

**§ 752. Treatment of certain liabilities****(a) Increase in partner's liabilities**

Any increase in a partner's share of the liabilities of a partnership, or any increase in a partner's individual liabilities by reason of the assumption by such partner of partnership liabilities, shall be considered as a contribution of money by such partner to the partnership.

**(b) Decrease in partner's liabilities**

Any decrease in a partner's share of the liabilities of a partnership, or any decrease in a partner's individual liabilities by reason of the assumption by the partnership of such individual liabilities, shall be considered as a distribution of money to the partner by the partnership.

**(c) Liability to which property is subject**

For purposes of this section, a liability to which property is subject shall, to the extent of the fair market value of such property, be considered as a liability of the owner of the property.

**(d) Sale or exchange of an interest**

In the case of a sale or exchange of an interest in a partnership, liabilities shall be treated in the same manner as liabilities in connection with the sale or exchange of property not associated with partnerships.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 251.)

## OVERRULING OF RAPHAN CASE

Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §79, July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 597, as amended by Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that:

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—Section 752 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954] (and the regulations prescribed thereunder) shall be applied without regard to the result reached in the case of Raphan vs the United States, 3 Cl. Ct. 457 (1983).

“(b) REGULATIONS.—In amending the regulations prescribed under section 752 of such Code to reflect subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate shall prescribe regulations relating to liabilities, including the treatment of guarantees, assumptions, indemnity agreements, and similar arrangements.”

**§ 753. Partner receiving income in respect of decedent**

The amount includible in the gross income of a successor in interest of a deceased partner under section 736(a) shall be considered income in respect of a decedent under section 691.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 251.)

**§ 754. Manner of electing optional adjustment to basis of partnership property**

If a partnership files an election, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, the basis of partnership property shall be adjusted, in the case of a distribution of property, in the manner provided in section 734 and, in the case of a transfer of a partnership interest, in the manner provided in section 743. Such an election shall apply with respect to all distributions of property by the partnership and to all transfers of interests in the partnership during the taxable year with respect to which such election was filed and all subsequent taxable years. Such election may be revoked by the

partnership, subject to such limitations as may be provided by regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 251; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834.)

## AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary” wherever appearing.

**§ 755. Rules for allocation of basis****(a) General rule**

Any increase or decrease in the adjusted basis of partnership property under section 734(b) (relating to the optional adjustment to the basis of undistributed partnership property) or section 743(b) (relating to the optional adjustment to the basis of partnership property in the case of a transfer of an interest in a partnership) shall, except as provided in subsection (b), be allocated—

(1) in a manner which has the effect of reducing the difference between the fair market value and the adjusted basis of partnership properties, or

(2) in any other manner permitted by regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

**(b) Special rule**

In applying the allocation rules provided in subsection (a), increases or decreases in the adjusted basis of partnership property arising from a distribution of, or a transfer of an interest attributable to, property consisting of—

(1) capital assets and property described in section 1231(b), or

(2) any other property of the partnership,

shall be allocated to partnership property of a like character except that the basis of any such partnership property shall not be reduced below zero. If, in the case of a distribution, the adjustment to basis of property described in paragraph (1) or (2) is prevented by the absence of such property or by insufficient adjusted basis for such property, such adjustment shall be applied to subsequently acquired property of a like character in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

**(c) No allocation of basis decrease to stock of corporate partner**

In making an allocation under subsection (a) of any decrease in the adjusted basis of partnership property under section 734(b)—

(1) no allocation may be made to stock in a corporation (or any person related (within the meaning of sections 267(b) and 707(b)(1)) to such corporation) which is a partner in the partnership, and

(2) any amount not allocable to stock by reason of paragraph (1) shall be allocated under subsection (a) to other partnership property.

Gain shall be recognized to the partnership to the extent that the amount required to be allocated under paragraph (2) to other partnership property exceeds the aggregate adjusted basis of such other property immediately before the allocation required by paragraph (2).

