Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

amount of the proceeds of such redemption to—

- (1) An individual retirement account described in section 408(a) or an individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b) (other than an endowment contract described in §1.408-3(e)), or
- (2) An employees' trust which is described in section 401(a) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a), or an annuity plan described in section 403(a), for the benefit of the registered owner, on or before the 60th day after the day on which he received the proceeds of such redemption. This subparagraph shall not apply in the case of a transfer to a trust or plan described in (c)(2) of this section unless no part of the purchase price of the retirement bond redeemed is attributable to any source other than a rollover contribution from such an employees' trust or annuity plan (other than an annuity plan or employees' trust forming part of a plan under which the individual was an employee within the meaning of section 401(c)(1) at the time contributions were made on his behalf under the plan).
- (d) Additional tax—(1) Early redemption. Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, under section 409(c) if a retirement bond is redeemed by the registered owner before he attains age 59½, his tax under chapter 1 of the Code is increased by an amount equal to 10 percent of the proceeds of the redemption includible in his gross income for the taxable year. Except in the case of the credits allowable under sections 31, 39, or 42, no credit can be used to offset the tax described in the preceding sentence.
- (2) $\it Limitations.$ Paragraph (d)(1) of this section shall not apply if—
- (i) During the taxable year of the registered owner in which a retirement bond is redeemed, the registered owner becomes disabled within the meaning of section 72(m)(7), or
- (ii) A retirement bond is tendered for redemption in accordance with paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section.

[T.D. 7714, 45 FR 52799, Aug. 8, 1980]

§ 1.409A-0 Table of contents.

This section lists captions contained in $\S1.409A-1$, 1.409A-2, 1.409A-3, 1.409A-4, 1.409A-5 and 1.409A-6.

- §1.409A-1 Definitions and covered plans.
- (a) Nonqualified deferred compensation plan.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Qualified employer plans.
- (3) Certain foreign plans.
- (i) Participation addressed by treaty.
- (ii) Participation by nonresident aliens, certain resident aliens, and bona fide residents of possessions.
- (iii) Participation by U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- (iv) Plans subject to a totalization agreement and similar plans.
- (v) Broad-based foreign retirement plan.
- (4) Section 457 plans.
- (5) Certain welfare benefits.
- (b) Deferral of compensation
- (1) In general.
- (2) Earnings.
- (3) Compensation payable pursuant to the service recipient's customary payment timing arrangement.
- (4) Short-term deferrals.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Certain delayed payments.
- (iii) Examples.
- (5) Stock options, stock appreciation rights, and other equity-based compensation.
- (i) Stock rights.
- (A) Nonstatutory stock options not providing for the deferral of compensation.
- (B) Stock appreciation rights not providing for the deferral of compensation.
- (C) Stock rights that may provide for the deferral of compensation.
- (D) Feature for the deferral of compensation.
- (E) Rights to dividends.
- (ii) Statutory stock options.
- (iii) Service recipient stock.
- (A) In general.
- (B) American depositary receipts.
- (C) Mutual company units.
- (D) Other entities.
- (E) Eligible issuer of service recipient stock.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Investment vehicles.

§ 1.409A-0

- (3) Corporate structures established or transactions undertaken for purposes of avoiding coverage under section 409A.
- (4) Substitutions and assumptions by reason of a corporate transaction.
- (iv) Determination of the fair market value of service recipient stock.
- (A) Stock readily tradable on an established securities market.
- (B) Stock not readily tradable on an established securities market.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Presumption of reasonableness.
- (3) Use of alternative methods.
- (v) Modifications, extensions, substitutions, and assumptions of stock rights.
- (A) Treatment of modified and extended stock rights.
- (B) Modification in general.
- (C) Extensions.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Certain extensions before April 10, 2007.
- (3) Examples
- (D) Substitutions and assumptions of stock rights by reason of a corporate transaction.
- (E) Acceleration of date when exercisable.
- (F) Discretionary added benefits.
- (G) Change in underlying stock increasing value.
- (H) Change in the number of shares purchasable.
- (I) Rescission of changes.
- (J) Successive modifications and extensions.
- (K) Modifications and extensions in effect on October 23, 2004.
- (vi) Meaning and use of certain terms.
- (A) Option.
- (B) Date of grant of option.
- (C) Stock.
- (D) Exercise price.
- (E) Exercise.
- (F) Transfer.
- (G) Readily tradable.
- (H) Application to stock appreciation rights.
- (6) Restricted property, section 402(b) trusts, and section 403(c) annuities.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Promises to transfer property.
- (7) Arrangements between partnerships and partners. [Reserved]
- (8) Certain foreign plans.

