

§ 537. Reasonable needs of the business**(a) General rule**

For purposes of this part, the term “reasonable needs of the business” includes—

- (1) the reasonably anticipated needs of the business,
- (2) the section 303 redemption needs of the business, and
- (3) the excess business holdings redemption needs of the business.

(b) Special rules

For purposes of subsection (a)—

(1) Section 303 redemption needs

The term “section 303 redemption needs” means, with respect to the taxable year of the corporation in which a shareholder of the corporation died or any taxable year thereafter, the amount needed (or reasonably anticipated to be needed) to make a redemption of stock included in the gross estate of the decedent (but not in excess of the maximum amount of stock to which section 303(a) may apply).

(2) Excess business holdings redemption needs

The term “excess business holdings redemption needs” means the amount needed (or reasonably anticipated to be needed) to redeem from a private foundation stock which—

(A) such foundation held on May 26, 1969 (or which was received by such foundation pursuant to a will or irrevocable trust to which section 4943(c)(5) applies), and

(B) constituted excess business holdings on May 26, 1969, or would have constituted excess business holdings as of such date if there were taken into account (i) stock received pursuant to a will or trust described in subparagraph (A), and (ii) the reduction in the total outstanding stock of the corporation which would have resulted solely from the redemption of stock held by the private foundation.

(3) Obligations incurred to make redemptions

In applying paragraphs (1) and (2), the discharge of any obligation incurred to make a redemption described in such paragraphs shall be treated as the making of such redemption.

(4) Product liability loss reserves

The accumulation of reasonable amounts for the payment of reasonably anticipated product liability losses (as defined in section 172(f) (as in effect before the date of enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act)), as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, shall be treated as accumulated for the reasonably anticipated needs of the business.

(5) No inference as to prior taxable years

The application of this part to any taxable year before the first taxable year specified in paragraph (1) shall be made without regard to the fact that distributions in redemption coming within the terms of such paragraphs were subsequently made.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 182; Pub. L. 91-172, title IX, §906(a), Dec. 30, 1969, 83 Stat. 714; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1901(a)(75), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1777; Pub. L. 95-600, title III, §371(c),

Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2859; Pub. L. 104-188, title I, §1704(t)(33), Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1889; Pub. L. 115-97, title I, §13302(c)(2)(B), Dec. 22, 2017, 131 Stat. 2123.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 172(f), referred to in subsec. (b)(4), was repealed by Pub. L. 115-97, title I, §13302(c)(2)(A), Dec. 22, 2017, 131 Stat. 2122.

The date of the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(4), probably means the date of enactment of title I of Pub. L. 115-97, which was approved Dec. 22, 2017. Prior versions of the bill that was enacted into law as Pub. L. 115-97 included such Short Title, but it was not enacted as part of title I of Pub. L. 115-97.

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 115-97 inserted “(as in effect before the date of enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act)” after “as defined in section 172(f)”.

1996—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 104-188 substituted “section 172(f)” for “section 172(i)”.

1978—Subsec. (b)(4), (5). Pub. L. 95-600 added par. (4) and redesignated former par. (4) as (5).

1976—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 94-455, §1901(a)(75)(A), struck out “with respect to taxable years of the corporation ending after May 26, 1969” after “redemption needs” means”.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 94-455, §1901(a)(75)(B), struck out “or (2)” after “paragraph (1)”.

1969—Pub. L. 91-172 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a)(1) and added subsecs. (a)(2), (3) and (b).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2017 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-97 applicable to net operating losses arising in taxable years ending after Dec. 31, 2017, see section 13302(e) of Pub. L. 115-97, set out as a note under section 172 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-600 applicable with respect to taxable years beginning after Sept. 30, 1979, see section 371(d) of Pub. L. 95-600, set out as a note under section 172 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-455 applicable with respect to 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1969 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 91-172, title IX, §906(b), Dec. 30, 1969, 83 Stat. 715, as amended by Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to the tax imposed under section 531 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954] with respect to taxable years ending after May 26, 1969.”

