



American Institute of CPAs  
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

May 12, 2016

Internal Revenue Service  
Attn: CC:PA:LPD:PR (NOTICE 2016-26)  
Room 5203  
P.O. Box 7604  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044

RE: Recommendations for 2016-2017 Guidance Priority List ([Notice 2016-26](#))

Dear Sir/Madam:

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) is pleased to offer our suggestions regarding the 2016-2017 Guidance Priority List, which were prepared by the AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy Division's committees and technical resource panels, and approved by our Tax Executive Committee.

The suggestions are listed under the AICPA working group that developed them, and we have indicated the priority order for our comments under each category of the attached document. For your convenience, contact information for each working group's chair and AICPA staff liaison is listed. Please feel free to contact these individuals directly with your specific questions or concerns.

In addition, the AICPA again encourages the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service to continue pursuing tax simplification. Although we recognize you must balance competing interests and concerns when drafting guidance, we urge you to consider the following as part of the process:

- Use the simplest approach to accomplish a policy goal;
- Provide safe harbor alternatives;
- Offer clear and consistent definitions;
- Use horizontal drafting (a rule placed in one Internal Revenue Code ("Code") section should apply in all other Code sections) to the greatest extent possible;
- Build on existing business and industry-standard record-keeping practices;
- Provide a balance between simple general rules and more complex detailed rules; and
- Match a rule's complexity to the sophistication of the targeted taxpayers.

Internal Revenue Service

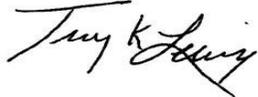
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The AICPA is the world's largest member association representing the accounting profession, with more than 412,000 members in 144 countries, and a history of serving the public interest since 1887. Our members advise clients on Federal, state and international tax matters and prepare income and other tax returns for millions of Americans. Our members provide services to individuals, not-for-profit organizations, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as America's largest businesses.

The AICPA welcomes the opportunity to discuss these comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 523-1051, or [tlewis@sisna.com](mailto:tlewis@sisna.com); or Melissa Labant, AICPA Director of Tax Policy & Advocacy at (202) 434-9234, or [mlabant@aicpa.org](mailto:mlabant@aicpa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy K. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy K. Lewis, CPA  
Chair, AICPA Tax Executive Committee

Encl.

**AICPA Tax Division**  
**Comments on the**  
**2016 - 2017 Guidance Priority List ([Notice 2016-26](#))**  
**May 16, 2016**

**Corporations and Shareholders Taxation Technical Resource Panel** (Kevin Kaiser, Chair, (612) 371-2467, [kevin.kaiser@ey.com](mailto:kevin.kaiser@ey.com); or Kristin Esposito, Senior Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9241, [kesposito@aicpa.org](mailto:kesposito@aicpa.org).)  
NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

**Consolidated Returns**

1. Provide guidance regarding the treatment of intercompany transactions in determining satisfaction of the gross receipts test for purposes of section 165(g)(3)(B).<sup>1</sup>
2. Provide additional guidance as to the application of section 382(h)(6) in conjunction with Notice 2003-65, 2003-2 C.B. 747, within consolidation.
3. Provide guidance for determining when the Continuity of Business Enterprise (COBE) requirement is satisfied following a section 382 ownership change.
4. Provide additional guidance under Treas. Reg. § 1.1502-36:
  - Provide guidance that would permit a reattribution of losses where a worthless stock deduction is taken on subsidiary stock and the subsidiary ceases to be a member of the group but does not have a separate return year.
  - Regarding the interaction of Treas. Reg. §§ 1.1502-11(c) and 1.1502-28 (i.e., how does Treas. Reg. § 1.1502-36 apply in a year when there is a disposition at a loss in the same year as a cancellation of debt event subject to Treas. Reg. §§ 1.1502-28 and 1.1502-11(c)).
5. Provide guidance that would permit a worthless stock deduction with respect to a class of subsidiary stock notwithstanding that there is a section 381 transaction with respect to other classes of subsidiary stock.
6. Provide guidance with respect to group continuation and the application of Rev. Rul. 82-152. Specifically, reevaluate the existing group continuation rules under Treas. Reg. § 1.1502-75(d) to eliminate the uncertainty that exists as a result of the expanded application of Rev. Rul. 82-152.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to “section” or “§” are to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and all references to “Treas. Reg. §” and “regulations” are to U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder.

7. Provide guidance on uncertain tax position (UTP) reporting of an acquiring corporation on its Schedule UTP, *Uncertain Tax Position Statement*:
  - Whether an acquiring corporation needs to report on its Schedule UTP, a tax position taken on a selling consolidated group's pre-closing consolidated return for which the selling group did not record a reserve.
  - Whether an acquiring corporation needs to report on its Schedule UTP on the acquiring consolidated group's post-closing return, tax positions already taken on a selling consolidated group's return (where the "only once rule" applies).
8. Provide guidance that excludes the application of section 351(g) to redemptive transactions between members of a consolidated group where a member redeems its stock through the issuance of non-qualified preferred stock as defined under section 351(g).
9. Provide guidance concerning the application of Rev. Rul. 99-6 involving members of a consolidated group.
10. Finalize the regulations under section 1502.

#### **Corporations and Their Shareholders**

11. Provide guidance under section 382:
  - Provide guidance on identifying five percent shareholders of public companies.
  - Provide guidance under sections 382 and 384, including regulations regarding built-in items under section 382(h)(6).
12. Provide guidance with respect to section 108:
  - Provide guidance concerning how an election under section 108(i) affects the determination of recognized built-in gain or loss under section 382(h)(6).
  - Provide guidance as to the application of section 108(e)(6) if the subsidiary is insolvent before the contribution of the debt.
13. Provide updated guidance regarding transactions involving receipt of no net equity value.
14. Provide guidance as to what represents a "characterization" for purposes of section 385(c)(1) regarding a characterization of an interest as stock or indebtedness.

15. Strongly consider releasing a list(s) of specific common organizational actions that require (or do not require) reporting on Form 8937, *Report of Organizational Actions Affecting Basis of Securities*, to help taxpayers understand the filing requirement, without the administrative burden and cost that a taxpayer may need to incur to verify if reporting is necessary.
16. Provide guidance on the application of the solely voting stock requirement, meaningless gesture doctrine and deemed issuances under section 368(a)(1)(C) in the event of an upstream reorganization where no actual shares are issued and the transferee corporation has multiple voting and non-voting classes of stock.
17. Provide additional guidance on the following areas:
  - Whether a “distributing” corporation’s distribution of the stock of a “controlled” corporation meets the requirements of section 355(a)(1)(A) where, in anticipation of the distribution, the distributing corporation acquires control of the controlled corporation through a recapitalization or issuance of new stock resulting in a “high vote/low vote” structure;
  - Whether either section 355 or section 361 applies to a distribution of a “controlled” corporation’s stock or securities in exchange for, and in retirement of, any debt of the distributing corporation if such debt was issued in anticipation of the distribution; and
  - Whether a contribution of property and a distribution of property in a so-called “north-south” transaction are respected as separate transactions for federal income tax purposes.
18. Provide guidance on the scope and application of the rescission doctrine as described in Rev. Rul. 80-58, 1980-1 C.B. 181.
19. Provide guidance on how to determine the amount of gain or loss that is recognized if an exchange of excess principal amount (as defined in section 354(a)(2)) occurs.
20. Finalize the regulations under section 597.

### **Financial Institutions and Products**

21. Regulations under section 249 relating to the amount of a repurchase premium attributable to the cost of borrowing.
22. Provide guidance regarding the applicability of section 305(c).

**Employee Benefits Taxation Technical Resource Panel** (Kelly Davis, Chair, (602) 604-3526, [Kelly.davis@claconnect.com](mailto:Kelly.davis@claconnect.com); or Kristin Esposito, Senior Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9241, [kesposito@aicpa.org](mailto:kesposito@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

### **Retirement Benefits**

1. Provide guidance on international tax issues relating to qualified retirement plans to aid in the administration and operational compliance with the plan terms.
2. Provide model language for preapproved qualified plan documents to provide for the deferral of compensation for unused vacation and leave time.
3. Provide guidance to simplify the correction methods under the Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (EPCRS) as they pertain to correcting actual deferral percentage (ADP) and actual contribution percentage (ACP) testing failures after the 12-month statutory correction period has expired.

Correction methods currently available under the EPCRS as they pertain to correcting ADP and ACP testing failures, after the 12-month statutory correction period has expired can be inordinately expensive relative to the size of the failure. Therefore, we recommend the Internal Revenue Service (IRS or “Service”) revisit the correction methods available to provide expanded guidance that promotes compliance in a more cost effective and efficient manner.

For 401(k) retirement plans, the ADP and ACP tests provide a limit on the amount of certain benefits provided under a plan to highly compensated employees over benefits provided to non-highly compensated employees. A plan annually satisfies these nondiscrimination requirements if the plan passes the ADP or ACP tests; however, if a plan fails these tests for a given plan year, corrective action must be taken within the 12-month statutory correction period following the close of the plan year in which the failure occurred. Any corrective action shall be made in accordance with the EPCRS. Failure to correct within the statutory correction period will result in plan disqualification if the plan is not subsequently corrected in accordance with EPCRS.

4. Adapt EPCRS to take into account corrections of Roth employer retirement plans.
5. Provide guidance to assist plan sponsors in correcting areas of noncompliance relating to Rollovers as Business Start-ups (ROBS).

Rollovers, as a business start-up, are an arrangement in which a prospective business owner uses their retirement funds to pay for their new business start-up costs in a tax-free transaction. The prospective business owner rolls over their existing retirement funds to the ROBS plan, where the ROBS plan uses the

rollover assets to purchase stock of the new business, resulting in the ROBS plan owning the new business. It has been our members' experience, that many ROBS plan sponsors are unaware that the plan is a qualified plan with its own set of regulatory requirements. We also think that noncompliant ROBS plans are costly to correct and can result in discrimination, prohibited transactions, plan disqualification and adverse tax consequences to the plan sponsor and plan participants.

### **Executive Compensation, Health Care and Other Benefits, and Employment Taxes**

6. Issue Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)-related guidance, including guidance on the applicability of section 162(l) to COBRA premiums.
7. Provide guidance on the treatment of partnership employees working for a single member limited liability company (SMLLC) or other disregarded entity owned by an upper tier partnership (after the SMLLC employment tax reporting rules changed, effective in 2009). Specifically provide guidance on whether an owner of the upper tier entity is treated as a partner or an employee if he or she provides service to the lower tier SMLLC or other disregarded entity.
8. Provide regulations to implement section 3121(z) related to foreign employers, as added by section 302 of the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008.
9. Finalize the regulations under 1.409A-4 related to income recognition and provide consolidated guidance on the section 409A correction procedures.
10. Finalize the regulations on cafeteria plans under section 125. Proposed regulations were published on August 6, 2007. Also, regulations are needed under section 4980G on interaction of section 4980G and section 125 with respect to comparable employer contributions to employees' health savings accounts.
11. Issue proposed regulations under section 457(f).
12. Provide guidance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) with regards to certain treaty-based nonresidents and other situations involving dual status residents to clarify under which circumstances they are exempt from minimum essential coverage (MEC).

Under section 5000A(a), applicable individuals are required to have MEC. Section 5000A(d)(3) provides an exemption from MEC for nonresidents: "Such term shall not include an individual for any month if for the month the individual is not a citizen or national of the United States (U.S.) or an alien lawfully present in the United States."

Furthermore, Treas. Reg. § 1.5000A-3 provides:

- a. Treasury Reg. § 1.5000A -3(c) (1): *In general*. An individual is an exempt individual for a month that the individual is an exempt noncitizen.
- b. Treasury Reg. § 1.5000A -3(c) (2): *Exempt noncitizens*. For purposes of this section, an individual is an exempt noncitizen for a month if the individual:
  - (i) Is not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national for any day during the month; and
  - (ii) Is either:
    - a. A nonresident alien (within the meaning of section 7701(b)(1)(B)) for the taxable year that includes the month; or
    - b. An individual who is not lawfully present (within the meaning of 45 CFR 155.20) on any day in the month.

Clarification is needed, for example, in the determination of whether or not an individual who met the substantial presence test based on the number of days they were present in the U.S., and by default, would be considered a U.S. resident, but under an income tax treaty is considered to be a nonresident, is exempt from MEC. It is currently unclear if that individual is considered an “exempt noncitizen” for purposes of qualifying for an exemption from MEC.

Clarification of the exemption from MEC in the case of dual-status individuals is also needed.

**Exempt Organizations Taxation Technical Resource Panel** (Elizabeth E. Krisher, Chair, (412) 535-5503, [bkrisher@md-cpas.com](mailto:bkrisher@md-cpas.com); or Ogochukwu Anokwute, Lead Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9231, [oanokwute@aicpa.org](mailto: oanokwute@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. Request for additional guidance from the IRS on the definition of the term “acquisition indebtedness.” The current private rulings do not offer clarity on the following four issues:
  - The timing of the borrowing and the acquisition of property;
  - The “but for” test focus on causation;
  - Difficult factual issues raised by the “but for” test and the “reasonably foreseeable” tests. The examples in the regulations do not provide any guidance on how difficult factual issues should be resolved; and

- Differences in the second and third subpart of the definition.
2. Provide guidance similar to the guidance set forth by the IRS in Rev. Proc. 2011-33. The guidance should provide that any grantor (most particularly, a private foundation) should be able to affirmatively rely upon the “Type” of supporting organization that is reported by the filing supporting organization on a duly executed and filed Form 990, *Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax*, Schedule A, *Public Charity Status and Public Support*, Part I, Line 11a through Line 11d.
  3. Update Rev. Proc. 89-23 to clarify guidelines for grant-making private foundations when making grants to public charities that would be significant enough to alter the non-private foundation status of the public charity (i.e., from public charity to private foundation – so called “tipping”). Clarifying guidance is needed to:
    - Address the impact of the changes to the support test as provided by section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and Form 990, Schedule A, including the years to include in the support test and use of books and records when completing the support test;
    - Clarify that grants from a private foundation to a Type III Non-functionally Integrated Supporting Organization under 509(a)(3) are not considered qualifying distributions for purposes of section 4942; and
    - Update the language to provide that advanced rulings have expired.
  4. Provide guidance limiting the reporting on Form 990, Schedule R, *Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships*, Parts III and IV of brother-sister related party affiliates of central or subordinate members of a group exemption similar to the exclusion from reporting of tax-exempt members of the group.

