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Supporting organizations.

(a) In general. (1) Section 509(a)(3) excludes from the definition of private foundation those organizations which meet the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) thereof.

(2) Section 509(a)(3)(A) provides that a section 509(a)(3) organization must be organized, and at all times thereafter operated, exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more specified organizations described in section 509(a)(3). Paragraph (c)(1) of this section describes the nature of the support or benefit which a section 509(a)(3) organization must provide to one or more section 509(a)(1) or (2) organizations. For purposes of section 509(a)(3)(A), paragraph (b) of this section generally describes the organizational and operational tests; paragraph (c) of this section describes permissible purposes under the organizational test; paragraph (d) of this section describes the requirement of supporting or benefiting one or more specified publicly supported organizations; and paragraph (e) of this section describes permissible beneficiaries and activities under the operational test.

(3) Section 509(a)(3)(B) provides that a section 509(a)(3) organization must be operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with one or more organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2). Section 509(a)(3)(B) and paragraph (f) of this section describe the nature of the relationship which must exist between the section 509(a)(3) and section 509(a)(1) or (2) organizations.

(b) Effective/applicability date. These regulations are effective on September 9, 2008.

(c) Applicability date. The regulations in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3)(i), (c), (d), (e), and (k) of this section shall apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2008.

(d) Expiration date. The applicability of this section expires on September 8, 2011.

Example 1. (i) Organization M was formed in January 2004, and uses a June 30 taxable year. Organization M received an advance ruling letter that it is recognized as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) effective as of the date of its formation and that it is treated as a public charity under section 509(a)(2) during the five-year advance ruling period that will end on June 30, 2008. This date is within 90 days before September 9, 2008.

(ii) Under the transition rule, Organization M is a public charity described in section 509(a)(2) for the taxable years ending June 30, 2004, through June 30, 2008. Organization M does not need to establish within 90 days after June 30, 2008, that it met a public support test under §1.170A-9(e) or §1.509(a)-3, as in effect prior to September 9, 2008, (as contained in 26 CFR part 1 revised April 1, 2008) for its advance ruling period.

(iii) Organization M can qualify as a public charity beginning with the taxable year ending June 30, 2009, if Organization M can meet the requirements of §1.170A-9T(f)(4)(i) or (ii) or paragraph (c)(1) of this section for the taxable years ending June 30, 2005, through June 30, 2009, or for the taxable years ending June 30, 2004, through June 30, 2008. In addition, for its taxable year ending June 30, 2009, Organization M may qualify as a public charity by availing itself of the transition rule contained in paragraph (n)(ii) of this section, which looks to support received by M in the taxable years ending June 30, 2004, through June 30, 2007.

Example 2. (i) Organization N was formed in January 2000 and uses a December 31 taxable year. Organization N received a final determination that it was recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) and as a public charity prior to September 9, 2008.

(ii) For taxable year 2008, Organization N will qualify as publicly supported if it meets the requirements under either §1.170A-9T(f)(4)(i) or (ii) or paragraph (c)(1) of this section for the five-year period January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2008. Organization N will also qualify as publicly supported for taxable year 2008 if it meets the requirements under either §1.170A-9(e)(4)(i) or (ii) or §1.509(a)-3(c)(1) as in effect prior to September 9, 2008, (as contained in 26 CFR part 1 revised April 1, 2008) for taxable year 2007, using the four-year period from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2006.
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paragraph (g) of this section defines operated, supervised, or controlled by; paragraph (h) of this section defines supervised or controlled in connection with; and paragraph (i) of this section defines operated in connection with.

(4) Section 509(a)(3)(C) provides that a section 509(a)(3) organization must not be controlled directly or indirectly by disqualified persons (other than foundation managers or organizations described in section 509(a) (1) or (2)). Section 509(a)(3)(C) and paragraph (j) of this section prescribe a limitation on the control over the section 509(a)(3) organization.

(5) For purposes of this section, the term supporting organization means either an organization described in section 509(a)(3) or an organization seeking section 509(a)(3) status, depending upon its context. For purposes of this section, the term publicly supported organization means an organization described in section 509(a) (1) or (2).

(b) Organizational and operational tests. (1) Under subparagraph (A) of section 509(a)(3), in order to qualify as a supporting organization, an organization must be both organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of (hereinafter referred to in this section as being organized and operated to support or benefit) one or more specified publicly supported organizations. If an organization fails to meet either the organizational or the operational test, it cannot qualify as a supporting organization.