- (i) Plans with respect to compensation covered by treaty or other international agreement.
- (ii) Plans with respect to certain other compensation.
- (iii) Tax equalization agreements.
- (iv) Certain limited deferrals of a non-resident alien.
- (v) Additional foreign plans.
- (vi) Earnings.
- (9) Separation pay plans.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Collectively bargained separation pay plans.
- (iii) Separation pay due to involuntary separation from service or participation in a window program.
- (iv) Foreign separation pay plans.
- (v) Reimbursements and certain other separation payments.
- (A) In general.
- (B) Medical benefits.
- (C) In-kind benefits and direct service recipient payments.
- (D) Limited payments.
- (E) Limited period of time.
- (vi) Window programs—definition.
- (10) Certain indemnification and liability insurance plans.
- (11) Legal settlements.
- (12) Certain educational benefits.
- (c) Plan.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Plan aggregation rules.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Dual status.
- (3) Establishment of plan.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Initial deferral election provisions.
- (iii) Subsequent deferral election provisions.
- (iv) Payment accelerations.
- (v) Six-month delay for specified employees.
- (vi) Plan amendments.
- (vii) Transition rule for written plan requirement.
- (viii) Plan aggregation rules.
- (d) Substantial risk of forfeiture.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Stock rights.
- (3) Enforcement of forfeiture condition.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Examples.
- (e) Performance-based compensation.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Payments based upon subjective performance criteria.
- (3) Equity-based compensation.

Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

- (f) Service provider.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Independent contractors.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Related person.
- (iii) Significant services.
- (iv) Management services.
- (v) Services provided to related persons.
- (g) Service recipient.
- (h) Separation from service.
- (1) Employees.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Termination of employment.
- (2) Independent contractors.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Special rule.
- (3) Definition of service recipient and employer.
- (4) Asset purchase transactions.
- (5) Dual status.
- (6) Collectively bargained plans covering multiple employers.
- (i) Specified employee.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Definition of compensation.
- (3) Specified employee identification
- (4) Specified employee effective date.
- (5) Alternative methods of satisfying the six-month delay rule.
- (6) Corporate transactions.
- Mergers and acquisitions of public service recipients.
- (ii) Mergers and acquisitions of nonpublic service recipients.
- (iii) Spinoffs.
- (iv) Public offerings and other corporate transactions.
- (v) Alternative methods of compliance.
- (7) Nonresident alien employees.
- (8) Elections affecting the identification of specified employees.
- (j) Nonresident alien.
- (k) Established securities market.
- (1) Stock right.
- (m) Separation pay plan.
- (n) Involuntary separation from service.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Separations from service for good reason.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Safe harbor.
- (3) Special rule for certain collectively bargained plans.
- (o) Earnings.
- (p) In-kind benefits.
- $\left(\mathbf{q}\right)$ Application of definitions and rules.

- §1.409A-2 Deferral elections.
- (a) Initial elections as to the time and form of payment.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Service recipient elections.
- (3) General rule.
- (4) Initial deferral election with respect to short-term deferrals.
- (5) Initial deferral election with respect to certain forfeitable rights.
- (6) Initial deferral election with respect to fiscal year compensation.
- (7) First year of eligibility.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Eligibility to participate.
- (iii) Application to excess benefit plans.
- (8) Initial deferral election with respect to performance-based compensation.
- (9) Nonqualified deferred compensation plans linked to qualified employer plans or certain other arrangements.
- (10) Changes in elections under a cafeteria plan.
- (11) Initial deferral election with respect to certain separation pay.
- (12) Initial deferral election with respect to certain commissions.
- (i) Sales commission compensation.
- (ii) Investment commission compensation.
- (iii) Commission compensation and related persons.
- (13) Initial deferral election with respect to compensation paid for final payroll period.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Transition rule.
- (14) Elections to annualize recurring part-year compensation.
- (15) USERRA rights.
- (b) Subsequent changes in time and form of payment.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Definition of payments for purposes of subsequent changes in the time and form of payment.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Life annuities.
- (A) In general.
- (B) Certain features disregarded.
- (C) Subsidized joint and survivor annuities.
- (D) Actuarial assumptions and methods.
- (iii) Installment payments.
- (iv) Transition rule.

§ 1.409A-0

- (3) Beneficiaries.
- (4) Domestic relations orders.
- (5) Coordination with prohibition against acceleration of payments.
- (6) Application to multiple payment events.
- (7) Delay of payments under certain circumstances.
- (i) Payments subject to section 162(m).
- (ii) Payments that would violate Federal securities laws or other applicable law.
- (iii) Other events and conditions.
- (8) USERRA rights.
- (9) Examples.
- (c) Special rules for certain resident aliens.
- §1.409A-3 Permissible payments
- (a) In general.
- (b) Designation of payment upon a permissible payment event.
- (c) Designation of alternative specified dates or payment schedules based upon date of permissible event.
- (d) When a payment is treated as made upon the designated payment date.
- (e) Designation of time and form of payment with respect to earnings.
- (f) Substitutions.
- (g) Disputed payments and refusals to pay.
- (h) Special rule for certain resident aliens.
- (i) Definitions and special rules.
- (1) Specified time or fixed schedule.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Payment schedules with formula and fixed limitations.
- (A) Individual limitations.
- (B) Limitations on aggregate payments to all participants in substantially identical plans.
- (iii) Payment schedules determined by timing of payments received by the service recipient.
- (iv) Reimbursement or in-kind benefit plans.
- (A) General rule.
- (B) Medical reimbursement arrangements.
- (v) Tax gross-up payments.
- (vi) Examples.
- (2) Separation from service—required delay in payment to a specified employee pursuant to a separation from service.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Application of payment rules to delayed payments.