For example, there may be hundreds of organizations taxable as partnerships or corporations that are affiliated with a particular church whose exempt members are covered by a group ruling and not reportable in Schedule R, Part II. But many of those taxable entities may meet the technical definition of related parties merely because of the centralized structure at some high level in the church and as such are currently reportable on multiple Forms 990 for the various members covered by the group ruling. However, there may be no board overlap or intercompany transactions with those entities beyond their direct owners and their brother-sister affiliates controlled by their direct owners. Provide guidance limiting the reporting to only those related parties directly controlled by the filing organization or with whom the filing organization has engaged in transactions exceeding a fixed dollar amount.

5. Provide guidance, similar to Notice 2007-45, to expand on information regarding public inspection of Forms 990. The IRS released guidance on the public inspection of Form 990-T, *Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return*. This guidance explains that section 501(c)(3) organizations that filed Form 990-T after August 17, 2006 are subject to the same public inspection and disclosure requirements that apply to Forms 990 and 990-PF, *Return of Private Foundation*. The notice further clarifies that a section 501(c)(3) organization that is not required to publicly disclose its Form 990 must still publicly disclose its Form 990-T. This guidance regarding public disclosure is needed for all other Forms 990.
6. Provide additional guidance that allows organizations that have exempt status revoked for failure to make required annual filings for three years under section 6033(j) the option to request prospective reinstatement and simultaneously, but separately, request retroactive reinstatement to be determined at a later date. This recommendation allows an organization that qualifies to resume operations and solicit the contributions it needs to survive as an organization. It also allows the IRS additional time to properly consider whether reasonable cause exists for the retroactive reinstatement.
7. Provide guidance regarding the new excise taxes on donor advised funds and fund management under section 4966 as added by section 1231 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA).
8. Update Rev. Proc. 75-50, which speaks to the publication of a school's racially nondiscriminatory policy. This language has not been updated since its publication and Form 990, Schedule E, *Schools*, relies upon it. The revenue procedure generally requires publication of the policy in a newspaper. The language needs to be revised and updated to reflect the role of the internet and the current communication mediums of schools today.
9. Affirm that the conclusion and analysis set forth in General Counsel Memoranda (G.C.M.) 39813 represents the current IRS position with respect to the tax treatment of public charities whose exemptions have been retroactively revoked. If such is not the case, provide guidance as to the current position of the IRS. Pursuant to the PPA, most tax-exempt organizations were required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or 990-EZ, *Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*) or a notice (Form 990-N, *e-Postcard*) with the IRS. In addition, the law automatically revokes the tax-exempt status of any organization that does not file required returns or notices for three consecutive years. Although guidance has been issued with respect to reinstatement and retroactive reinstatement, no guidance has been provided with respect to the tax treatment of such retroactively revoked public charities.

10. Issue a revenue procedure allowing all members under a group ruling (including the central organization and the subordinate organizations) to file a single consolidated return rather than the current process which requires a separate return for the central organizations and a consolidated return for all consenting subordinates. The American Institute of CPA's (AICPA) strongly believes a single consolidated return more accurately reflects the operations of the group.
11. Clarify who constitutes a "patient" for purposes of the definition of "patient care." For example, would the following services be considered "patient care" (especially when the individual receiving the services is not an inpatient of a hospital at the time the services are rendered): services provided via a telemedicine network or reading of images, laboratory services and pathology services where the technician or physician interpreting the tests does not actually see or "touch" the patient. Such guidance under section 501(r) would reduce uncertainty and support the move toward accountable care organization (ACO) and cost effective health care methods. In addition, absent guidance, costly information technology changes are being made by hospitals which will likely have to be made again when guidance is finally issued.

**Individual and Self-Employed Tax Technical Resource Panel** (Ken Rubin, Chair, (314) 290-3417, [ken.rubin@rubinbrown.com](mailto:ken.rubin@rubinbrown.com); or Amy Wang, Senior Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9264, [awang@aicpa.org](mailto:awang@aicpa.org)) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. Provide guidance regarding issues of basis reporting on Form 1099-B, *Proceeds from Broker and Barter Exchange Transactions*. Since basis reporting on Form 1099-B began with 2011 tax returns, various issues have arose that warrant guidance. We encourage the IRS to request comments from the public to uncover additional issues to ensure that extended guidance addresses all issues. Examples of issues with the basis reporting include the following:
  - How do taxpayers and practitioners properly report the sale of a publicly-traded partnership? Broker-reported basis is not reflective of any return of capital or other changes to taxpayer's original basis. In addition, for royalty trusts, a broker has no information on what amount of depletion has been deducted by the taxpayer. Gain or loss must be split between capital and ordinary gains or losses.
  - How do taxpayers and practitioners properly report corrections to amounts indicated as "wash sale loss disallowed" where the broker used an inappropriate method of calculating figures reported to the IRS and taxpayer?
  - How should taxpayers and practitioners respond to matching notices when the correct basis, gross proceeds, gain/loss, holding period and tax have been

reported by the taxpayer on the return but either the wrong box was checked (A or B) on Form 8949, *Sales or Other Dispositions of Capital Assets*, or the improper adjustment code was entered on Form 8949 by the taxpayer?

- How should taxpayers and practitioners report 1099-B sales where the broker reported holding period is incorrect?
2. Guidance is needed with respect to when a real estate leasing arrangement rises to the level of a trade or business requiring Form 1099-MISC reporting by the lessor.
- Public Law (P.L.) 111-240 (9/27/10), the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010, modified section 6041 to add subsection (h) requiring certain landlords to file Form 1099-MISC, *Miscellaneous Income*, for payments made for services in excess of \$600. The legislative history provided: “Under the provision, recipients of rental income from real estate generally are subject to the same information reporting requirements as taxpayers engaged in a trade or business. In particular, rental income recipients making payments of \$600 or more to a service provider (such as a plumber, painter, or accountant) in the course of earning rental income are required to provide an information return (typically Form 1099-MISC) to the IRS and to the service provider.” This new provision was effective starting after 2010.
  - P.L. 112-9 (4/14/11), the Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011, repealed section 6041(h) retroactive to January 1, 2011. Thus, the 1099 reporting obligation for landlords never went into effect.
  - Despite repeal of section 6041(h), since 2011 the Form 1040, *U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*, Schedule E, *Supplemental Income and Loss*, and the instructions have included the following two questions (A and B):

<b>SCHEDULE E</b> <b>(Form 1040)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury          Internal Revenue Service (99)</small> Name(s) shown on return	<b>Supplemental Income and Loss</b> <small>(From rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, estates, trusts, REMICs, etc.)</small> Attach to Form 1040, 1040NR, or Form 1041. Information about Schedule E and its separate instructions is at <a href="http://www.irs.gov/schedulee">www.irs.gov/schedulee</a> .	<small>OMB No. 1545-0074</small> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2014</div> <small>Attachment          Sequence No. 13</small>
<b>Part I</b> <b>Income or Loss From Rental Real Estate and Royalties</b> <small>Note. If you are in the business of renting personal property, use Schedule C or C-EZ (see instructions). If you are an individual, report farm rental income or loss from Form 4835 on page 2, line 40.</small>		Your social security number
<b>A</b> Did you make any payments in 2014 that would require you to file Form(s) 1099? (see instructions)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>B</b> If "Yes," did you or will you file required Forms 1099?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

These questions contradict the legislative history of P.L. 111-240 (above) and repeal of section 6041(h). With these questions added to Schedule E rather than Schedule C, *Profit or Loss from Business*, they imply that it may require landlords who are not in a trade or business to file Form 1099-MISC. The questions raise issues as to the distinction between a real estate rental that qualifies as a trade or business for section 6041 purposes and one that does not.

In addition, the form instructions were also revised. Under the instructions for Schedule E, line A, the following language now appears (bold type added):

**TIP: Generally, you must file Form 1099-MISC if you paid at least \$600 in rents, services, prizes, medical and healthcare payments, and other income payments. The Guide to Information Returns in the 2015 General Instructions for Certain Information Returns has more information, including the due dates for the various information returns.**

However, under “General Instructions,” the following language still appears (bold type added):

“Information returns. **You may have to file information returns** for wages paid to employees, certain payments of fees and other nonemployee compensation, interest, rents, royalties, real estate transactions, annuities, and pensions. You generally use Form 1099-MISC to report rents and payments of fees and other nonemployee compensation. For details, see line A, later, and the 2015 General Instructions for Certain Information Returns.”

The phrasing of “you may” that appears in the General Instructions has been used in the instructions for Schedule E for many years, and we believe is accurate. The new phrasing “generally, you must” used in the line A TIP is simply misleading.

Clarification is needed under section 6041 as to when an owner of rental real estate is required to file Form 1099-MISC. Also, given the use of the term trade or business and special rules for rental real estate included under section 1402 (self-employment tax), section 469 (passive activity loss limitation) and section 1411 (special tax on net investment income), further guidance should explain how all of these rules apply to owners of rental real estate. In addition, individuals should receive relief if they are rental real estate owners who are required to file Form 1099-C, *Cancellation of Debt*, but failed to file for 2012, 2013 or 2014 due to the confusion in the law and instructions for Schedule E and Form 1099-MISC.

3. Update and finalize the longstanding temporary regulations under section 163(h) (Treas. Reg. § 1.163-9T and 1.163-10T) to provide greater clarity and certainty to taxpayers and practitioners.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 made changes to section 163 regarding personal and home mortgage interest. Further changes were made to the home mortgage interest rules by the Revenue Act of 1987. Temporary regulations were issued on these provisions soon after the legislative changes. Several of the regulations were issued prior to the effective date of the change made to section 7805 by the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 providing that temporary regulations expire within three years of issuance (effective for regulations issued

after November 20, 1988). Thus, temporary regulations issued after enactment of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and before November 21, 1988, which have not been finalized, remain in their temporary form.

In addition, not all of the regulations are complete or current, such as Treas. Reg. § 1.163-10T on home mortgage interest. Among unsettled issues are the following:

- Section 163(h)(4)(A) does not provide certainty on how to define a qualified residence or a second residence in the context of divorce.
  - Must the taxpayer have responsibility for the mortgage and own the underlying property before the interest is deductible? (Or, may the taxpayer satisfy only one of these two requirements?) For example, a husband may transfer ownership of the residence to the wife, but remain responsible for the mortgage. Is the interest deductible?
  - What is the proper method to determine deductible qualified residence interest when there are multiple debts that exceed the debt limit? While Chief Counsel Advice (CCA) 201201017 and IRS Publication 936 provide information on this question, official guidance is needed, such as in regulations.
4. Update and finalize the longstanding temporary regulations under section 163 on interest tracing and identification of the type of interest generated from a debt, in order to provide greater clarity and certainty to taxpayers and practitioners. Also, incorporate the changes provided in Notices 89-35, 88-37 and 88-20, as well as any clarifications provided in court cases.

The interest tracing regulations of § 1.163-8T were issued in 1987 (TD 8145, 7/1/87), soon after enactment of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 which increased the importance of identifying the type of interest generated on any debt. These temporary regulations were issued before the effective date of section 7805(e) which provides that temporary regulations expire after three years.

In 1989, these regulations were modified by Notice 89-35, 1989-1 CB 675, which made significant changes to how the regulations apply to identify the use of borrowed funds and their operation with respect to debt of pass-through entities. Notice 89-35 supplemented earlier guidance: Notice 88-20, 1988-1 CB 487 and Notice 88-37, 1988-1 CB 522. When a practitioner has a question on interest expense classification under section 163 and turns to the regulations, the practitioner will not readily find the notices and therefore, can easily not apply the Notice's provision for the taxpayer's benefit.

5. Provide additional formal guidance and clarifications regarding the effects of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions on *U.S. v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. (2013), and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. (2015). Among the issues that require additional guidance include:

- Consider adding information to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) to indicate that a spouse who amends without his/her spouse also amending is required to use the married filing separate (MFS) status.

Revenue Ruling 2013-17 provides (at the section on prospective application): “Except as provided below, affected taxpayers also may rely on this revenue ruling for the purpose of filing original returns, amended returns, adjusted returns, or claims for credit or refund for any overpayment of tax resulting from these holdings, provided the applicable limitations period for filing such claim under section 6511 has not expired. If an affected taxpayer files an original return, amended return, adjusted return, claim for credit, or refund in reliance on this revenue ruling, all items required for reporting on the return or claims that are affected by the marital status of the taxpayer must adjust for consistency with the marital status reported on the return or claim.”

