



Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970

1970 CHAPTER 10

PART XVII

TAX AVOIDANCE

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS

Companies

482 Migration, etc., of companies

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, all transactions of the following classes shall be unlawful unless carried out with the consent of the Treasury, that is to say—
- (a) for a body corporate resident in the United Kingdom to cease to be so resident; or
 - (b) for the trade or business or any part of the trade or business of a body corporate so resident to be transferred from that body corporate to a person not so resident; or
 - (c) for a body corporate so resident to cause or permit a body corporate not so resident over which it has control to create or issue any shares or debentures; or
 - (d) except for the purpose of enabling a person to be qualified to act as a director, for a body corporate so resident to transfer to any person, or cause or permit to be transferred to any person, any shares or debentures of a body corporate not so resident over which it has control, being shares or debentures which it owns or in which it has an interest.
- (2) Nothing in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section shall apply to the giving to the bankers of the body corporate not resident in the United Kingdom of any security for the payment of any sum due or to become due from it to them by reason of any

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transaction entered into with it by them in the ordinary course of their business as bankers.

- (3) Nothing in the said paragraph (c) shall apply to the giving by the body corporate not resident in the United Kingdom to an insurance company of any security for the payment of any sum due or to become due from that body corporate to that company by reason of any transaction entered into with that body corporate by that company in the ordinary course of that company's business by way of investment of its funds.
- (4) Any consent granted by the Treasury under this section—
- (a) may be given either specially (that is to say, so as to apply only to specified transactions of or relating to a specified body corporate) or generally (that is to say, so as not only to apply as aforesaid); and
 - (b) may, if given generally, be revoked by the Treasury; and
 - (c) may in any case be absolute or conditional; and
 - (d) shall be published in such a way as to give any person entitled to the benefit of it an adequate opportunity of getting to know of it, unless in the opinion of the Treasury publication is not necessary for that purpose.
- (5) Any person who, whether within or outside the United Kingdom, does or is a party to the doing of any act which to his knowledge amounts to or results in, or forms part of a series of acts which together amount to or result in, or will amount to or result in, something which is unlawful under subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of an offence under this section, and in any proceedings in respect of such an offence against a director of the body corporate in question (that is to say, the body corporate which is or was resident in the United Kingdom) or against any person who was purporting to act in that capacity—
- (a) it shall be presumed that he was a party to every act of that body corporate unless he proves that it was done without his consent or connivance; and
 - (b) it shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed that any act which in fact amounted to or resulted in, or formed part of a series of acts which together amounted to or resulted in or would amount to or result in, something which is unlawful under subsection (1) of this section was to his knowledge such an act.
- (6) Any person who is guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for not more than two years or to a fine not exceeding £10,000 or to both, and proceedings in respect of such an offence alleged to have been committed by a person may be taken before the appropriate court in the United Kingdom having jurisdiction in the place where that person is for the time being:

Provided that where the person in question is a body corporate which is or was resident in the United Kingdom, the maximum amount of the fine shall be three times the corporation tax, profits tax, capital gains tax and income tax paid or payable which is attributable to the income, profits or gains (including chargeable gains) arising in the thirty-six months immediately preceding the commission of the offence, or £10,000, whichever is the greater.

- (7) A body corporate shall be deemed for the purposes of this section to be resident or not to be resident in the United Kingdom according as the central management and control of its trade or business is or is not exercised in the United Kingdom:

Provided that if it is shown that it has been established as between the Crown and a body corporate for any income tax, corporation tax or profits tax purpose that the body corporate was resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for any year

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of assessment or other period, it shall be presumed, except so far as the contrary is proved, that that body corporate was resident in the United Kingdom for the purposes of this section at the beginning of that year of assessment or other period and that it continued to be so resident at all times thereafter.

- (8) Where the functions of a body corporate consist wholly or mainly in the holding of investments or other property, the holding of the investments or property shall be deemed for the purposes of this section to be a business carried on by the body corporate.
- (9) Notwithstanding anything in the preceding provisions of this section, in no event shall a mere transfer of assets by a body corporate not resulting in a substantial change in the character or extent of the trade or business of that body corporate be treated for the purpose of this section as a transfer of part of the trade or business thereof.

