qualified liquidation) and not previously replaced.

**(2) Amount at which replacement goods taken into account**

In the case of any qualified liquidation, any goods considered under paragraph (1) as having been acquired in replacement of the goods liquidated in such liquidation shall be taken into purchases and included in the closing inventory of the taxpayer for the replacement year at the inventory cost basis of the goods replaced.

**(f) Special rules for application of adjustments**

**(1) Period of limitations**

If—

(A) an adjustment is required under this section for any taxable year by reason of the replacement of liquidated goods during any replacement year, and

(B) the assessment of a deficiency, or the allowance of a credit or refund of an overpayment of tax attributable to such adjustment, for any taxable year, is otherwise prevented by the operation of any law or rule of law (other than section 7122, relating to compromises),

then such deficiency may be assessed, or credit or refund allowed, within the period prescribed for assessing a deficiency or allowing a

credit or refund for the replacement year if a notice for deficiency is mailed, or claim for refund is filed, within such period.

**(2) Interest**

Solely for purposes of determining interest on any overpayment or underpayment attributable to an adjustment made under this section, such overpayment or underpayment shall be treated as an overpayment or underpayment (as the case may be) for the replacement year.

**(g) Coordination with section 472**

The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to coordinate the provisions of this section with the provisions of section 472.

(Added Pub. L. 96-223, title IV, § 403(a)(1), Apr. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 302.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 96-223, title IV, § 403(a)(3), Apr. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 304, as amended by Pub. L. 99-514, § 2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that: "The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) [enacting this section] shall apply to qualified liquidations (within the meaning of section 473(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954]) in taxable years ending after October 31, 1979."

**§ 474. Simplified dollar-value LIFO method for certain small businesses**

**(a) General rule**

An eligible small business may elect to use the simplified dollar-value method of pricing inventories for purposes of the LIFO method.

**(b) Simplified dollar-value method of pricing inventories**

For purposes of this section—

**(1) In general**

The simplified dollar-value method of pricing inventories is a dollar-value method of pricing inventories under which—

(A) the taxpayer maintains a separate inventory pool for items in each major category in the applicable Government price index, and

(B) the adjustment for each such separate pool is based on the change from the preceding taxable year in the component of such index for the major category.

**(2) Applicable Government price index**

The term "applicable Government price index" means—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Producer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or

(B) in the case of a retailer using the retail method, the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**(3) Major category**

The term "major category" means—

(A) in the case of the Producer Price Index, any of the 2-digit standard industrial classifications in the Producer Prices Data Report, or

(B) in the case of the Consumer Price Index, any of the general expenditure cat-

egories in the Consumer Price Index Detailed Report.

**(c) Eligible small business**

For purposes of this section, a taxpayer is an eligible small business for any taxable year if the average annual gross receipts of the taxpayer for the 3 preceding taxable years do not exceed \$5,000,000. For purposes of the preceding sentence, rules similar to the rules of section 448(c)(3) shall apply.

**(d) Special rules**

For purposes of this section—

**(1) Controlled groups**

**(A) In general**

In the case of a taxpayer which is a member of a controlled group, all persons which are component members of such group shall be treated as 1 taxpayer for purposes of determining the gross receipts of the taxpayer.

**(B) Controlled group defined**

For purposes of subparagraph (A), persons shall be treated as being component members of a controlled group if such persons would be treated as a single employer under section 52.

**(2) Election**

**(A) In general**

The election under this section may be made without the consent of the Secretary.

**(B) Period to which election applies**

The election under this section shall apply—

(i) to the taxable year for which it is made, and

(ii) to all subsequent taxable years for which the taxpayer is an eligible small business,

unless the taxpayer secures the consent of the Secretary to the revocation of such election.

**(3) LIFO method**

The term "LIFO method" means the method provided by section 472(b).

**(4) Transitional rules**

**(A) In general**

In the case of a year of change under this section—

(i) the inventory pools shall—

(I) in the case of the 1st taxable year to which such an election applies, be established in accordance with the major categories in the applicable Government price index, or

(II) in the case of the 1st taxable year after such election ceases to apply, be established in the manner provided by regulations under section 472;

(ii) the aggregate dollar amount of the taxpayer's inventory as of the beginning of the year of change shall be the same as the aggregate dollar value as of the close of the taxable year preceding the year of change, and

(iii) the year of change shall be treated as a new base year in accordance with pro-