However, this statement or concept does not appear explicitly in the FAQs. For example, FAQ #10 for same-sex married couples states that a taxpayer may file an amended return to claim a refund of taxes paid on benefits that covered the employee’s same-sex spouse. There is no statement included that the amended return must also change to married filing joint (MFJ) or MFS or if the spouse must also amend (the question does state though that the employee is amending Form 1040 to reflect his/her status as a married individual). Also, the reference to “refund” in the answer implies that refund is the effect of amending though it is possible that when other items on the return are changed due to the required filing status change (and the spouse’s return is also amended), the taxpayer might actually owe additional taxes.

- Provide clarification whether a same-sex married employee who requests that his/her employer file to obtain a Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax refund must also amend his/her Form 1040 to change the filing status.
  - The IRS should provide guidance on the tax treatment of payments that qualify as alimony to/from a former same-sex marriage partner. If one ex-spouse amends a previously filed return to report payments made as a deduction, must the other ex-spouse amend to report payments received as income?

6. Provide formal guidance on filing, reporting and income/expense allocation procedures for registered domestic partners and similarly situated couples (ex., civil unions) located in community property states. While the IRS has issued

some unofficial guidance in the form of FAQs on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), several CCAs and Form 8958, *Allocation of Tax Amounts between Certain Individuals in Community Property States*, it is critical that these taxpayers are given official authoritative instructions relating to their unique tax situation.

7. Provide guidance on the statutory terms that were introduced by Title XII of the PPA pertaining to appraisals and individuals performing these appraisals. Proposed regulations (REG-140029-07--Charitable Contributions: Cash and Noncash: Substantiation) were published in August 2008 but have not been issued to date. The AICPA comments submitted on [November 5, 2008](#), requesting further clarification of the terms “generally accepted appraisal standards” and “qualified appraiser.”
8. Provide guidance to clarify the requirements for deductibility of real property taxes under section 164.

Issues have existed as to what types of real property taxes are deductible under section 164. This provision requires that personal property taxes are ad valorem; there is no such stated requirement for real property taxes. Treasury Reg. § 1.164-4(a) provides that in order for deduction, real property taxes are “levied for the general public welfare by the proper taxing authorities at a like rate against all property in the territory over which such authorities have jurisdiction.” There is no definition of “like rate” in the Code or regulations.

Revenue Rul. 80-121 provides that one characteristic of a deductible real property tax is that it is “measured by the value of real property.” Private letter ruling (PLR) 8033022 held that a parcel tax was not deductible under section 164. The ruling explains that “rate” in “like rate” refers to a proportion or ratio. In the ruling, the IRS stated that the parcel tax is “not levied at a like rate within the meaning of the regulations under section 164 of the Code; the tax is a specific tax, not a tax levied according to value, one of the characteristics that a real property tax must have in order to be deductible under section 164(a)(1).”

The 2013 instructions to Schedule A, *Itemized Deductions*, Publication 530, Tax Information for Homeowners and Tax Topic 503 (updated December 12, 2013), all contain statements that in order for deduction, property in the jurisdiction at a like rate must have real estate taxes charged uniformly against them.

In April 2012, the IRS released [Information Letter 2012-18](#) which states: “There is no statutory or regulatory requirement that a real property tax be an ad valorem tax to be deductible for federal income tax purposes.” The letter also notes that the IRS “will recommend appropriate revisions to our forms and publications on this subject.”

Issues remain as to when real estate taxes are considered taxes under section 164 rather than assessments for local benefits. In addition, given the language of Rev. Rul. 80-121 and PLR 8033022, official guidance is needed on the application of section 164 to payments labeled as real property taxes at the local level. Such guidance could include a new revenue ruling or regulations under section 164; merely updating the IRS form instructions and publications is insufficient as they are not binding authority for purposes of penalties under sections 6662 and 6694.

9. Provide guidance relating to the coordination of a tuition payment and the receipt of a distribution from a 529 Plan. Specifically, guidance is needed on the permitted period of time prior to and after the payment of a qualified expense to make a qualified distribution. For example, if a taxpayer makes a tuition payment in September 2015, but receives the 529 distribution in January 2016, assuming no other tuition payments are made, is the 2016 distribution taxable? Section 529(c)(3) does not address the question. The same question arises if the distribution precedes the payment of qualified education expenses. Guidance is needed on what constitutes a taxable event with regard to the timing of distributions and subsequent payments.

In January 2008, the IRS issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (Announcement 2008-17; 2008-9 IRB 512, March 3, 2008) (ANPRM) to curb the possible abuse of section 529 qualified tuition program accounts by creating a general anti-abuse rule and other obstacles to prevent individuals and entities from using the accounts to avoid transfer and other types of taxes. Although a number of organizations commented, there has been no action to date.

10. Provide guidance on the treatment of Medicare Part B and section 162(l) for self-employed individuals. A change in the treatment of this item was first noted in the 2010 Form 1040 instructions. In addition, Publication 535, Business Expenses, states on page 18: "Medicare premiums you voluntarily pay to obtain insurance that is similar to qualifying private insurance can also be used to figure the deduction. If you previously filed a return without using Medicare premiums to figure the deduction, you can file an amended return to refigure the deduction." Issuance of this new interpretation is needed in an official pronouncement, such as a revenue ruling, rather than in form instructions and publications which are not considered binding guidance or "authority" for section 6662 or 6694 purposes. In addition, "voluntarily pay" and the application to owners of pass-through entities requires explanation in official guidance. Finally, clarification is needed regarding the treatment of Medicare premiums paid by a self-employed taxpayer's spouse. CCA 201228037 states that under section 162(l), Medicare premiums paid for a self-employed taxpayer's spouse are deductible. However, it also states that "sole proprietors must pay the Medicare premiums directly." Since Medicare premiums are usually withheld from the covered individual's Social Security payment, the Service should explicitly state that they would consider such payments as having come directly from the sole proprietor for purposes of section 162(l).

Additionally, clarification is needed on how the Service views Medicare premiums reimbursed by an S-corporation entity to a two percent shareholder or by a partnership entity to a partner. In both situations, the entities cannot make the payments directly on behalf of the taxpayer.

11. Provide guidance on how section 6041, “Information at source,” applies to taxpayers making payments to non-corporate entities which cover both personal and business expenses. Also needed is an explanation of whether these individual taxpayers are subject to the Form 1099-MISC reporting requirements for applicable payments made to non-corporate entities. For example, there are certain taxpayers who may allocate tax preparation fees paid to their tax preparer between different schedules such as Schedules A, C and E. The allocation is made as a portion of the tax preparation expense is allocable to their trade or business (Schedules C and E) and the non-trade or business sections of their tax return.

The instructions for Form 1099-MISC indicate that payments need reporting when made in the course of your trade or business. In addition, Form 1040, Schedule C and Form 1040, Schedule E have questions that ask the taxpayer if they have complied with the Form 1099 reporting requirements.

Clarification is needed on whether taxpayers are required to file Form 1099-MISC in the circumstances when they file Schedule C for a sole proprietorship or Schedule E to report trade or business income that is passed through to them on a Schedule K-1. We think that this lack of clarity increases complexity and compliance burden for taxpayers who operate a small business outside of a formal entity structure such as an S-corporation, partnership or a limited liability company or for taxpayers who have trade or business activities allocated to them on a Schedule K-1.

**International Taxation Technical Resource Panel** (Blake Vickers, Chair, (713) 753-5493, [blake.vickers@kbr.com](mailto:blake.vickers@kbr.com); or Jonathan Horn, Lead Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9204, [jhorn@aicpa.org](mailto:jhorn@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. Provide guidance in the following areas related to outbound transactions:
  - Provide guidance under Notice 2014-52 under sections 367 and 7874 to explain the following:
    - How section 2.01(b) of the Notice applies to ordinary foreign direct investment into the U.S.

- The application of the Notice to general transactions that are not abusive and are undertaken for valid business purposes.
  - When the retroactive application of the Notice does not apply to ordinary course obligations outstanding at the time of an inversion transaction.
  - Whether application of exceptions under section 956(c)(2) and Treas. Reg. § 1.956-2 should apply to inversion transactions.
  - When taxpayers may demonstrate a rebuttable presumption under section 2.02 that certain non-ordinary course distributions taken during the 36-month period preceding an inversion transaction were undertaken for the principle purpose of avoiding section 7874.
  - What types of non-abusive post-transaction restructurings would be exempt from Subpart F, e.g., to consolidate multiple entities within a single jurisdiction for operational and cost efficiencies.
  - Finalize the proposed section 987 regulations relating to foreign currency translation gains and losses with respect to branch transactions (taking into account public comments with respect to the proposed regulations). [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [March 29, 2007](#).]
  - Provide guidance relating to the carryover of tax attributes in section 355 transactions.
  - Provide additional guidance under the Treas. Reg. § 301.7701-3(d) relevancy rules, including the impact of certain acquisitions of entities that are not relevant and the consequences of certain elections relating to such entities.
  - Provide guidance providing that internal restructurings within a U.S. multinational group following a section 338(g) election of a foreign target corporation made by one of the members of the U.S. multinational group is not a transaction described in Notice 2004-20.
2. Provide guidance related to the following areas related to Subpart F/Deferral:
- Finalize proposed regulations under section 959, regarding exclusions from income of previously taxed earnings, and proposed regulations under section 961, regarding basis adjustments.
  - Provide more complete and definitive guidance under the Passive Foreign Investment Company (PFIC) regulations as follows:

- Update the PFIC regulations to take into account the enactment of section 1297(e), which eliminates the overlap of the PFIC and Subpart F regimes under certain circumstances (including the application of section 1297(e) to a PFIC owned by a U.S. partnership that has U.S. partners) (see e.g., PLR 200943004).
- Provide guidance under section 1297(c) regarding the 25 percent ownership look-through rule and its interaction with the section 1297(b)(2)(C) related party income rules.
- Provide guidance on the application of the definition of passive income under section 1297(b)(1).
- Provide guidance when finalizing Temp Reg. §§ 1.1298-1T(b)(1) and (2) on disclosing multiple PFICs on the same Form 8621, *Information Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund*. Please see recommendation #9 of our comment letter, submitted on [May 12, 2014](#), Treatment of Shareholder of Certain Passive Foreign Investment Companies.
- Provide guidance when finalizing Prop. Reg. § 1.1291-3(e) regarding indirect dispositions of section 1291 when access to books and records necessary to determine the amount of excess distribution is denied by the holder of the PFIC's books and records.
- Provide guidance on section 960(c), including guidance on the application of the provision when there is either a deficit or previously taxed earnings and profits in an upper-tier foreign corporation in the chain of ownership. Additionally, guidance also is requested on the application of this provision when a taxpayer has section 956 investments that pre-date and post-date the effective date of section 960(c).
- Issue regulations pursuant to Notice 2007-13 regarding the substantial assistance rules for foreign base company services income.
- Provide guidance under section 267(a)(3)(B), including guidance regarding the timing of deduction for interest, rental and royalty payments to controlled foreign corporations (CFC) that qualify for exclusion under section 954(c)(6) or the same country exception and guidance regarding exceptions for appropriate transactions pursuant to section 267(a)(3)(B)(ii). Also, provide guidance relating to when an item payable to a CFC, and subject to section 267(a)(3)(B), that is included in the gross income of a U.S. person by reason of section 956 or the payment of an actual dividend (i.e., other than by reason of section 951(a)(1)(A)), will be considered an amount attributable to such item that is includible in the gross income of such U.S. person.

- Provide guidance on how to determine whether a transaction should be treated as a foreign base company sales transaction versus a foreign base company services transaction.
  - Provide guidance under section 961(c) regarding basis adjustments to the stock of a CFC held through partnerships.
  - Finalize the proposed section 898 regulations on conforming year-ends of certain foreign corporations to the year-ends of their U.S. shareholders.
  - Provide guidance with respect to the Treas. Reg. § 1.954-2(b)(4) substantial assets test relevant to qualification under the same country exception for interest and dividends, as applied to (i) stock in non-CFC foreign corporations; and (ii) banks and insurance companies.
  - With respect to section 952(c)(2) subpart F income recapture, provide guidance regarding the application of “rules similar to rules applicable under section 904(f)(5),” and in particular the latter section’s incorporation of the disposition rules of section 904(f)(3).
  - Provide a regulatory exception under section 6038 for down-stream attribution causing partnerships, S-corporations, and trusts to be required to file Form 5471, *Information Return of U.S. Persons with Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations*, or Form 8865, *Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Certain Foreign Partnerships*, for constructive ownership of a foreign corporation (or partnership) created solely for attribution from its partners, shareholders or beneficiaries.
  - Clarify the administrative process for filing Form 5471 when an income tax return is not required. The instructions to Form 5471 clearly state that the only mechanism for submitting the form is attaching it to an income tax return. Form 1040 does not modify its filing requirements for situations where an individual may have sufficiently low income as to not be required to file an income tax return but has a need to file Form 5471. To note, Form 8865 may be separately filed with IRS in this circumstance and Form 8621 filings are waived.
3. Provide guidance in the following areas related to inbound transactions:
- Revise, as appropriate, and finalize the proposed section 163(j) “earnings stripping” regulations, taking into account taxpayer comments and developments since the original issuance of the proposed regulations.
  - Provide guidance on the application of Temp. Reg. § 1.897-6T and section 1445 to non-recognition transactions involving transfers of U.S. real property

interests (USRPI) to partnerships, and dispositions of interests in partnerships that directly and indirectly hold USRPIs.

