INVENTORIES

§ 1.471–1 Need for inventories.

In order to reflect taxable income correctly, inventories at the beginning and end of each taxable year are necessary in every case in which the production, purchase, or sale of merchandise is an income-producing factor. The inventory should include all finished or partly finished goods and, in the case of raw materials and supplies, only those which have been acquired for sale or which will physically become a part of merchandise intended for sale, in which class fall containers, such as kegs, bottles, and cases, whether returnable or not, if title thereto will pass to the purchaser of the product to be sold therein. Merchandise should be included in the inventory only if title thereto is vested in the taxpayer. Accordingly, the seller should include in his inventory goods under contract for sale but not yet segregated and applied to the contract and goods out upon consignment, but should exclude from inventory goods sold (including containers), title to which has passed to the purchaser. A purchaser should include in inventory merchandise purchased (including containers), title to which has passed to him, although such merchandise is in transit or for other reasons has not been reduced to physical possession, but should not include goods ordered for future delivery, transfer of title to which has not yet been effected. (But see § 1.472–1.)

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11724, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.471–2 Valuation of inventories.

(a) Section 471 provides two tests to which each inventory must conform:

(1) It must conform as nearly as may be to the best accounting practice in the trade or business, and

(2) It must clearly reflect the income.

(b) It follows, therefore, that inventory rules cannot be uniform but must give effect to trade customs which come within the scope of the best accounting practice in the particular trade or business. In order to clearly reflect income, the inventory practice of a taxpayer should be consistent from year to year, and greater weight is to be given to consistency than to any particular method of inventorying or basis of valuation so long as the method or basis used is in accord with §§ 1.471–1 through 1.471–11.

(c) The bases of valuation most commonly used by business concerns and which meet the requirements of section 471 are (1) cost and (2) cost or market, whichever is lower. (For inventories by dealers in securities, see § 1.471–5.) Any goods in an inventory which are unsalable at normal prices or unusable in the normal way because of damage, imperfections, shop wear, changes of style, odd or broken lots, or other similar causes, including second-hand goods taken in exchange, should be valued at bona fide selling prices less direct cost of disposition, whether subparagraph (1) or (2) of this paragraph is used, or if such goods consist of raw materials or partly finished goods held for use or consumption, they shall be valued upon a reasonable basis, taking into consideration the usability and the condition of the goods, but in no case shall such value be less than the scrap value. Bona fide selling price means actual offering of goods during a period ending not later than 30 days after inventory date. The burden of proof will rest upon the taxpayer to show that such exceptional goods as are valued upon such selling basis come within the classifications indicated above, and he shall maintain such records of the disposition of the goods as will enable a verification of the inventory to be made.

(d) In respect of normal goods, whichever method is adopted must be applied with reasonable consistency to the entire inventory of the taxpayer's trade or business except as to those goods inventoried under the last-in, first-out method authorized by section 472 or to animals inventoried under the elective unit, livestock-price-method authorized by § 1.471–6. See paragraph (d) of § 1.446–1 for rules permitting the use of different methods of accounting if the taxpayer has more than one trade or business. Where the taxpayer is engaged in more than one trade or business the Commissioner may require that the method of valuing inventories with respect to goods in one trade or business also be used with respect to similar goods in other trades or businesses if, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the use of such method with respect to such other goods is essential to a clear reflection of income. Taxpayers were given an option to adopt the basis of either (1) cost or (2) cost or market, whichever is lower, for their 1920 inventories. The basis properly adopted for that year or any subsequent year is controlling, and a change can now be made only after permission is secured from the Commissioner. Application for permission to change the basis of valuing inventories shall be made in writing and filed with the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of §1.446–1. Goods taken in the inventory which have been so intermingled that they cannot be identified with specific invoices will be deemed to be the goods most recently purchased or produced, and the cost thereof will be the actual cost of the goods purchased or produced during the period in which the quantity of goods in the inventory has been acquired. But see section 472 as to last-in, first-out inventories. Where the taxpayer maintains book inventories in accordance with a sound accounting system in which the respective inventory accounts are charged with the actual cost of the goods purchased or produced and credited with the value of goods used, transferred, or sold, calculated upon the basis of the actual cost of the goods acquired during the taxable year (including the inventory at the beginning of the year), the net value as shown by such inventory accounts will be deemed to be the cost of the goods on hand. The balances shown by such book inventories should be verified by physical inventories at reasonable intervals and adjusted to conform therewith.

(e) Inventories should be recorded in a legible manner, properly computed and summarized, and should be preserved as a part of the accounting records of the taxpayer. The inventories of taxpayers on whatever basis taken will be subject to investigation by the district director, and the taxpayer must satisfy the district director of the correctness of the prices adopted.

(f) The following methods, among others, are sometimes used in taking or valuing inventories, but are not in accord with the regulations in this part:

(1) Deducting from the inventory a reserve for price changes, or an estimated depreciation in the value thereof.

(2) Taking work in process, or other parts of the inventory, at a nominal price or at less than its proper value.

(3) Omitting portions of the stock on hand.

(4) Using a constant price or nominal value for so-called normal quantity of materials or goods in stock.

(5) Including stock in transit, shipped either to or from the taxpayer, the title to which is not vested in the taxpayer.

(6) Segregating indirect production costs into fixed and variable production cost classifications (as defined in §1.471–11(b)(3)(ii)) and allocating only the variable costs to the cost of goods produced while treating fixed costs as period costs which are currently deductible. This method is commonly referred to as the ''direct cost'' method.

(7) Treating all or substantially all indirect production costs (whether classified as fixed or variable) as period costs which are currently deductible. This method is generally referred to as the ''prime cost'' method.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11724, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 7285, 38 FR 26185, Sept. 19, 1973]

§ 1.471–3 Inventories at cost.

Cost means:

(a) In the case of merchandise on hand at the beginning of the taxable year, the inventory price of such goods.

(b) In the case of merchandise purchased since the beginning of the taxable year, the invoice price less trade or other discounts, except strictly cash discounts approximating a fair interest rate, which may be deducted or not at the option of the taxpayer, provided a consistent course is followed. To this net invoice price should be added transportation or other necessary charges incurred in acquiring possession of the goods. For taxpayers acquiring merchandise for resale that are subject to the provisions of section 263A, see §§1.263A–1 and 1.263A–3 for additional amounts that must be included in inventory costs.

(c) In the case of merchandise produced by the taxpayer since the beginning of the taxable year, (1) the cost of raw materials and supplies entering into or consumed in connection with the product, (2) expenditures for direct labor, and (3) indirect production costs incident to and necessary for the production of the particular article, including in such indirect production costs an appropriate portion of management expenses, but not including any cost of selling or return on capital, whether by way of interest or profit. See §§1.263A–1 and 1.263A–2 for more specific rules regarding the treatment of production costs.

(d) In any industry in which the usual rules for computation of cost of production are inapplicable, costs may be approximated upon such basis as may be reasonable and in conformity with established trade practice in the particular industry. Among such cases are:

(1) Farmers and raisers of livestock (see §1.471–6);

(2) Miners and manufacturers who by a single process or uniform series of processes derive a product of two or more kinds, sizes, or grades, the unit cost of which is substantially alike (see §1.471–7); and

(3) Retail merchants who use what is known as the ''retail method'' in ascertaining approximate cost (see §1.471–8).

(e) *Sales-based vendor allowances*—(1) *Treatment of sales-based vendor chargebacks*—(i) *In general.* A sales-based vendor chargeback is an allowance, discount, or price rebate that a taxpayer becomes unconditionally entitled to by selling a vendor's merchandise to specific customers identified by the vendor at a price determined by the vendor. A sales-based vendor chargeback decreases cost of goods sold and does not reduce the cost of goods on hand at the end of the taxable year.

(ii) *Example.* The following example illustrates the provisions of this paragraph (e)(1).

Example. (i) W is a wholesaler of pharmaceuticals. W purchases Drug X from the manufacturer, M, for $10x per unit. M has agreements with specific customers that allow those customers to acquire Drug X from M's wholesalers for $6x per unit. Under an agreement between W and M, W is required to sell Drug X to specific customers at the prices M has negotiated with such customers ($6x per unit) and, in exchange, M agrees to provide a price rebate to W equal to the difference between W's cost for Drug X and the price W is required to charge specific customers under the agreement (a difference of $4x per unit). W sells Drug X to specific customer Y for $6x. Under the agreement between W and M, the price rebate can be paid to W, credited against M's invoice to W for W's purchase of Drug X, or it can be credited to W's future purchases of drugs from M.

(ii) Under the terms of the agreement, W is unconditionally entitled to the price rebate of Drug X when it sells Drug X to specific customer Y, a specifically identified customer of M. The price rebate received by W for the sale of Drug X to Y is a sales-based vendor chargeback. Therefore, the amount of the sales-based vendor charge back, $4x per unit for Drug X, whether paid to W, credited against M's invoice to W for W's purchase of Drug X or credited against a future purchase, decreases cost of goods sold and does not reduce the cost of Drug X on hand at the end of the taxable year.

(2) *Treatment of other sales-based vendor allowances.* [Reserved]

(f) Notwithstanding the other rules of this section, cost shall not include an amount which is of a type for which a deduction would be disallowed under section 162 (c), (f), or (g) and the regulations thereunder in the case of a business expense.

(g) *Effective/applicability date.* Paragraph (f) of this section applies to taxable years ending on or after January 13, 2014.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11725, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 7285, 38 FR 26185, Sept. 19, 1973; T.D. 7345, 40 FR 7439, Feb. 20, 1975; T.D. 8131, 52 FR 10084, Mar. 30, 1987; T.D. 8482, 58 FR 42233, Aug. 9, 1993; T.D. 9652, 79 FR 2098, Jan. 13, 2014]

§ 1.471–4 Inventories at cost or market, whichever is lower.

(a) *In general*—(1) *Market definition.* Under ordinary circumstances and for normal goods in an inventory, *market* means the aggregate of the current bid prices prevailing at the date of the inventory of the basic elements of cost reflected in inventories of goods purchased and on hand, goods in process of manufacture, and finished manufactured goods on hand. The basic elements of cost include direct materials, direct labor, and indirect costs required to be included in inventories by the taxpayer (e.g., under section 263A and its underlying regulations for taxpayers subject to that section). For taxpayers to which section 263A applies, for example, the basic elements of cost must reflect all direct costs and all indirect costs properly allocable to goods on hand at the inventory date at the current bid price of those costs, including but not limited to the cost of purchasing, handling, and storage activities conducted by the taxpayer, both prior to and subsequent to acquisition or production of the goods. The determination of the current bid price of the basic elements of costs reflected in goods on hand at the inventory date must be based on the usual volume of particular cost elements purchased (or incurred) by the taxpayer.

(2) *Fixed price contracts.* Paragraph (a)(1) of this section does not apply to any goods on hand or in process of manufacture for delivery upon firm sales contracts (i.e., those not legally subject to cancellation by either party) at fixed prices entered into before the date of the inventory, under which the taxpayer is protected against actual loss. Any such goods must be inventoried at cost.

(3) *Examples.* The valuation principles in paragraph (a)(1) of this section are illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. (i) Taxpayer A manufactures tractors. A values its inventory using cost or market, whichever is lower, under paragraph (a)(1) of this section. At the end of 1994, the cost of one of A's tractors on hand is determined as follows:

Direct materials	$3,000
Direct labor	4,000
Indirect costs under section 263A	3,000
Total section 263A costs (cost)	$10,000

(ii) A determines that the aggregate of the current bid prices of the materials, labor, and overhead required to reproduce the tractor at the end of 1994 are as follows:

Direct materials	$3,100
Direct labor	4,100
Indirect costs under section 263A	3,100
Total section 263A costs (market)	$10,300

(iii) In determining the lower of cost or market value of the tractor, A compares the cost of the tractor, $10,000, with the market value of the tractor, $10,300, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section. Thus, under this section, A values the tractor at $10,000.

Example 2. (i) Taxpayer B purchases and resells several lines of shoes and is subject to section 263A. B values its inventory using cost or market, whichever is lower, under paragraph (a)(1) of this section. At the end of 1994, the cost of one pair of shoes on hand is determined as follows:

Acquisition cost	$200
Indirect costs under section 263A	10
Total section 263A costs (cost)	$210

(ii) B determines the aggregate current bid prices prevailing at the end of 1994 for the elements of cost (both direct costs and indirect costs incurred prior and subsequent to acquisition of the shoes) based on the volume of the elements usually purchased (or incurred) by B as follows:

Acquisition cost	$178
Indirect costs under section 263A	12
Total § 263A costs (market)	$190

(iii) In determining the lower of cost or market value of the shoes, B compares the cost of the pair of shoes, $210, with the market value of the shoes, $190, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section. Thus, under this section, B values the shoes at $190.

(b) *Inactive markets.* Where no open market exists or where quotations are nominal, due to inactive market conditions, the taxpayer must use such evidence of a fair market price at the date or dates nearest the inventory as may be available, such as specific purchases or sales by the taxpayer or others in reasonable volume and made in good faith, or compensation paid for cancellation of contracts for purchase commitments. Where the taxpayer in the regular course of business has offered for sale such merchandise at prices lower than the current price as above defined, the inventory may be valued at such prices less direct cost of disposition, and the correctness of such prices will be determined by reference to the actual sales of the taxpayer for a reasonable period before and after the date of the inventory. Prices which vary materially from the actual prices so ascertained will not be accepted as reflecting the market.

(c) *Comparison of cost and market.* Where the inventory is valued upon the basis of cost or market, whichever is lower, the market value of each article on hand at the inventory date shall be compared with the cost of the article, and the lower of such values shall be taken as the inventory value of the article.

(d) *Effective date.* This section applies to inventory valuations for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1993. For taxable years beginning before January 1, 1994, taxpayers must take reasonable positions on their federal income tax returns with respect to the application of section 263A, and must have otherwise complied with §1.471–4 (as contained in the 26 CFR part 1 edition revised April 1, 1993). For purposes of this paragraph (d), a reasonable position as to the application of section 263A is a position consistent with the temporary regulations, revenue rulings, revenue procedures, notices, and announcements concerning section 263A applicable in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1994. (See §601.601(d)(2)(ii)(*b*) of this chapter.)

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11725, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 8482, 58 FR 42233, Aug. 9, 1993]

§ 1.471–5 Inventories by dealers in securities.

A dealer in securities who in his books of account regularly inventories unsold securities on hand either—

(a) At cost,

(b) At cost or market, whichever is lower, or

(c) At market value,

may make his return upon the basis upon which his accounts are kept, provided that a description of the method employed is included in or attached to the return, that all the securities are inventoried by the same method, and that such method is adhered to in subsequent years, unless another method is authorized by the Commissioner pursuant to a written application therefor filed as provided in paragraph (e) of §1.446–1. A dealer in securities in whose books of account separate computations of the gain or loss from the sale of the various lots of securities sold are made on the basis of the cost of each lot shall be regarded, for the purposes of this section, as regularly inventorying his securities at cost. For the purposes of this section, a dealer in securities is a merchant of securities, whether an individual, partnership, or corporation, with an established place of business, regularly engaged in the purchase of securities and their resale to customers; that is, one who as a merchant buys securities and sells them to customers with a view to the gains and profits that may be derived therefrom. If such business is simply a branch of the activities carried on by such person, the securities inventoried as provided in this section may include only those held for purposes of resale and not for investment. Taxpayers who buy and sell or hold securities for investment or speculation, irrespective of whether such buying or selling constitutes the carrying on of a trade or business, and officers of corporations and members of partnerships who in their individual capacities buy and sell securities, are not dealers in securities within the meaning of this section. See §§1.263A–1 and 1.263A–3 for rules regarding the treatment of costs with respect to property acquired for resale.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11725, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 8131, 52 FR 10084, Mar. 30, 1987; T.D. 8482, 58 FR 42234, Aug. 9, 1993]

§ 1.471–6 Inventories of livestock raisers and other farmers.

(a) A farmer may make his return upon an inventory method instead of the cash receipts and disbursements method. It is optional with the taxpayer which of these methods of accounting is used but, having elected one method, the option so exercised will be binding upon the taxpayer for the year for which the option is exercised and for subsequent years unless another method is authorized by the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of §1.446–1.

(b) In any change of accounting method from the cash receipts and disbursements method to an inventory method, adjustments shall be made as provided in section 481 (relating to adjustments required by change in method of accounting) and the regulations thereunder.

(c) Because of the difficulty of ascertaining actual cost of livestock and other farm products, farmers who render their returns upon an inventory method may value their inventories according to the ''farm-price method'', and farmers raising livestock may value their inventories of animals according to either the ''farm-price method'' or the ''unit-livestock-price method''. In addition, these inventory methods may be used to account for the costs of property produced in a farming business that are required to be capitalized under section 263A regardless of whether the property being produced is otherwise treated as inventory by the taxpayer, and regardless of whether the taxpayer is otherwise using the cash or an accrual method of accounting.

(d) The ''farm-price method'' provides for the valuation of inventories at market price less direct cost of disposition. If this method of valuation is used, it generally must be applied to all property produced by the taxpayer in the trade or business of farming, except as to livestock accounted for, at the taxpayer's election, under the unit livestock method of accounting. However, see §1.263A–4(c)(3) for an exception to this rule. If the use of the ''farm-price method'' of valuing inventories for any taxable year involves a change in method of valuing inventories from that employed in prior years, permission for such change shall first be secured from the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of §1.446–1.

(e) The ''unit-livestock-price method'' provides for the valuation of the different classes of animals in the inventory at a standard unit price for each animal within a class. A livestock raiser electing this method of valuing his animals must adopt a reasonable classification of the animals in his inventory with respect to the age and kind included so that the unit prices assigned to the several classes will reasonably account for the normal costs incurred in producing the animals within such classes. Thus, if a cattle raiser determines that it costs approximately $15 to produce a calf, and $7.50 each year to raise the calf to maturity, his classifications and unit prices would be as follows: Calves, $15; yearlings, $22.50; 2-year olds, $30; mature animals, $37.50. The classification selected by the livestock raiser, and the unit prices assigned to the several classes, are subject to approval by the district director upon examination of the taxpayer's return.

(f) A taxpayer that elects to use the ''unit-livestock-price method'' must apply it to all livestock raised, whether for sale or for draft, breeding, or dairy purposes. The inventoriable costs of animals raised for draft, breeding, or dairy purposes can, at the election of the livestock raiser, be included in inventory or treated as property used in a trade or business subject to depreciation after maturity. *See* §1.263A–4 for rules regarding the computation of inventoriable costs for purposes of the unit-livestock-price method. Once established, the methods of accounting used by the taxpayer to determine unit prices and to classify animals must be consistently applied in all subsequent taxable years. A taxpayer that uses the unit-livestock-price method must annually reevaluate its unit prices and adjust the prices either upward to reflect increases, or downward to reflect decreases, in the costs of raising livestock. The consent of the Commissioner is not required to make such upward or downward adjustments. No other changes in the classification of animals or unit prices may be made without the consent of the Commissioner. *See* §1.446–1(e) for procedures for obtaining the consent of the Commissioner. The provisions of this paragraph (f) apply to taxable years ending after October 28, 2002.

(g) A livestock raiser who uses the ''unit-livestock-price method'' must include in his inventory at cost any livestock purchased, except that animals purchased for draft, breeding, or dairy purposes can, at the election of the livestock raiser, be included in inventory or be treated as property used in a trade or business subject to depreciation after maturity. If the animals purchased are not mature at the time of purchase, the cost should be increased at the end of each taxable year in accordance with the established unit prices, except that no increase is to be made in the taxable year of purchase if the animal is acquired during the last six months of that year. If the records maintained permit identification of a purchased animal, the cost of such animal will be eliminated from the closing inventory in the event of its sale or loss. Otherwise, the first-in, first-out method of valuing inventories must be applied.

(h) If a taxpayer using the ''farm-price method'' desires to adopt the ''unit-livestock-price method'' in valuing his inventories of livestock, permission for the change shall first be secured from the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of § 1.446–1. However, a taxpayer who has filed returns on the basis of inventories at cost, or cost or market whichever is lower, may adopt the ''unit-livestock-price method'' for valuing his inventories of livestock without formal application for permission, but the classifications and unit prices selected are subject to approval by the district director upon examination of the taxpayer's return. A livestock raiser who has adopted a constant unit-price method of valuing livestock inventories and filed returns on that basis will be considered as having elected the ''unit-livestock-price method''.

(i) If returns have been made in which the taxable income has been computed upon incomplete inventories, the abnormality should be corrected by submitting with the return for the current taxable year a statement for the preceding taxable year. In this statement such adjustments shall be made as are necessary to bring the closing inventory for the preceding taxable year into agreement with the opening complete inventory for the current taxable year. If necessary clearly to reflect income, similar adjustments may be made as at the beginning of the preceding year or years, and the tax, if any be due, shall be assessed and paid at the rate of tax in effect for such year or years.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11726, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 8131, 52 FR 10084, Mar. 30, 1987; T.D. 8729, 62 FR 44551, Aug. 22, 1997; T.D. 8897, 65 FR 50650, Aug. 21, 2000; T.D. 9019, 67 FR 65698, Oct. 28, 2002]

§ 1.471–7 Inventories of miners and manufacturers.

A taxpayer engaged in mining or manufacturing who by a single process or uniform series of processes derives a product of two or more kinds, sizes, or grades, the unit cost of which is substantially alike, and who in conformity to a recognized trade practice allocates an amount of cost to each kind, size, or grade of product, which in the aggregate will absorb the total cost of production, may, with the consent of the Commissioner, use such allocated cost as a basis for pricing inventories, provided such allocation bears a reasonable relation to the respective selling values of the different kinds, sizes, or grades of product. See section 472 as to last-in, first-out inventories.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11726, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.471–8 Inventories of retail merchants.

(a) Retail merchants who employ what is known as the ''retail method'' of pricing inventories may make their returns upon that method, provided that the use of such method is designated upon the return, that accurate accounts are kept, and that such method is consistently adhered to unless a change is authorized by the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of § 1.446–1. Under the retail method the total of the retail selling prices of the goods on hand at the end of the year in each department or of each class of goods is reduced to approximate cost by deducting therefrom an amount which bears the same ratio to such total as—

(1) The total of the retail selling prices of the goods included in the opening inventory plus the retail selling prices of the goods purchased during the year, with proper adjustment to such selling prices for all mark-ups and mark-downs, less

(2) The cost of the goods included in the opening inventory plus the cost of the goods purchased during the year, bears to (1).

The result should represent as accurately as may be the amounts added to the cost price of the goods to cover selling and other expenses of doing business and for the margin of profit. See §§ 1.263A–1 and 1.263A–3 for rules regarding the computation of costs with respect to property acquired for resale.

(b) For further adjustments to be made in the case of a retail merchant using the last-in, first-out inventory method authorized by section 472, see paragraph (k) of § 1.472–1.

(c) A taxpayer maintaining more than one department in his store or dealing in classes of goods carrying different percentages of gross profit should not use a percentage of profit based upon an average of his entire business, but should compute and use in valuing his inventory the proper percentages for the respective departments or classes of goods.

(d) A taxpayer (other than one using the last-in, first-out inventory method) who previously has determined inventories in accordance with the retail method, except that, to obtain a basis of approximate cost or market, whichever is lower, has consistently and uniformly followed the practice of adjusting the retail selling prices of the goods included in the opening inventory and purchased during the taxable year for mark-ups but not for mark-downs, may continue such practice subject to the conditions prescribed in this section. The adjustments must be bona fide and consistent and uniform. Where mark-downs are not included in the adjustments, mark-ups made to cancel or correct mark-downs shall not be included; and the mark-ups included must be reduced by the mark-downs made to cancel or correct such mark-ups.

(e) In no event shall mark-downs not based on actual reduction of retail sale prices, such as mark-downs based on depreciation and obsolescence, be recognized in determining the retail selling prices of the goods on hand at the end of the taxable year.

(f) A taxpayer (other than one using the last-in, first-out inventory method) who previously has determined inventories without following the practice of eliminating mark-downs in making adjustments to retail selling prices may adopt such practice, provided permission to do so is obtained in accordance with, and subject to the terms provided by, paragraph (e) of §1.446–1. A taxpayer filing a first return of income may adopt such practice subject to approval by the district director upon examination of the return.

(g) A taxpayer using the last-in, first-out inventory method in conjunction with retail computations must adjust retail selling prices for mark-downs as well as mark-ups, in order that there may be reflected the approximate cost of the goods on hand at the end of the taxable year regardless of market values.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11726, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 8131, 52 FR 10084, Mar. 30, 1987; T.D. 8482, 58 FR 42234, Aug. 9, 1993]

§ 1.471–9 Inventories of acquiring corporations.

For additional rules in the case of certain corporate acquisitions specified in section 381(a), see section 381(c)(5) and the regulations thereunder.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11727, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.471–10 Applicability of long-term contract methods.

See §1.460–2 for rules providing for the application of the long-term contract methods to certain manufacturing contracts.

[T.D. 8067, 51 FR 393, Jan. 6, 1986, as amended by T.D. 8929, 66 FR 2240, Jan. 11, 2001]

§ 1.471–11 Inventories of manufacturers.

(a) *Use of full absorption method of inventory costing.* In order to conform as nearly as may be possible to the best accounting practices and to clearly reflect income (as required by section 471 of the Code), both direct and indirect production costs must be taken into account in the computation of inventoriable costs in accordance with the ''full absorption'' method of inventory costing. Under the full absorption method of inventory costing production costs must be allocated to goods produced during the taxable year, whether sold during the taxable year or in inventory at the close of the taxable year determined in accordance with the taxpayer's method of identifying goods in inventory. Thus, the taxpayer must include as inventoriable costs all direct production costs and, to the extent provided by paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, all indirect production costs. For purposes of this section, the term ''financial reports'' means financial reports (including consolidated financial statements) to shareholders, partners, beneficiaries or other proprietors and for credit purposes. See also §1.263A–1T with respect to the treatment of production costs incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1986, and before January 1, 1994. See also §§1.263A–1 and 1.263A–2 with respect to the treatment of production costs incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1993.

(b) *Production costs*—(1) *In general.* Costs are considered to be production costs to the extent that they are incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes. Production costs include direct production costs and fixed and variable indirect production costs.

(2) *Direct production costs.* (i) Costs classified as ''direct production costs'' are generally those costs which are incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes and are components of the cost of either direct material or direct labor. Direct material costs include the cost of those materials which become an integral part of the specific product and those materials which are consumed in the ordinary course of manufacturing and can be identified or associated with particular units or groups of units of that product. See §1.471–3 for the elements of direct material costs. Direct labor costs include the cost of labor which can be identified or associated with particular units or groups of units of a specific product. The elements of direct labor costs include such items as basic compensation, overtime pay, vacation and holiday pay, sick leave pay (other than payments pursuant to a wage continuation plan under section 105(d)), shift differential, payroll taxes and payments to a supplemental unemployment benefit plan paid or incurred on behalf of employees engaged in direct labor. For the treatment of rework labor, scrap, spoilage costs, and any other costs not specifically described as direct production costs see §1.471–11(c)(2).

(ii) Under the full absorption method, a taxpayer must take into account all items of direct production cost in his inventoriable costs. Nevertheless, a taxpayer will not be treated as using an incorrect method of inventory costing if he treats any direct production costs as indirect production costs, provided such costs are allocated to the taxpayer's ending inventory to the extent provided by paragraph (d) of this section. Thus, for example, a taxpayer may treat direct labor costs as part of indirect production costs (for example, by use of the conversion cost method), provided all such costs are allocated to ending inventory to the extent provided by paragraph (d) of this section.

(3) *Indirect production costs*—(i) *In general.* The term ''indirect production costs'' includes all costs which are incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes other than direct production costs (as defined in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph). Indirect production costs may be classified as to kind or type in accordance with acceptable accounting principles so as to enable convenient identification with various production or manufacturing activities or functions and to facilitate reasonable groupings of such costs for purposes of determining unit product costs.

(ii) *Fixed and variable classifications.* For purposes of this section, fixed indirect production costs are generally those costs which do not vary significantly with changes in the amount of goods produced at any given level of production capacity. These fixed costs may include, among other costs, rent and property taxes on buildings and machinery incident to and necessary for manufacturing operations or processes. On the other hand, variable indirect production costs are generally those costs which do vary significantly with changes in the amount of goods produced at any given level of production capacity. These variable costs may include, among other costs, indirect materials, factory janitorial supplies, and utilities. Where a particular cost contains both fixed and variable elements, these elements should be segregated into fixed and variable classifications to the extent necessary under the taxpayer's method of allocation, such as for the application of the practical capacity concept (as described in paragraph (d) (4) of this section).

(c) *Certain indirect and production costs*—(1) *General rule.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(3) of this section and in paragraph (d)(6)(v) of §1.451–3, in order to determine whether indirect production costs referred to in paragraph (b) of this section must be included in a taxpayer's computation of the amount of inventoriable costs, three categories of costs have been provided in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph. Costs described in subparagraph (2)(i) of this paragraph must be included in the taxpayer's computation of the amount of inventoriable costs, regardless of their treatment by the taxpayer in his financial reports. Costs described in subparagraph (2)(ii) of this paragraph need not enter into the taxpayer's computation of the amount of inventoriable costs, regardless of their treatment by the taxpayer in his financial reports. Costs described in subparagraph (2)(iii) of this paragraph must be included in or excluded from the taxpayer's computation of the amount inventoriable costs in accordance with the treatment of such costs by the taxpayer in his financial reports and generally accepted accounting principles. For the treatment of indirect production costs described in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph in the case of a taxpayer who is not using comparable methods of accounting for such costs for tax and financial reporting see paragraph (c)(3) of this section. For contracts entered into after December 31, 1982, notwithstanding this section, taxpayers who use an inventory method of accounting for extended period long-term contracts (as defined in paragraph (b)(3) of §1.451–3) for tax purposes may be required to use the cost allocation rules provided in paragraph (d)(6) of §1.451–3 rather than the cost allocation rules provided in this section. See paragraph (d)(6)(v) of §1.451–3. After a taxpayer has determined which costs must be treated as indirect production costs includible in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs, such costs must be allocated to a taxpayer's ending inventory in a manner prescribed by paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) *Includibility of certain indirect production costs*—(i) *Indirect production* costs included in inventoriable costs. Indirect production costs which must enter into the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs (regardless of their treatment by a taxpayer in his financial reports) include:

(*a*) Repair expenses,

(*b*) Maintenance,

(*c*) Utilities, such as heat, power and light,

(*d*) Rent,

(*e*) Indirect labor and production supervisory wages, including basic compensation, overtime pay, vacation and holiday pay, sick leave pay (other than payments pursuant to a wage continuation plan under section 105(d), shift differential, payroll taxes and contributions to a supplemental unemployment benefit plan,

(*f*) Indirect materials and supplies,

(*g*) Tools and equipment not capitalized, and

(*h*) Costs of quality control and inspection,

to the extent, and only to the extent, such costs are incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes.