PART II—PERSONAL HOLDING COMPANIES

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§ 541. Imposition of personal holding company tax

In addition to other taxes imposed by this chapter, there is hereby imposed for each tax-

able year on the undistributed personal holding company income (as defined in section 545) of every personal holding company (as defined in section 542) a personal holding company tax equal to 20 percent of the undistributed personal holding company income.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 182; Pub. L. 88-272, title II, §225(a), Feb. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 79; Pub. L. 97-34, title I, §101(d)(2), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 184; Pub. L. 99-514, title I, §104(b)(8), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2105; Pub. L. 101-508, title XI, §11802(f)(1), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-530; Pub. L. 103-66, title XIII, §§13201(b)(2), 13202(b), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 459, 461; Pub. L. 107-16, title I, §101(c)(5), June 7, 2001, 115 Stat. 43; Pub. L. 108-27, title III, §302(e)(6), May 28, 2003, 117 Stat. 764; Pub. L. 112-240, title I, §102(c)(1)(B), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 2319.)

AMENDMENTS

2013—Pub. L. 112-240 substituted “20 percent” for “15 percent”.

2003—Pub. L. 108-27 substituted “equal to 15 percent of the undistributed personal holding company income.” for “equal to the product of the highest rate of tax under section 1(c) and the undistributed personal holding company income.”

2001—Pub. L. 107-16 substituted “equal to the product of the highest rate of tax under section 1(c) and the undistributed personal holding company income.” for “equal to 39.6 percent of the undistributed personal holding company income.”

1993—Pub. L. 103-66, §13202(b), substituted “39.6 percent” for “36 percent”.

Pub. L. 103-66, §13201(b)(2), substituted “36 percent” for “28 percent”.

1990—Pub. L. 101-508 struck out “(38.5 percent in the case of taxable years beginning in 1987)” after “28 percent”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-514 substituted “28 percent (38.5 percent in the case of taxable years beginning in 1987)” for “50 percent”.

1981—Pub. L. 97-34 substituted “50 percent” for “70 percent”.

1964—Pub. L. 88-272 reduced the tax from 75 percent of undistributed income not in excess of \$2,000, and 85 percent when in excess of \$2,000, to 70 percent.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-240 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2012, see section 102(d)(1) of Pub. L. 112-240, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-27 applicable, except as otherwise provided, to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2002, see section 302(f) of Pub. L. 108-27, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2003 Amendment note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-16 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2000, see section 101(d) of Pub. L. 107-16, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2001 Amendment note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-66 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1992, see sections 13201(c) and 13202(c) of Pub. L. 103-66, set out as notes under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-514 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1986, see section 151(a) of

Pub. L. 99-514, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-34 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1981, see section 101(f)(1) of Pub. L. 97-34, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 88-272 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1963, see section 225(l) of Pub. L. 88-272 set out as a note under section 316 of this title.

SAVINGS PROVISION

For provisions that nothing in amendment by Pub. L. 101-508 be construed to affect treatment of certain transactions occurring, property acquired, or items of income, loss, deduction, or credit taken into account prior to Nov. 5, 1990, for purposes of determining liability for tax for periods ending after Nov. 5, 1990, see section 11821(b) of Pub. L. 101-508, set out as a note under section 45K of this title.

§ 542. Definition of personal holding company

(a) General rule

For purposes of this subtitle, the term “personal holding company” means any corporation (other than a corporation described in subsection (c)) if—

(1) Adjusted ordinary gross income requirement

At least 60 percent of its adjusted ordinary gross income (as defined in section 543(b)(2)) for the taxable year is personal holding company income (as defined in section 543(a)), and

(2) Stock ownership requirement

At any time during the last half of the taxable year more than 50 percent in value of its outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for not more than 5 individuals. For purposes of this paragraph, an organization described in section 401(a), 501(c)(17), or 509(a) or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or to be used exclusively for the purposes described in section 642(c) or a corresponding provision of a prior income tax law shall be considered an individual.

(b) Corporations filing consolidated returns

(1) General rule

In the case of an affiliated group of corporations filing or required to file a consolidated return under section 1501 for any taxable year, the adjusted ordinary gross income requirement of subsection (a)(1) of this section shall, except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), be applied for such year with respect to the consolidated adjusted ordinary gross income and the consolidated personal holding company income of the affiliated group. No member of such an affiliated group shall be considered to meet such adjusted ordinary gross income requirement unless the affiliated group meets such requirement.

(2) Ineligible affiliated group

Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an affiliated group of corporations if—

(A) any member of the affiliated group of corporations (including the common parent