- (3) Unforeseeable emergency.
- (i) Definition.
- (ii) Amount of payment permitted upon an unforeseeable emergency.
- (iii) Payments due to an unforeseeable emergency.
- (4) Disability.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Limited plan definition of disability.
- (iii) Determination of disability.
- (5) Change in the ownership or effective control of a corporation, or a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of a corporation.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Identification of relevant corporation.
- (A) In general.
- (B) Majority shareholder.
- (C) Example.
- (iii) Attribution of stock ownership.
- (iv) Special rules for certain delayed payments pursuant to a change in control event.
- (A) Certain transaction-based compensation.
- (B) Certain nonvested compensation.
- (v) Change in the ownership of a corporation.
- (A) In general.
- (B) Persons acting as a group.
- (vi) Change in the effective control of a corporation.
- (A) In general.
- (B) Multiple change in control events.
- (C) Acquisition of additional control.
- (D) Persons acting as a group.
- (vii) Change in the ownership of a substantial portion of a corporation's assets.
- (A) In general.
- (B) Transfers to a related person.
- (C) Persons acting as a group.
- (6) Certain back-to-back arrangements.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Example.
- (j) Prohibition on acceleration of payments.
- (1) In general.
- (2) Application to multiple payment events.
- (3) Beneficiaries.
- (4) Exceptions.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Domestic relations order.
- (iii) Conflicts of interest.
- (A) Compliance with ethics agreements with the Federal government.

Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

- (B) Compliance with ethics laws or conflicts of interest laws.
- (iv) Section 457 plans.
- (v) Limited cashouts.
- (vi) Payment of employment taxes.
- (vii) Payment upon income inclusion under section 409A.
- (viii) Cancellation of deferrals following an unforeseeable emergency or hardship distribution.
- (ix) Plan terminations and liquidations.
- (x) Certain distributions to avoid a nonallocation year under section 409(p).
- (xi) Payment of state, local, or foreign taxes.
- (xii) Cancellation of deferral elections due to disability.
- (xiii) Certain offsets.
- (xiv) Bona fide disputes as to a right to a payment.
- (5) Nonqualified deferred compensation plans linked to qualified employer plans or certain other arrangements.
- (6) Changes in elections under a cafeteria plan.
 - §1.409A-4 Calculation of income inclusion [Reserved]
- §1.409A-5 Funding [Reserved]
- §1.409A-6 Application of section 409A and effective dates.
- (a) Statutory application and effective dates
- (1) Application to amounts deferred.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Collectively bargained plans.
- (2) Identification of date of deferral for statutory effective date purposes.
- (3) Calculation of amount of compensation deferred for statutory effective date purposes.
- (i) Nonaccount balance plans.
- (ii) Account balance plans.
- (iii) Equity-based compensation plans.
- (iv) Earnings
- (v) Definition of plan.
- (4) Material modifications.
- (i) In general.
- (ii) Adoptions of new plans.
- (iii) Suspension or termination of a plan.
- (iv) Changes to investment measures account balance plans.
- (v) Stock rights.
- (vi) Rescission of modifications.
- (vii) Definition of plan.

(b) Regulatory applicability date.

[T.D. 9321, 72 FR 19276, Apr. 17, 2007]

§ 1.409A-1 Definitions and covered plans.

- (a) Nonqualified deferred compensation plan—(1) In general. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (a), the term nonqualified deferred compensation plan means any plan (within the meaning of paragraph (c) of this section) that provides for the deferral of compensation (within the meaning of paragraph (b) of this section). Whether a plan provides for the deferral of compensation generally is determined at the time the service provider obtains a legally binding right to the compensation under the plan, and is not affected by any retroactive change to the plan to characterize the right as one that does not provide for the deferral of compensation. For example, amounts deferred under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan do not become an excluded death benefit if the plan is amended so that the amounts are payable only upon the death of the service provider. If a principal purpose of a plan is to achieve a result with respect to a deferral of compensation that is inconsistent with the purposes of section 409A, the Commissioner may treat the plan as a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for purposes of section 409A and the regulations thereunder.
- (2) Qualified employer plans. The term nonqualified deferred compensation plan does not include a qualified employer plan. The term qualified employer plan means any of the following plans:
- (i) Any plan described in section 401(a) and a trust exempt from tax under section 501(a) or that is described in section 402(d).
- (ii) Any annuity plan described in section 403(a).
- (iii) Any annuity contract described in section 403(b).
- (iv) Any simplified employee pension (within the meaning of section 408(k)).
- (v) Any simple retirement account (within the meaning of section 408(p)).
- (vi) Any plan under which an active participant makes deductible contributions to a trust described in section 501(c)(18).