(ii) *Costs not included in inventoriable costs*. Costs which are not required to be included for tax purposes in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs (regardless of their treatment by a taxpayer in his financial reports) include:

(*a*) Marketing expenses,

(*b*) Advertising expenses,

(*c*) Selling expenses,

(*d*) Other distribution expenses,

(*e*) Interest,

(*f*) Research and experimental expenses including engineering and product development expenses,

(*g*) Losses under section 165 and the regulations thereunder,

(*h*) Percentage depletion in excess of cost depletion,

(*i*) Depreciation and amortization reported for Federal income tax purposes in excess of depreciation reported by the taxpayer in his financial reports,

(*j*) Income taxes attributable to income received on the sale of inventory,

(*k*) Pension contributions to the extent that they represent past services cost,

(*l*) General and administrative expenses incident to and necessary for the taxpayer's activities as a whole rather than to production or manufacturing operations or processes, and

(*m*) Salaries paid to officers attributable to the performance of services which are incident to and necessary for the taxpayer's activities taken as a whole rather than to production or manufacturing operations or processes.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if a taxpayer consistently includes in his computation of the amount of inventoriable costs any of the costs described in the preceding sentence, a change in such method of inclusion shall be considered a change in method of accounting within the meaning of sections 446, 481, and paragraph (e)(4) of this section.

(iii) *Indirect production costs includible in inventoriable costs depending upon treatment in taxpayer's financial reports.* In the case of costs listed in this subdivision, the inclusion or exclusion of such costs from the amount of inventoriable costs for purposes of a taxpayer's financial reports shall determine whether such costs must be included in or excluded from the computation of inventoriable costs for tax purposes, but only if such treatment is not inconsistent with generally accepted accounting principles. In the case of costs which are not included in subdivision (i) or (ii) of this subparagraph, nor listed in this subdivision, whether such costs must be included in or excluded from the computation of inventoriable costs for tax purposes depends upon the extent to which such costs are similar to costs included in subdivision (i) or (ii), and if such costs are dissimilar to costs in subdivision (i) or (ii), such costs shall be treated as included in or excludable from the amount of inventoriable costs in accordance with this subdivision. The costs listed in this subdivision are:

(*a*) *Taxes.* Taxes otherwise allowable as a deduction under section 164 (other than State and local and foreign income taxes) attributable to assets incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes. Thus, for example, the cost of State and local property taxes imposed on a factory or other production facility and any State and local taxes imposed on inventory must be included in or excluded from the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs for tax purposes depending upon their treatment by a taxpayer in his financial reports.

(*b*) *Depreciation and depletion.* Depreciation reported in financial reports and cost depletion on assets incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes. In computing cost depletion under this section, the adjusted basis of such assets shall be reduced by cost depletion and not by percentage depletion taken thereon.

(*c*) *Employee benefits.* Pension and profit-sharing contributions representing current service costs otherwise allowable as a deduction under section 404, and other employee benefits incurred on behalf of labor incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes. These other benefits include workmen's compensation expenses, payments under a wage continuation plan described in section 105(d), amounts of a type which would be includible in the gross income of employees under nonqualified pension, profit-sharing and stock bonus plans, premiums on life and health insurance and miscellaneous benefits provided for employees such as safety, medical treatment, cafeteria, recreational facilities, membership dues, etc., which are otherwise allowable as deductions under chapter 1 of the Code.

(*d*) *Costs attributable to strikes, rework labor, scrap and spoilage.* Costs attributable to rework labor, scrap and spoilage which are incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes and costs attributable to strikes incident to production or manufacturing operation or processes.

(*e*) *Factory administrative expenses.* Administrative costs of production (but not including any cost of selling or any return on capital) incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes.

(*f*) *Officers' salaries.* Salaries paid to officers attributable to services performed incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes.

(*g*) *Insurance costs.* Insurance costs incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes such as insurance on production machinery and equipment. A change in the taxpayer's treatment in his financial reports of costs described in this subdivision which results in a change in treatment of such costs for tax purposes shall constitute a change in method of accounting within the meaning of sections 446 and 481 to which paragraph (e) applies.

(3) *Exception.* Except as provided in paragraph (d)(6) of §1.451–3, in the case of a taxpayer whose method of accounting for production costs in his financial reports is not comparable to his method of accounting for such costs for tax purposes (such as a taxpayer using the prime cost method for purposes of financial reports), the following rules apply:

(i) *Indirect production costs included in inventoriable costs.* Indirect production costs which must enter into the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs (to the extent, and only to the extent, such costs are incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes) include:

(*a*) Repair expenses,

(*b*) Maintenance,

(*c*) Utilities, such as heat, power and light,

(*d*) Rent,

(*e*) Indirect labor and production supervisory wages, including basic compensation, overtime pay, vacation and holiday pay, sick leave pay (other than payments pursuant to a wage continuation plan under section 105(d)), shift differential, payroll taxes and contributions to a supplemental unemployment benefit plan,

(*f*) Indirect materials and supplies,

(*g*) Tools and equipment not capitalized,

(*h*) Costs of quality control and inspection,

(*i*) Taxes otherwise allowable as a deduction under section 164 (other than State and local and foreign income taxes),

(*j*) Depreciation and amortization reported for financial purposes and cost depletion,

(*k*) Administrative costs of production (but not including any cost of selling or any return on capital) incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes,

(*l*) Salaries paid to officers attributable to services performed incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes, and

(*m*) Insurance costs incident to and necessary for production or manufacturing operations or processes such as insurance on production machinery and equipment.

(ii) *Costs not included in inventoriable costs.* Costs which are not required to be included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs include:

(*a*) Marketing expenses,

(*b*) Advertising expenses,

(*c*) Selling expenses,

(*d*) Other distribution expenses,

(*e*) Interest,

(*f*) Research and experimental expenses including engineering and product development expenses,

(*g*) Losses under section 165 and the regulations thereunder,

(*h*) Percentage depletion in excess of cost depletion,

(*i*) Depreciation reported for Federal income tax purposes in excess of depreciation reported by the taxpayer in his financial reports,

(*j*) Income taxes attributable to income received on the sale of inventory,

(*k*) Pension and profit-sharing contributions representing either past service costs or representing current service costs otherwise allowable as a deduction under section 404, and other employee benefits incurred on behalf of labor. These other benefits include workmen's compensation expenses, payments under a wage continuation plan described in section 105(d), amounts of a type which would be includible in the gross income of employees under nonqualified pension, profit-sharing and stock bonus plans, premiums on life and health insurance and miscellaneous benefits provided for employees such as safety, medical treatment, cafeteria, recreational facilities, membership dues, etc., which are otherwise allowable as deductions under chapter 1 of the Code,

(*l*) Cost attributable to strikes, rework labor, scrap and spoilage,

(*m*) General and administrative expenses incident to and necessary for the taxpayer's activities as a whole rather than to production or manufacturing operations or processes, and

(*n*) Salaries paid to officers attributable to the performance of services which are incident to and necessary for the taxpayer's activities as a whole rather than to production or manufacturing operations or processes.

(d) *Allocation methods*—(1) *In general.* Indirect production costs required to be included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this paragraph must be allocated to goods in a taxpayer's ending inventory (determined in accordance with the taxpayer's method of identification) by the use of a method of allocation which fairly apportions such costs among the various items produced. Acceptable methods for allocating indirect production costs to the cost of goods in the ending inventory include the manufacturing burden rate method and the standard cost method. In addition, the practical capacity concept can be used in conjunction with either the manufacturing burden rate or standard cost method.

(2) *Manufacturing burden rate method*—(i) *In general.* Manufacturing burden rates may be developed in accordance with acceptable accounting principles and applied in a reasonable manner. In developing a manufacturing burden rate, the factors described in paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of this section may be taken into account. Furthermore, if the taxpayer chooses, he may allocate different indirect production costs on the basis of different manufacturing burden rates. Thus, for example, the taxpayer may use one burden rate for allocating rent and another burden rate for allocating utilities. The method used by the taxpayer in allocating such costs in his financial reports shall be given great weight in determining whether the taxpayer's method employed for tax purposes fairly allocates indirect production costs to the ending inventory. Any change in a manufacturing burden rate which is merely a periodic adjustment to reflect current operating conditions, such as increases in automation or changes in operation, does not constitute a change in method of accounting under section 446. However, a change in the concept upon which such rates are developed does constitute a change in method of accounting requiring the consent of the Commissioner. The taxpayer shall maintain adequate records and working papers to support all manufacturing burden rate calculations.

(ii) *Development of manufacturing burden rate.* The following factors, among others, may be taken into account in developing manufacturing burden rates:

(*a*) The selection of an appropriate level of activity and period of time upon which to base the calculation of rates which will reflect operating conditions for purposes of the unit costs being determined;

(*b*) The selection of an appropriate statistical base such as direct labor hours, direct labor dollars, or machine hours, or a combination thereof, upon which to apply the overhead rate to determine production costs; and

(*c*) The appropriate budgeting, classification and analysis of expenses (for example, the analysis of fixed and variable costs).

(iii) *Operation of the manufacturing burden rate method.* (*a*) The purpose of the manufacturing burden rate method used in conjunction with the full absorption method of inventory costing is to allocate an appropriate amount of indirect production costs to a taxpayer's goods in ending inventory by the use of predetermined rates intended to approximate the actual amount of indirect production costs incurred. Accordingly, the proper use of the manufacturing burden rate method under this section requires that any net negative or net positive difference between the total predetermined amount of indirect production costs allocated to the goods in ending inventory and the total amount of indirect production costs actually incurred and required to be allocated to such goods (i.e., the under or over-applied burden) must be treated as an adjustment to the taxpayer's ending inventory in the taxable year in which such difference arises. However, if such adjustment is not significant in amount in relation to the taxpayer's total actual indirect production costs for the year then such adjustment need not be allocated to the taxpayer's goods in ending inventory unless such allocation is made in the taxpayer's financial reports. The taxpayer must treat both positive and negative adjustments consistently.

(*b*) Notwithstanding subdivision (*a*), the practical capacity concept may be used to determine the total amount of fixed indirect production costs which must be allocated to goods in ending inventory. See subparagraph (4) of this paragraph.

(3) *Standard cost method*—(i) *In general.* A taxpayer may use the so-called "standard cost" method of allocating inventoriable costs to the goods in ending inventory, provided he treats variances in accordance with the procedures prescribed in paragraph (d)(3)(ii) of this section. The method used by the taxpayer in allocating such costs in his financial reports shall be given great weight in determining whether the taxpayer's method employed for tax purposes fairly allocates indirect production costs to the ending inventory. For purposes of this subparagraph, a "net positive overhead variance" shall mean the excess of total standard (or estimated) indirect production costs over total actual indirect production costs and a "net negative overhead variance" shall mean the excess of total actual indirect production costs over total standard (or estimated) indirect production costs.

(ii) *Treatment of variances.* (*a*) The proper use of the standard cost method pursuant to this subparagraph requires that a taxpayer must reallocate to the goods in ending inventory a pro rata portion of any net negative or net positive overhead variances and any net negative or net positive direct production cost variances. The taxpayer must apportion such variances among his various items in ending inventory. However, if such variances are not significant in amount in relation to the taxpayer's total actual indirect production costs for the year then such variances need not be allocated to the taxpayer's goods in ending inventory unless such allocation is made in the taxpayer's financial reports. The taxpayer must treat both positive and negative variances consistently.

(*b*) Notwithstanding subdivision (*a*), the practical capacity concept may be used to determine the total amount of fixed indirect production costs which must be allocated to goods in ending inventory. See subparagraph (4) of this paragraph.

(4) *Practical capacity concept*—(i) *In general.* Under the practical capacity concept, the percentage of practical capacity represented by actual production (not greater than 100 percent), as calculated under subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph, is used to determine the total amount of fixed indirect production costs which must be included in the taxpayer's computation of the amount of inventoriable costs. The portion of such costs to be included in the taxpayer's computation of the amount of inventoriable costs is then combined with variable indirect production costs and both are allocated to the goods in ending inventory in accordance with this paragraph. See the example in subdivision (ii)(*d*) of this subparagraph. The difference (if any) between the amount of all fixed indirect production costs and the fixed indirect production costs which are included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs under the practical capacity concept is allowable as a deduction for the taxable year in which such difference occurs.

(ii) *Calculation of practical capacity*—(*a*) *In general.* Practical capacity and theoretical capacity (as described in (*c*) of this subdivision) may be computed in terms of tons, pounds, yards, labor hours, machine hours, or any other unit of production appropriate to the cost accounting system used by a particular taxpayer. The determination of practical capacity and theoretical capacity should be modified from time to time to reflect a change in underlying facts and conditions such as increased output due to automation or other changes in plant operation. Such a change does not constitute a change in method of accounting under sections 446 and 481.

(*b*) *Based upon taxpayer's experience.* In selecting an appropriate level of production activity upon which to base the calculation of practical capacity, the taxpayer shall establish the production operating conditions expected during the period for which the costs are being determined, assuming that the utilization of production facilities during operations will be approximately at capacity. This level of production activity is frequently described as practical capacity for the period and is ordinarily based upon the historical experience of the taxpayer. For example, a taxpayer operating on a 5-day, 8-hour basis may have a ''normal'' production of 100,000 units a year based upon three years of experience.

(*c*) *Based upon theoretical capacity*. Practical capacity may also be established by the use of ''theoretical'' capacity, adjusted for allowances for estimated inability to achieve maximum production, such as machine breakdown, idle time, and other normal work stoppages. Theoretical capacity is the level of production the manufacturer could reach if all machines and departments were operated continously at peak efficiency.

(*d*) *Example*. The provisions of (*c*) of this subdivision may be illustrated by the following example:

Corporation X operates a stamping plant with a theoretical capacity of 50 units per hour. The plant actually operates 1960 hours per year based on an 8-hour day, 5 day week basis and 15 shutdown days for vacations and holidays. A reasonable allowance for down time (the time allowed for ordinary and necessary repairs and maintenance) is 5 percent of practical capacity before reduction for down time. Assuming no loss of production during starting up, closing down, or employee work breaks, under these facts and circumstances X may properly make a practical capacity computation as follows:

Practical capacity without allowance for down time based on theoretical capacity per hour is (1960×50)	98,000
Reduction for down time (98,000×5 percent)	4,900
Practical capacity	93,100

The 93,100 unit level of activity (*i.e.*, practical capacity) would, therefore, constitute an appropriate base for calculating the amount of fixed indirect production costs to be included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs for the period under review. On this basis if only 76,000 units were produced for the period, the effect would be that approximately 81.6 percent (76,000, the actual number of units produced, divided by 93,100, the maximum number of units producible at practical capacity) of the fixed indirect production costs would be included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs during the year. The portion of the fixed indirect production costs not so included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs would be deductible in the year in which paid or incurred. Assume further that 7,600 units were on hand at the end of the taxable year and the 7,600 units were in the same proportion to the total units produced. Thus, 10 percent (7,600 units in inventory at the end of the taxable year, divided by 76,000, the actual number of units produced) of the fixed indirect production costs included in the computation of the amount of inventoriable costs (the above-mentioned 81.6 percent) and 10 percent of the variable indirect production costs would be included in the cost of the goods in the ending inventory, in accordance with a method of allocation provided by this paragraph.

(e) *Transition to full absorption method of inventory costing*—(1) *In general*—(i) *Mandatory requirement*. A taxpayer not using the full absorption method of inventory costing, as prescribed by paragraph (a) of this section, must change to that method. Any change to the full absorption method must be made by the taxpayer with respect to all trades or businesses of the taxpayer to which this section applies. A taxpayer not using the full absorption method of inventory costing, as prescribed by paragraph (a) of this section, who makes the special election provided in subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph during the transition period described in subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph need not change to the full absorption method of inventory costing for taxable years prior to the year for which such election is made. In determining whether the taxpayer is changing to a more or less inclusive method of inventory costing, all positive and negative adjustments for all items and all trades or businesses of the taxpayer shall be aggregated. If the net adjustment is positive, paragraph (e)(3) shall apply, and if the net adjustment is negative, paragraph (e)(4) shall apply to the change. The rules otherwise prescribed in sections 446 and 481 and the regulations thereunder shall apply to any taxpayer who fails to make the special election in subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph. The transition rules of this paragraph are available only to those taxpayers who change their method of inventory costing.

(ii) *Special election during two-year-transition period*. If a taxpayer elects to change to the full absorption method of inventory costing during the transition period provided herein, he may elect on Form 3115 to change to such full absorption method of inventory costing and, in so doing, employ the transition procedures and adopt any of the transition methods prescribed in subparagraph (3) of this paragraph. Such election shall be made during the first 180 days of any taxable year beginning on or after September 19, 1973 and before September 19, 1975 (i.e., the ''transition period'') and the change in inventory costing method shall be made for the taxable year in which the election is made. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence if the taxpayer's prior returns have been examined by the Service prior to Sept. 19, 1973, and there is a pending issue involving the taxpayer's method of inventory costing, the taxpayer may request the application of this regulation by agreeing and filing a letter to that effect with the district director, within 90 days after September 19, 1973 to change to the full absorption method for the first taxable year of the taxpayer beginning after Sept. 19, 1973 and subsequently filing Form 3115 within the first 180 days of such taxable year of change.

(iii) *Change initiated by the Commissioner*. A taxpayer who properly makes an election under subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph shall be considered to have made a change in method of accounting not initiated by the taxpayer, notwithstanding the provisions of §1.481–1(c)(5). Thus, any of the taxpayer's ''pre-1954 inventory balances'' with respect to such inventory shall not be taken into account as an adjustment under section 481. For purposes of this paragraph, a ''pre-1954 inventory balance'' is the net amount of the adjustments which would have been required if the taxpayer had made such change in his method of accounting with respect to his inventory in his first taxable year which began after December 31, 1953, and ended after August 16, 1954. See section 481(a)(2) and §1.481–3.

(2) *Procedural rules for change*. If a taxpayer makes an election pursuant to subparagraph (1)(ii) of this paragraph, the Commissioner's consent will be evidenced by a letter of consent to the taxpayer, setting forth the values of inventory, as provided by the taxpayer, determined under the full absorption method of inventory costing, except to the extent that no determination of such values is necessary under subparagraph (3)(ii)(B) of this paragraph (the cut off method), the amount of the adjustments (if any) required to be taken into account by section 481, and the treatment to be accorded to any such adjustments. Such full absorption values shall be subject to verification on examination by the district director. The taxpayer shall preserve at his principal place of business all records, data, and other evidence relating to the full absorption values of inventory.

(3) *Transition methods*. In the case of a taxpayer who properly makes an election under subparagraph (1)(ii) of this paragraph during the transition period—

(i) *10-year adjustment period*. Such taxpayer may elect to take any adjustment required by section 481 with respect to any inventory being revalued under the full absorption method into account ratably over a period designated by the taxpayer at the time of such election, not to exceed the lesser of 10 taxable years commencing with the year of transition or the number of years the taxpayer has been on the inventory method from which he is changing. If the taxpayer dies or ceases to exist in a transaction other than one to which section 381(a) of the Code applies or if the taxpayer's inventory (determined under the full absorption method) on the last day of any taxable year is reduced (by other than a strike or involuntary conversion) by more than an amount equal to 33⅓ percent of the taxpayer's inventory (determined under the full absorption method) as of the beginning of the year of change, the entire amount of the section 481 adjustment not previously taken into account in computing income shall be taken into account in computing income for the taxable year in which such taxpayer so ceases to exist or such taxpayer's inventory is so reduced.

(ii) *Additional rules for LIFO taxpayers*. A taxpayer who uses the LIFO method of inventory identification may either—

(*a*) Employ the special transition rules described in subdivision (i) of this subparagraph. Accordingly, all LIFO layers must be revalued under the full absorption method and the section 481 adjustment must be computed for all items in all layers in inventory, but no pre-1954 inventory balances shall be taken into account as adjustments under section 481; or

(*b*)(*1*) Employ a cut-off method whereby the full absorption method is only applied in costing layers of inventory acquired during all taxable years beginning with the year for which an election is made under subparagraph (e)(1)(ii).

(*2*) In the case of a taxpayer using dollar value LIFO, employ a cut-off method whereby the taxpayer must use, for the year of change, the full absorption method in computing the base year cost and current cost of a dollar value inventory pool for the beginning of such year. The taxpayer shall not be required to recompute his LIFO inventories based on the full absorption method for a taxable year beginning prior to the year of change to the full absorption method. The base cost and layers of increment previously computed shall be retained and treated as if such base cost and layers of increment had been computed under the method authorized by this section. The taxpayer shall use the year of change as the base year in applying the double extension method or other method approved by the Commissioner, instead of the earliest year for which he adopted the LIFO method for any items in the pool.

(4) *Transition to full absorption method of inventory costing from a method more* inclusive of indirect production costs—(i) *Taxpayer has not previously changed to his present method pursuant to subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this paragraph.* If a taxpayer wishes to change to the full absorption method of inventory costing (as prescribed by paragraph (a) of this section) from a method of inventory costing which is more inclusive of indirect production costs and he has not previously changed to his present method by use of the special transition rules provided by subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this paragraph, he may elect on Form 3115 to change to the full absorption method of inventory costing and, in so doing, take into account any resulting section 481 adjustment generally over 10 taxable years commencing with the year of transition. The Commissioner's consent to such election will be evidenced by a letter of consent to the taxpayer setting forth the values of inventory, as provided by the taxpayer determined under the full absorption method of inventory costing, except to the extent that no determination of such values is necessary under subparagraph (3)(ii)(*b*) of this paragraph, the amount of the adjustments (if any) required to be taken into account by section 481, and the treatment to be accorded such adjustments, subject to terms and conditions specified by the Commissioner to prevent distortions of income. Such election must be made within the transition period described in subparagraph (1)(ii) of this paragraph. A change pursuant to this subparagraph shall be a change initiated by the taxpayer as provided by § 1.481–1(c)(5). Thus, any of the taxpayers ''pre-1954 inventory balances'' will be taken into account as an adjustment under section 481.

(ii) *Taxpayer has previously changed to his present method pursuant to subparagraph (1), (2), and (3) of this paragraph or would satisfy all the requirements of subdivision (i) of this subparagraph but fails to elect within the transition period.* If a taxpayer wishes to change to the full absorption method of inventory costing (as prescribed by paragraph (a) of this section) from a method of inventory costing which is more inclusive of indirect production costs and he has previously changed to his present method pursuant to subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this paragraph or he would satisfy the requirements of subdivision (i) of this subparagraph but he fails to elect within the transition period, he must secure the consent of the Commissioner prior to making such change.

[T.D. 7285, 38 FR 26185, Sept. 19, 1973, as amended by T.D. 8067, 51 FR 393, Jan. 6, 1986; T.D. 8131, 52 FR 10084, Mar. 30, 1987; T.D. 8482, 58 FR 42234, Aug. 9, 1993]

§ 1.472–1 Last-in, first-out inventories.

(a) Any taxpayer permitted or required to take inventories pursuant to the provisions of section 471, and pursuant to the provisions of §§ 1.471–1 to 1.471–9, inclusive, may elect with respect to those goods specified in his application and properly subject to inventory to compute his opening and closing inventories in accordance with the method provided by section 472, this section, and § 1.472–2. Under this last-in, first-out (LIFO) inventory method, the taxpayer is permitted to treat those goods remaining on hand at the close of the taxable year as being:

(1) Those included in the opening inventory of the taxable year, in the order of acquisition and to the extent thereof, and

(2) Those acquired during the taxable year.

The LIFO inventory method is not dependent upon the character of the business in which the taxpayer is engaged, or upon the identity or want of identity through commingling of any of the goods on hand, and may be adopted by the taxpayer as of the close of any taxable year.

(b) If the LIFO inventory method is used by a taxpayer who regularly and consistently, in a manner similar to hedging on a futures market, matches purchases with sales, then firm purchases and sales contracts (i.e., those not legally subject to cancellation by either party) entered into at fixed prices on or before the date of the inventory may be included in purchases or sales, as the case may be, for the purpose of determining the cost of goods sold and the resulting profit or loss, provided that this practice is regularly and consistently adhered to by the taxpayer and provided that, in the opinion of the Commissioner, income is clearly reflected thereby.

(c) A manufacturer or processor who has adopted the LIFO inventory method as to a class of goods may elect to have such method apply to the raw materials only (including those included in goods in process and in finished goods) expressed in terms of appropriate units. If such method is adopted, the adjustments are confined to costs of the raw material in the inventory and the cost of the raw material in goods in process and in finished goods produced by such manufacturer or processor and reflected in the inventory. The provisions of this paragraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. Assume that the opening inventory had 10 units of raw material, 10 units of goods in process, and 10 units of finished goods, and that the raw material cost was 6 cents a unit, the processing cost 2 cents a unit, and overhead cost 1 cent a unit. For the purposes of this example, it is assumed that the entire amount of goods in process was 50 percent processed.

OPENING INVENTORY

	Raw material	Goods in process	Finished goods
Raw material	$0.60	$0.60	$0.60
Processing cost	....	.10	.20
Overhead	....	.05	.10

In the closing inventory there are 20 units of raw material, 6 units of goods in process, and 8 units of finished goods and the costs were: Raw material 10 cents, processing cost 4 cents, and overhead 1 cent.

CLOSING INVENTORY

[Based on cost and prior to adjustment]

	Raw material	Goods in process	Finished goods
Raw material	$2.00	$0.60	$0.80
Processing costs	....	.12	.32
Overhead	....	.03	.08
Total	2.00	.75	1.20

There were 30 units of raw material in the opening inventory and 34 units in the closing inventory. The adjustment to the closing inventory would be as follows:

CLOSING INVENTORY AS ADJUSTED

	Raw material	Goods in process	Finished goods
Raw material:			
20 at 6 cents	$1.20	....	....
6 at 6 cents	....	$0.36	....
4 at 6 cents	....	....	$0.24
4 at 10 cents [1]	....	....	.40
Processing costs	....	.12	.32
Overhead	....	.03	.08
Total	1.20	.51	1.04

[1] This excess is subject to determination of price under section 472(b)(1) and § 1.472–2. If the excess falls in goods in process, the same adjustment is applicable.

The only adjustment to the closing inventory is the cost of the raw material; the processing costs and overhead cost are not changed.

Example 2. Assume that the opening inventory had 5 units of raw material, 10 units of goods in process, and 20 units of finished goods, with the same prices as in Example 1, and that the closing inventory had 20 units of raw material, 20 units of goods in process, and 10 units of finished goods, with raw material costs as in the closing inventory in Example 1. The adjusted closing inventory would be as follows in so far as the raw material is concerned:

Raw material, 20 at 6 cents	$1.20
Goods in process:	
15 at 6 cents	.90
5 at 10 cents [1]	.50
Finished goods:	
None at 6 cents	0.00
10 at 10 cents [1]	1.00

[1] This excess is subject to determination of price under section 472(b)(1) and §1.472–2.

The 20 units of raw material in the raw state plus 15 units of raw material in goods in process make up the 35 units of raw material that were contained in the opening inventory.

(d) For the purposes of this section, raw material in the opening inventory must be compared with similar raw material in the closing inventory. There may be several types of raw materials, depending upon the character, quality, or price, and each type of raw material in the opening inventory must be compared with a similar type in the closing inventory.

(e) In the cotton textile industry there may be different raw materials depending upon marked differences in length of staple, in color or grade of the cotton. But where different staple lengths or grades of cotton are being used at different times in the same mill to produce the same class of goods, such differences would not necessarily require the classification into different raw materials.

(f) As to the pork packing industry a live hog is considered as being composed of various raw materials, different cuts of a hog varying markedly in price and use. Generally a hog is processed into approximately 10 primal cuts and several miscellaneous articles. However, due to similarity in price and use, these may be grouped into fewer classifications, each group being classed as one raw material.

(g) When the finished product contains two or more different raw materials as in the case of cotton and rayon mixtures, each raw material is treated separately and adjustments made accordingly.

(h) Upon written notice addressed to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Attention T:R, Washington, D.C. 20224 by the taxpayer, a taxpayer who has heretofore adopted the LIFO inventory method in respect of any goods may adopt the method authorized in this section and limit the election to the raw material including raw materials entering into goods in process and in finished goods. If this method is adopted as to any specific goods, it must be used exclusively for such goods for any prior taxable year (not closed by agreement) to which the prior election applies and for all subsequent taxable years, unless permission to change is granted by the Commissioner.

(i) The election may also be limited to that phase in the manufacturing process where a product is produced that is recognized generally as a salable product as, for example, in the textile industry where one phase of the process is the production of yarn. Since yarn is generally recognized as a salable product, the election may be limited to that portion of the process when yarn is produced. In the case of copper and brass processors, the election may be limited to the production of bars, plates, sheets, etc., although these may be further processed into other products.

(j) The election may also apply to any one raw material, when two or more raw materials enter into the composition of the finished product; for example, in the case of cotton and rayon yarn, the taxpayer may elect to inventory the cotton only. However, a taxpayer who has previously made an election to use the LIFO inventory method may not later elect to exclude any raw materials that were covered by such previous election.

(k) If a taxpayer using the retail method of pricing inventories, authorized by §1.471–8, elects to use in connection therewith the LIFO inventory method authorized by section 472 and this section, the apparent cost of the goods on hand at the end of the year, determined pursuant to §1.471–8, shall be adjusted to the extent of price changes therein taking place after the close of the preceding taxable year. The amount of any apparent inventory increase or decrease to be eliminated in this adjustment shall be determined by reference to acceptable price indexes established to the satisfaction of the Commissioner. Price indexes prepared by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics which are applicable to the goods in question will be considered acceptable to the Commissioner. Price indexes which are based upon inadequate records, or which are not subject to complete and detailed audit within the Internal Revenue Service, will not be approved.

(l) If a taxpayer uses consistently the so-called ''dollar-value'' method of pricing inventories, or any other method of computation established to the satisfaction of the Commissioner as reasonably adaptable to the purpose and intent of section 472 and this section, and if such taxpayer elects under section 472 to use the LIFO inventory method authorized by such section, the taxpayer's opening and closing inventories shall be determined under section 472 by the use of the appropriate adaptation. See §1.472–8 for rules relating to the use of the dollar-value method.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11727, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 6539, 26 FR 518, Jan. 20, 1961]

§ 1.472–2 Requirements incident to adoption and use of LIFO inventory method.

Except as otherwise provided in §1.472–1 with respect to raw material computations, with respect to retail inventory computations, and with respect to other methods of computation established to the satisfaction of the Commissioner as reasonably adapted to the purpose and intent of section 472, and in §1.472–8 with respect to the ''dollar-value'' method, the adoption and use of the LIFO inventory method is subject to the following requirements:

(a) The taxpayer shall file an application to use such method specifying with particularity the goods to which it is to be applied.