(2) In the case of supporting organizations created prior to January 1, 1970, the organizational and operational tests shall apply as of January 1, 1970. Therefore, even though the original articles of organization did not limit its purposes to those required under section 509(a)(3)(A) and even though it operated before January 1, 1970, for some purpose other than those required under section 509(a)(3)(A), an organization will satisfy the organizational and operational tests if, on January 1, 1970, and at all times thereafter, it is so constituted as to comply with these tests. For the special rules pertaining to the application of the organizational and operational tests to organizations terminating their private foundation status under the 12-month or 60-month termination period provided under section 507(b)(1)(B) by becoming public under section 509(a)(3), see the regulations under section 507(b).

(c) Organizational test—(1) In general. An organization is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in section 509(a)(3)(A) only if its articles of organization (as defined in §1.501(c)(3)–1(b)(2)):

(i) Limit the purposes of such organization to one or more of the purposes set forth in section 509(a)(3)(A);

(ii) Do not expressly empower the organization to operate to support or benefit any organization other than the specified publicly supported organizations referred to in subdivision (i) of this subparagraph;

(iii) State the specified publicly supported organizations on whose behalf such organization is to be operated (within the meaning of paragraph (d) of this section); and

(iv) Do not expressly empower the organization to engage in activities which are not in furtherance of the purposes referred to in subdivision (i) of this subparagraph.

(2) Purposes. In meeting the organizational test, the organization’s purposes, as stated in its articles, may be as broad as, or more specific than, the purposes set forth in section 509(a)(3)(A). Therefore, an organization which, by the terms of its articles, is formed for the benefit of one or more specified publicly supported organizations shall, if it otherwise meets the other requirements of this paragraph, be considered to have met the organizational test. Similarly, articles which state that an organization is formed to perform the publishing functions of a specified university are sufficient to comply with the organizational test. An organization which is operated, supervised, or controlled by (within the meaning of paragraph (g) of this section) or supervised or controlled in connection with (within the meaning of paragraph (h) of this section) one or more sections 509(a) (1) or (2) organizations to carry out the purposes of such organizations, will be considered as meeting the requirements of this paragraph if the purposes set forth in its articles are similar to, but no broader
than, the purposes set forth in the articles of its controlling section 509(a)(1) or (2) organizations. If, however, the organization by which it is operated, supervised, or controlled is a publicly supported organization for purposes of section 509(a)(2) organization for purposes of section 509(a)(3) under the provisions of section 509(a), the supporting organization will be considered as meeting the requirements of this paragraph if its articles require it to carry on charitable, etc., activities within the meaning of section 170(c)(2).

(3) Limitations. An organization is not organized exclusively for the purposes set forth in section 509(a)(3)(A) if its articles expressly permit it to operate to support or benefit any organization other than those publicly supported organizations referred to in subparagraph (1)(iii) of this paragraph. Thus, for example, an organization will not meet the organizational test under section 509(a)(3)(A) if its articles expressly empower it to pay over any part of its income to, or perform any service for, any organization other than those publicly supported organizations specified in its articles (within the meaning of paragraph (d) of this section). The fact that the actual operations of such organization have been exclusively for the benefit of the specified publicly supported organizations shall not be sufficient to permit it to meet the organizational test.

(d) Specified organizations—(1) In general. In order to meet the requirements of section 509(a)(3)(A), an organization must be organized and operated exclusively to support or benefit one or more specified publicly supported organizations. The manner in which the publicly supported organizations must be specified in the articles for purposes of section 509(a)(3)(A) will depend upon whether the supporting organization is operated, supervised, or controlled by or supervised or controlled in connection with (within the meaning of paragraphs (g) and (h) of this section) such organizations or whether it is operated in connection with (within the meaning of paragraph (l) of this section) such organizations.

(2) Nondesignated publicly supported organizations; requirements. (1) Except as provided in subdivision (iv) of this subparagraph, in order to meet the requirements of subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, the articles of the supporting organization must designate each of the specified organizations by name unless:

(a) The supporting organization is operated, supervised, or controlled by (within the meaning of paragraph (g) of this section), or is supervised or controlled in connection with (within the meaning of paragraph (h) of this section) one or more publicly supported organizations; and

(b) The articles of organization of the supporting organization require that it be operated to support or benefit one or more beneficiary organizations which are designated by class or purpose and which include:

(1) The publicly supported organizations referred to in (a) of this subdivision (without designating such organizations by name); or

(2) Publicly supported organizations which are closely related in purpose or function to those publicly supported organizations referred to in subdivision (1)(a) or this subparagraph (without designating such organization by name).