- Provide guidance to explain the application of section 304(b)(6).
  - Provide guidance on the amendment made to section 304(b)(5) by The Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act (P.L. 111-226, August 20, 2010), including guidance on what is considered “subject to tax” for purposes of section 304(b)(5)(B).
4. Provide guidance regarding foreign tax credits, in particular:
- Provide guidance under Treas. Reg. § 1.861-18 regarding the taxation of software as a service (SaaS), platform as a service (PaaS) and other cloud computing platforms particularly in situations where the provider does not own the servers on which the solution is hosted. Guidance is needed in determining both the character and source of income and should consider Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidance on the digital economy.
  - Provide guidance under section 901(m), including providing exemptions for certain covered asset acquisitions where basis difference is *de minimis* and where a taxpayer receives a basis step-up for local tax purposes that is comparable to the U.S. tax step-up in basis.
  - Provide guidance on the application of section 904(d)(6), including the interaction of the provision in the context of treaties that already contain their own separate limitation regime for the treaty credit.
  - Provide guidance under section 905(c) regarding taxes paid after a liquidation, stock sale, or section 338 election.
  - Finalize guidance under Temp. Reg. §§ 1.905-3T, -4T and -5T.
  - Provide guidance relating to the application of the overall foreign loss rules to certain dispositions involving partnerships.
  - Provide more complete guidance regarding the application of Treas. Reg. §§ 1.865-1(a)(2) and 1.865-2(a)(3) under which losses are allocated to reduce foreign source income if gain on the sale of the property (including stock) would have been taxable by a foreign country and the highest marginal rate of tax imposed on such gains in the foreign country is at least 10 percent.
5. Continue to provide guidance related to withholding tax regimes under Chapter 3 and Chapter 4.

6. Provide guidance in the following additional areas:
  - Provide guidance relating to the operation of certain treaty provisions under section 894(c), including the application of reduced or zero-rate tax provisions in treaties with respect to dividends received through hybrid disregarded entities (The Service has issued private letter rulings (e.g., PLRs 200626009 and 200522006) relating to this issue. See the application of certain anti-hybrid provisions (e.g., the treatment of such provisions in connection with the application of the branch profits tax).
  - Relax the double reporting rules under the section 1461 regulations and the treaty-based reporting requirements under section 6114.
  - Develop and provide guidance on a procedure under which U.S. partnerships may file a composite individual income tax return on behalf of partners who are nonresident aliens (NRA) that have been allocated effectively connected income. Currently, each NRA partner is subject to withholding in excess of the tax that will ultimately result, and must independently file Form 1040NR, *U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return*. A composite NRA partner filing, such as has been long and widely used by states that impose state-level income taxes, would enhance both proper taxpayer compliance and the IRS's ability to review and audit compliance, by giving it a single point of contact for questions and other NRA taxpayer contacts. This will reduce the burden and cost of compliance by NRA partners, and the administrative burden and costs on the IRS.

### **Foreign Related Trust and Estate Tax Issues**

7. Provide guidance on the application of section 1411 to accumulation distributions from foreign trusts to U.S. beneficiaries, including the method to determine the portion of the distribution, if any, attributable to income accumulated in years prior to the effective date of section 1411.
8. Provide guidance on issues relating to foreign trusts and the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, including guidance on the section 679(d) presumption that a foreign trust has U.S. beneficiaries. [Note: See AICPA comments to the Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") and IRS submitted on [March 28, 2011](#).]
9. Provide further guidance on issues relating to reporting of foreign accounts by U.S. beneficiaries of foreign trusts on the Foreign Bank Account Report (FBAR), and U.S. beneficiary reporting of foreign accounts and foreign financial assets owned by foreign trusts, as required by section 6038D. The AICPA is concerned that a U.S. beneficiary of a foreign trust may not have access to books and records of the foreign trust necessary to make an accurate determination of filing

- requirements and reportable amounts. [Note: See AICPA [comments](#) to Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN), Treasury, and IRS submitted on [November 19, 2010](#) and [November 16, 2009](#), and AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [March 28, 2011](#).] As the AICPA suggested in the November 16, 2009 comments, the AICPA welcomes the legislative change of the due date of the FBAR from June 30 to April 15, and the ability to extend the FBAR until October 15, effective for 2016 tax years.
10. Change the due date of Form 3520-A, *Annual Return to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts with a U.S. Owner (section 6048(b))*, from March 15 to April 15, to coincide with the due date for calendar year filers of related returns. If a change in the due date is not possible, then an extension or penalty relief is requested for taxpayers who file by April 15. In addition, IRS should consider adding a box to Form 7004, *Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File Certain Business Income Tax*, to permit an extension of time to file Form 3520 in cases where the beneficiary's income tax return (Form 1040 and Form 1040NR) is not going to be extended. [Note: See AICPA [comments](#) to IRS submitted on [June 12, 2008](#), [March 3, 2008](#), [January 31, 2007](#), and [June 17, 2003](#). This change in the Form 3520-A due date is included in proposed legislation, [S. 420](#), introduced 2/28/13 by Senators Enzi and Tester, and [H.R. 901](#), introduced 2/28/13 by Rep. Jenkins, as well as in Chairman Camp's March 12, 2013 House Ways and Means Committee small business tax reform [discussion draft](#) and the Senate Finance Committee March 21, 2013 [tax reform options paper](#) on simplifying the tax system for families and businesses.] The Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 modified the original and extended due dates for partnerships, C corporations, and trusts and estates effective for 2016 tax years, but did not change the due date for Form 3520-A. The AICPA continues to believe that the original and extended due dates for Form 3520-A should be the same as those for individuals.
  11. Change the form for tax reporting for foreign nongrantor trusts. The current tax reporting on Form 1040NR, *U.S. Income Tax Return for Foreign Estates and Trusts*, for foreign nongrantor trusts (and foreign grantor trusts with a U.S. owner) is extremely difficult because the IRS form is not designed for fiduciary tax return reporting. IRS instructions direct the preparer to "change the form" for Subchapter J provisions, but attempts to do so result in inconsistent or inadequate changes and lead to return processing errors and confusion. The creation of a new Form 1041NR, which could include information currently reported on Forms 3520 and 3520-A, would eliminate confusion and mistakes in processing returns and would enhance tax compliance filing requirements. [Note: See AICPA [comments](#) to IRS submitted on [September 22, 2008](#), [March 3, 2008](#), and [January 31, 2007](#).]
  12. Provide guidance on whether a foreign grantor trust with a U.S. grantor is required to file Form 1041, *U.S. Income Tax Return for Estates and Trusts*, or

Form 1040NR and whether a foreign grantor trust with a foreign grantor and some U.S. income is required to file Form 1041 or Form 1040NR.

13. Provide guidance on the reporting of and recognition of gain under the expatriation mark-to-market rules in section 877A, including guidance on the interplay of sections 877A and 684, relating to a transfer or deemed transfer to a foreign estate or trust as a result of an individual's expatriation.
14. Provide guidance on how the Generation Skipping Transfer (GST) tax applies to grandfathered domestic trusts that become foreign trusts. This issue may be analogous to a GST-grandfathered trust that migrates from one state to another; thus, similar rules and safe harbors should be considered.
15. Provide further guidance in addition to the [proposed regulations](#) (REG-112997-10) regarding several aspects of section 2801. [Note: AICPA soon will be submitting comments to Treasury and IRS.]

We note that the 2014-2015 IRS Priority Guidance Plan includes a section 2801 guidance project.

16. Provide guidance as to what qualifies as a "reasonable period of time" for a U.S. grantor or beneficiary of a foreign trust to pay the trust the "fair market value" (FMV) for the "personal use" of trust property under section 643(i)(2). This guidance should also include information regarding the determination of the proper FMV measurement and an exception for reporting "*de minimis*" amounts, as accounting for *de minimis* amounts may be administratively impractical. "Safe harbor" guidelines to administer this new law also would be appreciated. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [March 28, 2011](#).]
17. Provide regulations to enhance guidance in Notice 2009-85 regarding the reporting of tax withholding and payment of these taxes by trustees to the IRS. Guidance is needed as to the appropriate forms and reporting on applicable tax returns, as well as on possible "expedited" procedures for successful receipt of a private letter ruling for an expatriate to determine the value of his or her interest in the trust. This guidance should also define "adequate security" for a "tax-deferred agreement" for the covered expatriate's return under section 877A(b).
18. Provide regulations under section 6677 regarding the failure to file information with respect to certain foreign trusts. The HIRE Act amended section 6677, but guidance is not adequate in Notice 97-34, the only IRS guidance on making a determination on penalties under section 6677. As described in IRS memorandum SBSE-20-0709-016, newly-designed determination letters will be issued based upon a review of a taxpayer's compliance with section 6677, but taxpayers need regulations to provide them with guidance before the applicable letters are issued.

19. Provide guidance on foreign trust withholding and related compliance issues. Specifically, we suggest:
- The IRS should modify [Form 1042](#), *Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons*, and [Form 1042-S](#), *Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding*, to assist the IRS in tracking U.S. withholding credit to which a U.S. beneficiary is entitled due to withholding flowing through a foreign nongrantor trust and to reduce the amount of correspondence needed between taxpayers and the IRS to justify withholding credit reflected on a beneficiary's U.S. income tax return.
    - The IRS should require trustees of foreign nongrantor trusts to provide copies of Forms 1042/1042-S to U.S. beneficiaries receiving distributions and corresponding U.S. withholding credits from the trust, evidencing withholding on income paid to the trust.
    - The IRS should modify the Forms 1042/1042-S to include the beneficiary's name and social security number and include an indication of whether a payee is a foreign nongrantor trust with a U.S. beneficiary.
    - The IRS should instruct U.S. beneficiaries to attach a copy of the Form 1042-S to the beneficiary's [Form 3520](#) as well as to the beneficiary's [Form 1040](#).
  - The IRS should clarify and provide guidance regarding compliant non-U.S. trusts making distributions potentially subject to trust-specific withholding requirements under Chapter 3 (Qualified Intermediary (QI)) and Chapter 4 Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). Such IRS guidance should provide that the source and character retention rules relating to Distributable Net Income (DNI)/Undistributed Net Income (UNI) of foreign nongrantor trusts are not relevant for purposes of QI and FATCA, or at least grandfather any distributions from non-U.S. trusts potentially subject to withholding under both QI and FATCA until a final determination is made regarding the treatment of "Foreign Passthru Payments" under FATCA. To the extent that grandfathering is not possible, we recommend a provision that ensures that there are no duplicate withholding requirements. For example, to the extent that there was Chapter 3 withholding on the foreign nongrantor trust at a lower rate than would apply to the beneficiary, withholding on the distribution to the beneficiary would be applied on the difference between the two applicable rates.

**IRS Advocacy & Relations Committee** (Andy Mattson, Chair, (408) 558-7666, [Andy.Mattson@mossadams.com](mailto:Andy.Mattson@mossadams.com); or Melanie Lauridsen, Senior Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9235, [mlauridsen@aicpa.org](mailto:mlauridsen@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. We commend the IRS in addressing our previous request for guidance on the Modernized e-File (MeF) system through your issuance of Publications 4163 and 4164. We request continued expansion of the MeF system to include the filing of additional forms that are crucial to streamlining the tax administration process. In particular, we would like to see the ability to file Form 2848, *Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representation*, through the e-file system and, upon IRS acceptance, have it immediately posted to the CAFR system to accommodate more efficient communication.
2. Issue regulations under section 6662A, 6662, and 6664 regarding the accuracy-related penalty and reasonable cause. Section 6662A imposes an accuracy-related penalty on any reportable transaction understatement attributable to a listed transaction or a reportable avoidance transaction for taxable years ending after October 22, 2004. We recommend that Treasury issue regulations under section 6662A which addresses (among other matters): (a) the definition of a “reportable transaction understatement”; (b) coordination of the reportable transaction understatement penalty with the substantial understatement penalty, particularly when multiple years and both penalties are involved; (c) coordination of the reportable transaction understatement penalty with the accuracy-related penalty on underpayments; and (d) application of the penalty (if any) to net operating loss (NOL) carryback and carryover years. We also recommend that IRS update the section 6662 and 6664 regulations to reflect numerous statutory changes to those sections since the 1990s, such as changes made by the American Jobs Creation Act (AJCA) of 2004.
3. Provide guidance under section 6662A to address the application of the penalty to partnerships and partners. Under section 6662A, if a partnership fails to properly disclose a reportable transaction and the transaction creates a reportable transaction understatement, the partners of the partnership can find themselves liable for a section 6662A penalty with no avenue to challenge the penalty because they did not make the required disclosure under Treas. Reg. § 1.6011-4, even though the partners might never have been aware of the transaction creating the understatement. Accordingly, we recommend that guidance be issued under section 6662A to address the application of the penalty to partnerships and partners.
4. Clarify the instructions for Form 8886, *Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement*. Treasury Reg. § 1.6011-4(b)(4) addressed the requirement for a statement disclosing participation in transactions with contractual protections. Treasury decision (T.D.) 9046 amended these regulations to exclude “tax

insurance” from the definition of “transactions with contractual protection.” We recommend that the IRS clarify in the instructions for Form 8886 line 7b that a description for tax result protection (which includes “insurance company and other third party products commonly described as tax result insurance”) with respect to the transaction is not required to be included in the description.