(b) The inventory shall be taken at cost regardless of market value.

(c) Goods of the specified type included in the opening inventory of the taxable year for which the method is first used shall be considered as having been acquired at the same time and at a unit cost equal to the actual cost of the aggregate divided by the number of units on hand. The actual cost of the aggregate shall be determined pursuant to the inventory method employed by the taxpayer under the regulations applicable to the prior taxable year with the exception that restoration shall be made with respect to any writedown to market values resulting from the pricing of former inventories.

(d) Goods of the specified type on hand as of the close of the taxable year in excess of what were on hand as of the beginning of the taxable year shall be included in the closing inventory, regardless of identification with specific invoices and regardless of specific cost accounting records, at costs determined pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (1) or (2) of this paragraph, dependent upon the character of the transactions in which the taxpayer is engaged:

(1)(i) In the case of a taxpayer engaged in the purchase and sale of merchandise, such as a retail grocer or druggist, or engaged in the initial production of merchandise and its sale without processing, such as a miner selling his ore output without smelting or refining, such costs shall be determined—

(*a*) By reference to the actual cost of the goods most recently purchased or produced;

(*b*) By reference to the actual cost of the goods purchased or produced during the taxable year in the order of acquisition;

(*c*) By application of an average unit cost equal to the aggregate cost of all of the goods purchased or produced throughout the taxable year divided by the total number of units so purchased or produced, the goods reflected in such inventory increase being considered for the purposes of section 472 as having been acquired all at the same time; or

(*d*) Pursuant to any other proper method which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, clearly reflects income.

(ii) Whichever of the several methods of valuing the inventory increase is adopted by the taxpayer and approved by the Commissioner shall be consistently adhered to in all subsequent taxable years so long as the LIFO inventory method is used by the taxpayer.

(iii) The application of subdivisions (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. Suppose that the taxpayer adopts the LIFO inventory method for the taxable year 1957 with an opening inventory of 10 units at 10 cents per unit, that it makes 1957 purchases of 10 units as follows:

January	1 at	$0.11=	$0.11
April	2 at	.12=	.24
July	3 at	.13=	.39
October	4 at	.14=	.56
Totals	10		1.30

and that it has a 1957 closing inventory of 15 units. This closing inventory, depending upon the taxpayer's method of valuing inventory increases, will be computed as follows:

(*a*) Most recent purchases—

	10 at	$0.10	$1.00
October	4 at	.14	.56
July	1 at	.13	.13
Totals	15		1.69

(*b*) In order of acquisitions—

	10 at	$0.10	$1.00
January	1 at	.11	.11
April	2 at	.12	.24
July	2 at	.13	.26
Totals	15		1.61

or

(*c*) At an annual average—

	10 at	$0.10	$1.00
(130/10)	5 at	.13	.65
Totals	15		1.65

Example 2. Suppose that the taxpayer's closing inventory for 1958, the year following that involved in Example 1 of this subdivision, reflects an inventory decrease for the year, and not an increase; suppose that there is, accordingly, a 1958 closing inventory of 13 units. Inasmuch as the decreased closing inventory will be determined wholly by reference to the 15 units reflected in the opening inventory for the year, and will be taken "in the order of acquisition" pursuant to section 472 (b) (1), and inasmuch as the character of the taxpayer's opening inventory for 1958 will be dependent upon its method of valuing its 5-unit inventory increase for 1957, the closing inventory for 1958 will be computed as follows:

(*a*) In case the increase for 1957 was taken by reference to the most recent purchases—

From 1956	10 at	$0.10	$1.00
July 1957	1 at	.13	.13
October 1957	2 at	.14	.28
Totals	13		1.41

or

(*b*) In case the increase for 1957 was taken in the order of acquisition—

From 1956	10 at	$0.10	$1.00
January 1957	51 at	.11	.11
April 1957	2 at	.12	.24
Totals	13		1.35

or

(*c*) In case the increase for 1957 was taken on the basis of an average—

From 1956	10 at	$0.10	$1.00
From 1957	3 at	.13	.39
Totals	13		1.39

(2) In the case of a taxpayer engaged in manufacturing, fabricating, processing, or otherwise producing merchandise, such costs shall be determined:

(i) In the case of raw materials purchased or initially produced by the taxpayer, in the manner elected by the taxpayer under subparagraph (1) of this paragraph to the same extent as if the taxpayer were engaged in purchase and sale transactions; and

(ii) In the case of goods in process, regardless of the stage to which the manufacture, fabricating, or processing may have advanced, and in the case of finished goods, pursuant to any proper method which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, clearly reflects income.

(e) *LIFO conformity requirement*—(1) *In general.* The taxpayer must establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the taxpayer, in ascertaining the income, profit, or loss for the taxable year for which the LIFO inventory method is first used, or for any subsequent taxable year, for credit purposes or for purposes of reports to shareholders, partners, or other proprietors, or to beneficiaries, has not used any inventory method other than that referred to in § 1.472–1 or at variance with the requirement referred to in § 1.472–2(c). See paragraph (e)(2) of this section for rules relating to the meaning of the term "taxable year" as used in this paragraph. The following are not considered at variance with the requirement of this paragraph:

(i) The taxpayer's use of an inventory method other than LIFO for purposes of ascertaining information reported as a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of the taxpayer's income, profit, or loss for a taxable year in credit statements or financial reports (including preliminary and unaudited financial reports). See paragraph (e)(3) of this section for rules relating to the reporting of supplemental and explanatory information ascertained by the use of an inventory method other than LIFO.

(ii) The taxpayer's use of an inventory method other than LIFO to ascertain the value of the taxpayer's inventory of goods on hand for purposes of reporting the value of such inventories as assets. See paragraph (e)(4) of this section for rules relating to such disclosures.

(iii) The taxpayer's use of an inventory method other than LIFO for purposes of ascertaining information reported in internal management reports. See paragraph (e)(5) of this section for rules relating to such reports.

(iv) The taxpayer's use of an inventory method other than LIFO for purposes of issuing reports or credit statements covering a period of operations that is less than the whole of a taxable year for which the LIFO method is used for Federal income tax purposes. See paragraph (e)(6) of this section for rules relating to series of interim reports.

(v) The taxpayer's use of the lower of LIFO cost or market method to value LIFO inventories for purposes of financial reports and credit statements. However, except as provided in paragraph (e)(7) of this section, a taxpayer may not use market value in lieu of cost to value inventories for purposes of financial reports or credit statements.

(vi) The taxpayer's use of a costing method or accounting method to ascertain income, profit, or loss for credit purposes or for purposes of financial reports if such costing method or accounting method is neither inconsistent with the inventory method referred to in §1.472–1 nor at variance with the requirement referred to in §1.472–2(c), regardless of whether such costing method or accounting method is used by the taxpayer for Federal income tax purposes. See paragraph (e)(8) of this section for examples of such costing methods and accounting methods.

(vii) For credit purposes or for purposes of financial reports, the taxpayer's treatment of inventories, after such inventories have been acquired in a transaction to which section 351 applies from a transferor that used the LIFO method with respect to such inventories, as if such inventories had the same acquisition dates and costs as in the hands of the transferor.

(viii) For credit purposes or for purposes of financial reports relating to a taxable year, the taxpayer's determination of income, profit, or loss for the taxable year by valuing inventories in accordance with the procedures described in section 472(b) (1) and (3), notwithstanding that such valuation differs from the valuation of inventories for Federal income tax purposes because the taxpayer either—

(A) Adopted such procedures for credit or financial reporting purposes beginning with an accounting period other than the taxable year for which the LIFO method was first used by the taxpayer for Federal income tax purposes, or

(B) With respect to such inventories treated a business combination for credit or financial reporting purposes in a manner different from the treatment of the business combination for Federal income tax purposes.

(2) *One-year periods other than a taxable year.* The rules of this paragraph relating to the determination of income, profit, or loss for a taxable year and credit statements or financial reports that cover a taxable year also apply to the determination of income, profit, or loss for a one-year period other than a taxable year and credit statements or financial reports that cover a one-year period other than a taxable year, but only if the one-year period both begins and ends in a taxable year or years for which the taxpayer uses the LIFO method for Federal income tax purposes. For example, the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) of this section apply to a taxpayer's determination of income for purposes of a credit statement that covers a 52-week fiscal year beginning and ending in a taxable year for which the taxpayer uses the LIFO method for Federal income tax purposes. Similarly, in the case of a calendar year taxpayer, the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) of this section apply to the taxpayer's determination of income for purposes of a credit statement that covers the period

October 1, 1981, through September 30, 1982, if the taxpayer uses the LIFO method for Federal income tax purposes in taxable years 1981 and 1982. However, the Commissioner will waive any violation of the requirements of this paragraph in the case of a credit statement or financial report that covers a one-year period other than a taxable year if the report was issued before January 22, 1981.

(3) *Supplemental and explanatory information*—(i) *Face of the income statement.* Information reported on the face of a taxpayer's financial income statement for a taxable year is not considered a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of the taxpayer's income, profit, or loss for the taxable year in credit statements or financial reports. For purposes of paragraph (e)(3) of this section, the face of an income statement does not include notes to the income statement presented on the same page as the income statement, but only if all notes to the financial income statement are presented together.

(ii) *Notes to the income statement.* Information reported in notes to a taxpayer's financial income statement is considered a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss for the period covered by the income statement if all notes to the financial income statement are presented together and if they accompany the income statement in a single report. If notes to an income statement are issued in a report that does not include the income statement, the question of whether the information reported therein is supplemental or explanatory is determined under the rules in paragraph (e)(3)(iv) of this section.

(iii) *Appendices and supplements to the income statement.* Information reported in an appendix or supplement to a taxpayer's financial income statement is considered a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss for the period covered by the income statement if the appendix or supplement accompanies the income statement in a single report and the information reported in the appendix or supplement is clearly identified as a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss as reported on the face of the taxpayer's income statement. If an appendix or supplement to an income statement is issued in a report that does not include the income statement, the question of whether the information reported therein is supplemental or explanatory is determined under the rules in paragraph (e)(3)(iv) of this section. For purposes of paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section, an appendix or supplement to an income statement includes written statements, schedules, and reports that are labelled supplements or appendices to the income statement. However, sections of an annual report such as those labelled ''President's Letter'', ''Management's Analysis'', ''Statement of Changes in Financial Position'', ''Summary of Key Figures'', and similar sections are reports described in paragraph (e)(3)(iv) of this section and are not considered ''supplements or appendices to an income statement'' within the meaning of paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section, regardless of whether such sections are also labelled as supplements or appendices. For purposes of paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section, information is considered to be clearly identified as a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss as reported on the face of the taxpayer's income statement if the information either—

(A) Is reported in an appendix or supplement that contains a general statement identifying all such supplemental or explanatory information;

(B) Is identified specifically as supplemental or explanatory by a statement immediately preceding or following the disclosure of the information;

(C) Is disclosed in the context of making a comparison to corresponding information disclosed both on the face of the taxpayer's income statement and in the supplement or appendix; or

(D) Is a disclosure of the effect on an item reported on the face of the taxpayer's income statement of having used the LIFO method.

For example, a restatement of cost of goods sold based on an inventory method other than LIFO is considered to be clearly identified as supplemental or explanatory information if the supplement or appendix containing the restatement contains a general statement that all information based on such inventory method is reported in the appendix or supplement as a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss as reported on the face of the taxpayer's income statement.

(iv) *Other reports; in general.* The rules of paragraph (e)(3) (iv), (v), and (vi) of this section apply to the following types of reports: news releases; letters to shareholders, partners, or other proprietors or beneficiaries; oral statements at press conferences, shareholders' meetings or securities analysts' meetings; sections of an annual report such as those labelled ''President's Letter'', ''Management's Analysis'', ''Statement of Changes in Financial Position'', ''Summary of Key Figures'', and similar sections; and reports other than a taxpayer's income statement or accompanying notes, appendices, or supplements. Information disclosed in such a report is considered a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss for the period covered by an income statement if the supplemental or explanatory information is clearly identified as a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of income, profit, or loss as reported on the face of the taxpayer's income statement and the specific item of information being explained or supplemented, such as the cost of goods sold, net income, or earnings per share ascertained using the LIFO method, is also reported in the other report.

(v) *Other reports; disclosure of non-LIFO income.* For purposes of paragraph (e)(3)(iv) of this section, supplemental or explanatory information is considered to have been clearly identified as such if it would be considered to have been clearly identified as such under the rules of paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section, relating to information reported in supplements or appendices to an income statement. For example, if at a securities analysts' meeting the following question is asked, ''What would the reported earnings per share for the year have been if the FIFO method had been used to value inventories?'', it would be permissible to respond ''Reported earnings per share for the year were $6.00. If the company had used the FIFO method to value inventories this year and had computed earnings based upon the following assumptions, earnings per share would have been $8.20. FIFO earnings are based on the following assumptions:

''(A) The use of the same effective tax rate as used in computing LIFO earnings, and

''(B) All other conditions and assumptions remain the same, including—

''(*1*) The use of the LIFO method for Federal income tax purposes and

''(*2*) The investment of the tax savings resulting from such use of the LIFO method, the income from which is included in both LIFO and FIFO ''earnings.'' ''

(vi) *Other reports; disclosure of effect on income.* For purposes of paragraph (e)(3)(iv) of this section, if the only supplement to or explanation of a specific item is the effect on the item of having used LIFO instead of a method other than LIFO to value inventories, it is not necessary to also report the specific item. For example, if at a shareholders' meeting the question is asked, ''What was the effect on reported earnings per share of not having used FIFO to value inventories?'', it would be permissible to respond ''If earnings would have been computed on the basis of the following assumptions, the use of LIFO instead of FIFO to value inventories would have decreased reported earnings per share by $2.20. FIFO earnings are based on the following assumptions:

''(A) The use of the same effective tax rate as used in computing LIFO earnings, and

''(B) All other conditions and assumptions remain the same, including—

''(*1*) The use of the LIFO method for Federal income tax purposes and

''(*2*) The investment of the tax savings resulting from such use of the LIFO method, the income from which is included in both LIFO and FIFO earnings.''

(4) *Inventory asset value disclosures.* Under paragraph (e)(1)(ii) of this section, the use of an inventory method other than LIFO to ascertain the value of the taxpayer's inventories for purposes of reporting the value of the inventories as assets is not considered the ascertainment of income, profit, or loss and therefore is not considered at variance with the requirement of paragraph (e)(1) of this section. Therefore, a taxpayer may disclose the value of inventories on a balance sheet using a method other than LIFO to identify the inventories, and such a disclosure will not be considered at variance with the requirement of paragraph (e)(1) of this section. However, the disclosure of income, profit, or loss for a taxable year on a balance sheet issued to creditors, shareholders, partners, other proprietors, or beneficiaries is considered at variance with the requirement of paragraph (e)(1) of this section if such income information is ascertained using an inventory method other than LIFO and such income information is for a taxable year for which the LIFO method is used for Federal income tax purposes. Therefore, a balance sheet that discloses the net worth of a taxpayer, determined as if income had been ascertained using an inventory method other than LIFO, may be at variance with the requirement of paragraph (e)(1) of this section if the disclosure of net worth is made in a manner that also discloses income, profit, or loss for a taxable year.

However, a disclosure of income, profit, or loss using an inventory method other than LIFO is not considered at variance with the requirement of paragraph (e)(1) of this section if the disclosure is made in the form of either a footnote to the balance sheet or a parenthetical disclosure on the face of the balance sheet. In addition, an income disclosure is not considered at variance with the requirement of paragraph (e)(1) of this section if the disclosure is made on the face of a supplemental balance sheet labelled as a supplement to the taxpayer's primary presentation of financial position, but only if, consistent with the rules of paragraph (e)(3) of this section, such a disclosure is clearly identified as a supplement to or explanation of the taxpayer's primary presentation of financial income as reported on the face of the taxpayer's income statement.

(5) *Internal management reports.* [Reserved]

(6) *Series of interim reports.* For purposes of paragraph (e)(1)(iv) of this section, a series of credit statements or financial reports is considered a single statement or report covering a period of operations if the statements or reports in the series are prepared using a single inventory method and can be combined to disclose the income, profit, or loss for the period. However, the Commissioner will waive any violation of the requirement of this paragraph in the case of a series of interim reports issued before February 6, 1978, that cover a taxable year, or a series of interim reports issued before January 22, 1981 that cover a one-year period other than a taxable year.

(7) *Market value.* The Commissioner will waive any violation of the requirement of this paragraph in the case of a taxpayer's use of market value in lieu of cost for a credit statement or financial report issued before January 22, 1981. However, the special rule of this (7) applies only to a taxpayer's use of market value in lieu of cost and does not apply to the use of a method of valuation such as market value in lieu of cost but not more than FIFO cost.

(8) *Use of different methods.* The following are examples of costing methods and accounting methods that are neither inconsistent with the inventory method referred to in §1.472–1 nor at variance with the requirement of §1.472–2(c) and which, under paragraph (e)(1)(vi) of this section, may be used to ascertain income, profit, or loss for credit purposes or for purposes of financial reports regardless of whether such method is also used by the taxpayer for Federal income tax purposes:

(i) Any method relating to the determination of which costs are includible in the computation of the cost of inventory under the full absorption inventory method.

(ii) Any method of establishing pools for inventory under the dollar-value LIFO inventory method.

(iii) Any method of determining the LIFO value of a dollar-value inventory pool, such as the double-extension method, the index method, and the link chain method.

(iv) Any method of determining or selecting a price index to be used with the index or link chain method of valuing inventory pools under the dollar-value LIFO inventory method.

(v) Any method permitted under §1.472–8 for determining the current-year cost of closing inventory for purposes of using the dollar-value LIFO inventory method.

(vi) Any method permitted under §1.472–2(d) for determining the cost of goods in excess of goods on hand at the beginning of the year for purposes of using a LIFO method other than the dollar-value LIFO method.

(vii) Any method relating to the classification of an item as inventory or a capital asset.

(viii) The use of an accounting period other than the period used for Federal income tax purposes.

(ix) The use of cost estimates.

(x) The use of actual cost of cut timber or the cost determined under section 631(a).

(xi) The use of inventory costs unreduced by any adjustment required by the application of section 108 and section 1017, relating to discharge of indebtedness.

(xii) The determination of the time when sales or purchases are accrued.

(xiii) The use of a method to allocate basis in the case of a business combination other than the method used for Federal income tax purposes.

(xiv) The treatment of transfers of inventory between affiliated corporations in a manner different from that required by §1.1502–13.

(9) *Reconciliation of LIFO inventory values.* A taxpayer may be required to reconcile differences between the value of inventories maintained for credit or financial reporting purposes and for Federal income tax purposes in order to show that the taxpayer has satisfied the requirements of this paragraph.

(f) Goods of the specified type on hand as of the close of the taxable year preceding the taxable year for which this inventory method is first used shall be included in the taxpayer's closing inventory for such preceding taxable year at cost determined in the manner prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(g) The LIFO inventory method, once adopted by the taxpayer with the approval of the Commissioner, shall be adhered to in all subsequent taxable years unless—

(1) A change to a different method is approved by the Commissioner; or

(2) The Commissioner determines that the taxpayer, in ascertaining income, profit, or loss for the whole of any taxable year subsequent to his adoption of the LIFO inventory method, for credit purposes or for the purpose of reports to shareholders, partners, or other proprietors, or to beneficiaries, has used any inventory method at variance with that referred to in §1.472–1 and requires of the taxpayer a change to a different method for such subsequent taxable year or any taxable year thereafter.

(h) The records and accounts employed by the taxpayer in keeping his books shall be maintained in conformity with the inventory method referred to in §1.472–1; and such supplemental and detailed inventory records shall be maintained as will enable the district director readily to verify the taxpayer's inventory computations as well as his compliance with the requirements of section 472 and §§1.472–1 through 1.472–7.

(i) Where the taxpayer is engaged in more than one trade or business, the Commissioner may require that if the LIFO method of valuing inventories is used with respect to goods in one trade or business the same method shall also be used with respect to similar goods in the other trades or businesses if, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the use of such method with respect to such other goods is essential to a clear reflection of income.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11728, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 6539, 26 FR 518, Jan. 20, 1961; T.D. 7756, 46 FR 6920, Jan. 22, 1981; T.D. 7756, 46 FR 15685, Mar. 9, 1981]

§ 1.472–3 Time and manner of making election.

(a) The LIFO inventory method may be adopted and used only if the taxpayer files with his income tax return for the taxable year as of the close of which the method is first to be used a statement of his election to use such inventory method. The statement shall be made on Form 970 pursuant to the instructions printed with respect thereto and to the requirements of this section, or in such other manner as may be acceptable to the Commissioner. Such statement shall be accompanied by an analysis of all inventories of the taxpayer as of the beginning and as of the end of the taxable year for which the LIFO inventory method is proposed first to be used, and also as of the beginning of the prior taxable year. In the case of a manufacturer, this analysis shall show in detail the manner in which costs are computed with respect to raw materials, goods in process, and finished goods, segregating the products (whether in process or finished goods) into natural groups on the basis of either (1) similarity in factory processes through which they pass, or (2) similarity of raw materials used, or (3) similarity in style, shape, or use of finished products. Each group of products shall be clearly described.

(b) The taxpayer shall submit for the consideration of the Commissioner in connection with the taxpayer's adoption or use of the LIFO inventory method such other detailed information with respect to his business or accounting system as may be at any time requested by the Commissioner.

(c) As a condition to the taxpayer's use of the LIFO inventory method, the Commissioner may require that the method be used with respect to goods other than those specified in the taxpayer's statement of election if, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the use of such method with respect to such other goods is essential to a clear reflection of income.

(d) Whether or not the taxpayer's application for the adoption and use of the LIFO inventory method should be approved, and whether or not such method, once adopted, may be continued, and the propriety of all computations incidental to the use of such method, will be determined by the Commissioner in connection with the examination of the taxpayer's income tax returns.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11729, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 7295, 38 FR 34203, Dec. 12, 1973]

§ 1.472–4 Adjustments to be made by taxpayer.

A taxpayer may not change to the LIFO method of taking inventories unless, at the time he files his application for the adoption of such method, he agrees to such adjustments incident to the change to or from such method, or incident to the use of such method, in the inventories of prior taxable years or otherwise, as the district director upon the examination of the taxpayer's returns may deem necessary in order that the true income of the taxpayer will be clearly reflected for the years involved.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11730, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.472–5 Revocation of election.

An election made to adopt and use the LIFO inventory method is irrevocable, and the method once adopted shall be used in all subsequent taxable years, unless the use of another method is required by the Commissioner, or authorized by him pursuant to a written application therefor filed as provided in paragraph (e) of § 1.446–1.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11730, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.472–6 Change from LIFO inventory method.

If the taxpayer is granted permission by the Commissioner to discontinue the use of LIFO method of taking inventories, and thereafter to use some other method, or if the taxpayer is required by the Commissioner to discontinue the use of the LIFO method by reason of the taxpayer's failure to conform to the requirements detailed in § 1.472–2, the inventory of the specified goods for the first taxable year affected by the change and for each taxable year thereafter shall be taken—

(a) In conformity with the method used by the taxpayer under section 471 in inventorying goods not included in his LIFO inventory computations; or

(b) If the LIFO inventory method was used by the taxpayer with respect to all of his goods subject to inventory, then in conformity with the inventory method used by the taxpayer prior to his adoption of the LIFO inventory method; or

(c) If the taxpayer had not used inventories prior to his adoption of the

LIFO inventory method and had no goods currently subject to inventory by a method other than the LIFO inventory method, then in conformity with such inventory method as may be selected by the taxpayer and approved by the Commissioner as resulting in a clear reflection of income; or

(d) In any event, in conformity with any inventory method to which the taxpayer may change pursuant to application approved by the Commissioner.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11730, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.472–7 Inventories of acquiring corporations.

For additional rules in the case of certain corporate acquisitions specified in section 381(a), see section 381(c)(5) and the regulations thereunder.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11730, Nov. 26, 1960]

§ 1.472–8 Dollar-value method of pricing LIFO inventories.

(a) *Election to use dollar-value method.* Any taxpayer may elect to determine the cost of his LIFO inventories under the so-called ''dollar-value'' LIFO method, provided such method is used consistently and clearly reflects the income of the taxpayer in accordance with the rules of this section. The dollar-value method of valuing LIFO inventories is a method of determining cost by using ''base-year'' cost expressed in terms of total dollars rather than the quantity and price of specific goods as the unit of measurement. Under such method the goods contained in the inventory are grouped into a pool or pools as described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. The term ''base-year cost'' is the aggregate of the cost (determined as of the beginning of the taxable year for which the LIFO method is first adopted, i.e., the base date) of all items in a pool. The taxable year for which the LIFO method is first adopted with respect to any item in the pool is the ''base year'' for that pool, except as provided in paragraph (g)(3) of this section. Liquidations and increments of items contained in the pool shall be reflected only in terms of a net liquidation or increment for the pool as a whole. Fluctuations may occur in quantities of various items within the pool, new items which properly fall within the pool may be added, and old items may disappear from the pool, all without necessarily effecting a change in the dollar value of the pool as a whole. An increment in the LIFO inventory occurs when the end of the year inventory for any pool expressed in terms of base-year cost is in excess of the beginning of the year inventory for that pool expressed in terms of base-year cost. In determining the inventory value for a pool, the increment, if any, is adjusted for changing unit costs or values by reference to a percentage, relative to base-year-cost, determined for the pool as a whole. See paragraph (e) of this section. See also paragraph (f) of this section for rules relating to the change to the dollar-value LIFO method from another LIFO method.

(b) *Principles for establishing pools of manufacturers and processors*—(1) *Natural business unit pools.* A pool shall consist of all items entering into the entire inventory investment for a natural business unit of a business enterprise, unless the taxpayer elects to use the multiple pooling method provided in subparagraph (3) of this paragraph. Thus, if a business enterprise is composed of only one natural business unit, one pool shall be used for all of its inventories, including raw materials, goods in process, and finished goods. If, however, a business enterprise is actually composed of more than one natural business unit, more than one pool is required. Where similar types of goods are inventoried in two or more natural business units of the taxpayer, the Commissioner may apportion or allocate such goods among the various natural business units, if he determines that such apportionment or allocation is necessary in order to clearly reflect the income of such taxpayer. Where a manufacturer or processor is also engaged in the wholesaling or retailing of goods purchased from others, any pooling of the LIFO inventory of such purchased goods for the wholesaling or retailing operations shall be determined in accordance with the rules of paragraph (c) of this section.

(2) *Definition of natural business unit.* (i) Whether an enterprise is composed of more than one natural business unit is a matter of fact to be determined from all the circumstances. The natural business divisions adopted by the taxpayer for internal management purposes, the existence of separate and distinct production facilities and processes, and the maintenance of separate profit and loss records with respect to separate operations are important considerations in determining what is a business unit, unless such divisions, facilities, or accounting records are set up merely because of differences in geographical location. In the case of a manufacturer or processor, a natural business unit ordinarily consists of the entire productive activity of the enterprise within one product line or within two or more related product lines including (to the extent engaged in by the enterprise) the obtaining of materials, the processing of materials, and the selling of manufactured or processed goods. Thus, in the case of a manufacturer or processor, the maintenance and operation of a raw material warehouse does not generally constitute, of itself, a natural business unit. If the taxpayer maintains and operates a supplier unit the production of which is both sold to others and transferred to a different unit of the taxpayer to be used as a component part of another product, the supplier unit will ordinarily constitute a separate and distinct natural business unit. Ordinarily, a processing plant would not in itself be considered a natural business unit if the production of the plant, although saleable at this stage, is not sold to others, but is transferred to another plant of the enterprise, not operated as a separate division, for further processing or incorporation into another product. On the other hand, if the production of a manufacturing or processing plant is transferred to a separate and distinct division of the taxpayer, which constitutes a natural business unit, the supplier unit itself will ordinarily be considered a natural business unit. However, the mere fact that a portion of the production of a manufacturing or processing plant may be sold to others at a certain stage of processing with the remainder of the production being further processed or incorporated into another product will not of itself be determinative that the activities devoted to the production of the portion sold constitute a separate business unit. Where a manufacturer or processor is also engaged in the wholesaling or retailing of goods purchased from others, the wholesaling or retailing operations with respect to such purchased goods shall not be considered a part of any manufacturing or processing unit.

(ii) The rules of this subparagraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. A corporation manufactures, in one division, automatic clothes washers and driers of both commercial and domestic grade as well as electric ranges, mangles, and dishwashers. The corporation manufactures, in another division, radios and television sets. The manufacturing facilities and processes used in manufacturing the radios and television sets are distinct from those used in manufacturing the automatic clothes washers, etc. Under these circumstances, the enterprise would consist of two business units and two pools would be appropriate, one consisting of all of the LIFO inventories entering into the manufacture of clothes washers and driers, electric ranges, mangles, and dishwashers and the other consisting of all of the LIFO inventories entering into the production of radio and television sets.

Example 2. A taxpayer produces plastics in one of its plants. Substantial amounts of the production are sold as plastics. The remainder of the production is shipped to a second plant of the taxpayer for the production of plastic toys which are sold to customers. The taxpayer operates his plastics plant and toy plant as separate divisions. Because of the different product lines and the separate divisions the taxpayer has two natural business units.

Example 3. A taxpayer is engaged in the manufacture of paper. At one stage of processing, uncoated paper is produced. Substantial amounts of uncoated paper are sold at this stage of processing. The remainder of the uncoated paper is transferred to the taxpayer's finishing mill where coated paper is produced and sold. This taxpayer has only one natural business unit since coated and uncoated paper are within the same product line.

(3) *Multiple pools*—(i) *Principles for establishing multiple pools.* (*a*) A taxpayer may elect to establish multiple pools for inventory items which are not within a natural business unit as to which the taxpayer has adopted the

natural business unit method of pooling as provided in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph. Each such pool shall ordinarily consist of a group of inventory items which are substantially similar. In determining whether such similarity exists, consideration shall be given to all the facts and circumstances. The formulation of detailed rules for selection of pools applicable to all taxpayers is not feasible. Important considerations to be taken into account include, for example, whether there is substantial similarity in the types of raw materials used or in the processing operations applied; whether the raw materials used are readily interchangeable; whether there is similarity in the use of the products; whether the groupings are consistently followed for purposes of internal accounting and management; and whether the groupings follow customary business practice in the taxpayer's industry. The selection of pools in each case must also take into consideration such factors as the nature of the inventory items subject to the dollar-value LIFO method and the significance of such items to the taxpayer's business operations. Where similar types of goods are inventoried in natural business units and multiple pools of the taxpayer, the Commissioner may apportion or allocate such goods among the natural business units and the multiple pools, if he determines that such apportionment or allocation is necessary in order to clearly reflect the income of the taxpayer.