- (10) In this section—

" share ", " debenture " and " director " have, in relation to any body corporate, the meanings respectively assigned to them by section 455 of the Companies Act 1948 in relation to a company ;

" control " (except in the expression " central management and control") has, in relation to a body corporate, the meaning given by section 534 of this Act;

" transfer ", in relation to shares or debentures, includes a transfer of any beneficial interest therein;

" insurance company " means a body corporate lawfully carrying on business as an insurer, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, and " funds " in relation to an insurance company means the funds held by it in connection with that business,

and a body corporate shall not be deemed for the purposes of this section to cease to be resident in the United Kingdom by reason only that it ceases to exist.

- (11) No proceedings for an offence under this section shall be instituted, in England or Wales, except by or with the consent of the Attorney General or, in Northern Ireland, except by or with the consent of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland:

Provided that this subsection shall not prevent the issue or execution of a warrant for the arrest of any person in respect of such an offence, or the remanding in custody or on bail of any person charged with such an offence.

- (12) This section shall come into force for all purposes on 6th April 1970 to the exclusion of the provisions thereby-re-enacted :

Provided that any offence committed before 6th April 1970 shall not be punishable under this section, and neither this subsection nor any other provision of this Act shall prevent any such offence from being punishable as if this Act had not been passed.

483 Change in ownership of company: disallowance of trading losses

- (1) If—

- (a) within any period of three years there is both a change in the ownership of a company and (either earlier or later in that period, or at the same time) a major change in the nature or conduct of a trade carried on by the company, or

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(b) at any time after the scale of the activities in a trade carried on by a company has become small or negligible, and before any considerable revival of the trade, there is a change in the ownership of the company,

no relief shall be given under section 177 of this Act (relief for trading losses against future trading profits or total profits) by setting a loss incurred by the company in an accounting period beginning before the change of ownership against any income or other profits of an accounting period ending after the change of ownership.

(2) In applying this section to the accounting period in which the change of ownership occurs, the part ending with the change of ownership, and the part after, shall be treated as two separate accounting periods, and the profits or losses of the accounting period shall be apportioned to the two parts.

The apportionment shall be on a time basis according to the respective lengths of those parts except that if it appears that that method would work unreasonably or unjustly such other method shall be used as appears just and reasonable.

(3) In subsection (1) above "major change in the nature or conduct of a trade" includes—

(a) a major change in the type of property dealt in, or services or facilities provided, in the trade, or

(b) a major change in customers, outlets or markets of the trade,

and this section applies even if the change is the result of a gradual process which began outside the period of three years mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above.

(4) In relation to any relief available under section 252 of this Act (company reconstructions) to a successor company, subsection (1) above shall apply as if any loss sustained by a predecessor company had been sustained by a successor company and as if the references to a trade included references to the trade as carried on by a predecessor company.

(5) Where relief in respect of a company's losses has been restricted under this section then, notwithstanding section 87(3) of the Capital Allowances Act 1968, in applying the provisions of that Act about balancing charges to the company by reference to any event after the change of ownership of the company, any allowance or deduction falling to be made in taxing the company's trade for any chargeable period before the change of ownership shall be disregarded unless the profits or gains of that chargeable period or of any subsequent chargeable period before the change of ownership were sufficient to give effect to the allowance or deduction.

In applying this subsection it shall be assumed that any profits or gains are applied in giving effect to any such allowance or deduction in preference to being set off against any loss which is not attributable to such an allowance or deduction.

(6) Where the operation of this section depends on circumstances or events at a time after the change of ownership (but not more than three years after), an assessment to give effect to the provisions of this section shall not be out of time if made within six years from that time, or the latest of those times.

(7) Any person in whose name any shares, stock or securities of a company are registered shall, if required by notice in writing by an inspector given for the purposes of this section, state whether or not he is the beneficial owner of those shares or securities and, if not the beneficial owner of those shares or securities or any of them, shall furnish the name and address of the person or persons on whose behalf those shares, stock or securities are registered in his name.

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- (8) This section shall not apply if the change of ownership took place before 15th April 1969, and subsection (1)(a) above shall not apply if the major change in the nature or conduct of the trade was completed before that date.