5. Provide immediate guidance and coordinate the rules for obtaining an electronic filers identification number (EFIN) with the rules for obtaining a preparer tax identification number (PTIN). Given the mandate for tax return preparers to e-file most Forms 1040 and 1041, many more tax return preparers will be required to obtain an EFIN to participate in the e-file system as an electronic return originator (ERO). However, unlike the PTIN rules, a tax practitioner with any outstanding account balance (even if the tax practitioner disputes the account balance) cannot obtain an EFIN even if that preparer is diligent in engaging with the IRS to work through the issues, has a history of compliance with the tax laws, and the individual(s) from the taxpayer who will be named as responsible parties on the EFIN application have a PTIN. The inability to obtain an EFIN under these circumstances is unfair, particularly since the statute requires that the practitioner participate in the e-file system. Although the IRS has procedures that allow the preparer to prepare and a taxpayer to file a paper return in these circumstances, the limit on a preparer’s ability to obtain an EFIN undermines the e-file mandate. We recommend that the IRS consider coordinating the rules for obtaining an EFIN with the rules for obtaining a PTIN and to allow for the option of having a single application and a single renewal process for both. Such coordination would not only allow PTIN-registered preparers the ability to e-file, but will reduce burden and duplication of effort on the part of the preparer and the IRS. With the current preparer e-file mandate in effect, the AICPA recommends the issuance of immediate guidance to address this matter.

**Partnership Taxation Technical Resource Panel** (Noel Brock, Chair, (619) 300-1207, [noel@noelpbrock.com](mailto:noel@noelpbrock.com); or Jonathan Horn, Lead Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9204, [jhorn@aicpa.org](mailto:jhorn@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. Provide detailed regulations and guidance on the numerous changes to partnership filing, reporting and audit procedures enacted as part of the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 \(Public Law 114-74\)](#).
2. Provide guidance on the treatment of limited liability company (LLC), limited liability partnership (LLP) and limited liability limited partnership (LLLP) members (and limited partners in light of recent judicial rulings) under section 1402(a)(13). Some taxpayers aggressively avoid classifying LLC income as earnings from self-employment, while others may be overly conservative in this

- regard. The AICPA continues to believe that the Service should withdraw and re-propose or finalize existing regulations addressing this important issue.
3. Provide guidance on the meaning of partners' interest in the partnership in connection with the use of targeted allocations under section 704(b), including under what circumstances the targeted allocations would qualify under the economic effect equivalence test under the regulations. On February 11, 2014, the AICPA submitted to the IRS a draft revenue ruling on partnership targeted allocations. [Note: See AICPA draft revenue ruling submitted on [February 11, 2014](#).] Target allocations are widely used, but there is no guidance as to whether the IRS considers it an acceptable partnership allocation method and how they are treated. The proposed regulations on [Disguised Payments for Services \(REG-115452-14\)](#) issued July 23, 2015 requested comments on this issue.
  4. Provide guidance with respect to partnerships that use the special aggregation rule for securities partnerships under Treas. Reg. § 1.704-3(e). Specifically:
    - Expanded guidance is requested under Treas. Reg. § 1.704-3(e)(4) to permit the aggregation of assets for certain partnerships that do not qualify for section 704(c) aggregation under the provisions of Treas. Reg. § 1.704-3(e)(3) or under Rev. Proc. 2007-59. Such guidance would expand the requirements to allow a greater number of taxpayers the ability to aggregate in appropriate situations.
    - Provide guidance on the methodology of applying section 743 for partnerships using the special aggregation rule for securities partnerships under Treas. Reg. § 1.704-3(e). Guidance would be expected to include a similar aggregation rule for allocating the section 743 adjustment under section 755 and a methodology for determining when the section 743 adjustment is taken into account.
    - Provide guidance that identifies certain forward section 704(c) circumstances where aggregation can be used without obtaining a private letter ruling. Such guidance would allow eligible partnerships to aggregate built-in gains and losses from contributed property with built-in gains and losses from revaluations in appropriate circumstances (such as in the case of a merger of eligible partnerships), or provide automatic consent procedures. Permission for such aggregation may currently be obtained only through a private letter ruling request.
  5. Provide guidance regarding the tax treatment to both the partnership and the partner when there is a cancellation of a partner loan. Specifically, guidance is requested on the manner in which the loan is cancelled including in context of a partnership liquidation (e.g., whether the cancellation of the debt occurs at the partnership level or whether the partner can be viewed as assuming the

partnership's liability, then cancelling the loan, under an approach similar to the principles applied in *Arthur L. Kniffen v. Commissioner*, 39 T.C. 553, 561 (1962), acq., 1965-2 C.B. 3). If the cancellation occurs at the partnership level, guidance is requested on the character of the bad debt loss to a partner (e.g., whether the business of the partnership can be attributed to the creditor-partner to prevent a character mismatch under section 166).

6. Provide guidance with respect to publicly traded partnerships. Specifically:
  - Provide guidance granting optional relief from the “single basis in a partnership” rule of Rev. Rul. 84-53 for owners of interests in publicly traded partnerships, similar to the special exception in the holding period rules of Treas. Reg. § 1.1223-3(c)(2)(i) for publicly traded partnerships.
  - Provide guidance granting relief to publicly traded partnerships to use simplifying assumptions for purposes of calculating section 743 adjustments and section 751(a) amounts upon sale. Such relief would allow the partnership to use the same price for all trades in a particular month to calculate the section 743 adjustments of transferees as opposed to actual purchase price as required in the regulations. Such relief is necessary for ease of administration and due to the lack of precise trading data. Similar simplifying conventions would be used for calculating the gain on the hypothetical sale of “hot assets” under section 751(a) to transferors.
7. Provide guidance regarding energy tax credit partnerships.

In response to the Third Circuit opinion in [\*Historic Boardwalk Hall v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue\*](#), the IRS issued Rev. Proc. 2014-12. This revenue procedure establishes a safe harbor under which the IRS will not challenge partnership allocations of section 47 rehabilitation credits by a partnership to its partners. [Revenue Proc. 2007-65](#) provides a safe harbor for wind production tax credit partnerships. There is no guidance for energy investment credit partnerships. The Rev. Proc. 2014-12 and Rev. Proc. 2007-65 safe harbors differ in several respects. For example, Rev. Proc. 2014-12 only allows a fair market value put option to eliminate the tax equity investor (TEI) after the TEI has flipped down to a small continuing interest. Revenue Proc. 2007-65, for a similarly timed option, only allows a call option and the exercise price can be set from the beginning of the deal at a reasonably projected fair market value amount. Although neither safe harbor applies to wind, solar, and other energy investment credit partnerships, traditionally, those deals have tried to come within the spirit of the rules in Rev. Proc. 2007-65 as necessarily modified to account for an investment credit instead of a production credit. The energy investment credit industry needs to know whether it can, for example, use the guarantee rules of Rev. Proc. 2014-12, combined with the option rules of Rev. Proc. 2007-65.

8. Provide guidance under section 6063 defining the circumstances in which an originally filed partnership tax return will be considered validly signed by a partner, within the meaning of this statute. Section 6063 and the regulations thereunder require that the partnership tax return be signed “by any of its partners.” However, the instructions to Form 1065, *U.S. Return of Partnership Income*, appear to narrow the pool of valid signatories by indicating that the return must be signed by a “general partner or LLC member manager.” Further, the IRS has indicated in Publication 3402 and in informal advice that limited partners cannot sign the partnership tax return (GCM 38781; FSA 0556). A valid signature is a prerequisite to the valid filing of an income tax return (*Agri-Cal Venture Associates, v. Commissioner*, T.C. Memo 2000-271; *Burford Oil Co. v Commissioner*, 153 F.2d 745 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1946); *Elliott v Commissioner*, 113 T.C. 125 (1999)). Because the tax ramifications of failure to timely file a return are significant, the IRS should clarify in one set of guidance, the signature requirements for signing a partnership tax return. In particular, such guidance should address if and when a limited partner or non-member manager LLC member can sign the partnership return, what partners are appropriate signatories in a non-member managed LLC, and what partners can sign in situations where the entity is a foreign eligible entity classified as a partnership. Furthermore, in cases where the appropriate partner signatory of a partnership return is itself another entity classified as a partnership, the guidance should address whether an authorized officer of such entity partner can sign the lower-tier partnership return in its capacity as an officer of the partner entity (e.g., if an LLC is the general partner of a partnership, can an authorized officer of the LLC sign the partnership return on behalf of the LLC as general partner of the lower-tier partnership).
9. Provide guidance on technical terminations. The AICPA supports the proposal to repeal section 708(b) (1)(B) that is included in former House Way and Means Chairman Camp’s proposals and the Administration’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. If that legislation is enacted, the issues below regarding technical terminations would be resolved going forward, and the below guidance projects would not be necessary. However, until that legislation is enacted, the below guidance projects would be helpful.
  - We are pleased that a proposed regulation was issued, in response to our request, on the treatment of unamortized organizational costs under section 709 and start-up costs under section 195 upon a technical termination. Published 12/09/13, as REG-126285-12 (NPRM). That proposed guidance concludes that the technical termination does not accelerate the recovery of organizational or start-up costs. However, for section 481 adjustments, the IRS seems to reach the opposite conclusion. Pursuant to Rev. Proc. 2008-52, section 5.04(3)(c)(ii)(E), section 481 adjustments are accelerated when there is a section 721 contribution of the adjustments, which would include a technical termination. The AICPA believes this is the incorrect result in many

circumstances and requests that the section 481 treatment be revisited. The section 481 guidance should also address several unresolved issues including:

- Allocation of the 481 adjustment where there has been a change in ownership, and
  - The impact of the 481 adjustment on a section 754 basis adjustment.
- Provide guidance in circumstances where partnerships have inadvertently filed a late short period return and associated Schedules K-1 due to a technical termination under section 708(b)(1)(B). It is common for partnerships to be unaware of events that would cause a technical termination until after the due date of the tax return for the short year.
10. Provide expanded guidance under the principles of Rev. Ruls. 99-5 and 99-6. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [June 5, 2013](#), and [October 1, 2013](#).]

#### **Revenue Ruling 99-5**

Provide guidance related to Rev. Rul. 99-5 in the following areas:

- The amount of the LLC's liabilities that is included in the seller's amount realized on the deemed asset sale that occurs under Rev. Rul. 99-5, Situation 1.
- The treatment of the liabilities owed by the LLC to its single owner upon the formation of the partnership in Rev. Rul. 99-5, Situations 1 and 2 (springing liabilities).
- The treatment of transfers that are not described in Rev. Rul. 99-5 Situations 1 and 2, but which result in the conversion of the single-member LLC to a partnership.

#### **Revenue Ruling 99-6**

Provide guidance related to Rev. Rul. 99-6 in the following areas:

- The amount of the LLC's liabilities that are considered assumed by the buyer (a) as part of the purchase of the selling partner's interest in the LLC and (b) as part of the buying partner's liquidating distribution from the LLC.
- The amount of the LLC's assets that are considered acquired by the buyer (a) from the selling partner, and (b) as part of the buying partner's liquidating distribution from the LLC.

- The deemed extinguishment of any liabilities of the LLC to the acquiring partner that results from the merger of the debtor-creditor relationship which occurs upon the termination of the partnership.
  - Application of the section 704(c)(1)(B) and section 737 “mixing bowl” rules to the acquiring partner with respect to the deemed liquidating distributions that occur as part of the Rev. Rul. 99-6 construct.
  - Application of the section 751(b) “disproportionate distribution” provisions to the acquiring partner with respect to the deemed liquidating distributions that occur as part of the Rev. Rul. 99-6 construct.
  - The treatment of transfers that are not described in Rev. Rul. 99-6, Situations 1 and 2, but which result in the conversion of the partnership to a disregarded LLC.
  - Application of Rev. Rul. 99-6 to interest over partnership merger transactions. Such guidance should describe what constitutes a merger or a division under section 708(b)(2). In the preamble to the regulations issued in 2001, the IRS declined to provide a precise definition. Nevertheless, it would be helpful if the IRS provided some examples showing mergers vs. non-mergers. Further, such guidance should address what constitutes a continuation under section 708(b)(1)(A) when one or more historic partner(s) continue in the new partnership.
11. Update and finalize the longstanding temporary regulations under section 469 to provide greater clarity to taxpayers and practitioners. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 created section 469, “Passive Activity Losses and Credits Limited.” Temporary regulations were issued on these provisions soon after the legislative changes were made. Several of the regulations were issued prior to the effective date of the change made to section 7805 by the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 providing that temporary regulations expire within three years of issuance (effective for regulations issued after November 20, 1988). Thus, temporary regulations issued after enactment of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and before November 21, 1988 that have not been finalized, remain in their temporary form. While parts of the section 469 regulations have been finalized (generally because portions were modified after November 20, 1988), many parts remain in temporary form. The current state of these regulations is problematic for a few reasons including the fact that it is difficult to find, read and apply the regulations because portions of a single regulation (e.g., Treas. Reg. §§ 1.469-2(f) and 1.469-2T(f) on re-characterizations), are part final and part temporary.