(*b*) Raw materials which are substantially similar shall be pooled together in accordance with the principles of this subparagraph. However, inventories of raw or unprocessed materials of an unlike nature may not be placed into one pool, even though such materials become part of otherwise identical finished products.

(*c*) Finished goods and goods-in-process in the inventory shall be placed into pools classified by major classes or types of goods. The same class or type of finished goods and goods-in-process shall ordinarily be included in the same pool. Where the material content of a class of finished goods and goods-in-process included in a pool has been changed, for example, to conform with current trends in an industry, a separate pool of finished goods and goods-in-process will not ordinarily be required unless the change in material content results in a substantial change in the finished goods.

(*d*) The requirement that pools be established by major types of materials or major classes of goods is not to be construed so as to preclude the establishment of a miscellaneous pool. Since a taxpayer may elect the dollar-value LIFO method with respect to all or any designated goods in his inventory, there may be a number of such inventory items covered in the election. A miscellaneous pool shall consist only of items which are relatively insignificant in dollar value by comparison with other inventory items in the particular trade or business and which are not properly includible as part of another pool.

(ii) *Raw materials content pools.* The dollar-value method of pricing LIFO inventories may be used in conjunction with the raw materials content method authorized in §1.472–1. Raw materials (including the raw material content of finished goods and goods-in-process) which are substantially similar shall be pooled together in accordance with the principles of subdivision (i) of this subparagraph. However, inventories of materials of an unlike nature may not be placed into one pool, even though such materials become part of otherwise identical finished products.

(4) *IPIC method pools.* A manufacturer or processor that elects to use the inventory price index computation method described in paragraph (e)(3) of this section (IPIC method) for a trade or business may elect to establish dollar-value pools for those items accounted for using the IPIC method based on the 2-digit commodity codes (i.e., major commodity groups) in Table 6 (Producer price indexes and percent changes for commodity groupings and individual items, not seasonally adjusted) of the ''PPI Detailed Report'' published monthly by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (available from New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250–7954). A taxpayer electing to establish dollar-value pools

under this paragraph (b)(4) may combine IPIC pools that comprise less than 5 percent of the total current-year cost of all dollar-value pools to form a single miscellaneous IPIC pool. A taxpayer electing to establish dollar-value pools under this paragraph (b)(4) may combine a miscellaneous IPIC pool that comprises less than 5 percent of the total current-year cost of all dollar-value pools with the largest IPIC pool. Each of these 5 percent rules is a method of accounting. A taxpayer may not change to, or cease using, either 5 percent rule without obtaining the Commissioner's prior consent. Whether a specific IPIC pool or the miscellaneous IPIC pool satisfies the applicable 5 percent rule must be determined in the year of adoption or year of change (whichever is applicable) and redetermined every third taxable year. Any change in pooling required or permitted as a result of a 5 percent rule is a change in method of accounting. A taxpayer must secure the consent of the Commissioner pursuant to §1.446–1(e) before combining or separating pools and must combine or separate its IPIC pools in accordance with paragraph (g)(2) of this section.

(c) *Principles for establishing pools for wholesalers, retailers, etc*—(1) *In general.* Items of inventory in the hands of wholesalers, retailers, jobbers, and distributors shall be placed into pools by major lines, types, or classes of goods. In determining such groupings, customary business classifications of the particular trade in which the taxpayer is engaged is an important consideration. An example of such customary business classification is the department in the department store. In such case, practices are relatively uniform throughout the trade, and departmental grouping is peculiarly adapted to the customs and needs of the business. However, in appropriate cases, the principles set forth in paragraphs (b) (1) and (2) of this section, relating to pooling by natural business units, may be used, with permission of the Commissioner, by wholesalers, retailers, jobbers, or distributors. Where a wholesaler or retailer is also engaged in the manufacturing or processing of goods, the pooling of the LIFO inventory for the manufacturing or processing operations shall be determined in accordance with the rules of paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) *IPIC method pools.* A retailer that elects to use the inventory price index computation method described in paragraph (e)(3) of this section (IPIC method) for a trade or business may elect to establish dollar-value pools for those items accounted for using the IPIC method based on either the general expenditure categories (i.e., major groups) in Table 3 (Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, detailed expenditure categories) of the ''CPI Detailed Report'' or the 2-digit commodity codes (i.e., major commodity groups) in Table 6 (Producer price indexes and percent changes for commodity groupings and individual items, not seasonally adjusted) of the ''PPI Detailed Report.'' A wholesaler, jobber, or distributor that elects to use the IPIC method for a trade or business may elect to establish dollar-value pools for any group of goods accounted for using the IPIC method and included within one of the 2-digit commodity codes (i.e., major commodity groups) in Table 6 (Producer price indexes and percent changes for commodity groupings and individual items, not seasonally adjusted) of the ''PPI Detailed Report.'' The ''CPI Detailed Report'' and the ''PPI Detailed Report'' are published monthly by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (available from New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250–7954). A taxpayer electing to establish dollar-value pools under this paragraph (c)(2) may combine IPIC pools that comprise less than 5 percent of the total current-year cost of all dollar-value pools to form a single miscellaneous IPIC pool. A taxpayer electing to establish pools under this paragraph (c)(2) may combine a miscellaneous IPIC pool that comprises less than 5 percent of the total current-year cost of all dollar-value pools with the largest IPIC pool. Each of these 5 percent rules is a method of accounting. Thus, a taxpayer may not change to, or cease using, either 5 percent rule without obtaining the Commissioner's prior consent. Whether

a specific IPIC pool or the miscellaneous IPIC pool satisfies the applicable 5 percent rule must be determined in the year of adoption or year of change (whichever is applicable) and redetermined every third taxable year. Any change in pooling required or permitted under a 5 percent rule is a change in method of accounting. A taxpayer must secure the consent of the Commissioner pursuant to section 1.446–1(e) before combining or separating pools and must combine or separate its IPIC pools in accordance with paragraph (g)(2) of this section.

(d) *Determination of appropriateness of pools.* Whether the number and the composition of the pools used by the taxpayer is appropriate, as well as the propriety of all computations incidental to the use of such pools, will be determined in connection with the examination of the taxpayer's income tax returns. Adequate records must be maintained to support the base-year unit cost as well as the current-year unit cost for all items priced on the dollar-value LIFO inventory method, regardless of the method authorized by paragraph (e) of this section which is used in computing the LIFO value of the dollar-value pool. The pool or pools selected must be used for the year of adoption and for all subsequent taxable years unless a change is required by the Commissioner in order to clearly reflect income, or unless permission to change is granted by the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of §1.446–1. However, see paragraph (h) of this section for authorization to change the method of pooling in certain specified cases.

(e) *Methods of computation of the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool*—(1) *Methods authorized.* A taxpayer may ordinarily use only the so-called ''double-extension'' method for computing the base-year and current-year cost of a dollar-value inventory pool. Where the use of the double-extension method is impractical, because of technological changes, the extensive variety of items, or extreme fluctuations in the variety of the items, in a dollar-value pool, the taxpayer may use an index method for computing all or part of the LIFO value of the pool. An index may be computed by double-extending a representative portion of the inventory in a pool or by the use of other sound and consistent statistical methods. The index used must be appropriate to the inventory pool to which it is to be applied. The appropriateness of the method of computing the index and the accuracy, reliability, and suitability of the use of such index must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the district director in connection with the examination of the taxpayer's income tax returns. The use of any so-called ''link-chain'' method will be approved for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1960, only in those cases where the taxpayer can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the district director that the use of either an index method or the double-extension method would be impractical or unsuitable in view of the nature of the pool. A taxpayer using either an index or link-chain method shall attach to his income tax return for the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1960, for which the index or link-chain method is used, a statement describing the particular link-chain method or the method used in computing the index. The statement shall be in sufficient detail to facilitate the determination as to whether the method used meets the standards set forth in this subparagraph. In addition, a copy of the statement shall be filed with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Attention: T:R, Washington, D.C. 20224. The taxpayer shall submit such other information as may be requested with respect to such index or link-chain method. Adequate records must be maintained by the taxpayer to support the appropriateness, accuracy, and reliability of an index or link-chain method. A taxpayer may request the Commissioner to approve the appropriateness of an index or link-chain method for the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1960, for which it is used. Such request must be submitted within 90 days after the beginning of the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1960, in which the taxpayer desires to use the index or link-chain method, or on or before May 1, 1961, whichever is later. A taxpayer entitled to use the retail method of pricing LIFO inventories authorized by paragraph (k) of §1.472–1 may use retail price indexes prepared by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Any method of computing the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool must be used for the year of adoption and all subsequent taxable years, unless the taxpayer obtains the consent of the Commissioner in accordance with paragraph (e) of § 1.446–1 to use a different method.

(2) *Double-extension method.* (i) Under the double-extension method the quantity of each item in the inventory pool at the close of the taxable year is extended at both base-year unit cost and current-year unit cost. The respective extensions at the two costs are then each totaled. The first total gives the amount of the current inventory in terms of base-year cost and the second total gives the amount of such inventory in terms of current-year cost.

(ii) The total current-year cost of items making up a pool may be determined—

(*a*) By reference to the actual cost of the goods most recently purchased or produced;

(*b*) By reference to the actual cost of the goods purchased or produced during the taxable year in the order of acquisition;

(*c*) By application of an average unit cost equal to the aggregate cost of all of the goods purchased or produced throughout the taxable year divided by the total number of units so purchased or produced; or

(*d*) Pursuant to any other proper method which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, clearly reflects income.

(iii) Under the double-extension method a base-year unit cost must be ascertained for each item entering a pool for the first time subsequent to the beginning of the base year. In such a case, the base-year unit cost of the entering item shall be the current-year cost of that item unless the taxpayer is able to reconstruct or otherwise establish a different cost. If the entering item is a product or raw material not in existence on the base date, its cost may be reconstructed, that is, the taxpayer using reasonable means may determine what the cost of the item would have been had it been in existence in the base year. If the item was in existence on the base date but not stocked by the taxpayer, he may establish, by using available data or records, what the cost of the item would have been to the taxpayer had he stocked the item. If the base-year unit cost of the entering item is either reconstructed or otherwise established to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, such cost may be used as the base-year unit cost in applying the double-extension method. If the taxpayer does not reconstruct or establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner a base-year unit cost, but does reconstruct or establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner the cost of the item at some year subsequent to the base year, he may use the earliest cost which he does reconstruct or establish as the base-year unit cost.

(iv) To determine whether there is an increment or liquidation in a pool for a particular taxable year, the end of the year inventory of the pool expressed in terms of base-year cost is compared with the beginning of the year inventory of the pool expressed in terms of base-year cost. When the end of the year inventory of the pool is in excess of the beginning of the year inventory of the pool an increment occurs in the pool for that year. If there is an increment for the taxable year, the ratio of the total current-year cost of the pool to the total base-year cost of the pool must be computed. This ratio when multiplied by the amount of the increment measured in terms of base-year cost gives the LIFO value of such increment. The LIFO value of each such increment is hereinafter referred to in this section as the ‘‘layer of increment’’ and must be separately accounted for and a record thereof maintained as a separate layer of the pool, and may not be combined with a layer of increment occurring in a different year. On the other hand, when the end of the year inventory of the pool is less than the beginning of the year inventory of the pool, a liquidation occurs in the pool for that year. Such liquidation is to be reflected by reducing the most recent layer of increment by the excess of the beginning of the year inventory over the end of the year inventory of the pool. However, if the amount of the liquidation exceeds the amount of the most recent layer of increment, the preceding layers of increment in reverse chronological order are to be successively reduced by the amount of such excess until all the excess is absorbed. The base-year inventory is to be reduced by liquidation only to the extent that the aggregate of all liquidation exceeds the aggregate of all layers of increment.

(v) The following examples illustrate inventories under the double-extension the computation of the LIFO value of method.

Example 1. (a) A taxpayer elects, beginning with the calendar year 1961, to compute his inventories by use of the LIFO inventory method under section 472 and further elects to use the dollar-value method in pricing such inventories as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. He creates Pool No. 1 for items A, B, and C. The composition of the inventory for Pool No. 1 at the base date, January 1, 1961, is as follows:

Items	Units	Unit cost	Total cost
A	1,000	$5	$5,000
B	2,000	4	8,000
C	500	2	1,000
Total base-year cost at Jan. 1, 1961	....	....	14,000

(b) The closing inventory of Pool No. 1 at December 31, 1961, contains 3,000 units of A, 1,000 units of B, and 500 units of C. The taxpayer computes the current-year cost of the items making up the pool by reference to the actual cost of goods most recently purchased. The most recent purchases of items A, B, and C are as follows:

Item	Purchase date	Quantity purchased	Unit cost
A	Dec. 15, 1961	3,500	$6.00
B	Dec. 10, 1961	2,000	5.00
C	Nov. 1, 1961	500	2.50

(c) The inventory of Pool No. 1 at December 31, 1961, shown at base-year and current-year cost is as follows:

Item	Quantity	Dec. 31, 1961, inventory at Jan. 1, 1961, base-year cost		Dec. 31, 1961, inventory at current-year cost	
		Unit cost	Amount	Unit cost	Amount
A	3,000	$5.00	$15,000	$6.00	$18,000
B	1,000	4.00	4,000	5.00	5,000
C	500	2.00	1,000	2.50	1,250
Total	....	....	20,000	....	24,250

(d) If the amount of the December 31, 1961, inventory at base-year cost were equal to, or less than, the base-year cost of $14,000 at January 1, 1961, such amount would be the closing LIFO inventory at December 31, 1961. However, since the base-year cost of the closing LIFO inventory at December 31, 1961, amounts to $20,000, and is in excess of the $14,000 base-year cost of the opening inventory for that year, there is a $6,000 increment in Pool No. 1 during the year. This increment must be valued at current-year cost, i.e., the ratio of 24,250/20,000, or 121.25 percent. The LIFO value of the inventory at December 31, 1961, is $21,275, computed as follows:

POOL NO. 1

	Dec. 31, 1961, inventory at Jan. 1, 1961, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1961, inventory at LIFO value
Jan. 1, 1961, base cost	14,000	100.00	$14,000
Dec. 31, 1961, increment	6,000	121.25	7,275
Total	20,000	....	21,275

Example 2. (a) Assume the taxpayer in Example 1 during the year 1962 completely disposes of item C and purchases item D. Assume further that item D is properly includible in Pool No. 1 under the provisions of this section. The closing inventory on December 31, 1962, consists of quantities at current-year unit cost, as follows:

Items	Units	Current-year unit cost Dec. 31, 1962
A	2,000	$6.50
B	1,500	6.00
D	1,000	5.00

(b) The taxpayer establishes that the cost of item D, had he acquired it on January 1, 1961, would have been $2.00 per unit. Such cost shall be used as the base-year unit cost for item D, and the LIFO computations at December 31, 1962, are made as follows:

Item	Quantity	Dec. 31, 1962, inventory at Jan. 1, 1961, base-year cost		Dec. 31, 1962, inventory at current-year cost	
		Unit cost	Amount	Unit cost	Amount
A	2,000	$5.00	$10,000	$6.50	$13,000
B	1,500	4.00	6,000	6.00	9,000
D	1,000	2.00	2,000	5.00	5,000
Total	....	....	18,000	....	27,000

(c) Since the closing inventory at base-year cost, $18,000, is less than the 1962 opening inventory at base-year cost, $20,000, a liquidation of $2,000 has occurred during 1962. This liquidation is to be reflected by reducing the most recent layer of increment. The LIFO value of the inventory at December 31, 1962, is $18,850, and is summarized as follows:

POOL NO. 1

	Dec. 31, 1962, inventory at Jan. 1, 1961, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1962, inventory at LIFO value
Jan. 1, 1961, base cost	14,000	100.00	$14,000
Dec. 31, 1961, increment	4,000	121.25	4,850
Total	18,000	....	18,850

(3) *Inventory price index computation (IPIC) method*—(i) *In general.* The inventory price index computation method provided by this paragraph (e)(3) (IPIC method) is an elective method of determining the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool using consumer or producer price indexes published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). A taxpayer using the IPIC method must compute a separate inventory price index (IPI) for each dollar-value pool. This IPI is used to convert the total current-year cost of the items in a dollar-value pool to base-year cost in order to determine whether there is an increment or liquidation in terms of base-year cost and, if there is an increment, to determine the LIFO inventory value of the current year's layer of increment (layer). Using one IPI to compute the base-year cost of a dollar-value pool for the current taxable year and using a different IPI to compute the LIFO inventory value of the current taxable year's layer is not permitted under the IPIC method. The IPIC method will be accepted by the Commissioner as an appropriate method of computing an index, and the use of that index to compute the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool will be accepted as accurate, reliable, and suitable. The appropriateness of a taxpayer's computation of an IPI, which includes all the steps described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section, will be determined in connection with an examination of the taxpayer's federal income tax return. A taxpayer using the IPIC method may elect to establish dollar-value pools according to the special rules in paragraphs (b)(4) and (c)(2) of this section or the general rules in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. Taxpayers eligible to use the IPIC method are described in paragraph (e)(3)(ii) of this section. The manner in which an IPI is computed is described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section. Rules relating to the adoption of, or change to, the IPIC method are in paragraph (e)(3)(iv) of this section.

(ii) *Eligibility.* Any taxpayer electing to use the dollar-value LIFO method may elect to use the IPIC method. Except as provided in this paragraph (e)(3)(ii) or in other published guidance, a taxpayer that elects to use the IPIC method for a specific trade or business must use that method to account for all items of dollar-value LIFO inventory. A taxpayer that uses the retail price indexes computed by the BLS and published in ''Department Store Inventory Price Indexes'' (available from the BLS by calling (202) 606–6325 and entering document code 2415) may elect to use the IPIC method for items that do not fall within any of the major groups listed in ''Department Store Inventory Price Indexes.''

(iii) *Computation of an inventory price index*—(A) *In general.* The computation of an IPI for a dollar-value pool requires the following four steps, which are described in more detail in this paragraph (e)(3)(iii): First, selection of a BLS table and an appropriate month; second, assignment of items in a dollar-value pool to BLS categories (selected BLS categories); third, computation of category inflation indexes for selected BLS categories; and fourth, computation of the IPI. A taxpayer may compute the IPI for each dollar-value pool using either the double-extension method (double-extension IPIC method) or the link-chain method (link-chain IPIC method), without regard to whether the use of a double-extension method is impractical or unsuitable. The use of either the double-extension IPIC method or the link-chain IPIC method is a method of accounting, and the adopted method must be applied consistently to all dollar-value pools within a trade or business accounted for under the IPIC method. A taxpayer that wants to change from the double-extension IPIC method to the link-chain IPIC method, or vice versa, must secure the consent of the Commissioner under §1.446–1(e). This change must be made with a new base year as described in paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(1).

(B) *Selection of BLS table and appropriate month*—(*1*) *In general.* Under the IPIC method, an IPI is computed using the consumer or producer price indexes for certain categories (BLS price indexes and BLS categories, respectively) listed in the selected BLS table of the ''CPI Detailed Report'' or the ''PPI Detailed Report'' for the appropriate month.

(*2*) *BLS table selection.* Manufacturers, processors, wholesalers, jobbers, and distributors must select BLS price indexes from Table 6 (Producer price indexes and percent changes for commodity groupings and individual items, not seasonally adjusted) of the ''PPI Detailed Report'', unless the taxpayer can demonstrate that selecting BLS price indexes from another table of the ''PPI Detailed Report'' is more appropriate. Retailers may select BLS price indexes from either Table 3 (Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, detailed expenditure categories) of the ''CPI Detailed Report'' or from Table 6 (or another more appropriate table) of the ''PPI Detailed Report.'' The selection of a BLS table is a method of accounting and must be used for the taxable year of adoption and all subsequent years, unless the taxpayer obtains the Commissioner's consent under §1.446–1(e) to change its table selection. A taxpayer that changes its BLS table must establish a new base year in the year of change as described in paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B) of this section.

(*3*) *Appropriate month.* In the case of a retailer using the retail method, the appropriate month is the last month of the retailer's taxable year. In the case of all other taxpayers, the appropriate month is the month most consistent with the method used to determine the current-year cost of the dollar-value pool under paragraph (e)(2)(ii) of this section and the taxpayer's history of inventory production or purchases during the taxable year. A taxpayer not using the retail method may annually select an appropriate month for each dollar-value pool or make an election on Form 970, ''Application to Use LIFO Inventory Method,'' to use a representative appropriate month (representative month). An election to use a representative month is a method of accounting and the month elected must be used for the taxable year of the election and all subsequent taxable years, unless the taxpayer obtains the Commissioner's consent under §1.446–1(e) to change or revoke its election.

(*4*) *Examples.* The following examples illustrate the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(B)(*3*):

Example 1. Determining an appropriate month. A wholesaler of seasonal goods timely files a Form 970, ''Application to Use LIFO Inventory Method,'' for the taxable year ending December 31, 2001. The taxpayer indicates elections to use the dollar-value LIFO method, to determine the current-year cost using the earliest acquisitions method in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(*b*) of this section, and to use the IPIC method under paragraph (e)(3) of this section. Although the taxpayer purchases inventory items regularly throughout the year, the items purchased vary according to the seasons. The seasonal items on hand at December 31, 2001, are purchased between October and December. Thus, based on the taxpayer's use of the earliest acquisitions method of determining current-year cost and its experience with inventory purchases, the appropriate month for the items represented in the ending inventory at December 31, 2001, is October.

Example 2. Electing a representative month. A retailer not using the retail method timely files a Form 970, ''Application to Use LIFO Inventory Method,'' for the taxable year ending December 31, 2001. The taxpayer indicates elections to use the dollar-value LIFO method, the most recent purchases method of determining current-year cost under paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(*a*) of this section, the IPIC method under paragraph (e)(3) of this section, and December as its representative month under paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(B)(*3*) of this section. The items in the taxpayer's ending inventory are purchased fairly uniformly throughout the year, with the first purchases normally occurring in January and the last purchases normally occurring in December. The taxpayer's election to use December as its representative month is permissible because the taxpayer elected to use the most recent purchases method and the taxpayer's last purchases of the taxable year normally occur during December, the last month of the taxpayer's taxable year.

Example 3. Changing representative month. The facts are the same as in *Example 2,* except the taxpayer files a Form 3115, ''Application for Change in Accounting Method,'' requesting permission to change to the earliest acquisitions method of determining current-year cost in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(*b*) of this section and to change its representative month from December to January beginning with the taxable year ending December 31, 2003. If the Commissioner consents to the taxpayer's request to change to the earliest acquisitions method, December will no longer be a permissible representative month for this taxpayer because of the absence of a nexus between the earliest acquisitions method, the month of December (the last month of the taxpayer's taxable year), and the taxpayer's experience with inventory purchases during the year. Thus, the Commissioner will permit the taxpayer to change its representative month to January, the first month of the taxpayer's taxable year.

Example 4. Changing representative month. The facts are the same as in *Example 2.* In 2002, the taxpayer changes its annual accounting period to a taxable year ending June 30, which requires the taxpayer to file a return for the short taxable year beginning January 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2002. As a result, December is no longer a permissible representative month because of the absence of a nexus between the most recent purchases method, the month of December, and the taxpayer's experience with inventory purchases during the year. The taxpayer should file a Form 3115 requesting permission to change its representative month from December to June beginning with the short taxable year ending June 30, 2002. Because the taxpayer's last purchases of the taxable year now will occur in June, the Commissioner will consent to the taxpayer's request to change its representative month to June.

Example 5. Changing representative month. The facts are the same as *in Example 2,* except that the taxpayer elects to use January as its representative month. The taxpayer timely files a Form 3115 requesting permission to change its representative month from January to December beginning with the taxable year ending December 31, 2003. January is not a permissible representative month because of the absence of a nexus between the most recent purchases method, the taxpayer's history of inventory purchases, and the month of January, the first month in the taxpayer's taxable year. Because December is a permissible representative month, the Commissioner will permit the taxpayer to change its representative month to December.

(C) *Assignment of inventory items to BLS categories*—(*1*) *In general.* Except as provided in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C)(*2*) of this section, a taxpayer must assign each item in a dollar-value pool to the most-detailed BLS category of the selected BLS table that contains that item. For example, in Table 6 of the ''PPI Detailed Report'' for a given month, the commodity codes for the various BLS categories run from 2 to 8 digits, with the least-detailed BLS categories having a 2-digit code and the most-detailed BLS categories usually (but not always) having an 8-digit code. For purposes of assigning items to the most-detailed BLS category, manufacturers and processors must assign each raw material item to the most-detailed PPI category that includes that raw material and must assign each finished good item to the most-detailed PPI category that includes that finished good. In addition, manufacturers and processors must assign each work-in-process (WIP) item to the most-detailed PPI category that includes the finished good into which the item will be manufactured or processed. For this purpose, *finished good* means a salable item that the taxpayer regularly sells. For example, a gasoline-engine manufacturer that also manufactures the pistons used in those engines and regularly sells some of the pistons (e.g., to retailers of replacement parts) must assign both finished pistons that have not been affixed to an engine block and piston WIP items to the most-detailed PPI category that includes pistons. Finished pistons that have been affixed to an engine block must be assigned to the most-detailed PPI category that includes gasoline engines. In contrast, if sales of these pistons occur infrequently, the taxpayer must assign both finished pistons and piston WIP items to the most-detailed PPI category that includes gasoline engines.

(*2*) *10 percent method.* Instead of assigning each item in a dollar-value pool to the most-detailed BLS categories, as described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C)(*1*) of this section, a taxpayer may elect to use the 10 percent method described in this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C)(*2*). Under the 10 percent method, items are assigned to BLS categories using a three-step procedure.

First, when the current-year cost of a specific item is 10 percent or more of the total current-year cost of the dollar-value pool, the taxpayer must assign that item to the most-detailed BLS category that includes that item (10 percent BLS category). Any other item that is includible in that 10 percent BLS category (other than an item that qualifies for its own 10 percent BLS category under the preceding sentence) must be assigned to that 10 percent BLS category. Second, if one or more items have not been assigned to BLS categories in the first step, the taxpayer must investigate successively less-detailed BLS categories and assign the unassigned item(s) to the first BLS category that contains unassigned items whose current-year cost, in the aggregate, is 10 percent or more of the total current-year cost of the dollar-value pool (also, 10 percent BLS categories). This step must be repeated until all the items in the dollar-value pool have been included in an appropriate 10 percent BLS category, the current-year cost of the unassigned items, in the aggregate, is less than 10 percent of the total current-year cost of the dollar-value pool, or the taxpayer determines that a single BLS category is not appropriate for the aggregate of the unassigned items. Third, if items in a dollar-value pool have not been assigned to a 10 percent BLS category because the current-year cost of those items, in the aggregate, is less than 10 percent of the total current-year cost of the dollar-value pool, the taxpayer must assign those items to the most-detailed BLS category that includes all those items (also, a 10 percent category). On the other hand, if items in a dollar-value pool have not been assigned to a 10 percent BLS category because the taxpayer determines that a single BLS category is not appropriate for the aggregate of those items, the taxpayer must assign each of those items to a single miscellaneous BLS category created by the taxpayer (also, a 10 percent category). In no event may a taxpayer assign items in a dollar-value pool to a BLS category that is less detailed than either the major groups of consumer goods described in Table 3 of the monthly ''CPI Detailed Report'' or the major commodity groups of producer goods described in Table 6 of the monthly ''PPI Detailed Report.'' Principles similar to those described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C)(*1*) apply for purposes of assigning raw material, work-in-process, and finished good items to the most-detailed BLS category under the 10 percent method.

(*3*) *Change in method of accounting.* The 10 percent method of assigning items in a dollar-value pool to BLS categories is a method of accounting. In addition, a taxpayer's selection of a BLS category for a specific item is a method of accounting. However, the assignment of items to different BLS categories solely as a result of the application of the 10 percent method is a change in underlying facts and not a change in method of accounting. Likewise, the selection of a new BLS category for a specific item as a result of a revision to a BLS table is a change in underlying facts and not a change in method of accounting. A taxpayer that wants to change its method of selecting BLS categories (i.e., to or from the 10-percent method) or of selecting a BLS category for a specific item must secure the Commissioner's consent in accordance with §1.446–1(e). A taxpayer that voluntarily changes its method of selecting BLS categories or of selecting a BLS category for a specific item must establish a new base year in the year of change as described in paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B) of this section.

(D) *Computation of a category inflation index*—(*1*) *In general.* As described in more detail in this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D), a category inflation index reflects the inflation that occurs in the BLS price indexes for a selected BLS category (or, if applicable, 10 percent BLS category) during the relevant measurement period.

(*2*) *BLS price indexes.* The BLS price indexes are the cumulative indexes published in the selected BLS table for the appropriate month. A taxpayer may elect to use either preliminary or final BLS price indexes for the appropriate month, provided that the selected BLS price indexes are used consistently. However, a taxpayer that elects to use final BLS price indexes for the appropriate month must use preliminary BLS price indexes for any taxable year for which the taxpayer files its original federal income tax return before the BLS publishes final BLS price indexes for the appropriate month. If a BLS price index for a most-detailed or 10 percent BLS category is not otherwise available for the appropriate or representative month (but not because the BLS categories in the BLS table have been revised), the taxpayer must use the BLS price index for the next most-detailed BLS category that includes the specific item(s) in the most-detailed or 10 percent BLS category. If a BLS price index is not otherwise available for the appropriate or representative month because the BLS categories in the BLS table have been revised, the rules of paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*) of this section apply.

(*3*) *Category inflation index*—(*i*) *In general.* Except as provided in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*) of this section (concerning compound category inflation indexes) or (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*5*) of this section (concerning category inflation indexes for certain 10 percent BLS categories), a category inflation index for a selected BLS category (or, if applicable, 10 percent BLS category) is computed under the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*3*).

(*ii*) *Double-extension IPIC method.* In the case of a taxpayer using the double-extension IPIC method, the category inflation index for a BLS category is the quotient of the BLS price index for the appropriate or representative month of the current year divided by the BLS price index for the appropriate month of the taxable year preceding the base year (base month). However, if the taxpayer did not have an opening inventory in the year that its election to use the dollar-value LIFO method and double-extension IPIC method became effective, the category inflation index for a BLS category is the quotient of the BLS price index for the appropriate or representative month of the current year divided by the BLS price index for the month immediately preceding the month of the taxpayer's first inventory production or purchase.

(*iii*) *Link-chain IPIC method.* In the case of a taxpayer using the link-chain IPIC method, the category inflation index for a BLS category is the quotient of the BLS price index for the appropriate or representative month of the current year divided by the BLS price index for the appropriate month used for the immediately preceding taxable year. However, if the taxpayer did not have an opening inventory in the year that its election to use the dollar-value LIFO method and link-chain IPIC method became effective, the category inflation index for a BLS category for the year of election is the quotient of the BLS price index for the appropriate or representative month of the current year divided by the BLS price index for the month immediately preceding the month of the taxpayer's first inventory production or purchase.