In other respects this section has effect by reference to circumstances and events before that date, as well as by reference to later circumstances and events.

484 Rules for ascertaining change in ownership of company

- (1) For the purposes of section 483 above (in this section called " the principal section ") there is a change in the ownership of a company—
- (a) if a single person acquires more than half the ordinary share capital of the company, or
 - (b) if two or more persons each acquire a holding of 5 per cent, or more of the ordinary share capital of the company, and those holdings together amount to more than half the ordinary share capital of the company, or
 - (c) if two or more persons each acquire a holding of the ordinary share capital of the company, and the holdings together amount to more than half the ordinary share capital of the company, but disregarding a holding of less than 5 per cent. unless it is an addition to an existing holding and the two holdings together amount to 5 per cent. or more of the ordinary share capital of the company.
- (2) In applying subsection (1) above—
- (a) the circumstances at any two points of time with not more than three years between may be compared, and a holder at the later time may be regarded as having acquired whatever he did not hold at the earlier time, irrespective of what he has acquired or disposed of in between,
 - (b) to allow for any issue of shares or other reorganisation of capital, the comparison may be made in terms of percentage holdings of the total ordinary share capital at the respective times, so that a person whose percentage holding is greater at the later time may be regarded as having acquired a percentage holding equal to the increase,
 - (c) to decide for the purposes of subsection (1)(b) or (c) above if any person has acquired a holding of at least 5 per cent., or a holding which makes at least 5 per cent. when added to an existing holding, acquisitions by, and holdings of, two or more persons who are connected persons within the meaning of section 533 of this Act shall be aggregated as if they were acquisitions by, and holdings of, one and the same person,
 - (d) any acquisition of shares under the will or on the intestacy of a deceased person and, if it is shown that the gift is unsolicited and made without regard to the provisions of the principal section, any gift of shares, shall be left out of account.
- (3) Where, because persons, whether company members or not, possess extraordinary rights or powers under the articles of association or under any other document regulating the company, ownership of ordinary share capital may not be an appropriate test of whether there has been a major change in the persons for whose benefit the losses may ultimately enure, then in considering whether there has been a change of ownership of the company for the purposes of the principal section, holdings of all kinds of share capital, including preference shares, or of any particular category of share capital, or voting power or any other special kind of power, may be taken into account instead of ordinary share capital.

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- (4) Where the principal section has operated to restrict relief by reference to a change of ownership taking place at any time, no transaction or circumstances before that time shall be taken into account in determining whether there is any subsequent change of ownership.
- (5) A change in the ownership of a company shall be disregarded for the purposes of the principal section if—
 - (a) immediately before the change the company is the 75 per cent. subsidiary of another company, and
 - (b) (although there is a change in the direct ownership of the company) that other company continues after the change to own the first-mentioned company as a 75 per cent. subsidiary.
- (6) If there is a change in the ownership of a company which has a 75 per cent. subsidiary (whether owned directly or indirectly) then, unless under subsection (5) above that change in ownership is to be disregarded, the principal section shall apply as if there had also been a change in the ownership of that 75 per cent. subsidiary.
- (7) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) references to ownership shall be construed as references to beneficial ownership, and references to acquisition shall be construed accordingly,
 - (b) a company shall be deemed to be a 75 per cent. subsidiary of another company if and so long as not less than three quarters of its ordinary share capital is owned by that other company, whether directly or through another company or other companies, or partly directly and partly through another company or other companies,
 - (c) the amount of ordinary share capital of one company owned by a second company through another company or other companies, or partly directly and partly through another company or other companies, shall be determined in accordance with subsections (5) to (10) of section 532 of this Act,
 - (d) " share " includes stock.
- (8) If any acquisition of ordinary share capital or other property or rights taken into account in determining that there has been a change of ownership of a company was made in pursuance of a contract of sale or option or other contract, or the acquisition was made by a person holding such a contract, and the contract was made on or after 15th April 1969, the time when the change in the ownership of the company took place shall be determined as if the acquisition had been made when the contract was made with the holder or when the benefit of it was assigned to him so that, in the case of a person exercising an option to purchase shares, he shall be regarded as having purchased the shares when he acquired the option.