**S Corporation Taxation Technical Resource Panel** (Kevin Anderson, Chair, (202) 644-5413, [kdanderson@bdo.com](mailto:kdanderson@bdo.com); or Amy Wang, Senior Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9264, [awang@aicpa.org](mailto:awang@aicpa.org)) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. Provide guidance regarding worthless stock deductions under section 165(g) for S corporations. This item was included in the 2015-2016 Priority Guidance Plan. Since 1996, an S corporation has been permitted to own stock of another corporation meeting the requirements of section 1504(a)(2). If such stock becomes wholly worthless, existing guidance does not clarify whether the S corporation would be entitled to an ordinary loss deduction under section 165(g)(3). While section 1363(b) could lead to a conclusion that an S corporation is not eligible for section 165(g)(3), the principles of *Rath v. Commissioner*, 101 T.C. 196 (1993), and, by analogy, section 1371(a), suggest that an ordinary loss deduction could be available to an S corporation.
2. Provide guidance under section 1367 regarding basis ordering rules of certain suspended losses. This item was included in the 2015-2016 Priority Guidance Plan. Subject to exceptions and limitations, the normal order of basis adjustments is to (a) add items of separately stated income and gain, as well as non-separately computed income, (b) subtract distributions, (c) subtract nondeductible, noncapital expenses, and (d) subtract items of separately stated loss and deduction, as well as non-separately computed income. If a shareholder has both suspended losses from prior taxable years and income or gain of the same character in the current taxable year, existing informal guidance arguably conflicts with statutory provisions requiring suspended losses to be offset against items of income having the same character before making the adjustments in the foregoing order.
3. Provide additional guidance regarding the inability to utilize certain suspended passive activity losses upon redemption. Section 469(g) generally allows for the utilization of all suspended passive activity losses that have been carried forward when a taxpayer disposes in a taxable transaction of his entire interest in a passive activity. This rule does not apply, however, when the sale of S corporation stock is to a related party described in sections 267(b) and 707(b)(1). When the related party exception applies, the loss is deferred until the party acquiring such stock interest in the passive activity disposes of it to a party that is unrelated to the initial selling taxpayer. In the case of a redemption of S corporation stock, the second disposition cannot occur because the stock redeemed no longer exists for federal income tax purposes. It is not possible to trace the redeemed stock to a subsequent disposition.

The legislative history to the provision does not appear to contemplate this situation. Although the statute treats redemptions of corporations differently than redemptions of partnership interests with regard to the ability to recognize

realized losses on redemption,<sup>2</sup> we believe that a complete redemption of interests in a pass-through entity should release all suspended losses. Suspended passive losses do not result from a sale or exchange of property between related parties, but rather from true economic losses. The sale transaction solely governs the timing of taking the loss into account. If such losses are not allowed upon a complete redemption in a pass-through entity, true economic losses are never recognized as the provisions of section 469(g) are not satisfied.

4. Provide guidance regarding the computation of the period of limitations when a subsidiary of an S corporation is improperly treated as a qualified subchapter S subsidiary (QSub) and all of its income, deductions, and credits are included in the return of the S corporation. This circumstance could occur if the S corporation election and/or QSub status has terminated without seeking relief under section 1362(f) but the parent continues to treat the subsidiary as a disregarded entity. Such guidance could be patterned after Treas. Reg. § 1.1502-75(g)(1), which applies when a corporation is improperly included in the consolidated return filed by the common parent.
5. Provide guidance as to whether the ability to decant a trust precludes the trust from qualifying as a qualified subchapter S trust (“QSST”) within the meaning of section 1361(d). For a trust to qualify as a QSST, the terms of the trust must provide, among other things, that any corpus distributed during the life of the current beneficiary may only be distributed to such beneficiary. A trustee may have the power to decant a trust under the terms of the trust instrument or under a state’s decanting statute. “Decanting” refers to the trustee’s authority to distribute property to another trust for the benefit of the original trust’s beneficiaries. If a trust may be decanted, its assets may be distributed, during the life of the current beneficiary, to another trust for the benefit of such beneficiary. This raises a question as to whether the ability of a trustee to decant a trust precludes the trust from qualifying as a QSST. In addition, if the mere power to decant a trust does not preclude the trust from qualifying as a QSST, would the trustee’s exercise of such power cause the trust to cease to qualify as a QSST? We recommend that the guidance provide that neither the ability to decant a trust nor the actual decanting of a trust causes the trust to fail to qualify as a QSST. The guidance should also address whether the new trust is required to obtain its own taxpayer identification number and whether a QSST election needs to be made for the new trust in order for it to qualify as such.
6. Issue a revenue ruling incorporating the guidance from PLRs 200308035 and 201017019. Specifically, guidance is requested concerning whether a second class of stock is created by an S corporation’s pro rata distributions made to pay: (1) taxes in year one; (2) redemptions in year two; (3) additional taxes in year

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<sup>2</sup> See section 707(b)(1) allowing for losses on redemption of partnership interests; and see section 267(b) and Rev. Rul. 57-387 for disallowance of loss on redemption of corporate stock.

three for an amendment of its year one tax return; and (4) subsequent distributions to pay additional year one taxes.

PLR 201017019 provides that there is only one class of stock when an S corporation pays distributions to its shareholders based on the apportionment of taxable income for a given period. The distribution plan discussed in the ruling also provides that if a subsequent audit increases taxable income for a prior period, the corporation may make distributions to shareholders in proportion to their relative shares of taxable income during the prior period. The payment policy described in this ruling appears to relate to distributions on specific dates or events, and implies that there is more than one distribution, subject to different formulae, within a single corporate taxable year.

Additionally, guidance is needed to confirm that an S corporation can simultaneously make both pro rata distributions according to current stock ownership and other distributions that meet the varying interest rule of Treas. Reg. § 1.1361-1(l)(2)(iv) without creating a second class of stock.

7. Provide additional guidance regarding the ordering rule for adjustments to the accumulated adjustment account (AAA) when ordinary and redemption distributions are made in the same year and an ordinary distribution occurs after the redemption distribution. This item was included in the 2015-2016 Priority Guidance Plan. Under Treas. Reg. § 1.1368-2(d)(1)(ii), AAA is adjusted first for ordinary distributions and then for redemptions. The regulations provide an example where the redemption occurs later in the year than the ordinary distribution, but the regulations do not provide an example where the redemption occurs prior to the ordinary distribution. Since the redemption distribution is based on the AAA amount as of the date of the redemption, the rule is not clear in the case of a post-redemption ordinary distribution. The regulation simply says to adjust first for ordinary distributions but does not make a distinction for those ordinary distributions that are before or after redemption. A taxpayer could interpret the rule either way. Reducing the AAA balance for all ordinary distributions regardless of the timing relative to the redemption provides the best answer in most circumstances. Since a complete redemption is a sale or exchange transaction, the presence of AAA is irrelevant for purposes of determining the shareholder's gain or loss on the redemption. Allocating more AAA to redemptions by ignoring post-redemption distributions does not benefit the redeemed shareholder while it provides a smaller AAA for the post redemption distribution to be recovered tax free by the recipient shareholders. We specifically request an example where ordinary distributions are made subsequent to a redemption and how AAA is impacted in that situation. We suggest the issuance of a revenue ruling to provide such guidance or modifying the existing regulation.

8. Update Treas. Reg. § 1.1361-5 to reflect the addition of clause (ii) (relating to termination of a Qualified Subchapter S Subsidiary by reason of the sale of Qualified Subchapter S Subsidiary stock) to section 1361(b) (3)(C) made by section 8234 of P.L. 110-28. We offer the following to accomplish this change:
  - Delete the obsolete portion of existing regulation;
  - Add a sentence to indicate that the old rules apply only for years before the effective date of the changes; or
  - Revise and expand the regulations to indicate that the old rules apply to years before the effective date of the changes and also set forth new rules that apply for years after the effective date of the changes.
9. Provide guidance regarding the application of section 302(b)(4) to distributions by an S corporation. Generally, S corporations can make tax free distributions to its shareholders. When an S corporation sells a “qualified trade or business” under section 302(e) and distributes the proceeds, the partial liquidation rules can be interpreted to cause an otherwise tax free operating distribution to be treated as a capital gain, or may result in capital losses that cannot be used. The S corporation recognizes a gain or loss at the corporate level on the disposition of a qualified trade or business. Under sections 1366 and 1367, this recognized gain or loss is allocated to all outstanding shares. When applying the partial liquidation rules under section 302(b)(4) to only a portion of the redeemed shares, the shareholders could end up recognizing gain or loss on the deemed shares that are redeemed. A normal operating distribution would likely be tax free because it is applied to the aggregate basis of all outstanding shares. However, if the partial liquidation proceeds are applied only against the stock basis of the deemed shares redeemed, it is likely that the partial liquidation proceeds will trigger a gain or loss at the shareholder level. If the shareholders could use the aggregate basis on all outstanding shares because no shares are actually redeemed, the partial liquidation distribution is less likely taxable at the shareholder level. Guidance is needed on whether the shareholders can use an aggregate basis approach in a partial liquidation. Without more clarity, partial liquidation rules provide a trap for the unwary in an S corporation setting.
10. Provide additional guidance as to when, for alternative minimum tax (AMT) purposes, S corporations will have attributes which are different for regular tax and AMT purposes. For example, does an S corporation have an accumulated adjustments account for AMT purposes which would differ by the adjustments of sections 56, 57 and 58 from the accumulated adjustments account for regular tax purposes? Assuming there are accumulated adjustment accounts kept for each type of tax, if distributions in excess of the regular tax and AMT accumulated adjustments accounts are made by an S corporation with accumulated earnings and profits, how much is taxable to the recipient shareholder for regular tax

purposes and how much for AMT purposes? As more and more taxpayers become subject to the AMT, it is increasingly important for taxpayers to have guidance on how the regular tax and AMT interface with respect to common transactions.

11. Provide additional guidance to whether a state tax refund attributable to the S portion of an electing small business trust (ESBT) is allocated to the S portion.

**Tax Methods and Periods Technical Resource Panel** (Jane Rohrs, Chair, at (202) 370-2290, [jrohrs@deloitte.com](mailto:jrohrs@deloitte.com); or Ogochukwu Anokwute, Lead Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9231, [anokwute@aicpa.org](mailto:anokwute@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

1. Provide additional guidance on capitalization under section 263:
  - Issue Rev. Proc. under section 263(a) regarding the capitalization of natural gas transmission and distribution property.
  - Issue proposed regulations under sections 263(a) and 167 providing guidance on the treatment of capitalized transaction costs, including safe harbor amortization periods, for certain capitalized costs.
2. Modify and clarify Rev. Procs. 2015-13 and 2015-14 to, among other things, reinstate the 90-day window, and include additional method changes in the List of Automatic Method Changes.
3. Provide additional guidance on capitalization under section 263A:
  - Issue proposed regulations under section 263A for resellers (1) updating rules to reflect changes in retail business practices (including those resulting from technological advances and current trends) that have affected the application and administrability of the existing regulations under section 263A to retailers that transact both on-site sales and sales that are not on-site sales from the same sales facility, and (2) modifying the definitions of on-site sales, a retail customer, a retail sales facility, a dual-function storage facility, and other terms in Treas. Reg. § 1.263A-3(c)(5)(ii) to reflect current business practices of retailers that transact both on-site sales and sales that are not on-site sales from the same sales facility.
  - Issue proposed regulations under section 263A: (1) clarifying definition of costs included in and excluded from the simplified service cost production and labor cost formulas, (2) clarifying sufficient documentation for classification of activities and departments (e.g., sufficiency of interviews with employees),

and (3) updating examples to reflect more common situations such as an information technology (IT) department.

- Issue regulatory and/or procedural guidance under section 263A(f) that provide rules (1) for the application of section 263A(f) to related parties, (2) modifying Treas. Reg. § 1.263A-9 to permit taxpayers to use reasonable methods to allocate capitalizable interest to units of designated property, (3) modifying Treas. Reg. § 1.263A-9(d)(1) with respect to the election to trace debt, (4) modifying Treas. Reg. § 1.263A-8(b)(4) to make application of the *de minimis* rule for determining designated property elective, and (5) including routine interest capitalization changes in the List of Automatic Method Changes, as well as other modifications and clarifications to the present regulations, notices, and other procedural guidance.
4. Provide additional guidance under section 168:
- Issue revenue procedure under section 168 regarding the provisions for certain taxpayers with fiscal or short tax years to claim the additional first-year depreciation deduction extended under the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, as well as other provisions of the PATH Act including the phase down of the additional first-year depreciation deduction percentages, the definition of qualified improvement property, and the application of section 168(k)(5), relating to certain trees and vines.
  - Issue revenue procedure under section 168(k)(4) regarding election to accelerate carryover alternative minimum tax credits in lieu of claiming bonus depreciation.
5. Provide guidance regarding changes in method of accounting for section 174 research and experimental expenses, including guidance for taxpayers making accounting method changes to comply with final Treas. Reg. § 1.174-2.
6. Provide guidance regarding advance payments under section 451:
- Provide guidance regarding the treatment of deferred revenue in taxable asset sales and acquisitions (taking into account public comments with respect to the proposed regulations). [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [April 23, 2015](#).]
  - Provide guidance addressing the treatment of advance payments that are adjusted through purchase accounting in connection with an acquisition of stock (taking into account public comments with respect to the proposed regulations). [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [February 13, 2015](#).]

- Provide guidance addressing the treatment of advance payments between members of an affiliated group that are eliminated in consolidated financial statements. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [February 13, 2015](#).]
  - Issue proposed regulations under section 451 regarding advance payments received for goods and services, including amounts received in exchange for the sale or issuance of gift cards, trading stamps, and loyalty points that are redeemable for goods or services.
  - Issue procedural guidance for accounting method changes necessitated by the Joint Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)-International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) Revenue Recognition Standard.
- 7. Modify the existing section 199 regulations for determining qualified gross receipts from the disposition of computer software.
- 8. Issue final regulations under section 460 regarding the definition of a home construction contract, including the treatment of condominiums, for purposes of the completed contract method, and rules for certain changes in method of accounting for long-term contracts.
- 9. Issue proposed regulations under section 267(a)(3)(B) addressing transactions entered into in the ordinary course of a trade or business in which the payment of the accrued amounts occurs within 8 ½ months after year end and transactions in which an amount accrued is includible in the earnings and profits of a controlled foreign corporation.
- 10. Modify the regulations under section 170(e)(3) to provide that, for qualified contributions of inventory, the basis of the contributed inventory is included in cost of goods sold, and only the incremental “enhanced deduction” is treated as a charitable contribution subject to the 10 percent taxable income limitation for corporations under section 170(b)(2).
- 11. Provide guidance under section 118 specifically relating to the treatment of refundable and transferable credits and incentives as non-shareholder contributions to capital.
- 12. Provide guidance regarding the time when a business is considered to start for purposes of section 195.