(*iv*) *Special rules concerning representative months.* A taxpayer electing to use a representative month under paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(B)(*3*) of this section must use an appropriate month, rather than the representative month, to determine category inflation indexes in the circumstances described in this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*3*)(*iv*) and in other similar circumstances. For example, in the case of a short taxable year, the category inflation index should reflect the inflation that occurs from the base month (in the case of the double-extension IPIC method), or the appropriate or representative month used for the preceding taxable year (in the case of the link-chain IPIC method), and the appropriate month for the short taxable year. Similarly, if a taxpayer using the link-chain IPIC method is granted consent to change both its method of determining the current-year cost of a dollar-value pool and its representative month, the category inflation index for the year of change should reflect the inflation that occurs between the old representative month used for the preceding taxable year and the new representative month used for the year of change.

(*4*) *Compound category inflation index for revised BLS categories or price indexes*—(*i*) *In general.* Periodically, the BLS revises a BLS table to add one or more new BLS categories, eliminate one or more previously reported BLS categories, or reset the base-year BLS price index of one or more BLS categories. If the BLS has revised the applicable BLS table for a taxable year, a taxpayer must compute the category inflation index for each BLS category for which the taxpayer cannot compute a category inflation index in accordance with paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*3*) of this section (affected BLS category) using a reasonable method, provided the method is used consistently for all affected BLS categories within a particular taxable year. For example, if the BLS revised the CPI by adding new BLS categories as of January 2001 and eliminating some previously reported BLS categories as of December 2000, January 2002 would be the first month for which it would be possible to compute a category inflation index for a 12-month period using the BLS price indexes for any affected category. The compound category inflation index described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*)(*ii*) of this section is a reasonable method of computing the category inflation index for an affected BLS category.

(*ii*) *Computation of compound category inflation index.* When the applicable BLS table is revised as described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*)(*i*) of this section, a taxpayer may use the procedure described in this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*)(*ii*) to compute a compound category inflation index for each affected BLS category represented in the taxpayer's ending inventory. For this purpose, a compound category inflation index is the product of the category inflation index for the ''first portion'' multiplied by the corresponding category inflation index for the ''second portion.'' The category inflation index for the first portion must reflect the inflation that occurs between the end of the base month (in the case of the double-extension IPIC method), or the preceding year's appropriate or representative month (in the case of the link-chain IPIC method), and the end of the last month covered by the unrevised BLS table based on the old BLS category. The corresponding category inflation index for the second portion must reflect the inflation that occurs between the beginning of the first month covered by the revised BLS table based on the new BLS category and the end of the current year's appropriate or representative month. First, using the revised BLS table for the current-year's appropriate or representative month, the taxpayer assigns items in the dollar-value pool using its method of assigning items to BLS categories as described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C) of this section. Second, for each affected BLS category represented in the ending inventory, the taxpayer computes the category inflation index for the second portion using this formula: [A/B], where A equals the BLS price index for the current year's appropriate or representative month and B equals the BLS price index for the last month covered by the unrevised BLS table (as published for the first month of the revised BLS table). Third, using the unrevised BLS table for the base month (in the case of the double extension IPIC method) or the preceding year's appropriate or representative month (in the case of the link-chain IPIC method), the taxpayer assigns each of the items in the dollar-value pool using its method of assigning items to BLS categories. Fourth, for each affected BLS category represented in the ending inventory, the taxpayer computes the category inflation index for the first portion using this formula: [C/D], where C equals the BLS price index for the last month covered by the unrevised BLS table (as published for the last month of the unrevised BLS table) and D equals the BLS price index for the base month (in the case of the double-extension IPIC method) or the preceding year's appropriate or representative month (in the case of the link-chain IPIC method). Fifth, for each affected BLS category represented in the ending inventory, the taxpayer computes the compound category inflation index using this formula: [X*Y], where X equals the category inflation index for the second portion, and Y equals the corresponding category inflation index for the first portion. For the purpose of computing the compound category inflation index for each affected BLS category, the corresponding category inflation index for the first portion is the category inflation index for the unrevised BLS category that includes the specific inventory item(s) included in the revised BLS category. If items included in a single revised BLS category had been included in separate BLS categories before the revision of the BLS table, the corresponding category inflation index for the first portion is the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes for these unrevised BLS categories. See paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(E)(*1*) of this section for a formula of the weighted harmonic mean. When computing this weighted-average category inflation index, a taxpayer must use the current-year costs (or in the case of a retailer using the retail method, the retail selling prices) in ending inventory as the weights.

(*iii*) *New base year*. A taxpayer may establish a new base year in the year following the taxable year for which the taxpayer computed a compound category inflation index under this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*) for one or more affected BLS categories in a dollar-value pool. See paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B) of this section for the procedures and computations incident to establishing a new base year.

(*iv*) *Examples*. The following examples illustrate the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*):

Example 1. BLS categories eliminated. (i) A retailer, whose taxable year ends January 31, elected to account for its inventories using the dollar-value LIFO method and double-extension IPIC method (based on the CPI), beginning with the taxable year ending January 31, 1997. The taxpayer does not use the retail method, but elected to use January as its representative month. On January 31, 1999, the taxpayer's only dollar-value pool contains only two items—lemons and peaches. The total current-year cost of these items is as follows: lemons, $40, and peaches, $30.

(ii) The CPI was revised in October of 1998 to eliminate the ''Citrus fruits'' subcategory of ''Other fresh fruits.'' In addition, the base-year BLS price index for ''Other fresh fruits'' was reset to 100.00 as of October 1, 1998. In relevant part, the January 1999 CPI permits the assignment of both lemons and peaches to ''Other fresh fruits.'' The January 1999 BLS price indexes for ''Citrus fruits'' and ''Other fresh fruits'' are 96.6 and 105.6, respectively. In relevant part, the September 1998 CPI permits the assignment of lemons to ''Citrus fruits'' and peaches to ''Other fresh fruits.'' The September 1998 BLS price indexes for ''Citrus fruits'' and ''Other fresh fruits'' are 194.9 and 294.9, respectively, and the January 1997 BLS price indexes for ''Citrus fruits'' and ''Other fresh fruits'' are 190.2 and 290.2, respectively.

(iii) Because the BLS eliminated the category, ''Citrus fruits,'' as of October 1998, it did not publish a BLS price index for that category in the January 1999 CPI. Thus, the taxpayer cannot compute a category inflation index for ''Citrus fruits'' under the normal procedures, but may compute a compound category inflation index for that affected BLS category using the procedures described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*)(*ii*) of this section.

(iv) The taxpayer computes a compound category inflation index for the two BLS categories that formerly included lemons and peaches. The taxpayer first assigns lemons and peaches to ''Other fresh fruits,'' the most-detailed index in the January 1999 CPI, and then computes the category inflation index for the second portion as follows:

Item	1999 category	Jan. 1999 index/Sept. 1998 index (as published in Oct. 1998)	Category inflation index
Lemons and Peaches	Other fresh fruits	105.6/100.0	1.0560

(v) The taxpayer assigns the lemons and peaches to the most-detailed BLS categories in the January 1998 CPI as follows: lemons to ''Citrus fruits'' and peaches to ''Other fresh fruits.'' Then, the taxpayer computes the category inflation index for the first portion as follows:

Item	1998 category	Sept. 1998 index (as published in Sept. 1998)/Jan. 1997	Category inflation index
Lemons	Citrus fruits	194.9/190.2	1.0247
Peaches	Other fresh Fruits	294.9/290.2	1.0162

(vi) Because lemons and peaches, which are included together in the revised ''Other fresh fruits'' category, had been included in separate BLS categories before the BLS table was revised, the taxpayer must compute a single corresponding category inflation index for the affected BLS categories for the first portion. This corresponding category inflation index is the weighted harmonic mean of the separate corresponding category inflation indexes for the first portion using the cost of the items in ending inventory as the weights. The taxpayer computes the corresponding category inflation index for ''Other fresh fruits'' for the first portion as follows:

Item	(I) Weight (cost of item)	(II) Category inflation index	(III) Quotient: (I)/(II)
Lemons	$40.00	1.0247	$39.04
Peaches	30.00	1.0162	29.52
Total	70.00		68.56

(IV) Sum of weights	(V) Sum of (weight/category inflation index)	(VI) Weighted harmonic mean of other fresh fruits: (IV)/(V)
$70.00	$68.56	1.0210

(vii) Finally, the taxpayer computes the compound category inflation index for Other fresh fruits as follows:

Item	(I) Category inflation index (second portion)	(II) Category inflation index (first portion)	(III) Compound category inflation index: (I)*(II)
Other fresh fruits	1.0560	1.0210	1.0782

(viii) The taxpayer may establish a new base year for the taxable year ending January 31, 2000.

Example 2. BLS categories separated. (i) The facts are the same as in *Example 1*, except prior to October 1998, both lemons and peaches were assigned to ''Other fresh fruits'' and in the October 1998 CPI, the BLS created a new category, ''Citrus fruits,'' for citrus fruits, such as lemons. Moreover, the BLS reset the base-year BLS price index for ''Other fresh fruits'' to 100.0 as of October 1, 1998. As a result of these changes, the taxpayer may no longer assign lemons to ''Other fresh fruits.''

(ii) Because ''Citrus fruits'' is new as of October 1998, the BLS did not publish a BLS price index for this BLS category in the January 1999 CPI. Thus, because the taxpayer cannot compute a category inflation index for ''Citrus fruits'' under the normal procedures, the taxpayer may compute a compound category inflation index for the affected BLS category using the procedures described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*4*)(*ii*) of this section.

(iii) Based on the January 1999 CPI, the taxpayer assigns lemons to ''Citrus fruits'' and peaches to ''Other fresh fruits.'' Then, the taxpayer computes a compound category inflation index for each of the two BLS categories. The computation of the category inflation index for the second portion is as follows:

Item	1999 category	Jan. 1999 index/Sept. 1998 index (as published in Oct. 1998)	Category inflation index
Lemons	Citrus fruits	96.6/100	0.9660
Peaches	Other fresh fruits	105.6/100	1.0560

(iv) Then, the taxpayer computes the category inflation index for the first portion as follows:

Item	1998 category	Sept. 1998 index (as published in Sept. 1998)/Jan. 1997	Category inflation index
Lemons & Peaches	Other fresh fruits	294.9/290.2	1.0162

(v) Finally, the taxpayer computes the compound category inflation index for ''Citrus fruits'' and ''Other fresh fruits'':

Item	(I) Category inflation index (second portion)	(II) Category inflation index (first portion)	(III) Compound category inflation index: (I)*(II)
Citrus fruits	0.9660	1.0162	0.9816
Other fresh fruits	1.0560	1.0162	1.0731

(vi) The taxpayer may establish a new base year for the taxable year ending January 31, 2000.

(5) *10 percent method.* *(i) Applicability.* A taxpayer that elects to use the 10 percent method described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C)(*2*) of this section must compute a category inflation index for a less-detailed 10 percent BLS category as provided in this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*5*). A less-detailed 10 percent category is a BLS category that—

(*A*) subsumes two or more BLS categories;

(*B*) Does not have a single assigned item whose current-year cost is 10 percent or more of the current-year cost of all the items in the dollar-value pool;

(*C*) Has at least one item in at least one of the subsumed BLS categories; and

(*D*) Has at least one subsumed BLS category that either does not have any assigned items or is a separate 10 percent BLS category.

(*ii*) *Determination of category inflation index.* If the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*5*) apply, the category inflation index for the less-detailed 10 percent BLS category is equal to the weighted arithmetic mean of the category inflation index (or, compound category inflation index, if applicable) for each of the subsumed BLS categories that have been assigned at least one item from the taxpayer's dollar-value pool (excluding any item that is properly assigned to a separate 10 percent BLS category). [Weighted Arithmetic Mean = Sum of (Weight × Category Inflation Index)]/Sum of Weights]. The appropriate weight for each of the most-detailed BLS categories referenced in the preceding sentence is the corresponding BLS weight. Currently, in January of each year, the BLS publishes the BLS weights determined for December of the preceding year. In the case of a taxpayer using the double-extension IPIC method, the BLS weights for December of the taxable year preceding the base year are to be used for all taxable years. In the case of a taxpayer using the link-chain IPIC method, the BLS weights for December of a given calendar year are to be used for taxable years that end during the 12-month period that begins on July 1 of the following calendar year. However, if the BLS weights are not published for all of the most-detailed BLS categories referenced above, the taxpayer may use the current-year cost (or in the case of a retailer using the retail method, the retail selling prices) of all items assigned to a specific most-detailed BLS category as the appropriate weight for that category, but must compute a weighted harmonic mean. See paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(E)(*1*) of this section for a formula of the weighted harmonic mean.

(E) *Computation of Inventory Price Index (IPI)—(1) Double-extension IPIC method.* Under the double-extension IPIC method, the IPI for a dollar-value pool is the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes (or, if applicable, compound category inflation indexes) determined under paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D) of this section for each selected BLS category (or, if applicable 10 percent BLS category) represented in the taxpayer's dollar-value pool at the end of the taxable year. The formula for computing the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes is: [Sum of Weights/Sum of (Weight/Category Inflation Index)]. The weights to be used when computing this weighted harmonic mean are the current-year costs (or, in the case of a retailer using the retail method, the retail selling prices) in each selected BLS category represented in the dollar-value pool at the end of the taxable year.

(*2*) *Link-chain IPIC method.* Under the link-chain IPIC method, the IPI for a dollar-value pool is the product of the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes (or, if applicable, the compound category inflation indexes) determined under paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D) of this section for each selected BLS category (or, if applicable, 10 percent BLS category) represented in the taxpayer's dollar-value pool at the end of the taxable year multiplied by the IPI for the immediately preceding taxable year. The formula for computing the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes is: [Sum of Weights/Sum of (Weight/Category Inflation Index)]. The weights to be used when computing this weighted harmonic mean are the current-year costs (or, in the case of a retailer using the retail method, the retail selling prices) in each selected BLS category represented in the dollar-value pool at the end of the taxable year.

(*3*) *Examples.* The following examples illustrate the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(E):

Example 1. Double-extension method. (i) *Introduction.* R is a retail furniture merchant that does not use the retail method. For the taxable year ending December 31, 2000, R used the first-in, first-out method of identifying inventory and valued its inventory at cost. The total cost of R's inventory on December 31, 2000, was $850,000. R elected to use the dollar-value LIFO and double-extension IPIC methods for its taxable year ending December 31, 2001. R does not elect to use the 10 percent method described in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(C)(*2*) of this section. R determines the current-year cost of the items using the actual cost of the most recently purchased goods. R elected to pool its inventory based on the major groups in Table 6 of the monthly ''PPI Detailed Report'' in accordance with the special IPIC pooling rules of paragraph (b)(4) of this section. All items in R's inventory fall within the 2-digit commodity code in Table 6 of the monthly ''PPI Detailed Report'' for ''furniture and household durables.'' Therefore, R will maintain a single dollar-value pool.

(ii) *Select a BLS table and appropriate month for 2001.* R determines that the appropriate month for 2001 is October. R also determines that the appropriate month for 2000 would have been December if R had used the IPIC method for that year.

(iii) *Assign inventory items to BLS categories for 2001.* For 2001, R assigns all items in the dollar-value pool to the most-detailed BLS categories listed in Table 6 of the October 2001 ''PPI Detailed Report'' that contain those items. The BLS categories and the current-year cost of the items assigned to them are summarized as follows:

Commodity code	Category	Current-year cost
12120101	Living Room Table	$111,924.00
12120211	Dining Room Table	159,578.00
12120216	Dining Room Chairs	98,639.00
12130101	Upholstered Sofas	332,488.00
12130111	Upholstered Chairs	218,751.00
Total		921,380.00

(iv) *Compute category inflation indexes for 2001.* Because R elected to use the double-extension IPIC method and did not elect the 10 percent method, the category inflation indexes are computed in accordance with paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*3*)(*ii*) of this section (BLS price indexes for October 2001 divided by BLS price indexes for December 2000). R computes the category inflation indexes for 2001 as follows:

Category	(I) Oct. 2001 index	(II) Dec. 2000 index	(III) Category inflation index: (I)/(II)
Living Room Table	172.4	169.2	1.018913
Dining Room Table	171.9	168.1	1.022606
Dining Room Chairs	172.8	169.7	1.018268
Upholstered Sofas	142.2	140.9	1.009226
Upholstered Chairs	134.1	132.5	1.012075

(v) *Compute IPI for 2001*. R must compute the IPI for 2001, which is the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes for 2001. The formula for the weighted harmonic mean provided in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(E)(*1*) of this section is [Sum of Weights/Sum of (Weight/Category Inflation Index)]. The IPI for 2001 is computed as follows:

Category	(I) Weight	(II) Category inflation index	(III) Quotient: (I)/(II)
Living Room Table	$111,924.00	1.018913	$109,846.47
Dining Room Table	159,578.00	1.022606	156,050.33
Dining Room Chairs	98,639.00	1.018268	96,869.39
Upholstered Sofas	332,488.00	1.009226	329,448.51
Upholstered Chairs	218,751.00	1.012075	216,141.10
Total	$921,380.00		$908,355.80

(IV) Sum of weights	(V) Sum of (weight/category inflation index)	(VI) Inventory price index: (IV)/(V)
$921,380.00	$908,355.80	1.01433821

(vi) *Determine the LIFO value of the dollar-value pool for 2001*. For 2001, R determines the total base-year cost of its ending inventory by dividing the total current-year cost of the items in the dollar-value pool by the IPI for 2001. The total base-year cost of R's ending inventory is $908,355.80 ($921,380/1.01433821). Comparing the base-year cost of the ending inventory to the base-year cost of the beginning inventory, R determines that the base-year cost of the 2001 increment is $58,355.80 ($908,355.80 - $850,000.00). R multiplies the base-year cost of the 2001 increment by the IPI for 2001 and determines that the LIFO value of the 2001 layer is $59,192.52 ($58,355.80 * 1.01433821). Thus, the LIFO value of R's total inventory at the end of 2001 is $909,192.52 ($850,000.00 (opening inventory) + $59,192.52 (2001 layer)).

(vii) *Select a BLS table and appropriate month for 2002*. For 2002, R must compute a new IPI under the double-extension IPIC method to determine the LIFO value of its dollar-value pool. R determines that the appropriate month for 2002 is November.

(viii) *Assign inventory items to BLS categories for 2002*. For 2002, R assigns all items in the dollar-value pool to the most-detailed BLS categories listed in Table 6 of the November 2002 ''PPI Detailed Report'' that contain those items. The BLS categories and the current-year cost of the items assigned to them are summarized as follows:

Commodity code	Category	Current-year cost
12120103	Living Room Desks	$125,008.00
12120211	Dining Room Table	136,216.00
12120216	Dining Room Chairs	113,569.00
12130101	Upholstered Sofas	343,900.00
12130111	Upholstered Chairs	233,050.00
Total		$951,743.00

(ix) *Compute category inflation indexes for 2002*. Because R uses the double-extension IPIC method and did not elect the 10 percent method, the category inflation indexes are computed in accordance with paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*3*)(*ii*) of this section (BLS price indexes for November 2002 divided by BLS price indexes for December 2000). R computes the category inflation indexes for 2002 as follows:

Category	(I) Nov. 2002 index	(II) Dec. 2000 index	(III) Category inflation index (I)/(II)
Living Room Desks	172.6	160.3	1.076731
Dining Room Table	174.8	168.1	1.039857
Dining Room Chairs	177.0	169.7	1.043017
Upholstered Sofas	144.9	140.9	1.028389
Upholstered Chairs	136.6	132.5	1.030943

(x) *Compute IPI for 2002*. R must compute the IPI for 2002, which is the weighted harmonic mean [Sum of Weights/Sum of (Weight/Category Inflation Index)] of the category inflation indexes for 2002. The IPI for 2002 is computed as follows:

Category	(I) Weight	(II) Category inflation index	(III) Quotient: (I)/(II)
Living Room Desks	$125,008.00	1.076731	$116,099.56
Dining Room Table	136,216.00	1.039857	130,994.93
Dining Room Chairs	113,569.00	1.043017	108,885.09
Upholstered Sofas	343,900.00	1.028389	334,406.53
Upholstered Chairs	233,050.00	1.030943	226,055.17
Total	951,743.00		916,441.28

(IV) Sum of weights	(V) Category inflation index	(VI) Inventory price index: (IV)/(V)
$951,743.00	$916,441.28	1.03852044

(xi) *Determine the LIFO value of the pool for 2002*. For 2002, R determines the total base-year cost of its ending inventory by dividing the total current-year cost of the items in the dollar-value pool by the IPI for 2002. The total base-year cost of the ending inventory is $916,441.28 ($951,743.00/1.03852044). Comparing the base-year cost of the ending inventory to the base-year cost of the beginning inventory, R determines that the base-year cost of the 2002 increment is $8,085.48 ($916,441.28 − $908,355.80). R multiplies the base-year cost of the 2002 increment by the IPI for 2002 and determines that the LIFO value of the 2002 layer is $8,396.94 ($8,085.48 * 1.03852044). Thus, the LIFO value of R's total inventory at the end of 2002 is $917,589.46 ($850,000.00 (opening inventory) + $59,192.52 (2001 layer) + $8,396.94 (2002 layer)).

Example 2. Link-chain method. (i) *Introduction*. The facts are the same as *Example 1*, except that R uses the link-chain IPIC method. The double-extension IPIC method and the link-chain IPIC method yield the same results for the first taxable year in which the dollar-value LIFO and IPIC methods are used. Therefore, this example illustrates only how R will compute the IPI for, and determine the LIFO value of, its dollar-value pool for 2002.

(ii) *Select a BLS table and appropriate month for 2002*. R determines that the appropriate month for 2002 is November.

(iii) *Assign inventory items to BLS categories for 2002*. For 2002, R assigns all items in the dollar-value pool to the most-detailed BLS categories listed in Table 6 of the November 2002 ''PPI Detailed Report'' that contain those items. The BLS categories and the current-year cost of the items assigned to them are summarized as follows:

Commodity code	Category	Current-year cost
12120103	Living Room Desks	$125,008.00
12120211	Dining Room Table	136,216.00
12120216	Dining Room Chairs	113,569.00
12130101	Upholstered Sofas	343,900.00
12130111	Upholstered Chairs	233,050.00
Total		951,743.00

(iv) *Compute category inflation indexes for 2002*. Because R uses the link-chain IPIC method and did not elect the 10 percent method, the category inflation indexes are computed in accordance with paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(D)(*3*)(*iii*) of this section (BLS price indexes for November 2002 divided by BLS price indexes for October 2001). R computes the category inflation indexes for 2002 as follows:

Category	(I) Nov. 2002 index	(II) Oct. 2001 index	(III) Category inflation index: (I)/(II)
Living Room Desks	172.6	162.0	1.065432
Dining Room Table	174.8	171.9	1.016870
Dining Room Chairs	177.0	172.8	1.024306
Upholstered Sofas	144.9	142.2	1.018987

Category	(I) Nov. 2002 index	(II) Oct. 2001 index	(III) Category inflation index: (I)/(II)
Upholstered Chairs	136.6	134.1	1.018643

(v) *Compute IPI for 2002*. As provided in paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(E)(*2*) of this section, R must compute the IPI for 2002 by multiplying the weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes for 2002 by the IPI for 2001. The IPI for 2002 is computed as follows:

Category	(I) Weight	(II) Category inflation index	(III) Quotient: (I)/(II)
Living Room Desks	$125,008.00	1.065432	$117,330.81
Dining Room Table	136,216.00	1.016870	133,956.16
Dining Room Chairs	113,569.00	1.024306	110,874.09
Upholstered Sofas	343,900.00	1.018987	337,492.04
Upholstered Chairs	233,050.00	1.018643	228,784.77
Total	951,743.00		928,437.87

(IV) Sum of weights	(V) Sum of (weight/category inflation index)	(VI) Weighted harmonic mean of category inflation indexes for 2002: (IV)/(V)	(VII) Inventory price index for 2001	(VIII) Inventory price index for 2002: (VI)*(VII)
$951,743.00	$928,437.87	1.02510144	1.01433821	1.03979956

(vi) *Determine the LIFO value of the pool for 2002*. R determines the total base-year cost of its ending inventory by dividing the total current-year cost of the items in the dollar-value pool by the IPI for 2002. The total base-year cost of the ending inventory is $915,313.91 ($951,743.00 / 1.03979956). Comparing the base-year cost of the ending inventory to the base-year cost of the beginning inventory, R determines that the base-year cost of the 2002 layer is $6,958.11 ($915,313.91–$908,355.80). R multiplies the base-year cost of the 2002 layer by the IPI for 2002 and determines that the LIFO value of the 2002 layer is $7,235.04 ($6,958.11 * 1.03979956). Thus, the LIFO value of R's total inventory at the end of 2002 is $916,427.56 ($850,000.00 (opening inventory) + $59,192.52 (2001 layer) + $7,235.04 (2002 layer)).

(iv) *Adoption or change of method*—(A) *Adoption or change to IPIC method*. The use of an inventory price index computed under the IPIC method is a method of accounting. A taxpayer permitted to adopt the dollar-value LIFO method without first securing the Commissioner's consent also may adopt the IPIC method without first securing the Commissioner's consent. The IPIC method may be adopted and used, however, only if the taxpayer provides the following information on a Form 970, ''Application to Use LIFO Inventory Method,'' or in another manner as may be acceptable to the Commissioner: A complete list of dollar-value pools (including a description of the items in each dollar-value pool); the BLS table (i.e., CPI or PPI) selected for each dollar-value pool; the representative month, if applicable, elected for each dollar-value pool; the BLS categories to which the items in each dollar-value pool will be assigned; the method of assigning items to BLS categories (e.g., the 10 percent method) for each dollar-value pool; and the method of computing the IPI (i.e., double-extension IPIC method or link-chain IPIC method) for each dollar-value pool. In the case of a taxpayer permitted to adopt the IPIC method without requesting the Commissioner's consent, the Form 970 must be attached to the taxpayer's income tax return for the taxable year of adoption. In all other cases, a taxpayer may change to the IPIC method only after securing the Commissioner's consent as provided in §1.446–1(e). In these latter cases, the Form 970 containing the information described in this paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(A) must be attached to a Form 3115, ''Application for Change in Accounting Method,'' filed as required by §1.446–1(e). A taxpayer that simultaneously changes to the dollar-value LIFO and IPIC methods from another LIFO method must apply the rules of paragraph (f)(2) of this section before applying the rules of paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*) of this section. To satisfy the requirements of §1.472–2(h), taxpayers must maintain adequate books and records, including those concerning the use of the IPIC method and necessary computations. Notwithstanding the rules in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, a taxpayer that adopts, or changes to, the link-chain IPIC method is not required to demonstrate that the use of any other method of determining the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool is impractical.

(B) *New base year*—(*1*) *Voluntary change*—(*i*) *In general.* In the case of a taxpayer using a non-IPIC method to determine the LIFO value of inventory, the layers previously determined under that method, if any, and the LIFO values of those layers are retained if the taxpayer voluntarily changes to the IPIC method. Instead of using the earliest taxable year for which the taxpayer adopted the LIFO method for any items in the dollar-value pool, the year of change is used as the new base year for the purpose of determining the amount of increments and liquidations, if any, for the year of change and subsequent taxable years. The base-year cost of the layers in a dollar-value pool at the beginning of the year of change must be restated in terms of new base-year cost using the year of change as the new base year and, if applicable, the indexes for the previously determined layers must be recomputed accordingly. The recomputed indexes will be used to determine the LIFO value of subsequent liquidations. For purposes of computing an IPI under paragraph (e)(3)(iii)(E) of this section, the IPI for the immediately preceding year is 1.00. The new total base-year cost of the items in a dollar-value pool for the purpose of determining future increments and liquidations is equal to the total current-year cost of the items in the dollar-value pool (determined using the taxpayer's method of determining the total current-year cost of the items in the dollar-value pool under paragraph (e)(2)(ii) of this section). A taxpayer must allocate this new total base-year cost to each layer based on the ratio of the old base-year cost of the layer to the old total base-year cost of the dollar-value pool.

(*ii*) *Example.* The following example illustrates the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*):

Example. (i) In 1990, X elected to use a dollar-value LIFO method (other than the IPIC method) for its single dollar-value pool. X is granted permission to change to the link-chain IPIC method, beginning with the taxable year ending December 31, 2001. X will continue using a single dollar-value pool. X's beginning inventory as of January 1, 2001, computed using its former inventory method, is as follows:

Layer	(I) Base-year cost	(II) Inflation index	(III) LIFO value: (I) * (II)
Base layer	$135,000	1.00	$135,000
1991 layer	20,000	1.43	28,600
1994 layer	60,000	1.55	93,000
1995 layer	13,000	1.59	20,670
1997 layer	2,000	1.61	3,220
Total	230,000		280,490

(ii) Under X's method of determining the current-year cost of items in a dollar-value pool, the current-year cost of the beginning inventory is $391,000. Thus, X's new base-year cost as of January 1, 2001, is $391,000. X allocates this new base-year cost to each layer based on the ratio of old base-year cost of the layer to the total old base-year cost of the dollar-value pool. To recompute the inflation indexes for each of its layers, X divides the LIFO value of each layer by the new base-year cost attributable to the layer. The new base-year cost, recomputed inflation indexes, and LIFO value of X's layers as of January 1, 2001, are as follows:

Layer	(I) Base-year cost	(II) Inflation index	(III) LIFO value: (I) * (II)
Base layer	$229,500	0.588235	$135,000
1991 layer	34,000	0.841176	28,600
1994 layer	102,000	0.911765	93,000
1995 layer	22,100	0.935294	20,670
1997 layer	3,400	0.947059	3,220
Total	391,000		280,490

(iii) In 2001, the current-year cost of X's ending inventory is $430,139. The weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes applicable to X's ending inventory is 1.075347, and in accordance with paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*)(*i*) of this section, the inflation index for the immediately preceding taxable year is 1.00. Thus, X's IPI for 2001 is 1.075347 (1.00 * 1.075347). The total base-year cost of X's ending inventory is $400,000 ($430,139/1.075347). The base-year cost, IPI, and LIFO value of X's layers as of December 31, 2001, are as follows:

Layer	(I) Base-year cost	(II) Inventory price index	(III) LIFO value: (I) * (II)
Base layer	$229,500	0.588235	$135,000
1991 layer	34,000	0.841176	28,600
1994 layer	102,000	0.911765	93,000
1995 layer	22,100	0.935294	20,670
1997 layer	3,400	0.947059	3,220
2001 layer	9,000	1.075347	9,678
Total	400,000		290,168

(iv) In 2002, the current-year cost of X's ending inventory is $418,000. The weighted harmonic mean of the category inflation indexes applicable to X's ending inventory is 1.02292562, and the IPI for the immediately preceding year is 1.075347. Thus, X's IPI for 2001 is 1.10 (1.075347 * 1.02292562). The total base-year cost of X's ending inventory is $380,000 ($418,000/1.10), which results in a liquidation of $20,000 ($400,000 − $380,000) in terms of base-year cost. This liquidation eliminates the 2001 layer ($9,000 base-year cost), the 1997 layer ($3,400 base-year cost), and part of the 1995 layer ($7,600 base-year cost). The base-year cost, indexes, and LIFO value of X's layers as of December 31, 2002, are as follows:

Layer	(I) Base-year cost	(II) Inventory price index	(III) LIFO value: (I) * (II)
Base layer	$229,500	0.588235	$135,000
1991 layer	34,000	0.841176	28,600
1994 layer	102,000	0.911765	93,000
1995 layer	14,500	0.935294	13,562
Total	380,000		270,162

(2) *Involuntary change—(i) In general.* If a taxpayer uses a non-IPIC method to compute the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool, and if the Commissioner determines that the taxpayer's method does not clearly reflect income, the Commissioner may require the taxpayer to change to the IPIC method. If the Commissioner requires a taxpayer to change to the IPIC method, and the taxpayer does not provide sufficient information from its books and records to compute an adjustment under section 481, the Commissioner may implement the change using the simplified transition method described in paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*2*)(*ii*) of this section.

