



Insolvency Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 45

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS APPLYING TO COMPANIES WHICH ARE INSOLVENT OR IN LIQUIDATION

Adjustment of prior transactions (administration and liquidation)

246 Unenforceability of liens on books, etc.

- (1) This section applies in the case of a company where—
- [^{F1}(a) the company enters administration,]
 - (b) the company goes into liquidation, or
 - (c) a provisional liquidator is appointed;

and “the office-holder” means the administrator, the liquidator or the provisional liquidator, as the case may be.

- (2) Subject as follows, a lien or other right to retain possession of any of the books, papers or other records of the company is unenforceable to the extent that its enforcement would deny possession of any books, papers or other records to the office-holder.
- (3) This does not apply to a lien on documents which give a title to property and are held as such.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 246(1)(a) substituted (15.9.2003) by 2002 c. 40, ss. 248(3), 279, Sch. 17 para. 32 (with s. 249(1)-(3)(6)); S.I. 2003/2093, art. 2(1), Sch. 1 (subject to arts. 3-8 (as amended by S.I. 2003/2332, art. 2))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 6 applied (with modifications) (8.7.2021) by The Payment and Electronic Money Institution Insolvency Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/716), reg. 2, Sch. 1 para. 3 (with reg. 5) (as amended (4.1.2024) by S.I. 2023/1399, regs. 1(2), 4)

Changes to legislation: *Insolvency Act 1986, Section 246 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- C2** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (17.2.2009 for certain purposes, otherwise 21.2.2009) by [Banking Act 2009 \(c. 1\)](#), **ss. 103**, 263(1)(2) (with s. 247); S.I. 2009/296, **arts. 2, 3**, Sch. para. 2
- C3** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (17.2.2009 for certain purposes, otherwise 21.2.2009) by [Banking Act 2009 \(c. 1\)](#), **ss. 145**, 263(1)(2) (with s. 247); S.I. 2009/296, **arts. 2, 3**, Sch. para. 3
- C4** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (6.6.2013) by [The Collective Investment in Transferable Securities \(Contractual Scheme\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1388\)](#), Pt. 3reg. 1, Sch. 2 paras. 3, 5 Table (with reg. 24)
- C5** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (31.1.2019) by [Technical and Further Education Act 2017 \(c. 19\)](#), s. 47(2), **Sch. 3**; S.I. 2018/1161, reg. 3(c)
- C6** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (31.1.2019) by [Technical and Further Education Act 2017 \(c. 19\)](#), s. 47(2), **Sch. 4**; S.I. 2018/1161, reg. 3(d)
- C7** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (8.7.2021) by [The Payment and Electronic Money Institution Insolvency Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/716\)](#), regs. 2, 37 (with reg. 5) (as amended (4.1.2024) by S.I. 2023/1399, regs. 1(2), 4, 11)
- C8** S. 246 applied (with modifications) (15.3.2024) by [The Water Industry \(Special Administration\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/205\)](#), regs. 2(2), 5(1) (with reg. 64)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1986/1999, art. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 2 by [S.I. 2017/1119 Sch. 3 para. 1](#)
- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 41HB(2) words substituted by [2018 c. 14 s. 1\(3\)\(b\)](#)