13. Provide guidance under section 453:
  - Issue proposed regulations under section 453A regarding contingent payment sales.
  - Issue final regulations under section 453B regarding non-recognition of gain or loss on the disposition of certain installment obligations.
14. Issue proposed regulations under section 472 regarding the carryover of last in first out (LIFO) layers following a section 351 or section 721 transaction.
15. Issue proposed regulations under section 472 to provide rules relating to internal management reports.
16. Provide guidance under section 6655 regarding corporate estimated tax payments. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [October 20, 2014](#).]
17. Provide guidance pertaining to section 172(f) loss carryback waivers.
  - Issue time and manner guidance under section 172(f)(6) for waiving the 10-year carryback with respect to non-product liability specified liability losses; and
  - Issue an overlap rule with the section 172(b)(3) waiver with respect to non-product liability specified liability losses.

**Tax Practice Responsibilities Committee** (Thomas J. Purcell, III, Chair, (402) 280-2062, [ThomasPurcell@creighton.edu](mailto:ThomasPurcell@creighton.edu); or Henry J. Grzes, Lead Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Practice & Ethics, (919) 402-4889, [hgrzes@aicpa.org](mailto:hgrzes@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in order of priority.

1. Provide guidance or information regarding the IRS's and Office of Professional Responsibility's (OPR) interpretation of the court's decision in *Ridgely v. Lew*, No. 1:12-cv-00565 (CRC) (D.D.C. 7/16/14), with respect to the preparation of amended returns under a contingent fee arrangement. There remains some uncertainty among practitioners regarding how OPR views the submission of a Form 2848 in relation to its authority to enforce the contingent fee rule. For example, is the jurisdiction granted by a Form 2848 limited to the taxpayer issues covered on the face of the Form 2848? Does a Form 2848 submitted for one taxpayer subject the practitioner to OPR enforcement of the contingent fee rule with respect to other taxpayers? Does the timing of the Form 2848 have an effect on jurisdiction?

2. Provide guidance related to certain core principles (including “significant” and “avoidance”) for defining “tax shelter” under section 6662(d), including that the term tax shelter is intended to apply to an entity, plan or arrangement involving an abusive application of the federal income tax laws, but that the determination of whether a tax shelter exists depends upon all pertinent facts and circumstances. The definition is important for purposes of the taxpayer accuracy-related penalties under section 6662 and 6662A, reasonable cause showing under section 6664, the tax return preparer penalty under section 6694, the section 7525 federal tax practitioner privilege, and the Circular 230 written tax advice rules.
3. Eliminate from the category of reportable transactions the “loss transaction,” defined in Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b)(5). As currently defined, the category captures a large number of transactions that reflect true, economic losses, thereby increasing the cost (of compliance and monitoring) to taxpayers, tax practitioners and the IRS and diluting the relevance of information received. It is generally believed that the costs involved in administering the program are not commensurate with any benefits generated, particularly in light of the decreased taxpayer services resulting from budget cuts.

In addition, eliminate the need for taxpayers to submit Form 8886 twice – once with the taxpayer’s return and once to the Office of Tax Shelter Analysis. A penalty under section 6707A can be asserted if one of the two submissions is missed. The requirement for taxpayers to make two submissions of the same form creates an unnecessary burden and risk of penalty.

Further, the disclosure safe harbor adopted in Notice 2006-16 with respect to a specific listed transaction should be extended to reportable transactions of all types. In that notice, a taxpayer who participates in the identified listed transaction solely by reason of that taxpayer’s direct or indirect interest in a pass-through entity is not required to submit a disclosure statement provided that the taxpayer receives acknowledgment that the pass-through entity has or will comply with its separate disclosure obligation under Treas. Reg. section 1.6011-4.

4. Regarding guidance under Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4 (page 26), withdraw the proposed regulations regarding patented transactions as reportable transactions. Congress prospectively fixed the problem of tax strategy patents and the proposed regulations that were issued prior to Congress’s action on this matter are no longer relevant.
5. Section 6676(a) was amended by Sec. 209(b)DivQ, of the Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes Act of 2015, (P.L. 114-113, 12/18/2015) as follows:
  - a. If a claim for refund or credit with respect to income tax is made for an excessive amount, unless it is shown that the claim for such excessive amount ~~has reasonable basis~~ *is due to reasonable cause*, the person making such claim

shall be liable for a penalty in an amount equal to 20 percent of the excessive amount.

With this change, there is no longer a level of confidence associated with this penalty. The other accuracy-related penalties of Section 6662 and 6662A each have a standard. The absence of the penalty in Section 6676 leaves uncertainty as to when the IRS would consider a penalty appropriate. Guidance is requested as to the level of comfort needed for any particular item in order to establish reasonable cause. The prior version of the section provided that reasonable basis was sufficient. With the amendment, there is uncertainty whether a penalty would be imposed for a claim for refund or credit that was supported by reasonable basis.

6. Eliminate from Circular 230 section 10.51 the enumerated items of misconduct or failure to act that are addressed through penalties or other sanctions under the Code. As currently drafted, the regulations appear to be inappropriately serving as an enforcement tool for regulatory requirement.
7. Provide guidance regarding both the criteria that will be used to determine the competence of practitioners subject to Circular 230, section 10.35 as well as the timing of the development of that competence. Examples of the determination of whether a practitioner demonstrates the required knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation would assist the practitioner community in complying with this provision. Furthermore, statements that have been made by OPR representatives that competence is measured at the time the service is provided begs the question of application in complex and continuing transactions that involve services provided over long periods of time.
8. Provide additional guidance regarding the imposition of monetary penalties under Circular 230 as amended by section 822 of the AJCA of 2004. [Note: See AICPA comments on Notice 2007-39 submitted on [August 22, 2007](#).]
9. Provide guidance, with the opportunity for comment before finalizing the guidance, regarding criteria the IRS will use in determining whether to:
  - Assert a section 6694 preparer penalty;
  - Refer a matter to OPR, particularly in the case of alleged violations under the section 6694 preparer penalty provisions; and
  - Impose a sanction or otherwise limit a practitioner in providing tax practice services.

Guidance regarding the interpretation of standards to be applied beyond, for example, “assessment of penalties” as an enumerated standard, set forth on page

14 of Publication 3112, to deny a practitioner participation in the e-file program, is essential to provide consistency of application of the standards to limit abuse of discretion by an IRS employee and to adequately inform practitioners of the standards to which they will be expected to adhere.

10. Provide needed guidance regarding the safeguarding of the taxpayer's rights in an OPR investigation of the preparer. To illustrate, to gather evidence against the preparer, the IRS examines the tax returns of the preparer's clients. Those taxpayers may be asked to give testimony about the targeted tax preparer's preparation procedures. In an effort to build a case against the targeted tax practitioner, we are concerned that the OPR investigator may inadvertently compromise the taxpayer's rights in the examination. For example, the OPR investigator may require that the taxpayer accompany the representative to the initial tax interview, contrary to the taxpayer's right to representation as described in the internal revenue manual (IRM) 4.10.2.7.5. The IRS may also require, in an affidavit to be completed at the initial interview, that the taxpayer provide answers relating to the tax preparer's procedures. A taxpayer who is under examination at that time may fear reprisal if the affidavit is not completed.
11. Provide guidance in connection with changes made under the Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes Act of 2015, (P.L. 114-113, 12/18/2015) related to the prevention of retroactive claims for various credits (section 32(m) - earned income credit, section 24(e) – child tax credit and section 25A(i) – American Opportunity tax credit). This law change prevents the claim for these credits where the Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is issued after the filing due date of the return. It is effective for returns filed after December 18, 2015 except for timely filed 2015 returns. Provide guidance as to how a preparer is to know if a new client just received the SSN or TIN and advise as to what protection should there be afforded a practitioner in this matter?

For additional information, see Sections 204, 205 and 206 DivQ of P.L. 114-113 and General Explanation of Tax Legislation Enacted in 2015 - Joint Committee on Taxation ([JCS-1-16](#), page 225 et seq.).

12. Provide guidance regarding who can sign the e-file authorization form. When using the Practitioner PIN method for e-filing (Publication 1345), the taxpayer is required to sign Form 8879, *IRS e-file Signature Authorization*, but neither Publication 1345 nor the related Regulations nor the Form 8879 instructions specifically state who can sign on behalf of an entity taxpayer. The requirement is effectively buried in the jurat for the taxpayer's signature. It is requested that information as to who can sign each form be incorporated into the Form 8879 instructions.

13. In light of recent court decisions (*Loving v. Internal Revenue Service*, 742 F.3d 1013 (D.C. Cir. 2014) & *Ridgely v. Lew*, No. 1:12-cv-00565 (CRC) (D.D.C. 7/16/14)) which have eliminated the substantive requirements to obtaining a PTIN, we request that IRS reconsider the section 6109 requirements for non-signing preparers and eliminate the PTIN requirements for staff who mainly do data entry for review by others.
14. Provide guidance under section 6063 defining the circumstances in which an originally filed partnership tax return will be considered validly signed by a partner, within the meaning of this statute. Section 6063 and the regulations thereunder require that the partnership tax return be signed “by any of its partners.” However, the instructions to Form 1065, *U.S. Return of Partnership Income*, appear to narrow the pool of valid signatories by indicating that the return must be signed by a “general partner or LLC member manager.” Further, the IRS has indicated in Publication 3402 and in informal advice that limited partners cannot sign the partnership tax return (GCM 38781; FSA 0556). A valid signature is a prerequisite to the valid filing of an income tax return (*Agri-Cal Venture Associates, v. Commissioner*, T.C. Memo 2000-271; *Burford Oil Co. v Commissioner*, 153 F.2d 745 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1946); *Elliott v Commissioner*, 113 T.C. 125 (1999)). Because the tax ramifications of failure to timely file a return are significant, the IRS should clarify in one set of guidance, the signature requirements for signing a partnership tax return. In particular, such guidance should address if and when a limited partner or non-member manager LLC member can sign the partnership return, what partners are appropriate signatories in a non-member managed LLC, and what partners can sign in situations where the entity is a foreign eligible entity classified as a partnership. Furthermore, in cases where the appropriate partner signatory of a partnership return is itself another entity classified as a partnership, the guidance should address whether an authorized officer of such entity partner can sign the lower-tier partnership return in its capacity as an officer of the partner entity (e.g., if an LLC is the general partner of a partnership, can an authorized officer of the LLC sign the partnership return on behalf of the LLC as general partner of the lower-tier partnership).

**Trust, Estate and Gift Tax Technical Resource Panel** (Mary Kay Foss, Chair, (925) 648-3660, [marykay@cpaskllp.com](mailto:marykay@cpaskllp.com); or Eileen Sherr, Senior Technical Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, (202) 434-9256, [esherr@aicpa.org](mailto:esherr@aicpa.org).) NOTE: Comments are listed in priority order.

### **Domestic**

1. Issue final regulations on compliance with consistent basis reporting between estate and persons acquiring property from decedents. Additional guidance beyond the [proposed regulations](#) and [IRS Notice 2015-57](#), [Notice 2016-19](#), and

- Notice 2016-27 is needed. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS and Treasury and IRS on the needed guidance submitted on [January 29, 2016](#).]
2. Revise IRS [Form 8971](#), *Information Regarding Beneficiaries Acquiring Property from a Decedent*, and [instructions](#). [Note: See AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS on the form and instructions submitted on [January 29, 2016](#).]
  3. Issue guidance on the IRS new policy on issuing estate tax closing letters. [Note: See AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [January 11, 2016](#).]
  4. Issue further guidance on the portability of the deceased spousal unused exclusion amount under section 2010(c)(4). [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [September 14, 2012 and on March 19, 2015](#)] We appreciate that the IRS issued [Rev. Proc. 2014-18](#), providing an automatic extension of time for certain estates without a filing requirement to elect before December 31, 2014, portability of the decedent's unused exclusion amount for the benefit of the decedent's surviving spouse, including same sex married couples. We encourage the IRS to provide an automatic extension of time until 15 months after the decedent's death for estates without a filing requirement to elect portability.
  5. Provide guidance, such as a revenue procedure, under section 2010(c) regarding the validity of a QTIP election on an estate tax return filed only to elect portability.
- We note that the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 IRS Priority Guidance Plan includes this guidance project.
6. Issue final regulations, including examples, on the "simplified" method for computing net investment income under section 1411 for distributions from charitable remainder trusts. [Note: See AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [March 31, 2014](#).]
- We note that the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 IRS Priority Guidance Plan includes this guidance project under General Tax.
7. Provide guidance regarding transfers by a trustee of an irrevocable trust to another irrevocable trust (often referred to as "decanting"). [Note: See AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [June 26, 2012](#), in response to IRS [Notice 2011-101](#), released December 27, 2011.]
  8. Provide a final ruling on the consequences under various estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer tax provisions of using a family-owned company (private trust company) as the trustee of a trust. [Note: See AICPA pre-release comments submitted on [March 29, 2006](#), and AICPA comments on the proposed revenue ruling submitted on [November 12, 2008](#).]