(*ii*) *Simplified Transition Method.* Under the simplified transition method, the Commissioner will recompute the LIFO value of each dollar-value pool as of the beginning of the year of change using the double-extension IPIC method or the link-chain IPIC method. The adjustment under section 481 is equal to the difference between the recomputed LIFO value and the LIFO value of the pool determined under the taxpayer's former method. The Commissioner will compute an IPI using the double-extension IPIC method or link-chain IPIC method for each taxable year in which the LIFO method was used by the taxpayer based on the assumptions that the ending inventory of the pool in each taxable year was comprised of items that fall into the same BLS categories as the items in the ending inventory of the year of change and that the relative weights of those BLS categories in all prior years were the same as the relative weights of those BLS categories in the ending inventory of the year of change. The base-year cost of the items in a dollar-value pool at the end of a taxable year will be determined by dividing the IPI computed for the taxable year into the current-year cost of the items in that pool determined in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii) of this section. If the comparison of the base-year cost of the beginning and ending inventory produces a current-year increment, the base-year cost of that increment will be multiplied by the IPI computed for that taxable year to determine the LIFO value of that layer.

(*iii*) *Example*. The following example illustrates the rules of this paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*2*)(*ii*).

Example. (i) Z began using a dollar-value LIFO method other than the IPIC method in the taxable year ending December 31, 1998, and maintains a single dollar-value pool. Z's beginning inventory as of January 1, 2000, computed using its method of accounting, was as follows:

Layer	(I) Base-year cost	(II) Inflation index	(III) LIFO value: (I)*(II)
Base layer	$105,000	1.00	$105,000
1998 layer	3,000	1.40	4,200
Total	108,000		109,200

(ii) Upon examining Z's federal income tax return for the taxable year ending December 31, 2000, the examining agent determines that Z's dollar-value LIFO method does not clearly reflect income. The examining agent chooses to change Z to the double-extension IPIC method for 2000 and implements the change using the simplified transition method as follows. First, the inventory in Z's dollar-value pool at the end of 2000 is assigned to the most-detailed categories in the CPI or PPI, whichever is appropriate. Assume that 80 percent of the current-year cost of Z's inventory as of December 31, 2000, is assigned to Category 1, 10 percent is assigned to Category 2, and 10 percent is assigned to Category 3. Assume further that the current-year cost of the inventory in Z's dollar-value pool at the end of 1998 and 1999 was $133,000 and $145,000, respectively.

(iii) The category inflation indexes for 1998 computed under the double-extension IPIC method are 1.17 for Category 1, 1.26 for Category 2, and 1.19 for Category 3. The weights to be used in computing the IPI for 1998 are $106,400 ($133,000 * 80 percent) for Category 1, $13,300 ($133,000 * 10 percent) for Category 2, and $13,300 ($133,000 * 10 percent) for Category 3. The IPI for 1998 is computed as follows:

Category	(I) Weight	(II) Category inflation index	(III) Quotient: (I)/(II)
1	$106,400	1.17	90,940
2	13,300	1.26	10,556
3	13,300	1.19	11,176
Total	133,000		112,672

(IV) Sum of weights	(V) Sum of (weight/category inflation index)	(VI) Inventory price index: (IV)/(V)
$133,000	$112,672	1.180417

(iv) The base-year cost of the inventory in Z's pool at the end of 1998 is $112,672 ($133,000/1.180417), and the base-year cost of the 1998 increment is $7,672 ($112,672 − $105,000). The LIFO value of the 1998 layer is $9,056 ($7,672×1.180417).

(v) The category inflation indexes for 1999 computed under the double-extension IPIC method were 1.21 for Category 1, 1.29 for Category 2 and 1.23 for Category 3. The weights to be used in computing the IPI for 1999 are $116,000 ($145,000×80 percent) for Category 1, $14,500 ($145,000×10 percent) for Category 2, and $14,500 ($145,000×10 percent) for Category 3. The IPI for 1999 is computed as follows:

Category	(I) Weight	(II) Category inflation index	(III) Quotient: (I)/(II)
1	$116,000	1.21	$95,868
2	14,500	1.29	11,240
3	14,500	1.23	11,789
Total	145,000		118,897

(IV) Sum of weights	(V) Sum of (weight/category inflation index)	(VI) Inventory price index: (IV)/(V)
$145,000	$118,897	1.219543

(vi) The base-year cost of the inventory in Z's pool at the end of 1999 is $118,897 ($145,000/1.219543), and the base-year cost of the 1999 layer is $6,225 ($118,897 − $112,672). The LIFO value of the 1999 layer is $7,592 ($6,225×1.219543).

(vii) The LIFO value of Z's dollar-value pool at the end of 1999 computed under the double-extension IPIC method is as follows:

Layer	(I) Base-year cost	(II) Inventory price index	(III) LIFO value: (I)*(II)
Base layer	$105,000	1.000000	$105,000
1998 layer	7,672	1.180417	9,056
1999 layer	6,225	1.219542	7,592
Total	118,897		121,648

(viii) The section 481(a) adjustment is equal to the difference between the LIFO value of the inventory at the beginning of 2000 computed under Z's former method of accounting and recomputed by the examining agent under the double-extension IPIC method, or $12,448 ($121,648—$109,200).

(ix) Finally, the examining agent will recompute Z's taxable income for 2000 and succeeding taxable years using the double-extension IPIC method.

(v) *Effective date*—(A) *In general.* The rules of this paragraph (e)(3) and paragraphs (b)(4) and (c)(2) of this section are applicable for taxable years ending on or after December 31, 2001.

(B) *Change in method of accounting.* Any change in a taxpayer's method of accounting necessary to comply with this paragraph (e)(3) or with paragraphs (b)(4) or (c)(2) of this section is a change in method of accounting to which the provisions of section 446 and the regulations thereunder apply. For the first or second taxable year ending on or after December 31, 2001, a taxpayer is granted the consent of the Commissioner to change its method of accounting to a method required or permitted by this paragraph (e)(3) and paragraphs (b)(4) and (c)(2) of this section. A taxpayer that wants to change its method of accounting under this paragraph (e)(3)(v) must follow the automatic consent procedures in Rev. Proc. 2002–9 (2002–3 I.R.B. xxx) (see § 601.601(d)(2) of this chapter). However, the scope limitations in section 4.02 of Rev. Proc. 2002–9 do not apply, and the five-year limitation on the readoption of the LIFO method under section 10.01(2) of the appendix is waived. In addition, if the taxpayer's method of accounting for its LIFO inventories is an issue under consideration at the time the application is filed with the national office, the audit protection of section 7 of Rev. Proc. 2002–9 does not apply. If a taxpayer changing its method of accounting under this paragraph (e)(3)(v)(B) is under examination, before an appeals office, or before a federal court with respect to any income tax issue, the taxpayer must provide a copy of the application to the examining agent(s), appeals officer or counsel for the government, as appropriate, at the same time it files the application with the national office. Any change under this paragraph (e)(3)(v)(B) must be made using a cut-off method and new base year. See paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*) of this section for an example of this computation. Because a change under this paragraph (e)(3)(v)(B) is made using a cut-off method, a section 481(a) adjustment is not permitted. However, a taxpayer changing its method of accounting under this paragraph (e)(3)(v)(B) must comply with the requirements of section 10.06(3) of the APPENDIX of Rev. Proc. 2002–9 (concerning bargain purchases).

(f) *Change to dollar-value method from another method of pricing LIFO inventories*—(1) *Consent required*. Except as provided in §1.472–3 in the case of a taxpayer electing to use a LIFO inventory method for the first time, or in the case of a taxpayer changing to the dollar-value method and continuing to use the same pools as were used under another LIFO method, a taxpayer using another LIFO method of pricing inventories may not change to the dollar-value method of pricing such inventories unless he first secures the consent of the Commissioner in accordance with paragraph (e) of §1.446–1.

(2) *Method of converting inventory*. Where the taxpayer changes from one method of pricing LIFO inventories to the dollar-value method, the ending LIFO inventory for the taxable year immediately preceding the year of change shall be converted to the dollar-value LIFO method. This is done to establish the base-year cost for subsequent calculations. Thus, if the taxpayer was previously valuing LIFO inventories on the specific goods method, these separate values shall be combined into appropriate pools. For this purpose, the base year for the pool shall be the earliest taxable year for which the LIFO inventory method had been adopted for any item in that pool. No change will be made in the overall LIFO value of the opening inventory for the year of change as a result of the conversion, and that inventory will merely be restated in the manner used under the dollar-value method. All layers of increment for such inventory must be retained, except that all layers of increment which occurred in the same taxable year must be combined. The following examples illustrate the provisions of this subparagraph:

Example 1. (i) Assume that the taxpayer has used another LIFO method for finished goods since 1954 and has complied with all the requirements prerequisite for a change to the dollar-value method. Items A, B, and C, which have previously been inventoried under the specific goods LIFO method, may properly be included in a single dollar-value LIFO pool. The LIFO inventory value of items A, B, and C at December 31, 1960, is $12,200, computed as follows:

Year	Base quantity and yearly increments	Unit cost	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Item A			
1954 (base year)	100	$1	$100
1955	200	2	400
1956	100	4	400
1960	100	6	600
Total	500	....	1,500
Item B			
1954 (base year)	300	6	1,800
1955	100	8	800
1960	50	10	500
Total	450	....	3,100
Item C			
1954 (base year)	1,000	4	4,000
1955	200	6	1,200
1956	300	8	2,400
Total	1,500	....	7,600
LIFO value of items A, B, and C at Dec. 31, 1960	....	....	12,200

There were no increments in the years 1957, 1958, or 1959.

(ii) The computation of the ratio of the total current-year cost to the total base-year cost for the base year and each layer of increment in Pool No. 1 is shown as follows:

Item	1954 base-year unit cost	Year 1954	Increments		
			1955	1956	1960
A					
Base-year cost	$1.00	$100	$200	$100	$100
LIFO value	....	100	400	400	600
B					
Base-year cost	6.00	1,800	600	....	300
LIFO value	....	1,800	800	....	500
C					
Base-year cost	4.00	4,000	800	1,200	....
LIFO value	....	4,000	1,200	2,400	....
Total—Base-year cost	5,900	1,600	1,300	400	
Total—LIFO value	5,900	2,400	2,800	1,100	
Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	....	100.00	150.00	215.38	275.00

(iii) On the basis of the foregoing computations, the LIFO inventory of Pool No. 1, at December 31, 1960, is restated as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
1954 base cost	$5,900	100.00	$5,900
1955 increment	1,600	150.00	2,400
1956 increment	1,300	215.38	2,800
1960 increment	400	275.00	1,100
Total	9,200	....	12,200

Example 2. Assume the same facts as in Example 1 and assume further that the base-year cost of Pool No. 1 at December 31, 1961, is $8,350. Since the closing inventory for the taxable year 1961 at base-year cost is less than the opening inventory for that year at base-year cost, a liquidation has occurred during 1961. This liquidation absorbs all of the 1960 layer of increment and part of the 1956 layer of increment. The December 31, 1961, inventory is $10,131, computed as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1961, inventory at base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1961, inventory at LIFO value
1954 base cost	$5,900	100.00	$5,900
1955 increment	1,600	150.00	2,400
1956 increment	850	215.38	1,831
Total	8,350	....	10,131

(g) *Transitional rules*—(1) *Change in method of pooling.* Any method of pooling authorized by this section and used by the taxpayer in computing his LIFO inventories under the dollar-value method shall be treated as a method of accounting. Any method of pooling which is authorized by this section shall be used for the year of adoption and for all subsequent taxable years unless a change is required by the Commissioner in order to clearly reflect income, or unless permission to change is granted by the Commissioner as provided in paragraph (e) of § 1.446–1. Where the taxpayer changes from one method of pooling to another method of pooling permitted by this section, the ending LIFO inventory for the taxable year preceding the year of change shall be restated under the new method of pooling.

(2) *Manner of combining or separating dollar-value pools.* (i) A taxpayer who has been using the dollar-value LIFO method and who is permitted or required to change his method of pooling, shall combine or separate the LIFO value of his inventory for the base year and each yearly layer of increment in order to conform to the new pool or pools. Each yearly layer of increment in the new pool or pools must be separately accounted for and a record thereof maintained, and any liquidation occurring in the new pool or pools subsequent to the formation thereof shall be treated in the same manner as if the new pool or pools had existed from the date the taxpayer first adopted the LIFO inventory method. The combination or separation of the LIFO value of his inventory for the base year

and each yearly layer of increment shall be made in accordance with the appropriate method set forth in this subparagraph, unless the use of a different method is approved by the Commissioner.

(ii) Where the taxpayer is permitted or required to separate a pool into more than one pool, the separation shall be made in the following manner: First, each item in the former pool shall be placed in an appropriate new pool. Every item in each new pool is then extended at its base-year unit cost and the extensions are totaled. Each total is the amount of inventory for each new pool expressed in terms of base-year cost. Then a ratio of the total base-year cost of each new pool to the base-year cost of the former pool is computed. The resulting ratio is applied to the amount of inventory for the base year and each yearly layer of increment of the former pool to obtain an allocation to each new pool of the base-year inventory of the former pool and subsequent layers of increment thereof. The foregoing may be illustrated by the following example of a change for the taxable year 1961:

Example. (a) Assume that items A, B, C, and D are all grouped together in one pool prior to December 31, 1960. The LIFO inventory value at December 31, 1960, is computed as follows:

	Pool ABCD		
	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	$10,000	100	$10,000
Dec. 31, 1956, increment	1,000	110	1,100
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	5,000	120	6,000
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	4,000	125	5,000
Total	20,000	....	22,100

(b) The extension of the quantity of items A, B, C, and D at respective base-year unit costs is as follows:

Item	Quantity	Base-year unit cost	Amount
A	2,000	$2	$4,000
B	1,000	3	3,000
C	1,000	5	5,000
D	4,000	2	8,000
Total	....	....	20,000

(c) Under the provisions of this section the taxpayer separates former Pool ABCD into two pools, Pool AB and Pool CD. The computation of the ratio of total base-year cost for each of the new pools to the base-year cost of the former pool is as follows:

Item	Total base-year cost	Ratio
Pool AB:		
A	$4,000	....
B	3,000	....
	7,000	7,000/20,000
Pool CD:		
C	5,000	....
D	8,000	....
	13,000	13,000/20,000
Total for pool ABCD	20,000	....

(d) The ratio of the base-year cost of new Pools AB and CD to the base-year cost of former Pool ABCD is 7,000/20,000 and 13,000/20,000, respectively. The allocation of the January 1, 1956 base cost and subsequent yearly layers of increment of former Pool ABCD to new Pools AB and CD is as follows:

	Base-year cost to be allocated	Pool	
		AB	CD
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	$10,000	$3,500	$6,500
Dec. 31, 1956, increment	1,000	350	650
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	5,000	1,750	3,250
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	4,000	1,400	2,600
Total	20,000	7,000	13,000

(e) The LIFO value of new Pools AB and CD at December 31, 1960, as allocated, is as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Pool AB			
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	$3,500	100	$3,500
Dec. 31, 1956, increment	350	110	385
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	1,750	20	2,100
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	1,400	125	1,750

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Total	7,000		7,735
Pool CD			
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	6,500	100	6,500
Dec. 31, 1956, increment	650	110	715
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	3,250	120	3,900
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	2,600	125	3,250
Total	13,000		14,365

(iii) Where the taxpayer is permitted or required to combine two or more pools having the same base year, they shall be combined into one pool in the following manner: The LIFO value of the base-year inventory of each of the former pools is combined to obtain a LIFO value of the base-year inventory for the new pool. Then, any layers of increment in the various pools which occurred in the same taxable year are combined into one total layer of increment for that taxable year. However, layers of increment which occurred in different taxable years may not be combined. In combining the layers of increment a new ratio of current-year cost to base-year cost is computed for each of the combined layers of increment. The foregoing may be illustrated by the following example:

Example. (a) Assume the taxpayer has two pools at December 31, 1960. Under the provisions of this section the taxpayer combines these pools into a single pool as of January 1, 1961. The LIFO inventory value of each pool at December 31, 1960, is shown as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1957, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Pool No. 1			
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	$10,000	100	$10,000
Dec. 31, 1957, increment	2,000	110	2,200
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	1,000	120	1,200
Total	13,000		13,400

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1957, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Pool No. 2			
Jan. 1, 1957, base cost	5,000	100	5,000
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	3,000	140	4,200
Total	8,000		9,200

(b) The computation of the ratio of the total current-year cost to the total base-year cost for the base year and each yearly layer of increment in the new pool is as follows:

Pool	Base year 1957	Increments	
		Dec. 31, 1957	Dec. 31, 1960
No. 1:			
Base-year cost	$10,000	$2,000	$1,000
LIFO value	10,000	2,200	1,200
No. 2:			
Base-year cost	5,000		3,000
LIFO value	5,000		4,200
Total, base-year cost	15,000	2,000	4,000
Total, LIFO value	15,000	2,200	5,400
Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	100	110	135

(c) On the basis of the foregoing computations, the LIFO inventory of the new pool at December 31, 1960, is restated as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1957, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Jan. 1, 1957, base cost	$15,000	100	$15,000
Dec. 31, 1957, increment	2,000	110	2,200
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	4,000	135	5,400
Total	21,000		22,600

(iv) In combining pools having different base years, the principles set forth in subdivision (iii) of this subparagraph are to be applied, except that all base years subsequent to the earliest base year shall be treated as increments, and the base-year costs for all pools having a base year subsequent to the earliest base year of any pool shall be redetermined in terms of the base cost for the earliest base year.

The foregoing may be illustrated by the following example:

Example. (a) Assume that the taxpayer has two pools at December 31, 1960. Under the provisions of this section the taxpayer combines these pools into a single pool as of January 1, 1961. The LIFO inventory value of each pool at December 31, 1960, is shown as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost	Ratio of total current rent-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Pool No. 1			
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	$7,000	100	$7,000
Dec. 31, 1956, increment	1,000	105	1,050
Dec. 31, 1957, increment	500	110	550
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	500	110	550
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	1,000	120	1,200
Total	10,000		10,350
Pool No. 2			
Jan. 1, 1958, base cost	3,500	100	3,500
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	1,000	110	1,100
Dec. 31, 1959, increment	500	115	575
Total	5,000		5,175

(b) The next step is to redetermine the 1958 base-year cost for Pool No. 2 in terms of 1956 base-year cost. January 1, 1956 base-year unit cost must be reconstructed or established in accordance with paragraph (e)(2) of this section for each item in Pool No. 2. Such costs are assumed to be $9.00 for item A, $20.00 for item B, and $1.80 for item C. A ratio of the 1958 total base-year cost to the 1956 total base-year cost for Pool No. 2 is computed as follows:

Item	Quantity	Jan. 1, 1956, base-year unit cost	Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost
A	250	$9.00	$2,250
B	75	20.00	1,500
C	500	1.80	900
Total			4,650
A	250	10.00	2,500
B	75	20.00	1,500
C	500	2.00	1,000
Total			5,000

(c) The ratio of the 1956 total base-year cost to the 1958 total base-year cost for Pool No. 2 is 4,650/5,000 or 93 percent. The January 1, 1958 base cost and each yearly layer of increment at 1958 base-year cost is multiplied by this ratio. Such computation is as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1958, base-year cost	Ratio (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory restated at Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost
Jan. 1, 1958, base cost	$3,500	93	$3,255
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	1,000	93	930
Dec. 31, 1959, increment	500	93	465
Total			4,650

(d) The computation of the ratio of the total current-year cost to the total base-year cost for the base year (1956) and each yearly layer of increment in the new pool is as follows:

Pool	Base year 1956	Increments				
		Dec. 31, 1956	Dec. 31, 1957	Dec. 31, 1958	Dec. 31, 1959	Dec. 31, 1960
No. 1:						
Base-year cost	$7,000	$1,000	$500	$500		$1,000
LIFO value	7,000	1,050	550	550		1,200
No. 2:						
Base-year cost as restated			3,255	930	$465	
LIFO value			3,500	1,100	575	
Total, base-year cost	7,000	1,000	3,755	1,430	465	1,000
Total, LIFO value	7,000	1,050	4,050	1,650	575	1,200
Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	100.00	105.00	107.86	115.38	133.66	120.00

(*e*) On the basis of the foregoing computation, the LIFO inventory of the new pool at December 31, 1960, is restated as follows:

	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at Jan. 1, 1956, base-year cost	Ratio of total current-year cost to total base-year cost (percent)	Dec. 31, 1960, inventory at LIFO value
Jan. 1, 1956, base cost	$7,000	100.00	$7,000
Dec. 31, 1956, increment	1,000	105.00	1,050
Dec. 31, 1957, increment	3,755	107.86	4,050
Dec. 31, 1958, increment	1,430	115.38	1,650
Dec. 31, 1959, increment	465	123.66	575
Dec. 31, 1960, increment	1,000	120.00	1,200
Total	14,650	....	15,525

(3) *Change in methods of computation at the LIFO value of a dollar-value pool.* For the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1960, the taxpayer must use a method authorized by paragraph (e)(1) of this section in computing the base-year cost and current-year cost of a dollar-value inventory pool for the end of such year. If the taxpayer had previously used any methods other than one authorized by paragraph (e)(1) of this section, he shall not be required to recompute his LIFO inventories for taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 1960, under a method authorized by such paragraph. The base cost and layers of increment previously computed by such other method shall be retained and treated as if such base cost and layers of increment had been computed under a method authorized by paragraph (e)(1) of this section. The taxpayer shall use the year of change as the base year in applying the double-extension method or other method approved by the Commissioner, instead of the earliest year for which he adopted the LIFO method for any items in the pool.

(h) *LIFO inventories received in certain nonrecognition transactions*—(1) *In general.* Except as provided in paragraph (h)(3) of this section, if inventory items accounted for under the LIFO method are received in a transaction described in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, then, for the purpose of determining future increments and liquidations, the transferee must use the year of transfer as the base year and must use its current-year cost (computed under the transferee's method of accounting) of those items as their new base-year cost. If the transferee had opening inventories in the year of transfer, then, for the purpose of determining future increments and liquidations, the transferee must use its current-year cost (computed under the transferee's method of accounting) of those inventories as their new base-year cost. For this purpose, ''opening inventory'' refers to all items owned by the transferee before the transfer for which the transferee uses, or elects to use, the LIFO method. The total new base-year cost of the transferee's inventory as of the beginning of the year of transfer is equal to the new base-year cost of the inventory received from the transferor and the new base-year cost of the transferee's opening inventory. The index (or, the cumulative index in the case of the link-chain method) for the year immediately preceding the year of transfer is 1.00. The base-year cost of any layers in the dollar-value pool, as determined after the transfer, must be recomputed accordingly. See paragraph (e)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*) of this section for an example of this computation.

(2) *Transactions to which this paragraph (h) applies.* The rules in this paragraph (h) apply to a transaction in which—

(i) The transferee determines its basis in the inventories, in whole or in part, by reference to the basis of the inventories in the hands of the transferor;

(ii) The transferor used the dollar-value LIFO method to account for the transferred inventories;

(iii) The transferee uses the dollar-value LIFO method to account for the inventories in the year of the transfer; and

(iv) The transaction is not described in section 381(a).

(3) *Anti-avoidance rule.* The rules in this paragraph (h) do not apply to a transaction entered into with the principal purpose to avail the transferee of a method of accounting that would be unavailable to the transferor (or would

be unavailable to the transferor without securing consent from the Commissioner). In determining the principal purpose of a transfer, consideration will be given to all of the facts and circumstances. However, a transfer is deemed made with the principal purpose to avail the transferee of a method of accounting that would be unavailable to the transferor without securing consent from the Commissioner if the transferor acquired inventory in a bargain purchase within the five taxable years preceding the year of the transfer and used a dollar-value LIFO method to account for that inventory that did not treat the bargain purchase inventory and physically identical inventory acquired at market prices as separate items. Inventory is deemed acquired in a bargain purchase if the actual cost of the inventory (or, if appropriate, the allocated cost of the inventory) was less than or equal to 50 percent of the replacement cost of physically identical inventory. Inventory is not considered acquired in a bargain purchase if the actual cost of the inventory (or, if appropriate, the allocated cost of the inventory) was greater than or equal to 75 percent of the replacement cost of physically identical inventory.

(4) *Effective date*. The rules of this paragraph (h) are applicable for transfers that occur during a taxable year ending on or after December 31, 2001.

[T.D. 6539, 26 FR 518, Jan. 20, 1961, as amended by T.D. 7814, 47 FR 11272, Mar. 16, 1982; T.D. 8976, 67 FR 1082, Jan. 9, 2002; 67 FR 5062, 5148, Feb. 4, 2002]

§ 1.475–0 Table of contents.

This section lists the major captions in §§1.475(a)–3, 1.475(a)–4, 1.475(b)–1, 1.475(b)–2, 1.475(b)–4, 1.475(c)–1, 1.475(c)–2, 1.475(d)–1 and 1.475(g)–1.

§§1.475(a)–1—1.475(a)–2 [Reserved]

§1.475(a)–3 Acquisition by a dealer of a security with a substituted basis.

(a) Scope.
(b) Rules.

§1.475(a)–4 Safe Harbor for Valuation Under Section 475.

(a) Overview.
(1) Purpose.
(2) Dealer business model.
(3) Summary of paragraphs.
(b) Safe harbor.
(1) General rule.
(2) Example. Use of eligible and non-eligible methods.
(3) Scope of the safe harbor.
(c) Eligible taxpayer.
(d) Eligible method.
(1) Sufficient consistency.
(2) General requirements.
(i) Frequency.
(ii) Recognition at the mark.
(iii) Recognition on disposition.
(iv) Fair value standard.
(3) Limitations.
(i) Bid-ask method.
(A) General Rule.
(B) Safe harbor.
(ii) Valuations based on present values of projected cash flows.
(iii) Accounting for costs and risks.
(4) Examples.
(e) Compliance with other rules.
(f) Election.
(1) Making the election.
(2) Duration of the election.
(3) Revocation.
(i) By the taxpayer.
(ii) By the Commissioner.
(4) Re-election.
(g) Eligible positions.
(h) Applicable financial statement.
(1) Definition.
(2) Primary financial statement.
(i) Statement required to be filed with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
(ii) Statement filed with a Federal agency other than the IRS.
(iii) Certified audited financial statement.
(3) Example. Primary financial statement.
(4) Financial statements of equal priority.
(5) Consolidated groups.
(6) Supplement or amendment to a financial statement.
(7) Certified audited financial statement.
(i) [Reserved]
(j) Significant business use.
(1) In general.
(2) Financial statement value.
(3) Management of a business as a dealer.
(4) Significant use.
(k) Retention and production of records.
(1) In general.
(2) Specific requirements.
(i) Reconciliation.
(A) In general.
(B) Values on books and records with supporting schedules.
(C) Consolidation schedules.
(ii) Instructions provided by the Commissioner.
(3) Time for producing records.
(4) Retention period for records.
(5) Agreements with the Commissioner.
(l) [Reserved]
(m) Use of different values.

§ 1.475(b)–1 Scope of exemptions from mark-to-market requirement.

(a) Securities held for investment or not held for sale.
(b) Securities deemed identified as held for investment.
(1) In general.
(2) Relationships.
(i) General rule.
(ii) Attribution.
(iii) Trusts treated as partnerships.
(3) Securities traded on certain established financial markets.
(4) Changes in status.
(i) Onset of prohibition against marking.
(ii) Termination of prohibition against marking.
(iii) Examples.
(c) Securities deemed not held for investment; dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives.
(d) Special rule for hedges of another member's risk.
(e) Transitional rules.
(1) Stock, partnership, and beneficial ownership interests in certain controlled corporations, partnerships, and trusts before January 23, 1997.
(i) In general.
(ii) Control defined.
(iii) Applicability.
(2) Dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives acquired before January 23, 1997.
(i) General rule.
(ii) Exception for securities not acquired in dealer capacity.
(iii) Applicability.

§ 1.475(b)–2 Exemptions—identification requirements.

(a) Identification of the basis for exemption.
(b) Time for identifying a security with a substituted basis.
(c) Integrated transactions under § 1.1275–6.
(1) Definitions.
(2) Synthetic debt held by a taxpayer as a result of legging in.
(3) Securities held after legging out.

§ 1.475(b)–3 [Reserved]

§ 1.475(b)–4 Exemptions—transitional issues.

(a) Transitional identification.
(1) Certain securities previously identified under section 1236.
(2) Consistency requirement for other securities.
(b) Corrections on or before January 31, 1994.
(1) Purpose.
(2) To conform to § 1.475(b)–1(a).
(i) Added identifications.
(ii) Limitations.
(3) To conform to § 1.475(b)–1(c).
(c) Effect of corrections.

§ 1.475(c)–1 Definitions—dealer in securities.

(a) Dealer-customer relationship.
(1) [Reserved]
(2) Transactions described in section 475(c)(1)(B).
(i) In general.
(ii) Examples.
(3) Related parties.
(i) General rule.
(ii) Special rule for members of a consolidated group.
(iii) The intragroup-customer election.
(A) Effect of election.
(B) Making and revoking the election.
(iv) Examples.
(b) Sellers of nonfinancial goods and services.
(1) Purchases and sales of customer paper.
(2) Definition of customer paper.
(3) Exceptions.
(4) Election not to be governed by the exception for sellers of nonfinancial goods or services.
(i) Method of making the election.
(A) Taxable years ending after December 24, 1996.
(B) Taxable years ending on or before December 24, 1996.
(ii) Continued applicability of an election.
(c) Taxpayers that purchase securities from customers but engage in no more than negligible sales of the securities.
(1) Exemption from dealer status.
(i) General rule.
(ii) Election to be treated as a dealer.
(2) Negligible sales.
(3) Special rules for members of a consolidated group.
(i) Intragroup-customer election in effect.
(ii) Intragroup-customer election not in effect.
(4) Special rules.
(5) Example.
(d) Issuance of life insurance products.