(ii) If a supporting organization is described in subdivision (1)(a) of this subparagraph, it will not be considered as failing to meet the requirements of subparagraph (1) of this paragraph that the publicly supported organizations be specified merely because its articles of organization permit the conditions described in subparagraphs (3)(i), (ii), and (iii) and (4)(i)(a) and (b) of this paragraph.

(iii) This subparagraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. X is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) which operates for the benefit of institutions of higher learning in the State of Y. X is controlled by these institutions (within the meaning of paragraph (g) of this section) and such institutions are all section 501(c)(3) organizations. X’s articles will meet the organizational test if they require X to operate for the benefit of institutions of higher learning or educational organizations in the State of Y (without naming each institution). X’s articles would also meet the organizational test if they provided...
for the giving of scholarships to enable students to attend institutions of higher learning but only in the State of Y.

Example 2. M is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) which was organized and operated by representatives of N church to run a home for the aged. M is controlled (within the meaning of paragraph (g) of this section) by N church, a section 509(a)(1) organization. The care of the sick and the aged are longstanding temporal functions and purposes of organized religion. By operating a home for the aged, M is operating to support or benefit N church in carrying out one of its temporal purposes. Thus M’s articles will meet the organizational test if they require M to care for the aged since M is operating to support one of N church’s purposes (without designating N church by name).

(iv) A supporting organization will meet the requirements of subparagraph (2)(i) of this paragraph even though its articles do not designate each of the specified organizations by name if:

(a) There has been an historic and continuing relationship between the supporting organization and the section 509(a)(1) or (2) organizations, and

(b) By reason of such relationship, there has developed a substantial identity of interests between such organizations.

(3) Nondesignated publicly supported organizations; scope of rule. If the requirements of subparagraph (2)(i)(a) of this paragraph are met, a supporting organization will not be considered as failing the test of being organized for the benefit of specified organizations solely because its articles:

(i) Permit the substitution of one publicly supported organization within a designated class for another publicly supported organization either in the same or a different class designated in the articles;

(ii) Permit the supporting organization to operate for the benefit of new or additional publicly supported organizations of the same or a different class designated in the articles; or

(iii) Permit the supporting organization to vary the amount of its support among different publicly supported organizations within the class or classes of organizations designated by the articles.

For example, X is an organization which operates for the benefit of private colleges in the State of Y. If X is controlled by these colleges (within the meaning of paragraph (g) of this section) and such colleges are all section 509(a)(1) organizations, X’s articles will meet the organization test even if they permit X to operate for the benefit of any new colleges created in State Y in addition to the existing colleges or in lieu of one which has ceased to operate, or if they permit X to vary its support by paying more to one college than to another in a particular year.

(4) Designated publicly supported organizations. (i) If an organization is organized and operated to support one or more publicly supported organizations and it is operated in connection with such organization or organizations, then, except as provided in subparagraph (2)( iv) of this paragraph, its articles of organization must, for purposes of satisfying the organizational test under section 509(a)(3)(A), designate the specified organizations by name. Under the circumstances described in this subparagraph, a supporting organization which has one or more specified organizations designated by name in its articles, will not be considered as failing the test of being organized for the benefit of specified organizations solely because its articles:

(a) Permit a publicly supported organization which is designated by class or purpose, rather than by name, to be substituted for the publicly supported organization or organizations designated by name in the articles, but only if such substitution is conditioned upon the occurrence of an event which is beyond the control of the supporting organization, such as loss of exemption, substantial failure or abandonment of operations, or dissolution of the publicly supported organization or organizations designated in the articles;

(b) Permit the supporting organization to operate for the benefit of a beneficiary organization which is not a publicly supported organization, but only if such supporting organization is currently operating for the benefit of a publicly supported organization and the possibility of its operating for the benefit of other than a publicly supported organization is a remote contingency; or
(c) Permit the supporting organization to vary the amount of its support between different designated organizations, so long as it meets the requirements of the integral part test set forth in paragraph (i)(3) of this section with respect to at least one beneficiary organization.

(ii) If the beneficiary organization referred to in subdivision (i)(b) of this subparagraph is not a publicly supported organization, the supporting organization will not then meet the operational test of paragraph (e)(1) of this section. Therefore, if a supporting organization substituted in accordance with such subdivision (i)(b) a beneficiary other than a publicly supported organization and operated in support of such beneficiary organization, the supporting organization would not be described in section 509(a)(3).