We note that the 2013-2014 IRS Priority Guidance Plan included this guidance project, but it was not included in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 IRS Priority Guidance Plan.

9. Provide guidance on the ability to split gifts under section 2513 in *Crummey* or similar situations, where the donee spouse has an interest in the trust and others have the ability to withdraw the contributed assets but all the transfers made to the trust during the year may be withdrawn by trust beneficiaries.

Such guidance is particularly needed in the case of late filing of gift tax returns. Because of the late filing, there is no opportunity to elect out of deemed allocation (i.e., each spouse's GST exemption would be allocated to his or her portion of the transfer) (Treas. Reg. § 26.2632-1(b)(4)(iii), Ex. 5). [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [June 26, 2007](#).]

10. Add to regulations under section 6034 an administrative exception to the Form 1041-A, *U.S. Information Return Trust Accumulation of Charitable Amounts*, filing requirement for complex trusts that claim charitable deductions under section 642(c) solely for contributions flowed through to them from partnerships and S corporations. The amendment to these regulations could be done as part of a project to update the section 6034 regulations to reflect the changes made to that section by the PPA. In order to implement this administrative exception as soon as possible, a Notice should be issued stating that regulations will be revised to allow this administrative exception to the Form 1041-A filing requirement for these trusts and that these trusts no longer have to file Form 1041-A. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [September 14, 2010](#) and AICPA comments to Congress submitted on [October 19, 2012](#).]

11. Provide a simplified procedure to obtain an extension of time to elect out of the automatic allocation of the GST exemption to indirect skips and at the end of the estate tax inclusion period, similar to Rev. Proc. 2004-46. Many PLRs have been issued allowing extensions of time to elect out of the automatic rules, but a simplified method for obtaining such extensions without the need for a private letter ruling would benefit taxpayers and the IRS. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [June 26, 2007](#).]

We note that the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 IRS Priority Guidance Plan includes this guidance project.

12. Provide guidance regarding the appropriate means and timing of GST allocations to pour over trusts from a Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT) terminations. Guidance is also needed under section 2632(c)(5)(A)(i) and examples, addressing the application of the GST exemption automatic allocation rules for indirect skips in a situation in which a trust subject to an estate tax inclusion period (ETIP) terminates upon the expiration of the ETIP, at which time the trust assets are

distributed to other trusts that may be GST trusts. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [June 26, 2007](#).]

We appreciate that the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Priority Guidance Plan includes this item.

13. Clarify more gift tax issues for same-sex couples with regard to the Defense of Marriage Act issues, including guidance on:
  - How taxpayers must report, or track, previously reported gifts that are now eligible for the marital deduction. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [October 30, 2013](#).]
  - How taxpayers should report, or track, previously reported gifts that are now eligible for gift splitting. Married same-sex couples can elect to split gifts in order to take advantage of the combined annual gift tax exclusion (i.e., \$14,000 for 2013, for a total tax-free gift of \$28,000). [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [October 30, 2013](#).]
  - The number of years (or deadlines) for amending gift tax returns to restore applicable unified credit amounts for previous gifts. If it is too late to amend a return, the IRS should clarify how taxpayers adjust future estate tax returns and computations to remedy this problem.

[Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [October 30, 2013](#).]

We note that the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 IRS Priority Guidance Plans included in the General Tax Issues section a project on “Guidance relating to *United States v. Windsor*,” but there is no specificity as to the issues to be addressed.

14. Provide guidance for marital trusts under section 2056(b)(7) similar to Rev. Rul. 2006-26, regarding plans other than individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and defined contribution plans (i.e., defined benefit plans and deferred compensation plans).
15. Provide clarification in the instructions to Form 709, *U.S. Gift (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return*, with regard to Column C in Part 3 of Schedule A, *Computation of Taxable Gifts*, as to the election made under section 2632(c) (electing “in and out” of a deemed allocation.) The instructions state that checking the box in Column C applies only for transfers reported on the return. Confusion can result as the instructions provide that, if a prior election has been made with respect to future transfers, the box in Column C should not be checked and no explanatory statement should be filed with the applicable Form 709. One suggestion would be to have an additional column to check if an election was

made in a prior year that affects the GST exemption for a transfer made in the current year.

16. Provide guidance under section 2632(c), regarding the deemed allocation of GST exemption to certain lifetime transfers to GST trusts. In particular, clarification is requested with regard to the exceptions to the definition of a GST trust contained in section 2632(c)(3)(B)(i)-(vi) as well as the exception in the flush language of this section dealing with gift tax annual exclusions. Six types of GST trusts are defined in the statute, but taxpayers would benefit from additional guidance on many gray areas. Also, until regulations are issued under section 2632(c)(3)(B)(i)(III), as required by such section, we believe this provision has no effect.
17. Provide guidance on how additional GST exemption (as a result of the inflation adjustment each year) can be allocated to a transfer made in the prior year, including whether an allocation on the gift tax return timely filed for the prior year is effective as of January 1 and what valuation date is used for purposes of determining the new inclusion ratio.
18. Provide a harmonization of what is necessary to satisfy the adequate disclosure requirements of sections 301.6501(c)-1(e) and -1(f). At a minimum, section 301.6501(c)-1(e) should contain a safe harbor for appraisal reports as exists in section 301.6501(c)-1(f).
19. Change Form 8868 to allow taxpayers to obtain an extension of time to file Form 5227, *Split-Interest Trust Information Return*, and Form 4720, *Return of Certain Excise Taxes Under Chapters 41 and 42 of the Code*, by filing only one Form 8868, rather than two.
20. Amend the regulations under sections 6042 and 6049 to require payors to provide charitable remainder trusts information about interest and dividends paid to them in order for the charitable remainder trusts to comply with the ordering rules of section 664(b).
21. Provide guidance on material participation by a trust or estate in a trade or business for purposes of section 469. [Note: See AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [September 22, 2014](#).]

We note that the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 IRS Priority Guidance Plan includes this guidance project under General Tax.

### **Foreign Related**

22. Provide guidance on the application of section 1411 to accumulation distributions from foreign trusts to U.S. beneficiaries, including the method to determine the

- portion of the distribution, if any, attributable to income accumulated in years prior to the effective date of section 1411.
23. Provide guidance on issues relating to foreign trusts and the HIRE Act, including guidance on the section 679(d) presumption that a foreign trust has U.S. beneficiaries. [Note: See AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [March 28, 2011](#).]
  24. Provide further guidance on issues relating to reporting of foreign accounts by U.S. beneficiaries of foreign trusts on the FBAR, and U.S. beneficiary reporting of foreign accounts and foreign financial assets owned by foreign trusts, as required by section 6038D. The AICPA is concerned that a U.S. beneficiary of a foreign trust may not have access to books and records of the foreign trust necessary to make an accurate determination of filing requirements and reportable amounts. [Note: See AICPA [comments](#) to FINCEN, Treasury, and IRS submitted on [November 19, 2010](#) and [November 16, 2009](#), and AICPA comments to Treasury and IRS submitted on [March 28, 2011](#).] As the AICPA suggested in the November 16, 2009 comments, the AICPA welcomes the legislative change of the due date of the FBAR from June 30 to April 15, and the ability to extend the FBAR until October 15, effective for 2016 tax years.
  25. Change the due date of Form 3520-A from March 15 to April 15, to coincide with the due date for calendar year filers of related returns. If a change in the due date is not possible, then an extension or penalty relief is requested for taxpayers who file by April 15. In addition, IRS should consider adding a box to Form 7004 to permit an extension of time to file Form 3520 in cases where the beneficiary's income tax return (Form 1040 and Form 1040NR) is not going to be extended. [Note: See AICPA [comments](#) to IRS submitted on [June 12, 2008](#), [March 3, 2008](#), [January 31, 2007](#), and [June 17, 2003](#). This change in the Form 3520-A due date is included in proposed legislation, [S. 420](#), introduced 2/28/13 by Senators Enzi and Tester, and [H.R. 901](#), introduced 2/28/13 by Rep. Jenkins, as well as in Chairman Camp's March 12, 2013 House Ways and Means Committee small business tax reform [discussion draft](#) and the Senate Finance Committee March 21, 2013 [tax reform options paper](#) on simplifying the tax system for families and businesses.] The Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 modified the original and extended due dates for partnerships, C corporations, and trusts and estates effective for 2016 tax years, but did not change the due date for Form 3520-A. The AICPA continues to believe that the original and extended due dates for Form 3520-A should be the same as those for individuals.
  26. Change the form for tax reporting for foreign nongrantor trusts. The current tax reporting on Form 1040NR for foreign nongrantor trusts (and foreign grantor trusts with a U.S. owner) is extremely difficult because the IRS form is not designed for fiduciary tax return reporting. IRS instructions direct the preparer to

- “change the form” for Subchapter J provisions, but attempts to do so result in inconsistent or inadequate changes and lead to return processing errors and confusion. The creation of a new Form 1041NR, which could include information currently reported on Forms 3520 and 3520-A, would eliminate confusion and mistakes in processing returns and would enhance tax compliance filing requirements. [Note: See AICPA [comments](#) to IRS submitted on [September 22, 2008](#), [March 3, 2008](#), and [January 31, 2007](#).]
27. Provide guidance on whether a foreign grantor trust with a U.S. grantor is required to file Form 1041 or Form 1040NR and whether a foreign grantor trust with a foreign grantor and some U.S. income is required to file Form 1041 or Form 1040NR.
  28. Provide guidance on the reporting of and recognition of gain under the expatriation mark-to-market rules in section 877A, including guidance on the interplay of sections 877A and 684, relating to a transfer or deemed transfer to a foreign estate or trust as a result of an individual’s expatriation.
  29. Provide guidance on how the GST tax applies to grandfathered domestic trusts that become foreign trusts. This issue may be analogous to a GST-grandfathered trust that migrates from one state to another; thus, similar rules and safe harbors should be considered.
  30. Provide further guidance in addition to the [proposed regulations](#) (REG-112997-10) regarding several aspects of section 2801. [Note: AICPA soon will be submitting comments to Treasury and IRS.]  
We note that the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 IRS Priority Guidance Plan includes a section 2801 guidance project.
  31. Provide guidance as to what qualifies as a “reasonable period of time” for a U.S. grantor or beneficiary of a foreign trust to pay the trust the FMV for the “personal use” of trust property under section 643(i)(2). This guidance should also include information regarding the determination of the proper FMV measurement and an exception for reporting “*de minimis*” amounts, as accounting for *de minimis* amounts may be administratively impractical. “Safe harbor” guidelines to administer this new law also would be appreciated. [Note: See AICPA comments to IRS submitted on [March 28, 2011](#).]
  32. Provide regulations to enhance guidance in Notice 2009-85 regarding the reporting of tax withholding and payment of these taxes by trustees to the IRS. Guidance is needed as to the appropriate forms and reporting on applicable tax returns, as well as on possible “expedited” procedures for successful receipt of a private letter ruling for an expatriate to determine the value of his or her interest in the trust. This guidance should also define “adequate security” for a “tax-deferred agreement” for the covered expatriate’s return under section 877A(b).

33. Provide regulations under section 6677 regarding the failure to file information returns with respect to certain foreign trusts. The HIRE Act amended section 6677, but guidance is not adequate in Notice 97-34, the only IRS guidance on making a determination on penalties under section 6677. As described in IRS memorandum SBSE-20-0709-016, newly-designed determination letters will be issued based upon a review of a taxpayer's compliance with section 6677, but taxpayers need regulations to provide them with guidance before the applicable letters are issued.
34. Provide guidance on foreign trust withholding and related compliance issues. Specifically, we suggest:
- The IRS should modify [Form 1042](#) and [Form 1042-S](#), to assist the IRS in tracking U.S. withholding credit to which a U.S. beneficiary is entitled due to withholding flowing through a foreign nongrantor trust and to reduce the amount of correspondence needed between taxpayers and the IRS to justify withholding credit reflected on a beneficiary's U.S. income tax return.
    - The IRS should require trustees of foreign nongrantor trusts to provide copies of Forms 1042/1042-S to U.S. beneficiaries receiving distributions and corresponding U.S. withholding credits from the trust, evidencing withholding on income paid to the trust.
    - The IRS should modify the Forms 1042/1042-S to include the beneficiary's name and social security number and include an indication of whether a payee is a foreign nongrantor trust with a U.S. beneficiary.
    - The IRS should instruct U.S. beneficiaries to attach a copy of the Form 1042-S to the beneficiary's [Form 3520](#) as well as to the beneficiary's [Form 1040](#).
  - The IRS should clarify and provide guidance regarding compliant non-U.S. trusts making distributions potentially subject to trust-specific withholding requirements under Chapter 3 (QI) and Chapter 4 (FATCA). Such IRS guidance should provide that the source and character retention rules relating to DNI/UNI of foreign nongrantor trusts are not relevant for purposes of QI and FATCA, or at least grandfather any distributions from non-U.S. trusts potentially subject to withholding under both QI and FATCA until a final determination is made regarding the treatment of "Foreign Passthru Payments" under FATCA. To the extent that grandfathering is not possible, we recommend a provision that ensures that there are no duplicate withholding requirements. For example, to the extent that there was Chapter 3 withholding on the foreign nongrantor trust at a lower rate than would apply to the beneficiary, withholding on the distribution to the beneficiary would be applied on the difference between the two applicable rates.