§ 1.475(c)–2 Definitions—security.

(a) Items that are not securities.
(b) Synthetic debt that § 1.1275–6(b) treats the taxpayer as holding.
(c) Negative value REMIC residuals acquired before January 4, 1995.
(1) Description.
(2) Special rules applicable to negative value REMIC residuals acquired before January 4, 1995.

§ 1.475(d)–1 Character of gain or loss.

(a) Securities never held in connection with the taxpayer's activities as a dealer in securities.
(b) Ordinary treatment for notional principal contracts and derivatives held by dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives.

§ 1.475(g)–1 Effective dates.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67719, Dec. 24, 1996, as amended by T.D. 9328, 72 FR 32177, June 12, 2007]

§§ 1.475(a)–1—1.475(a)–2 [Reserved]

§ 1.475(a)–3 Acquisition by a dealer of a security with a substituted basis.

(a) *Scope.* This section applies if—

(1) A dealer in securities acquires a security that is subject to section 475(a) and the dealer's basis in the security is determined, in whole or in part, by reference to the basis of that security in the hands of the person from whom the security was acquired; or

(2) A dealer in securities acquires a security that is subject to section 475(a) and the dealer's basis in the security is determined, in whole or in part, by reference to other property held at any time by the dealer.

(b) *Rules.* If this section applies to a security—

(1) Section 475(a) applies only to changes in value of the security occurring after the acquisition; and

(2) Any built-in gain or loss with respect to the security (based on the difference between the fair market value of the security on the date the dealer acquired it and its basis to the dealer on that date) is taken into account at the time, and has the character, provided by the sections of the Internal Revenue Code that would apply to the built-in gain or loss if section 475(a) did not apply to the security.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67720, Dec. 24, 1996]

§ 1.475(a)–4 Valuation safe harbor.

(a) *Overview*—(1) *Purpose.* This section sets forth a safe harbor that, under certain circumstances, permits taxpayers to elect to use the values of positions reported on certain financial statements as the fair market values of those positions for purposes of section 475. This safe harbor is based on the principle that, if a mark-to-market method used for financial reporting is sufficiently consistent with the requirements of section 475 and if the financial statement employing that method has certain indicia of reliability, then the values used on that financial statement may be used for purposes of section 475. If other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code or regulations require adjustments to fair market value, use of the safe harbor does not eliminate the need for those adjustments. See paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) *Dealer business model.* The safe harbor is based on the business model for a derivatives dealer. Under this model, the dealer seeks to capture and profit from bid-ask spreads in the marketplace by entering into substantially offsetting positions with customers that will remain on the derivatives dealer's books over their terms. Because the positions in the aggregate tend to offset each other, the dealer has achieved a predictable net cash flow (for example, a synthetic annuity) that reflects the captured bid-ask spread. This net cash flow is generally impervious to market fluctuations in the values on which the component derivatives are based. Section 475 requires current recognition of the present value of the net cash flow attributable to the capture of these spreads.

(3) *Summary of paragraphs.* Paragraph (b) of this section sets forth the safe harbor. To determine who may use the safe harbor, paragraph (c) of this section defines the term ''eligible taxpayer.'' Paragraph (d) of this section sets forth the basic requirements for determining whether the method used for financial reporting is sufficiently consistent with the requirements of section 475. Paragraph (e) of this section describes adjustments to the financial statement values that may be required for purposes of applying this safe harbor. Paragraph (f) of this section describes the procedure for making the safe harbor election and the conditions under which the election may be revoked. Paragraph (g) of this section provides that the Commissioner will issue a revenue procedure that lists the types of securities and commodities that are eligible positions for purposes of the safe harbor. Using rules for determining priorities among financial statements, paragraph (h) of this section defines the term ''applicable financial statement'' and so describes the financial statement, if any,

whose values may be used in the safe harbor. In some cases, as required by paragraph (j) of this section, the safe harbor is available only if the taxpayer's operations make significant business use of financial statement values. Paragraph (k) of this section sets forth requirements for record retention and record production. Paragraph (m) of this section provides that the Commissioner may use fair market values that clearly reflect income, but which differ from values used on the applicable financial statement, if an electing taxpayer fails to comply with the recordkeeping and record production requirements of paragraph (k) of this section.

(b) *Safe harbor*—(1) *General rule.* Subject to any adjustment required by paragraph (e) of this section, if an eligible taxpayer uses an eligible method for the valuation of an eligible position on its applicable financial statement and the eligible taxpayer is subject to the election described in paragraph (f) of this section, the value that the eligible taxpayer assigns to that eligible position on its applicable financial statement is the fair market value of the eligible position for purposes of section 475 and must be used for purposes of section 475, even if that value is not the fair market value of the position for any other purpose of the internal revenue laws. Notwithstanding the rule set forth in this paragraph, the Commissioner may, in certain circumstances, use fair market values that clearly reflect income but differ from the values used on the applicable financial statement. See paragraph (m) of this section.

(2) *Example. Use of eligible and non-eligible methods.* X uses eligible methods on its applicable financial statement for some, but not all, securities and commodities that are eligible positions. When X elects into the safe harbor, the election applies to all eligible positions for which X has an eligible method. Therefore, once the election is in effect, the financial statement values for eligible positions for which X has an eligible method are the fair market values of those eligible positions for purposes of section 475. Since X, however, does not have an eligible method for all eligible positions, those eligible positions for which X does not have an eligible method remain subject to the fair market value requirements of section 475 as set out in case law and otherwise.

(3) *Scope of the safe harbor.* The safe harbor may be used only to determine values for eligible positions that are properly marked to market under section 475. It does not determine whether any positions may or may not be subject to mark-to-market accounting under section 475.

(c) *Eligible taxpayer.* An eligible taxpayer is—

(1) A dealer in securities, as defined in section 475(c)(1); or

(2) A dealer in commodities, as defined in section 475(e), that is subject to an election under section 475(e).

(d) *Eligible method*—(1) *Sufficient consistency.* An eligible method is a mark-to-market method that is sufficiently consistent with the requirements of a mark-to-market method under section 475. To be sufficiently consistent with the requirements of a mark-to-market method under section 475, the eligible method must satisfy all of the requirements of paragraph (d)(2) and paragraph (d)(3) of this section.

(2) *General requirements.* The method—

(i) *Frequency.* Must require a valuation of the eligible position no less frequently than annually, including a valuation as of the last business day of the taxable year;

(ii) *Recognition at the mark.* Must recognize into income on the income statement for each taxable year mark-to-market gain or loss based upon the valuation or valuations described in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section;

(iii) *Recognition on disposition.* Must require, on disposition of the eligible position, recognition into income (on the income statement for the taxable year of disposition) as if a year-end mark occurred immediately before such disposition; and

(iv) *Fair value standard.* Must require use of a valuation standard that arrives at fair value in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP).

(3) *Limitations*—(i) *Bid-ask method*—(A) *General rule.* Except for eligible positions that are traded on a qualified

board or exchange, as defined in section 1256(g)(7), or eligible positions that the Commissioner designates in a revenue procedure or other published guidance, the valuation standard used must not, other than on a *de minimis* portion of a taxpayer's positions, permit values at or near the bid or ask value. Consequently, the valuation method described in §1.471–4(a)(1) fails to satisfy this paragraph (d)(3)(i)(A).

(B) *Safe harbor.* The restriction in paragraph (d)(3)(i)(A) of this section is satisfied if the method consistently produces values that are closer to the mid-market values than they are to the bid or ask values.

(ii) *Valuations based on present values of projected cash flows.* If the method of valuation consists of projecting cash flows from an eligible position or positions and determining the present value of those cash flows, the method must not take into account any cash flows attributable to a period or time on or before the valuation date. In addition, adjustment of the gain or loss recognized on the mark may be required with respect to payments that will be made after the valuation date to the extent that portions of the payments have been recognized for tax purposes before the valuation and appropriate adjustment has not been made for purposes of determining financial statement value.

(iii) *Accounting for costs and risks.* Valuations may account for appropriate costs and risks, but no cost or risk may be accounted for more than once, either directly or indirectly. Further, no valuation adjustment for any cost or risk may be made for purposes of this safe harbor if that valuation adjustment is not also permitted by, and taken for, U.S. GAAP purposes on the taxpayer's applicable financial statement. If appropriate, the costs and risks that may be accounted for include, but are not limited to, credit risk (appropriately adjusted for any credit enhancement), future administrative costs, and model risk. An adjustment for credit risk is implicit in computing the present value of cash flows using a discount rate greater than a risk-free rate. Accordingly, a determination of whether any further downward adjustment to value for credit risk is warranted, or whether an upward adjustment is required, must take that implicit adjustment into consideration.

(4) *Examples.* The following examples illustrate this paragraph (d):

Example 1. (i) X, a calendar year taxpayer, is a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1). X generally maintains a balanced portfolio of interest rate swaps and other interest rate derivatives, capturing bid-ask spreads and keeping its market exposure within desired limits (using, if necessary, additional derivatives for this purpose). X uses a mark-to-market method on a statement that it is required to file with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and that satisfies paragraph (d)(2) of this section with respect to both the contracts with customers and the additional derivatives. When determining the amount of any gain or loss realized on a sale, exchange, or termination of a position, X makes a proper adjustment for amounts taken into account respecting payments or receipts. X and all of its counterparties on the derivatives have the same general credit quality as each other.

(ii) Under X's valuation method, as of each valuation date, X determines a mid-market probability distribution of future cash flows under the derivatives and computes the present values of these cash flows. In computing these present values, X uses an industry standard yield curve that is appropriate for obligations by persons with this same general credit quality. In addition, based on information that includes its own knowledge about the counterparties, X adjusts some of these present values either upward or downward to reflect X's reasonable judgment about the extent to which the true credit status of each counterparty's obligation, taking credit enhancements into account, differs from the general credit quality used in the yield curve to present value the derivatives.

(iii) X's methodology does not violate the requirement in paragraph (d)(3)(iii) of this section that the same cost or risk not be taken into account, directly or indirectly, more than once.

(iv) *Applicability date.* This *Example 1* applies to valuations of securities on or after July 6, 2011.

Example 2. (i) The facts are the same as in *Example 1*, except that X uses a better credit quality in determining the yield curve to discount the payments to be received under the derivatives. Based on information that includes its own knowledge about the counterparties, X adjusts these present values to reflect X's reasonable judgment about the extent to which the true credit status of each counterparty's obligation, taking credit enhancements into account, differs from this better credit quality obligation.

(ii) X's methodology does not violate the requirement in paragraph (d)(3)(iii) of this section that the same cost or risk not be taken into account, directly or indirectly, more than once.

(iii) *Applicability date.* This *Example 2* applies to valuations of securities on or after July 6, 2011.

Example 3. (i) The facts are the same as in *Example 1*, except that, after computing present values using the discount rates that are appropriate for obligors with the same general credit quality, and based on information that includes X's own knowledge about the counterparties, X adjusts some of these present values either upward or downward to reflect X's reasonable judgment about the extent to which the true credit status of each counterparty's obligation, taking credit enhancements into account, differs from a better credit quality.

(ii) X's methodology violates the requirement in paragraph (d)(3)(iii) of this section that the same cost or risk not be taken into account, directly or indirectly, more than once. By using the same general credit quality discount rate, X's method takes into account the difference between risk-free obligations and obligations with that lower credit quality. By adjusting values for the difference between a higher credit quality and that lower credit quality, X takes into account risks that it had already accounted for through the discount rates that it used. The same result would occur if X judged some of its counterparties' obligations to be of a higher credit quality but X failed to adjust the values of those obligations to reflect the difference between a higher credit quality and the lower credit quality.

(iii) *Applicability date.* This *Example 3* applies to valuations of securities on or after July 6, 2011.

Example 4. (i) The facts are the same as in *Example 1*, except that X determines the mid-market value for each derivative and then subtracts the corresponding part of the bid-ask spread.

(ii) X's methodology violates the rule in paragraph (d)(3)(i) of this section that forbids valuing positions at or near the bid or ask value.

Example 5. (i) The facts are the same as in *Example 1*, and, in addition, X's adjustments for all risks and costs, including credit risk, future administrative costs and model risk, may occasionally cause the adjusted value of an eligible position to be at or near the bid value or ask value.

(ii) X's methodology does not violate the rule in paragraph (d)(3)(i)(A) of this section that forbids valuing eligible positions at or near the bid or ask value.

(e) *Compliance with other rules.* Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the fair market values for purposes of the safe harbor must be consistent with section 482, or rules that adopt section 482 principles, when applicable. For example, if a notional principal contract is subject to section 482 or section 482 principles, the values of future cash flows taken into account in determining the value of the contract for purposes of section 475 must be consistent with section 482.

(f) *Election*—(1) *Making the election.* Unless the Commissioner prescribes otherwise, an eligible taxpayer elects under this section by filing with the Commissioner a statement declaring that the taxpayer makes the safe harbor election in this section for all eligible positions for which it has an eligible method. In addition to any other information that the Commissioner may require, the statement must describe the taxpayer's applicable financial statement for the first taxable year for which the election is effective and must state that the taxpayer agrees to provide upon the request of the Commissioner all information, records, and schedules in the manner required by paragraph (k) of this section. The statement must be attached to a timely filed Federal income tax return (including extensions) for the taxable year for which the election is first effective.

(2) *Duration of the election.* Once made, the election continues in effect for all subsequent taxable years unless revoked.

(3) *Revocation*—(i) *By the taxpayer.* An eligible taxpayer that is subject to an election under this section may revoke the election only with the consent of the Commissioner.

(ii) *By the Commissioner.* The Commissioner, after consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances, may revoke an election under this section, effective beginning with the first open year for which the election is effective or with any subsequent year, if—

(A) The taxpayer fails to comply with paragraph (k) of this section (concerning record retention and production) and the taxpayer does not show reasonable cause for this failure;

(B) The taxpayer ceases to have an applicable financial statement or ceases to use an eligible method; or

(C) For any other reason, no more than a de minimis number of eligible positions, or no more than a de minimis fraction of the taxpayer's eligible positions, are covered by the safe harbor in paragraph (b) of this section.

(4) *Re-election.* If an election is revoked, either by the Commissioner or by the taxpayer, the taxpayer (or any successor in interest of the taxpayer) may not make the election without the consent of the Commissioner for any taxable year that begins before the date that is six years after the first day of the earliest taxable year affected by the revocation.

(g) *Eligible positions.* For any taxpayer, an eligible position is any security or commodity that the Commissioner in a revenue procedure or other published guidance designates as an eligible position with respect to that taxpayer for purposes of this safe harbor.

(h) *Applicable financial statement*—(1) *Definition.* An eligible taxpayer's applicable financial statement for a taxable year is the taxpayer's primary financial statement for that year if that primary financial statement is described in paragraph (h)(2)(i) of this section (concerning statements required to be filed with the SEC) or if that primary financial statement both meets the requirements of paragraph (j) of this section (concerning significant business use) and is described in either paragraph (h)(2)(ii) or (iii) of this section. Otherwise, or if the taxpayer does not have a primary financial statement for the taxable year, the taxpayer does not have an applicable financial statement for the taxable year.

(2) *Primary financial statement.* For any taxable year, an eligible taxpayer's primary financial statement is the financial statement, if any, described in one or more of paragraphs (h)(2)(i), (ii), and (iii) of this section. If more than one financial statement of the taxpayer for the year is so described, the primary financial statement is the one first described in paragraphs (h)(2)(i), (ii), and (iii) of this section. A taxpayer has only one primary financial statement for any taxable year.

(i) *Statement required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).* A financial statement that is prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and that is required to be filed with the SEC, such as the 10–-K or the Annual Statement to Shareholders.

(ii) *Statement filed with a Federal agency other than the Internal Revenue Service.* A financial statement that is prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and that is required to be provided to the Federal government or any of its agencies other than the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

(iii) Certified audited financial statement. A certified audited financial statement that is prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP; that is given to creditors for purposes of making lending decisions, given to equity holders for purposes of evaluating their investment in the eligible taxpayer, or provided for other substantial non-tax purposes; and that the taxpayer reasonably anticipates will be directly relied on for the purposes for which it was given or provided.

(3) *Example. Primary financial statement.* X prepares financial statement FS1, which is required to be filed with a Federal government agency other than the SEC or the IRS. FS1 is thus described in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section. X also prepares financial statement FS2, which is a certified audited financial statement that is given to creditors and that X reasonably anticipates will be relied on for purposes of making lending decisions. FS2 is thus described in paragraph (h)(2)(iii) of this section. Because FS1, which is described in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section, is described before FS2, which is described in paragraph (h)(2)(iii) of this section, FS1 is X's primary financial statement.

(4) *Financial statements of equal priority.* If the rules of paragraph (h)(2) of this section cause two or more financial statements to be of equal priority, then the statement that results in the highest aggregate valuation of eligible positions being marked to market under section 475 is the primary financial statement.

(5) *Consolidated groups.* If the taxpayer is a member of an affiliated group that files a consolidated return,

the primary financial statement of the taxpayer is the primary financial statement, if any, of the common parent (within the meaning of section 1504(a)(1)) of the consolidated group.

(6) *Supplement or amendment to a financial statement.* A financial statement includes any supplement or amendment to the financial statement.

(7) *Certified audited financial statement.* For purposes of this paragraph (h), a financial statement is a certified audited financial statement if it is certified by an independent certified public accountant from a Registered Public Accounting firm, as defined in section 2(a)(12) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Public Law 107–204, 116 Stat. 746 (July 30, 2002), 15 U.S.C. §7201(a)(12), and rules promulgated under that Act, and is—

(i) Certified to be fairly presented (a ''clean'' opinion);

(ii) Certified to be fairly presented subject to a concern about a contingency, other than a contingency relating to the value of eligible positions (a qualified ''subject to'' opinion); or

(iii) Certified to be fairly presented except for a method of accounting with which the Certified Public Accountant disagrees and which is not a method used to determine the value of an eligible position held by the eligible taxpayer (a qualified ''except for'' opinion).

(i) [Reserved]

(j) *Significant business use*—(1) *In general.* A financial statement is described in this paragraph (j) if—

(i) The financial statement contains values for eligible positions;

(ii) The eligible taxpayer makes significant use of financial statement values in most of the significant management functions of its business; and

(iii) That use is related to the management of all or substantially all of the eligible taxpayer's business.

(2) *Financial statement value.* For purposes of this paragraph (j), the term *financial statement value* means—

(i) A value that is taken from the financial statement; or

(ii) A value that is produced by a process that is in all respects identical to the process that produces the values that appear on the financial statement but that is not taken from the statement because either—

(A) The value was determined as of a date for which the financial statement does not value eligible positions; or

(B) The value is used in the management of the business before the financial statement has been prepared.

(3) *Management functions of a business.* For purposes of this paragraph (j), the term *management functions of a business* refers to the financial and commercial oversight of the business. Oversight includes, but is not limited to, senior management review of business-unit profitability, market risk measurement or management, credit risk measurement or management, internal allocation of capital, and compensation of personnel. Management functions of a business do not include either tax accounting or reporting the results of operations to persons other than directors or employees.

(4) *Significant use.* If an eligible taxpayer uses financial statement values for some significant management functions and uses values that are not financial statement values for other significant management functions, then the determination of whether the taxpayer has made significant use of the financial statement values is made on the basis of all the facts and circumstances. This determination must particularly take into account whether the taxpayer's reliance on the financial statement values exposes the taxpayer to material adverse economic consequences if the values are incorrect.

(k) *Retention and production of records*—(1) *In general.* In addition to all records that section 6001 otherwise requires to be retained, an eligible taxpayer subject to the election provided by this section must keep, and timely provide to the Commissioner upon request, records and books of account that are sufficient to establish that the financial statement to which the income tax return conforms is the taxpayer's applicable financial statement, that the method used on that statement is an eligible method, and that the values used for eligible positions for purposes of section 475 are the values used in the applicable financial statement. This obligation extends to all records and books that are required to be maintained for any period for financial or regulatory reporting purposes, even if these records or books may not otherwise be specifically covered by section 6001. All records and books described in this paragraph (k) must be maintained for the period described in paragraph (k)(4) of this section, even if a lesser period of retention applies for financial statement or regulatory purposes.

(2) *Specific requirements*—(i) *Verification and reconciliation.* Unless the Commissioner otherwise provides—

(A) *In general.* An eligible taxpayer must provide books and records to verify the appropriate use of the safe harbor and reconciliation schedules between the applicable financial statement for the taxable year and the Federal income tax return for that year. The required verification materials and reconciliation schedules include all supporting schedules, exhibits, computer programs, and any other information used in producing the values and schedules, including the documentation of rules and procedures governing determination of the values. The required reconciliation schedules must also include a detailed explanation of any adjustments necessitated by the imperfect overlap between the eligible positions that the taxpayer marks to market under section 475 and the eligible positions for which the applicable financial statement uses an eligible method. In the time and manner provided by the Commissioner, a corporate taxpayer subject to this paragraph (k) must reconcile the net income amount reported on its applicable financial statement to the amount reported on the applicable forms and schedules on its Federal income tax return (such as the Schedule M–1, ''Net Income(Loss) Reconciliation for Corporations With Total Assets of $10 Million or More''; Schedule M–3, ''Net Income(Loss) Reconciliation for Corporations With Total Assets of $10 Million or More''; and Form 1120F, ''U.S. Income Tax Return of a Foreign Corporation''). Eligible taxpayers that are not otherwise required to file a Schedule M–1 or Schedule M–3 must reconcile net income using substitute schedules similar to Schedule M–1 and Schedule M–3, and these substitute schedules must be attached to the return.

(B) *Values on books and records with supporting schedules.* The books and records must state the value used for each eligible position separately from the value used for any other eligible position. However, an eligible taxpayer may make adjustments to values on a pooled basis, if the taxpayer demonstrates that it can compute gain or loss attributable to the sale or other disposition of an individual eligible position.

(C) *Consolidation schedules.* An eligible taxpayer must provide a schedule showing the consolidation and de-consolidation that is used in preparing the applicable financial statement, along with exhibits and subordinate schedules. This schedule must provide information that addresses the differences for consolidation and de-consolidation between the applicable financial statement and the Federal income tax return.

(ii) *Instructions provided by the Commissioner.* The Commissioner may provide an alternative time or manner in which an eligible taxpayer subject to this paragraph (k) must establish that the same values used for eligible positions on the applicable financial statement are also the values used for purposes of section 475 on the Federal income tax return.

(3) *Time for producing records.* All documents described in this paragraph (k) must be produced within 30 days of a request by the Commissioner, unless the Commissioner grants a written extension. Generally, the Commissioner will exercise his discretion to excuse a minor or inadvertent failure to provide requested documents if the taxpayer shows reasonable cause for the failure, has made a good faith effort to comply with the requirement to produce records, and promptly remedies the failure. For failures to maintain, or timely produce, records, see paragraph (f)(3)(ii) of this section (allowing the Commissioner to revoke the election), and see paragraph (m) of this section (allowing the Commissioner, but not the taxpayer, to use for eligible positions that otherwise might be subject to the safe harbor fair market values that clearly reflect income but that are

different from the values used on the applicable financial statement).

(4) *Retention period for records.* All materials required by this paragraph (k) and section 6001 must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law.

(5) *Agreements with the Commissioner.* The Commissioner and an eligible taxpayer may enter into a written agreement that establishes, for purposes of this paragraph (k), which records must be maintained, how they must be maintained, and for how long they must be maintained.

(l) [Reserved]

(m) *Use of different values.* If, with respect to the records that relate to certain eligible positions for a taxable year, the taxpayer fails to satisfy paragraph (k) of this section (concerning record retention and record production), then, for those eligible positions for that year, the Commissioner may use values that the Commissioner determines to be fair market values that are appropriate to clearly reflect income, even if the values so determined are different from the values reported for those positions on the applicable financial statement. See also paragraph (f)(3)(ii) of this section (concerning revocation of the election by the Commissioner when a taxpayer does not produce required records and fails to demonstrate reasonable cause for the failure).

[T.D. 9328, 72 FR 32177, June 12, 2007, as amended by T.D. 9533, 76 FR 39281, July 6, 2011; T.D. 9637, 78 FR 54760, Sept. 6, 2013]

§ 1.475(b)–1 Scope of exemptions from mark-to-market requirement.

(a) *Securities held for investment or not held for sale.* Except as otherwise provided by this section and subject to the identification requirements of section 475(b)(2), a security is held for investment (within the meaning of section 475(b)(1)(A)) or not held for sale (within the meaning of section 475(b)(1)(B)) if it is not held by the taxpayer primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's trade or business.

(b) *Securities deemed identified as held for investment*—(1) *In general.* The following items held by a dealer in securities are per se held for investment within the meaning of section 475(b)(1)(A) and are deemed to be properly identified as such for purposes of section 475(b)(2)—

(i) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, stock in a corporation, or a partnership or beneficial ownership interest in a widely held or publicly traded partnership or trust, to which the taxpayer has a relationship specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section; or

(ii) A contract that is treated for federal income tax purposes as an annuity, endowment, or life insurance contract (see sections 72, 817, and 7702).

(2) *Relationships*—(i) *General rule.* The relationships specified in this paragraph (b)(2) are—

(A) Those described in section 267(b) (2), (3), (10), (11), or (12); or

(B) Those described in section 707(b)(1)(A) or (B).

(ii) *Attribution.* The relationships described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section are determined taking into account sections 267(c) and 707(b)(3), as appropriate.

(iii) *Trusts treated as partnerships.* For purposes of this paragraph (b)(2), the phrase partnership or trust is substituted for the word *partnership* in sections 707(b) (1) and (3), and a reference to beneficial ownership interest is added to each reference to capital interest or profits interest in those sections.

(3) *Securities traded on certain established financial markets.* Paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section does not apply to a security if—

(i) The security is actively traded within the meaning of §1.1092(d)–1(a) taking into account only established financial markets identified in §1.1092(d)–1(b)(1) (i) or (ii) (describing national securities exchanges and interdealer quotation systems);

(ii) Less than 15 percent of all of the outstanding shares or interests in the same class are held by the taxpayer and all persons having a relationship to the taxpayer that is specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section; and

(iii) If the security was acquired (e.g., on original issue) from a person having a relationship to the taxpayer that is specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, then, after the time the security was acquired—

(A) At least one full business day has passed; and

(B) There has been significant trading involving persons not having a relationship to the taxpayer that is specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(4) *Changes in status*—(i) *Onset of prohibition against marking.* (A) Once paragraph (b)(1) of this section begins to apply to the security and for so long as it continues to apply, section 475(a) does not apply to the security in the hands of the taxpayer.

(B) If a security has not been timely identified under section 475(b)(2) and, after the last day on which such an identification would have been timely, paragraph (b)(1) of this section begins to apply to the security, then the dealer must recognize gain or loss on the security as if it were sold for its fair market value as of the close of business of the last day before paragraph (b)(1) of this section begins to apply to the security, and gain or loss is taken into account at that time.

(ii) *Termination of prohibition against marking.* If a taxpayer did not timely identify a security under section 475(b)(2), and paragraph (b)(1) of this section applies to the security on the last day on which such an identification would have been timely but thereafter ceases to apply—

(A) An identification of the security under section 475(b)(2) is timely if made on or before the close of the day paragraph (b)(1) of this section ceases to apply; and

(B) Unless the taxpayer timely identifies the security under section 475(b)(2) (taking into account the additional time for identification that is provided by paragraph (b)(4)(ii)(A) of this section), section 475(a) applies to changes in value of the security after the cessation in the same manner as under section 475(b)(3).

(iii) *Examples.* These examples illustrate this paragraph (b)(4):

Example 1. Onset of prohibition against marking. (A) *Facts.* Corporation *H* owns 75 percent of the stock of corporation *D*, a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1). On December 1, 1995, *D* acquired less than half of the stock in corporation *X*. *D* did not identify the stock for purposes of section 475(b)(2). On July 17, 1996, *H* acquired from other persons 70 percent of the stock of *X*. As a result, *D* and *X* became related within the meaning of paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section. The stock of *X* is not described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section (concerning some securities traded on certain established financial markets).

(B) *Holding.* Under paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section, *D* recognizes gain or loss on its *X* stock as if the stock were sold for its fair market value at the close of business on July 16, 1996, and the gain or loss is taken into account at that time. As with any application of section 475(a), proper adjustment is made in the amount of any gain or loss subsequently realized. After July 16, 1996, section 475(a) does not apply to D's *X* stock while paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section (concerning the relationship between *X* and *D*) continues to apply.

Example 2. Termination of prohibition against marking; retained securities identified as held for investment. (A) *Facts.* On July 1, 1996, corporation *H* owned 60 percent of the stock of corporation *Y* and all of the stock of corporation *D*, a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1). Thus, *D* and *Y* are related within the meaning of paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section. Also on July 1, 1996, *D* acquired, as an investment, 10 percent of the stock of *Y*. The stock of *Y* is not described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section (concerning some securities traded on certain established financial markets). When *D* acquired its shares of *Y* stock, it did not identify them for purposes of section 475(b)(2). On December 24, 1996, *D* identified its shares of *Y* stock as held for investment under section 475(b)(2). On December 30, 1996, *H* sold all of its shares of stock in *Y* to an unrelated party. As a result, *D* and *Y* ceased to be related within the meaning of paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section.

(B) *Holding.* Under paragraph (b)(4)(ii)(A) of this section, identification of the *Y* shares is timely if done on or before the close of December 30, 1996. Because *D* timely identified its *Y* shares under section 475(b)(2), it continues after December 30, 1996, to refrain from marking to market its *Y* stock.

Example 3. Termination of prohibition against marking; retained securities not identified as held for investment. (A) *Facts.* The facts are the same as in *Example 2* above, except that *D* did not identify its stock in *Y* for purposes of section 475(b)(2) on or before December 30, 1996. Thus, *D* did not timely identify these securities under section 475(b)(2) (taking into account the additional time for identification provided in paragraph (b)(4)(ii)(A) of this section).

(B) *Holding.* Under paragraph (b)(4)(ii)(B) of this section, section 475(a) applies to changes in value of *D*'s *Y* stock after December 30, 1996, in the same manner as under section 475(b)(3).

Thus, any appreciation or depreciation that occurred while the securities were prohibited from being marked to market is suspended. Further, section 475(a) applies only to those changes occurring after December 30, 1996.

