



# Finance Act 1997

## 1997 CHAPTER 16

### PART V

#### INCOME TAX, CORPORATION TAX AND CAPITAL GAINS TAX

##### *Relieved expenditure, losses etc.*

#### **67 Annuity business of insurance companies.**

- (1) In section 437 of the Taxes Act 1988 (extent to which payments in respect of new annuities are to be treated as charges on income), for subsections (1A) and (1B) there shall be substituted the following subsection—

“(1A) In the computation, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions applicable to Case I of Schedule D, of the profits for any accounting period of a company’s life assurance business, new annuities paid by the company in that period shall be brought into account by treating an amount equal to the income limit for that period as a sum disbursed as expenses of management of the company for that period.”

- (2) In subsection (1C) of that section (interpretation of section), after “this section” there shall be inserted “(but subject to subsections (1CA) to (1CD) below)”; and after that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsections—

“(1CA) Where a new annuity (“the actual annuity”) is a steep-reduction annuity, the income limit for an accounting period of the company paying the annuity shall be computed for the purposes of this section as if—

- (a) the contract providing for the actual annuity provided instead for the annuities identified by subsections (1CB) and (1CC) below; and
- (b) the consideration for each of those annuities were to be determined by the making of a just and reasonable apportionment of the consideration for the actual annuity.

(1CB) The annuities mentioned in subsection (1CA)(a) above are—

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- (a) an annuity the payments in respect of which are confined to the payments in respect of the actual annuity that fall to be made before the earliest time for the making in respect of the actual annuity of a reduced payment such as is mentioned in section 437A(1)(c); and
- (b) subject to subsection (1CC) below, an annuity the payments in respect of which are all the payments in respect of the actual annuity other than those mentioned in paragraph (a) above.

(1CC) Where an annuity identified by paragraph (b) of subsection (1CB) above (“the later annuity”) would itself be a steep-reduction annuity, the annuities mentioned in subsection (1CA)(a) above—

- (a) shall not include the later annuity; but
- (b) shall include, instead, the annuities which would be identified by subsection (1CB) above (with as many further applications of this subsection as may be necessary for securing that none of the annuities mentioned in subsection (1CA)(a) above is a steep-reduction annuity) if references in that subsection to the actual annuity were references to the later annuity.

(1CD) Subsections (1CA) to (1CC) above shall be construed in accordance with section 437A.”

(3) After that section there shall be inserted the following section—

**“437A Meaning of “steep-reduction annuity” etc.**

- (1) For the purposes of section 437 an annuity is a steep-reduction annuity if—
  - (a) the amount of any payment in respect of the annuity (but not the term of the annuity) depends on any contingency other than the duration of a human life or lives;
  - (b) the annuitant is entitled in respect of the annuity to payments of different amounts at different times; and
  - (c) those payments include a payment (“a reduced payment”) of an amount which is substantially smaller than the amount of at least one of the earlier payments in respect of that annuity to which the annuitant is entitled.
- (2) Where there are different intervals between payments to which an annuitant is entitled in respect of any annuity, the question whether or not the conditions in subsection (1)(b) and (c) above are satisfied in the case of that annuity shall be determined by assuming—
  - (a) that the annuitant’s entitlement, after the first payment, to payments in respect of that annuity is an entitlement to payments at yearly intervals on the anniversary of the first payment; and
  - (b) that the amount to which the annuitant is assumed to be entitled on each such anniversary is equal to the annuitant’s assumed entitlement for the year ending with that anniversary.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above an annuitant’s assumed entitlement for any year shall be determined as follows—
  - (a) the annuitant’s entitlement to each payment in respect of the annuity shall be taken to accrue at a constant rate during the interval between the previous payment and that payment; and

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- (b) his assumed entitlement for any year shall be taken to be equal to the aggregate of the amounts which, in accordance with paragraph (a) above, are treated as accruing in that year.
- (4) In the case of an annuity to which subsection (2) above applies, the reference in section 437(1CB)(a) to the making of a reduced payment shall be construed as if it were a reference to the making of a payment in respect of that annuity which (applying subsection (3)(a) above) is taken to accrue at a rate that is substantially less than the rate at which at least one of the earlier payments in respect of that annuity is taken to accrue.
- (5) Where—
  - (a) any question arises for the purposes of this section whether the amount of any payment in respect of any annuity—
    - (i) is substantially smaller than the amount of, or
    - (ii) accrues at a rate substantially less than, an earlier payment in respect of that annuity, and
  - (b) the annuitant or, as the case may be, every annuitant is an individual who is beneficially entitled to all the rights conferred on him as such an annuitant,that question shall be determined without regard to so much of the difference between the amounts or rates as is referable to a reduction falling to be made as a result of the occurrence of a death.
- (6) Where the amount of any one or more of the payments to which an annuitant is entitled in respect of an annuity depends on any contingency, his entitlement to payments in respect of that annuity shall be determined for the purposes of section 437(1CA) to (1CC) and this section according to whatever (applying any relevant actuarial principles) is the most likely outcome in relation to that contingency.
- (7) Where any agreement or arrangement has effect for varying the rights of an annuitant in relation to a payment in respect of any annuity, that payment shall be taken, for the purposes of section 437(1CA) to (1CC) and this section, to be a payment of the amount to which the annuitant is entitled in accordance with that agreement or arrangement.
- (8) References in this section to a contingency include references to a contingency that consists wholly or partly in the exercise by any person of any option.”
- (4) Section 434B(2) of that Act (treatment of annuities paid by an insurance company) shall cease to have effect and accordingly—
  - <sup>F1</sup>(a) .....
  - (b) in section 337(2B) of that Act, for “the references in sections 338(2) and 434B(2)” there shall be substituted “ the reference in section 338(2) ”.
- <sup>F2</sup>(5) .....
- (6) In sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 16 of Schedule 7 to the <sup>M1</sup>Finance Act 1991 (which makes transitional provision for annuities under contracts made in accounting periods beginning before 1st January 1992), for the words before paragraph (a) there shall be substituted—

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“(1) In the computation, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions applicable to Case I of Schedule D, of the profits for any accounting period of an insurance company’s life assurance business, an amount equal to the lesser of the following amounts shall be treated (if it is not nil) as a sum disbursed as expenses of management of the company for that period, that is to say—”.

- (7) Subsections (1) and (4) to (6) above have effect in relation to accounting periods beginning after 5th March 1997.
- (8) Subsections (2) and (3) above have effect in relation to accounting periods ending on or after 5th March 1997 but do not affect the computation of the capital elements contained in any annuity payments made before that date.

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**Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 67(4)(a) repealed (with effect in accordance with s. 42 of the amending Act) by [Finance Act 2004 \(c. 12\)](#), [Sch. 42 Pt. 2\(3\)](#)
- F2** S. 67(5) repealed (with effect in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending S.I.) by [The Overseas Life Insurance Companies Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/3271\)](#), [reg. 1](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)
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**Marginal Citations**

- M1** 1991 c. 31.

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