(iii) This subparagraph may be illustrated by the following example:

Example. X is a charitable trust described in section 4947(a)(1) organized in 1968. Under the terms of its trust instrument, X’s trustees are required to pay over all of X’s annual income to M University Medical School for urological research. If M University Medical School is unable or unwilling to devote these funds to urological research, the trustees are required to pay all of such income to N University Medical School. However if N University Medical School is also unable or unwilling to devote these funds to urological research, X’s trustees are directed to choose a similar organization willing to apply X’s funds for urological research. From 1968 to 1973, X pays all of its net income to M University Medical School pursuant to the terms of the trust. M and N are publicly supported organizations. Although the contingent remainderman may not be a publicly supported organization, the possibility that X may operate for the benefit of other than a publicly supported organization is, in 1973, a remote possibility, and X will be considered as operating for the benefit of a specified publicly supported organization under subdivision (i)(b) of this subparagraph. However, if, at some future date, X actually substituted a nonpublicly supported organization as beneficiary, X would fail the requirements of the operational test set forth in paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(e) Operational test—(1) Permissible beneficiaries. A supporting organization will be regarded as operated exclusively to support one or more specified publicly supported organizations (hereinafter referred to as the operational test) only if it engages solely in activities which support or benefit the specified publicly supported organizations. Such activities may include making payments to or for the use of, or providing services or facilities for, individual members of the charitable class benefited by the specified publicly supported organization. A supporting organization may also, for example, make a payment indirectly through another unrelated organization to a member of a charitable class benefited by the specified publicly supported organization, but only if such a payment constitutes a grant to an individual rather than a grant to an organization. In determining whether a grant is indirectly to an individual rather than to an organization the same standard shall be applied as in §53.4945–4(a)(4) of this chapter. Similarly, an organization will be regarded as operated exclusively to support or benefit one or more specified publicly supported organizations even if it supports or benefits an organization, other than a private foundation, which is described in section 501(c)(3) and is operated, supervised, or controlled directly by or in connection with such publicly supported organizations, or which is described in section 511(a)(2)(B). However, an organization will not be regarded as operated exclusively if any part of its activities is in furtherance of a purpose other than supporting or benefiting one or more specified publicly supported organizations.

(2) Permissible activities. A supporting organization is not required to pay over its income to the publicly supported organizations in order to meet the operational test. It may satisfy the test by using its income to carry on an independent activity or program which supports or benefits the specified publicly supported organizations. All such support must, however, be limited to permissible beneficiaries in accordance with subparagraph (1) of this paragraph. The supporting organization may also engage in fund raising activities, such as solicitations, fund raising dinners, and unrelated trade or business to raise funds for the publicly supported organizations, or for the permissible beneficiaries.
(3) Examples. The provisions of this paragraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. M is a separately incorporated alumni association of X University and is an organization described in section 501(c)(3). X University is designated in M's articles as the primary beneficiary of its support. M uses all of its funds and income to support its own program of educational activities for alumni, faculty, and students of X University and to encourage alumni to maintain a close relationship with the university and to make contributions to it. M does not distribute any of its income directly to X for the latter's general purposes. M pays no part of its funds to, or for the benefit of, any organization other than X. Under these circumstances, M is considered as operated exclusively to perform the functions and carry out the purpose of X. Although it does not pay over any of its funds to X, it carries on a program which both supports and benefits X.

Example 2. N is a separately incorporated religious and educational organization described in section 501(c)(3). It was formed and is operated by Y Church to provide religious training for the members of the church. While it does not maintain a regular faculty, N conducts a Sunday school, weekly adult education lectures on religious subjects, and other similar activities for the benefit of the church members. All of its funds are disbursed in furtherance of such activities and no part of its funds is paid to, or for the benefit of, any organization other than Y Church. N is considered as operated exclusively to perform the educational functions of Y Church and to carry out its religious purposes by providing various forms of religious instruction.

Example 3. P is an organization described in section 501(c)(3). Its primary activity is providing financial assistance to S, a publicly supported organization which aids underdeveloped nations in Central America. P's articles of organization designate S as the principal recipient of P's assistance. However, P also makes a small annual general purpose grant to T, a private foundation engaged in work similar to that carried on by S. T performs a particular function that assists in the overall aid program carried on by S. Even though P is operating primarily for the benefit of S, a specified publicly supported organization, it is not considered as operated exclusively for the purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3)(A). The grant to T, a private foundation, prevents it from complying with the operational test under section 501(c)(3)(A).

