



# Insolvency Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 45

### PART IX

#### BANKRUPTCY

#### CHAPTER I

[<sup>F1</sup>THE COURT: BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS AND BANKRUPTCY ORDERS]

#### *Creditor's petition*

#### **268 Definition of “inability to pay”, etc.; the statutory demand.**

- (1) For the purposes of section 267(2)(c), the debtor appears to be unable to pay a debt if, but only if, the debt is payable immediately and either—
  - (a) the petitioning creditor to whom the debt is owed has served on the debtor a demand (known as “the statutory demand”) in the prescribed form requiring him to pay the debt or to secure or compound for it to the satisfaction of the creditor, at least 3 weeks have elapsed since the demand was served and the demand has been neither complied with nor set aside in accordance with the rules, or
  - (b) execution or other process issued in respect of the debt on a judgment or order of any court in favour of the petitioning creditor, or one or more of the petitioning creditors to whom the debt is owed, has been returned unsatisfied in whole or in part.
- (2) For the purposes of section 267(2)(c) the debtor appears to have no reasonable prospect of being able to pay a debt if, but only if, the debt is not immediately payable and—
  - (a) the petitioning creditor to whom it is owed has served on the debtor a demand (also known as “the statutory demand”) in the prescribed form requiring him to establish to the satisfaction of the creditor that there is a reasonable prospect that the debtor will be able to pay the debt when it falls due,

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**Changes to legislation:** *Insolvency Act 1986, Section 268 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 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*

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- (b) at least 3 weeks have elapsed since the demand was served, and
- (c) the demand has been neither complied with nor set aside in accordance with the rules.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 268 applied (with modifications) (1.12.1994) by [S.I. 1994/2421](#), art. 8(3)(9), **Sch. 4 Pt. II para. 7(b)**
- C2** S. 268 excluded in part (24.3.2022 to be regarded as having come into force on 10.11.2021) by [Commercial Rent \(Coronavirus\) Act 2022](#) (c. 12), s. 31(4), **Sch. 3 para. 2** (with s. 30)

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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\(3\)\(b\)](#)