Example 4. Acquisition of actively traded stock from related party. (A) *Facts.* Corporation *P* is the parent of a consolidated group whose taxable year is the calendar year, and corporation *M*, a member of that group, is a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1). Corporation *M* regularly acts as a market maker with respect to common and preferred stock of corporation *P*. Corporation *P* has outstanding 2,000,000 shares of series *X* preferred stock, which are traded on a national securities exchange. During the business day on December 29, 1997, corporation *P* sold 100,000 shares of series *X* preferred stock to corporation *M* for $100 per share. Subsequently, also on December 29, 1997, persons not related to corporation *M* engaged in significant trading of the series *X* preferred stock. At the close of business on December 30, 1997, the fair market value of series *X* stock was $99 per share. At the close of business on December 31, 1997, the fair market value of series *X* stock was $98.50 per share. Corporation *M* sold the series *X* stock on the exchange on January 2, 1998. At all relevant times, corporation *M* and all persons related to *M* owned less than 15% of the outstanding series *X* preferred stock.

(B) *Holding.* The 100,000 shares of series *X* preferred stock held by corporation *M* are not subject to mark-to-market treatment under section 475(a) on December 29, 1997, because at that time the stock was held for less than one full business day and is therefore treated as properly identified as held for investment. At the close of business on December 30, 1997, that prohibition on marking ceases to apply, and section 475(b)(3) begins to apply. The built-in loss is suspended, and subsequent appreciation and depreciation are subject to section 475(a). Accordingly, when corporation *M* marks the series *X* stock to market at the close of business on December 31, 1997, under section 475(a) it recognizes and takes into account a loss of $.50 per share. Under section 475(b)(3), when corporation *M* sells the series *X* stock on January 2, 1998, it takes into account the suspended loss, that is, the difference between the $100 per share it paid corporation *P* for that stock and the $99-per-share fair market value when section 475(b)(1) ceased to be applied to the stock. No deduction, however, is allowed for that loss. (See §1.1502–13(f)(6), under which no deduction is allowed to a member of a consolidated group for a loss with respect to a share of stock of the parent of that consolidated group, if the member does not take the gain or loss into account pursuant to section 475(a).)

(c) *Securities deemed not held for investment; dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives.* (1) Except as otherwise determined by the Commissioner in a revenue ruling, revenue procedure, or letter ruling, section 475(b)(1)(A) (exempting from mark-to-market accounting certain securities that are held for investment) does not apply to a security if—

(i) The security is described in section 475(c)(2) (D) or (E) (describing certain notional principal contracts and derivative securities); and

(ii) The taxpayer is a dealer in such securities.

(2) See §1.475(d)–1(b) for a rule concerning the character of gain or loss on securities described in this paragraph (c).

(d) *Special rule for hedges of another member's risk.* A taxpayer may identify under section 475(b)(1)(C) (exempting certain hedges from mark-to-market accounting) a security that hedges a position of another member of the taxpayer's consolidated group if the security meets the following requirements—

(1) The security is a hedging transaction within the meaning of §1.1221–2(b);

(2) The security is timely identified as a hedging transaction under §1.1221–2(f) (including identification of the hedged item); and

(3) The security hedges a position that is not marked to market under section 475(a).

(e) *Transitional rules*—(1) *Stock, partnership, and beneficial ownership interests in certain controlled corporations, partnerships, and trusts before January 23, 1997*—(i) *In general.* The following items held by a dealer in securities are per se held for investment within the meaning of section 475(b)(1)(A) and are deemed to be properly identified as such for purposes of section 475(b)(2)—

(A) Stock in a corporation that the taxpayer controls (within the meaning of paragraph (e)(1)(ii) of this section); or

(B) A partnership or beneficial ownership interest in a widely held or publicly traded partnership or trust that the taxpayer controls (within the meaning of paragraph (e)(1)(ii) of this section).

(ii) *Control defined.* Control means the ownership, directly or indirectly through persons described in section 267(b) (taking into account section 267(c)), of—

(A) 50 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote; or

(B) 50 percent or more of the capital interest, the profits interest, or the beneficial ownership interest in the widely held or publicly traded partnership or trust.

(iii) *Applicability.* The rules of this paragraph (e)(1) apply only before January 23, 1997.

(2) *Dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives acquired before January 23, 1997*—(i) *General rule.* Section 475(b)(1)(A) (exempting certain securities from mark-to-market accounting) does not apply to a security if—

(A) The security is described in section 475(c)(2) (D) or (E) (describing certain notional principal contracts and derivative securities); and

(B) The taxpayer is a dealer in such securities.

(ii) *Exception for securities not acquired in dealer capacity.* This paragraph (e)(2) does not apply if the taxpayer establishes unambiguously that the security was not acquired in the taxpayer's capacity as a dealer in such securities.

(iii) *Applicability.* The rules of paragraph (e)(2) apply only to securities acquired before January 23, 1997.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67720, Dec. 24, 1996, as amended by T.D. 8985, 67 FR 12865, Mar. 20, 2002]

§ 1.475(b)–2 Exemptions—identification requirements.

(a) *Identification of the basis for exemption.* An identification of a security as exempt from mark to market does not satisfy section 475(b)(2) if it fails to state whether the security is described in—

(1) Either of the first two subparagraphs of section 475(b)(1) (identifying a security as held for investment or not held for sale); or

(2) The third subparagraph thereof (identifying a security as a hedge).

(b) *Time for identifying a security with a substituted basis.* For purposes of determining the timeliness of an identification under section 475(b)(2), the date that a dealer acquires a security is not affected by whether the dealer's basis in the security is determined, in whole or in part, either by reference to the basis of the security in the hands of the person from whom the security was acquired or by reference to other property held at any time by the dealer. See §1.475(a)–3 for rules governing how the dealer accounts for such a security if this identification is not made.

(c) *Integrated transactions under §1.1275–6*—(1) *Definitions.* The following terms are used in this paragraph (c) with the meanings that are given to them by §1.1275–6: integrated transaction, legging into, legging out, qualifying debt instrument, §1.1275–6 hedge, and synthetic debt instrument.

(2) *Synthetic debt held by a taxpayer as a result of legging in.* If a taxpayer is treated as the holder of a synthetic debt instrument as the result of legging into an integrated transaction, then, for purposes of the timeliness of an identification under section 475(b)(2), the synthetic debt instrument is treated as having the same acquisition date as the qualifying debt instrument. A pre-leg-in identification of the qualifying debt instrument under section 475(b)(2) applies to the integrated transaction as well.

(3) *Securities held after legging out.* If a taxpayer legs out of an integrated transaction, then, for purposes of the timeliness of an identification under section 475(b)(2), the qualifying debt instrument, or the §1.1275–6 hedge, that remains in the taxpayer's hands is generally treated as having been acquired, originated, or entered into, as the case may be, immediately after the leg-out. If any loss or deduction determined under §1.1275–6(d)(2)(ii)(B) is disallowed by §1.1275–6(d)(2)(ii)(D) (which disallows deductions when a taxpayer legs out of an integrated transaction within 30 days of legging in), then, for purposes of this section and section 475(b)(2), the qualifying debt instrument that remains in the taxpayer's hands is treated as having been acquired on the same date that the synthetic debt instrument was treated as having been acquired.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67722, Dec. 24, 1996]

§ 1.475(b)–3 [Reserved]

§ 1.475(b)–4 Exemptions—transitional issues.

(a) *Transitional identification*—(1) *Certain securities previously identified under section 1236*. If, as of the close of the last taxable year ending before December 31, 1993, a security was identified under section 1236 as a security held for investment, the security is treated as being identified as held for investment for purposes of section 475(b).

(2) *Consistency requirement for other securities*. In the case of a security (including a security described in section 475(c)(2)(F)) that is not described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section and that was held by the taxpayer as of the close of the last taxable year ending before December 31, 1993, the security is treated as having been properly identified under section 475(b)(2) or 475(c)(2)(F)(iii) if the information contained in the dealer's books and records as of the close of that year supports the identification. If there is any ambiguity in those records, the taxpayer must, no later than January 31, 1994, place in its records a statement resolving this ambiguity and indicating unambiguously which securities are to be treated as properly identified. Any information that supports treating a security as having been properly identified under section 475(b)(2) or (c)(2)(F)(iii) must be applied consistently from one security to another.

(b) *Corrections on or before January 31, 1994*—(1) *Purpose*. This paragraph (b) allows a taxpayer to add or remove certain identifications covered by §1.475(b)–1.

(2) *To conform to §1.475(b)–1(a)*—(i) *Added identifications*. To the extent permitted by paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, a taxpayer may identify as being described in section 475(b)(1) (A) or (B)—

(A) A security that was held for immediate sale but was not held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's trade or business (for example, a trading security); or

(B) An evidence of indebtedness that was not held for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's trade or business and that the taxpayer intended to hold for less than one year.

(ii) *Limitations*. An identification described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section is permitted only if—

(A) Prior to December 28, 1993, the taxpayer did not identify as being described in section 475(b)(1) (A) or (B) any of the securities described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section;

(B) The taxpayer identifies every security described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section for which a timely identification of the security under section 475(b)(2) cannot be made after the date on which the taxpayer makes these added identifications; and

(C) The identification is made on or before January 31, 1994.

(3) *To conform to §1.475(b)–1(c)*. On or before January 31, 1994, a taxpayer described in §1.475(b)–1(e)(2)(i)(B) may remove an identification under section 475(b)(1)(A) of a security described in §1.475(b)–1(e)(2)(i)(A).

(c) *Effect of corrections*. An identification added under paragraph (a)(2) or (b)(2) of this section is timely for purposes of section 475(b)(2) or (c)(2)(F)(iii). An identification removed under paragraph (a)(2) or (b)(3) of this section does not subject the taxpayer to the provisions of section 475(d)(2).

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67722, Dec. 24, 1996]

§ 1.475(c)–1 Definitions—dealer in securities.

(a) *Dealer-customer relationship*. Whether a taxpayer is transacting business with customers is determined on the basis of all of the facts and circumstances.

(1) [Reserved]

(2) *Transactions described in section 475(c)(1)(B)*—(i) *In general*. For purposes of section 475(c)(1)(B), the term *dealer in securities* includes, but is not limited to, a taxpayer that, in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's trade or business, regularly holds itself out as being willing and able to enter into either side of a transaction enumerated in section 475(c)(1)(B).

(ii) *Examples*. The following examples illustrate the rules of this paragraph (a)(2). In the following examples, B is a bank and is not a member of a consolidated group:

Example 1. B regularly offers to enter into interest rate swaps with other persons in the ordinary course of its trade or business. B is willing to enter into interest rate swaps under which it either pays a fixed interest rate and receives a floating rate or pays a floating rate and receives a fixed rate. B is a dealer in securities under section 475(c)(1)(B), and the counterparties are its customers.

Example 2. B, in the ordinary course of its trade or business, regularly holds itself out as being willing and able to enter into either side of positions in a foreign currency with other banks in the interbank market. B's activities in the foreign currency make it a dealer in securities under section 475(c)(1)(B), and the other banks in the interbank market are its customers.

Example 3. B engages in frequent transactions in a foreign currency in the interbank market. Unlike the facts in *Example 2*, however, B does not regularly hold itself out as being willing and able to enter into either side of positions in the foreign currency, and all of B's transactions are driven by its internal need to adjust its position in the currency. No other circumstances are present to suggest that B is a dealer in securities for purposes of section 475(c)(1)(B). B's activity in the foreign currency does not qualify it as a dealer in securities for purposes of section 475(c)(1)(B), and its transactions in the interbank market are not transactions with customers.

(3) *Related parties*—(i) *General rule.* Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section (concerning transactions between members of a consolidated group, as defined in §1.1502–1(h)), a taxpayer's transactions with related persons may be transactions with customers for purposes of section 475. For example, if a taxpayer, in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's trade or business, regularly holds itself out to its foreign subsidiaries or other related persons as being willing and able to enter into either side of transactions enumerated in section 475(c)(1)(B), the taxpayer is a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1), even if it engages in no other transactions with customers.

(ii) *Special rule for members of a consolidated group.* Solely for purposes of paragraph (c)(1) of section 475 (concerning the definition of dealer in securities) and except as provided in paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section, a taxpayer's transactions with other members of its consolidated group are not with customers. Accordingly, notwithstanding paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the fact that a taxpayer regularly holds itself out to other members of its consolidated group as being willing and able to enter into either side of a transaction enumerated in section 475(c)(1)(B) does not cause the taxpayer to be a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1)(B).

(iii) *The intragroup-customer election*—(A) *Effect of election.* If a consolidated group makes the intragroup-customer election, paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section (special rule for members of a consolidated group) does not apply to the members of the group. Thus, a member of a group that has made this election may be a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1) even if its only customer transactions are with other members of its consolidated group.

(B) *Making and revoking the election.* Unless the Commissioner otherwise prescribes, the intragroup-customer election is made by filing a statement that says, ''[Insert name and employer identification number of common parent] hereby makes the Intragroup-Customer Election (as described in §1.475(c)–1(a)(3)(iii) of the income tax regulations) for the taxable year ending [describe the last day of the year] and for subsequent taxable years.'' The statement must be signed by the common parent and attached to the timely filed federal income tax return for the consolidated group for that taxable year. The election applies for that year and continues in effect for subsequent years until revoked. The election may be revoked only with the consent of the Commissioner.

(iv) *Examples.* The following examples illustrate this paragraph (a)(3):

GENERAL FACTS. HC, a hedging center, provides interest rate hedges to all of the members of its affiliated group (as defined in section 1504(a)(1)). Because of the efficiencies created by having a centralized risk manager, group policy prohibits members other than *HC* from entering into derivative interest rate positions with outside parties. *HC* regularly holds itself out as being willing and able to, and in fact does, enter into either side of interest rate swaps with its fellow members. *HC* periodically computes its aggregate position and hedges the net risk with an unrelated party. *HC* does not otherwise enter into interest rate positions with persons that are not members of the affiliated group. *HC* attempts to operate at cost, and the terms of its swaps do not factor in any risk of default by the affiliate. Thus, *HC*'s affiliates receive somewhat more favorable terms then they would receive from an unrelated swaps dealer (a fact that may subject *HC* and its fellow members to reallocation of income under section 482). No other circumstances are present to suggest that *HC* is a dealer in securities for purposes of section 475(c)(1)(B).

Example 1. General rule for related persons. In addition to the *General Facts* stated above, assume that *HC*'s affiliated group has not elected under section 1501 to file a consolidated return. Under paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section, *HC*'s transactions with its affiliates can be transactions with customers for purposes of section 475(c)(1). Thus, under paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section, *HC* is a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1)(B), and the members of the group with which it does business are its customers.

Example 2. Special rule for members of a consolidated group. In addition to the *General Facts* stated above, assume that *HC*'s affiliated group has elected to file consolidated returns and has not made the intragroup-customer election. Under paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section, *HC*'s interest rate swap transactions with the members of its consolidated group are not transactions with customers for purposes of determining whether *HC* is a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1). Further, the fact that *HC* regularly holds itself out to members of its consolidated group as being willing and able to enter into either side of a transaction enumerated in section 475(c)(1)(B) does not cause *HC* to be a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1)(B). Because no other circumstances are present to suggest that *HC* is a dealer in securities for purposes of section 475(c)(1)(B), *HC* is not a dealer in securities.

Example 3. Intragroup-customer election. In addition to the *General Facts* stated above, assume that *HC*'s affiliated group has elected to file a consolidated return but has also made the intragroup-customer election under paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section. Thus, the analysis and result are the same as in *Example 1.*

(b) *Sellers of nonfinancial goods and services*—(1) *Purchases and sales of customer paper.* Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, if a taxpayer would not be a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1) but for its purchases and sales of debt instruments that, at the time of purchase or sale, are customer paper with respect to either the taxpayer or a corporation that is a member of the same consolidated group (as defined in §1.1502–1(h)) as the taxpayer, then for purposes of section 475 the taxpayer is not a dealer in securities.

(2) *Definition of customer paper.* A debt instrument is customer paper with respect to a person at a point in time if—

(i) The person's principal activity is selling nonfinancial goods or providing nonfinancial services;

(ii) The debt instrument was issued by a purchaser of the goods or services at the time of the purchase of those goods or services in order to finance the purchase; and

(iii) At all times since the debt instrument was issued, it has been held either by the person selling those goods or services or by a corporation that is a member of the same consolidated group as that person.

(3) *Exceptions.* Paragraph (b)(1) of this section does not apply if—

(i) For purposes of section 471, the taxpayer accounts for any security (as defined in section 475(c)(2)) as inventory;

(ii) The taxpayer is subject to an election under paragraph (b)(4) of this section; or

(iii) The taxpayer is not described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section and one or more debt instruments that are customer paper with respect to a corporation that is a member of the same consolidated group as the taxpayer are accounted for by the taxpayer, or by a corporation that is a member of the same consolidated group as the taxpayer, in a manner that allows recognition of unrealized gains or losses or deductions for additions to a reserve for bad debts.

(4) *Election not to be governed by the exception for sellers of nonfinancial goods or services*—(i) *Method of making the election.* Unless the Commissioner otherwise prescribes, an election under this paragraph (b)(4) must be made in the manner, and at the time, prescribed in this paragraph (b)(4)(i). The taxpayer must file with the Internal Revenue Service a statement that says, ''[Insert name and taxpayer identification number of the taxpayer] hereby elects not to be governed by §1.475(c)–1(b)(1) of the income tax regulations for the taxable year ending [describe

the last day of the year] and for subsequent taxable years.''

(A) *Taxable years ending after December 24, 1996*. If the first taxable year subject to an election under this paragraph (b)(4) ends after December 24, 1996, the statement must be attached to a timely filed federal income tax return for that taxable year.

(B) *Taxable years ending on or before December 24, 1996*. If the first taxable year subject to an election under this paragraph (b)(4) ends on or before December 24, 1996 and the election changes the taxpayer's taxable income for any taxable year the federal income tax return for which was filed before February 24, 1997, the statement must be attached to an amended return for the earliest such year that is so affected, and that amended return (and an amended return for any other such year that is so affected) must be filed not later than June 23, 1997. If the first taxable year subject to an election under this paragraph (b)(4) ends on or before December 24, 1996 but the taxpayer is not described in the preceding sentence, the statement must be attached to the first federal income tax return that is for a taxable year subject to the election and that is filed on or after February 24, 1997.

(ii) *Continued applicability of an election*. An election under this paragraph (b)(4) continues in effect for subsequent taxable years until revoked. The election may be revoked only with the consent of the Commissioner.

(c) *Taxpayers that purchase securities from customers but engage in no more than negligible sales of the securities*—(1) *Exemption from dealer status*—(i) *General rule*. A taxpayer that regularly purchases securities from customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business (including regularly making loans to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business of making loans) but engages in no more than negligible sales of the securities so acquired is not a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1) unless the taxpayer elects to be so treated or, for purposes of section 471, the taxpayer accounts for any security (as defined in section 475(c)(2)) as inventory.

(ii) *Election to be treated as a dealer*. A taxpayer described in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section elects to be treated as a dealer in securities by filing a federal income tax return reflecting the application of section 475(a) in computing its taxable income.

(2) *Negligible sales*. Solely for purposes of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, a taxpayer engages in negligible sales of debt instruments that it regularly purchases from customers in the ordinary course of its business if, and only if, during the taxable year, either—

(i) The taxpayer sells all or part of fewer than 60 debt instruments, regardless how acquired; or

(ii) The total adjusted basis of the debt instruments (or parts of debt instruments), regardless how acquired, that the taxpayer sells is less than 5 percent of the total basis, immediately after acquisition, of the debt instruments that it acquires in that year.

(3) *Special rules for members of a consolidated group*—(i) *Intragroup-customer election in effect*. If a taxpayer is a member of a consolidated group that has made the intragroup-customer election (described in paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section), the negligible sales test in paragraph (c)(2) of this section takes into account all of the taxpayer's sales of debt instruments to other group members.

(ii) *Intragroup-customer election not in effect*. If a taxpayer is a member of a consolidated group that has not made the intragroup-customer election (described in paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section), the taxpayer satisfies the negligible sales test in paragraph (c)(2) of this section if either—

(A) The test is satisfied by the taxpayer, taking into account sales of debt instruments to other group members (as in paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section); or

(B) The test is satisfied by the group, treating the members of the group as if they were divisions of a single corporation.

(4) *Special rules*. Whether sales of securities are negligible is determined without regard to—

(i) Sales of securities that are necessitated by exceptional circumstances and that are not undertaken as recurring business activities;

(ii) Sales of debt instruments that decline in quality while in the taxpayer's hands and that are sold pursuant to an established policy of the taxpayer to dispose of debt instruments below a certain quality; or

(iii) Acquisitions and sales of debt instruments that are qualitatively different from all debt instruments that the taxpayer purchases from customers in the ordinary course of its business.

(5) *Example.* The following example illustrates paragraph (c)(4)(iii) of this section:

Example. I, an insurance company, regularly makes policy loans to its customers but does not sell them. *I,* however, actively trades Treasury securities. No other circumstances are present to suggest that *I* is a dealer in securities for purposes of section 475(c)(1). Since the Treasuries are qualitatively different from the policy loans that *I* originates, under paragraph (c)(4)(iii) of this section, *I* disregards the purchases and sales of Treasuries in applying the negligible sales test in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(d) *Issuance of life insurance products.* A life insurance company that is not otherwise a dealer in securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(1) does not become a dealer in securities solely because it regularly issues life insurance products to its customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term *life insurance product* means a contract that is treated for federal income tax purposes as an annuity, endowment, or life insurance contract. See sections 72, 817, and 7702.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67723, Dec. 24, 1996]

§ 1.475(c)–2 Definitions—security.

(a) *Items that are not securities.* The following items are not securities within the meaning of section 475(c)(2) with respect to a taxpayer and, therefore, are not subject to section 475—

(1) A security (determined without regard to this paragraph (a)) if section 1032 prevents the taxpayer from recognizing gain or loss with respect to that security;

(2) A debt instrument issued by the taxpayer (including a synthetic debt instrument, within the meaning of §1.1275–6(b)(4), that §1.1275–6(b) treats the taxpayer as having issued); or

(3) A REMIC residual interest, or an interest or arrangement that is determined by the Commissioner to have substantially the same economic effect, if the residual interest or the interest or arrangement is acquired on or after January 4, 1995.

(b) *Synthetic debt that §1.1275–6(b) treats the taxpayer as holding.* If §1.1275–6 treats a taxpayer as the holder of a synthetic debt instrument (within the meaning of §1.1275–6(b)(4)), the synthetic debt instrument is a security held by the taxpayer within the meaning of section 475(c)(2)(C).

(c) *Negative value REMIC residuals acquired before January 4, 1995.* A REMIC residual interest that is described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section or an interest or arrangement that is determined by the Commissioner to have substantially the same economic effect is not a security within the meaning of section 475(c)(2).

(1) *Description.* A residual interest in a REMIC is described in this paragraph (c)(1) if, on the date the taxpayer acquires the residual interest, the present value of the anticipated tax liabilities associated with holding the interest exceeds the sum of—

(i) The present value of the expected future distributions on the interest; and

(ii) The present value of the anticipated tax savings associated with holding the interest as the REMIC generates losses.

(2) *Special rules applicable to negative value REMIC residuals acquired before January 4, 1995.* Solely for purposes of this paragraph (c)—

(i) If a transferee taxpayer acquires a residual interest with a basis determined by reference to the transferor's basis, then the transferee is deemed to acquire the interest on the date the transferor acquired it (or is deemed to acquire it under this paragraph (c)(2)(i)).

(ii) Anticipated tax liabilities, expected future distributions, and anticipated tax savings are determined under the rules in §1.860E–2(a)(3) and without regard to the operation of section 475.

(iii) Present values are determined under the rules in §1.860E–2(a)(4).

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67725, Dec. 24, 1996]

§ 1.475(d)–1 Character of gain or loss.

(a) *Securities never held in connection with the taxpayer's activities as a dealer* *in securities.* If a security is never held in connection with the taxpayer's activities as a dealer in securities, section 475(d)(3)(A) does not affect the character of gain or loss from the security, even if the taxpayer fails to identify the security under section 475(b)(2).

(b) *Ordinary treatment for notional principal contracts and derivatives held by dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives.* Section 475(d)(3)(B)(ii) (concerning the character of gain or loss with respect to a security held by a person other than in connection with its activities as a dealer in securities) does not apply to a security if §1.475(b)–1(c) and the absence of a determination by the Commissioner prevent section 475(b)(1)(A) from applying to the security.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67725, Dec. 24, 1996]

§ 1.475(g)–1 Effective dates.

(a)–(b) [Reserved]

(c) Section 1.475(a)–3 (concerning acquisition by a dealer of a security with a substituted basis) applies to securities acquired, originated, or entered into on or after January 4, 1995.

(d) Section 1.475(a)–4 (concerning a safe harbor to use applicable financial statement values for purposes of section 475) applies to taxable years ending on or after June 12, 2007.

(e) Except as provided elsewhere in this paragraph (d), §1.475(b)–1 (concerning the scope of exemptions from the mark-to-market requirement) applies to taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1993.

(1) Section 1.475(b)–1(b) applies as follows:

(i) Section 1.475(b)–1(b)(1)(i) (concerning equity interests issued by a related person) applies beginning June 19, 1996. If, on June 18, 1996, a security is subject to mark-to-market accounting and, on June 19, 1996, §1.475(b)–1(b)(1) begins to apply to the security solely because of the effective dates in this paragraph (d) (rather than because of a change in facts), then the rules of §1.475(b)–1(b)(4)(i)(A) (concerning the prohibition against marking) apply, but §1.475(b)–1(b)(4)(i)(B) (imposing a mark-to-market on the day before the onset of the prohibition) does not apply.

(ii) Section 1.475(b)–1(b)(2) (concerning relevant relationships for purposes of determining whether equity interests in related persons are prohibited from being marked to market) applies beginning June 19, 1996.

(iii) Section 1.475(b)–1(b)(3) (concerning certain actively traded securities) applies beginning June 19, 1996, to securities held on or after that date, except for securities described in §1.475(b)–1(e)(1)(i) (concerning equity interests issued by controlled entities). If a security is described in §1.475(b)–1(e)(1)(i), §1.475(b)–1(b)(3) applies only on or after January 23, 1997 if the security is held on or after that date. If §1.475(b)–1(b)(1) ceases to apply to a security by virtue of the operation of this paragraph (d)(1)(iii), the rules of §1.475(b)–1(b)(4)(ii) apply to the cessation.

(iv) Except to the extent provided in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, §1.475(b)–1(b)(4) (concerning changes in status) applies beginning June 19, 1996.

(2) Section 1.475(b)–1(c) (concerning securities deemed not held for investment by dealers in notional principal contracts and derivatives) applies to securities acquired on or after January 23, 1997.

(3) Section 1.475(b)–1(d) (concerning the special rule for hedges of another member's risk) is effective for securities acquired, originated, or entered into on or after January 23, 1997.

(f) Section 1.475(b)–2 (concerning identification of securities that are exempt from mark-to-market treatment) applies as follows:

(1) Section 1.475(b)–2(a) (concerning the general rules for identification of basis for exemption from mark to market treatment) applies to identifications made on or after July 1, 1997.

(2) Section 1.475(b)–2(b) (concerning time for identifying a security with a substituted basis) applies to securities acquired, originated, or entered into on or after January 4, 1995.

(3) Section 1.475(b)–2(c) (concerning identification in the context of integrated transactions under §1.1275–6) applies on and after August 13, 1996 (the effective date of §1.1275–6).

(g) [Reserved]

(h) Section 1.475(b)–4 (concerning transitional issues relating to exemptions) applies to taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1993.

(i) Section 1.475(c)–1 applies as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (h)(1), §1.475(c)–1(a) (concerning the dealer-customer relationship) applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1995.

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) Section 1.475(c)–1(a)(2)(ii) (illustrating rules concerning the dealer-customer relationship) applies to taxable years beginning on or after June 20, 1996.

(iii)(A) Section 1.475(c)–1(a)(3) applies to taxable years beginning on or after June 20, 1996, except for transactions between members of the same consolidated group.

(B) For transactions between members of the same consolidated group, paragraph §1.475(c)–1(a)(3) applies to taxable years beginning on or after December 24, 1996.

(2) Section 1.475(c)–1(b) (concerning sellers of nonfinancial goods and services) applies to taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1993.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (h)(3), section 1.475(c)–1(c) (concerning taxpayers that purchase securities but engage in no more than negligible sales of the securities) applies to taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1993.

(i) Section 1.475(c)–1(c)(3) (special rules for members of a consolidated group) is effective for taxable years beginning on or after December 24, 1996.

(ii) A taxpayer may rely on the rules set out in §1.475(c)–1T(b) (as contained in 26 CFR part 1 revised April 1, 1996) for taxable years beginning before January 23, 1997, provided the taxpayer applies that paragraph reasonably and consistently.

(4) Section 1.475(c)–1(d) (concerning the issuance of life insurance products) applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1995.

(j) Section 1.475(c)–2 (concerning the definition of security) applies to taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1993. By its terms, however, §1.475(c)–2(a)(3) applies only to residual interests or to interests or arrangements that are acquired on or after January 4, 1995; and the integrated transactions that are referred to in §§1.475(c)–2(a)(2) and 1.475(c)–2(b) exist only after August 13, 1996 (the effective date of §1.1275–6).

(k) Section 1.475(d)–1 (concerning the character of gain or loss) applies to taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1993.

[T.D. 8700, 61 FR 67725, Dec. 24, 1996. Redesignated and amended by T.D. 9328, 72 FR 32181, June 12, 2007]

ADJUSTMENTS

§ 1.481–1 Adjustments in general.

(a)(1) Section 481 prescribes the rules to be followed in computing taxable income in cases where the taxable income of the taxpayer is computed under a method of accounting different from that under which the taxable income was previously computed. A change in method of accounting to which section 481 applies includes a change in the over-all method of accounting for gross income or deductions, or a change in the treatment of a material item. For rules relating to changes in methods of accounting, see section 446(e) and paragraph (e) of §1.446–1. In computing taxable income for the taxable year of the change, there shall be taken into account those adjustments which are determined to be necessary solely by reason of such change in order to prevent amounts from being duplicated or omitted. The ''year of the change'' is the taxable year for which the taxable income of the taxpayer is computed under a method of accounting different from that used for the preceding taxable year.

(2) Unless the adjustments are attributable to a change in method of accounting initiated by the taxpayer, no part of the adjustments required by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph shall be based on amounts which were taken into account in computing income (or which should have been taken into account had the new method of accounting been used) for taxable years beginning before January 1, 1954, or ending before August 17, 1954 (hereinafter referred to as pre-1954 years).