Example 4. Assume the same facts as example 3, except that T is a section 501(c)(3) organization other than a private foundation and is operated in connection with S. Under these circumstances, P will be considered as operated exclusively to support S within the meaning of section 501(c)(3)(A).

Example 5. Assume the same facts as example 3 except that instead of the annual general purpose grant made to T, each grant made by P to T is specifically earmarked for the training of social workers and teachers, designated by name, from Central America. Under these circumstances, P's grants to T would be treated as grants to the individual social workers and teachers under section 4945(d)(3) and §§ 4945–4(a)(4), rather than as grants to T under section 4945(d)(4). These social workers and teachers are part of the charitable class benefitted by S. P would thus be considered as operating exclusively to support S within the meaning of section 501(c)(3)(A).

(f) Nature of relationship required between organizations.—(1) In general. Section 509(a)(3)(B) describes the nature of the relationship required between a section 501(c)(3) organization and one or more publicly supported organizations in order for such section 501(c)(3) organization to qualify under the provisions of section 509(a)(3). To meet the requirements of section 509(a)(3), an organization must be operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with one or more publicly supported organizations. If an organization does not stand in one of such relationships (as provided in this paragraph) to one or more publicly supported organizations, it is not an organization described in section 509(a)(3).

(2) Types of relationships. Section 509(a)(3)(B) sets forth three different types of relationships, one of which must be met in order to meet the requirements of subparagraph (1) of this paragraph. Thus, a supporting organization may be:

(i) Operated, supervised, or controlled by;

(ii) Supervised or controlled in connection with, or

(iii) Operated in connection with, one or more publicly supported organizations.

(3) Requirements of relationships. Although more than one type of relationship may exist in any one case, any relationship described in section 509(a)(3)(B) must insure that:

(1) The supporting organization will be responsive to the needs of demands of one or more publicly supported organizations; and
(i) The supporting organization will constitute an integral part of, or maintain a significant involvement in, the operations of one or more publicly supported organizations.

(4) General description of relationships. In the case of supporting organizations which are operated, supervised, or controlled by one or more publicly supported organizations, the distinguishing feature of this type of relationship is the presence of a substantial degree of direction by the publicly supported organizations over the conduct of the supporting organization, as described in paragraph (g) of this section. In the case of supporting organizations which are supervised or controlled in connection with one or more publicly supported organizations, the distinguishing feature is the presence of common supervision or control among the governing bodies of all organizations involved, such as the presence of common directors, as described in paragraph (h) of this section. In the case of a supporting organization which is operated in connection with one or more publicly supported organizations, the distinguishing feature is that the supporting organization is responsive to, and significantly involved in, the operations of, the publicly supported organization, as described in paragraph (i) of this section.

(g) Meaning of operated, supervised, or controlled by. (1) Each of the items operated by, supervised by, and controlled by, as used in section 509(a)(3)(B), presupposes a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of a supporting organization by one or more publicly supported organizations. The relationship required under any one of these terms is comparable to that of a parent and subsidiary, where the subsidiary is under the direction of, and accountable or responsible to, the parent organization. This relationship is established by the fact that a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of the supporting organization are appointed or elected by the governing body, members of the governing body, officers acting in their official capacity, or the membership of one or more publicly supported organizations.

(ii) A supporting organization may be operated, supervised, or controlled by one or more publicly supported organizations within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B) even though its governing body is not comprised of representatives of the specified publicly supported organizations for whose benefit it is operated within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(A). A supporting organization may be operated, supervised, or controlled by one or more publicly supported organizations (within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B)) and be operated for the benefit of one or more publicly supported organizations (within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(A)) only if it can be demonstrated that the purposes of the former organizations are carried out by benefitting the latter organizations.

(2) The provisions of this paragraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. X is a university press which is organized and operated as a nonstock educational corporation to perform the publishing and printing for M University, a publicly supported organization. Control of X is vested in a Board of Governors appointed by the Board of Trustees of M University upon the recommendation of the president of the university. X is considered to be operated, supervised, or controlled by M University within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B).