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 252; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834; Pub. L. 108-357, title VIII, §834(a), Oct. 22, 2004, 118 Stat. 1592.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-357 added subsec. (c).  
1976—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary” wherever appearing.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-357, title VIII, §834(b), Oct. 22, 2004, 118 Stat. 1592, provided that: “The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall apply to distributions after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 22, 2004].”

### PART III—DEFINITIONS

Sec.

761. Terms defined.

#### § 761. Terms defined

##### (a) Partnership

For purposes of this subtitle, the term “partnership” includes a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture, or other unincorporated organization through or by means of which any business, financial operation, or venture is carried on, and which is not, within the meaning of this title, a corporation or a trust or estate. Under regulations the Secretary may, at the election of all the members of an unincorporated organization, exclude such organization from the application of all or part of this subchapter, if it is availed of—

- (1) for investment purposes only and not for the active conduct of a business,
- (2) for the joint production, extraction, or use of property, but not for the purpose of selling services or property produced or extracted, or
- (3) by dealers in securities for a short period for the purpose of underwriting, selling, or distributing a particular issue of securities,

if the income of the members of the organization may be adequately determined without the computation of partnership taxable income.

##### (b) Partner

For purposes of this subtitle, the term “partner” means a member of a partnership. In the case of a capital interest in a partnership in which capital is a material income-producing factor, whether a person is a partner with respect to such interest shall be determined without regard to whether such interest was derived by gift from any other person.

##### (c) Partnership agreement

For purposes of this subchapter, a partnership agreement includes any modifications of the partnership agreement made prior to, or at, the time prescribed by law for the filing of the partnership return for the taxable year (not including extensions) which are agreed to by all the partners, or which are adopted in such other manner as may be provided by the partnership agreement.

##### (d) Liquidation of a partner’s interest

For purposes of this subchapter, the term “liquidation of a partner’s interest” means the ter-

mination of a partner’s entire interest in a partnership by means of a distribution, or a series of distributions, to the partner by the partnership.

##### (e) Distributions of partnership interests treated as exchanges

Except as otherwise provided in regulations, for purposes of—

- (1) section 708 (relating to continuation of partnership),
- (2) section 743 (relating to optional adjustment to basis of partnership property), and
- (3) any other provision of this subchapter specified in regulations prescribed by the Secretary,

any distribution of an interest in a partnership (not otherwise treated as an exchange) shall be treated as an exchange.

##### (f) Qualified joint venture

###### (1) In general

In the case of a qualified joint venture conducted by a husband and wife who file a joint return for the taxable year, for purposes of this title—

- (A) such joint venture shall not be treated as a partnership,
- (B) all items of income, gain, loss, deduction, and credit shall be divided between the spouses in accordance with their respective interests in the venture, and
- (C) each spouse shall take into account such spouse’s respective share of such items as if they were attributable to a trade or business conducted by such spouse as a sole proprietor.

###### (2) Qualified joint venture

For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “qualified joint venture” means any joint venture involving the conduct of a trade or business if—

- (A) the only members of such joint venture are a husband and wife,
- (B) both spouses materially participate (within the meaning of section 469(h) without regard to paragraph (5) thereof) in such trade or business, and
- (C) both spouses elect the application of this subsection.

##### (g) Cross reference

**For rules in the case of the sale, exchange, liquidation, or reduction of a partner’s interest, see sections 704(b) and 706(c)(2).**

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 252; Pub. L. 94-455, title II, §213(c)(3)(B), title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1548, 1834; Pub. L. 96-222, title I, §102(a)(2)(C), Apr. 1, 1980, 94 Stat. 208; Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §75(b), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 594; Pub. L. 99-514, title XVIII, §1805(c)(2), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2810; Pub. L. 110-28, title VIII, §8215(a), May 25, 2007, 121 Stat. 193; Pub. L. 114-74, title XI, §1102(a), Nov. 2, 2015, 129 Stat. 638.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 114-74 inserted at end “In the case of a capital interest in a partnership in which capital is a material income-producing factor, whether a person is a partner with respect to such interest shall be determined without regard to whether such interest was derived by gift from any other person.”