Example 2. Y Council was organized under the joint sponsorship of seven independent publicly supported organizations, each of which is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in a particular field of social science. The sponsoring organizations organized Y Council as a means of pooling their ideas and resources for the attainment of common objectives, including the conducting of scholarly studies and formal discussions in various fields of social science. Under Y Council’s by-laws, each of the seven sponsoring organizations elects three members to Y’s board of trustees for 3-year terms. Y’s board also includes the president of Y Council and eight other individuals elected at large by the board. Pursuant to policies established or approved by the board, Y Council engages in research, planning and evaluation in the social sciences and sponsors or arranges conferences, seminars, and similar programs for scholars and social scientists. It carries out these activities through its own full-time professional staff, through a part-time committee of scholars, and through grant recipients. Under the above circumstances, Y Council is subject to
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a substantial degree of direction by the sponsoring publicly supported organizations. It is therefore considered to be operated, supervised, or controlled by such sponsoring organizations within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B).

Example 1. Z is a charitable trust created by A in 1972. It has three trustees, all of whom are appointed by M University, a publicly supported organization. The trust was organized and is operated to pay over all of its net income for medical research to N, O, and P, each of which is specified in the trust, is a hospital described in section 509(a)(1), and is located in the same city as M. Members of M’s biology department are permitted to use the research facilities of N, O, and P. Under subparagraph (1)(ii) of this paragraph, Z is considered to be operated, supervised, or controlled by M within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B), even though it is operated for the benefit of N, O, and P within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(A).

(h) Meaning of supervised or controlled in connection with. (1) In order for a supporting organization to be supervised or controlled in connection with one or more publicly supported organizations, there must be common supervision or control by the persons supervising or controlling both the supporting organization and the publicly supported organizations to insure that the supporting organization will be responsive to the needs and requirements of the publicly supported organizations. Therefore, in order to meet such requirement, the control or management of the supporting organization must be vested in the same persons that control or manage the publicly supported organizations.

(2) A supporting organization will not be considered to be supervised or controlled in connection with one or more publicly supported organizations if such organization merely makes payments (mandatory or discretionary) to one or more named publicly supported organizations, even if the obligation to make payments to the named beneficiaries is enforceable under State law by such beneficiaries and the supporting organization’s governing instrument contains provisions whose effect is described in section 508(e)(1) (A) and (B). Such arrangements do not provide a sufficient connection between the payor organization and the needs and requirements of the publicly supported organizations to constitute supervision or control in connection with such organizations.

(3) The provisions of this paragraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. A, a philanthropist, founded X school for orphan boys (a publicly supported organization). At the same time A founded Y school, he also established Y trust into which he transferred all of the operating assets of the school, together with a substantial endowment for it. Under the provisions of the trust instrument, the same persons who control and manage the school also control and manage the trust. The sole function of Y trust is to hold legal title to X school’s operating and endowment assets, to invest the endowment assets and to apply the income from the endowment to the benefit of the school in accordance with direction from the school’s governing body. Under these circumstances, Y trust is organized and operated for the benefit of X school and is supervised or controlled in connection with such organization within the meaning of section 509(a)(3). The fact that the same persons control both X and Y insures Y’s responsiveness to X’s needs.

Example 2. In 1972, B, a philanthropist, created P, a charitable trust for the benefit of Z, a symphony orchestra described in section 509(a)(2). B transferred 100 shares of common stock to P. Under the terms of the trust instrument, the trustees (none of whom is under the control of B) were required to pay over all of the income produced by the trust assets to Z. The governing instrument of P contains certain provisions whose effect is described in section 508(e)(1) (A) and (B). Under applicable State law, Z can enforce the provisions of the trust instrument and compel payment to Z in a court of equity. There is no relationship between the trustees of P and the governing body of Z. Under these circumstances P is not supervised or controlled in connection with a publicly supported organization. Because of the lack of any common supervision or control by the trustees of P and the governing body of Z, P is not supervised or controlled in connection with Z within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B).

Example 3. T is a charitable trust described in section 501(c)(3) and created under the will of D. Prior to his death, D was a leader and very active in C church, a publicly supported organization. D created T to perpetuate his interest in, and assistance to, C. The sole purpose of T was to provide financial support for C and its related institutions. All of the original named trustees of T are members of C, are leaders in C, and hold important offices in one or more of C’s related institutions. Successor trustees of T are by the terms of the charitable trust instrument to
be chosen by the remaining trustees and are also to be members of C. All of the original trustees have represented that any successor trustee will be a leader in C and will hold an important office in one or more of C’s related institutions. By reason of the foregoing relationship T and its trustees are responsive to the needs and requirements of C and its related institutions. Under these circumstances, T trust is organized and operated in connection with C and its related institutions within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B).

(1) Meaning of operated in connection with—(1) General rule. (i) Except as provided in subdivisions (ii) and (iii) of this subparagraph and subparagraph (4) of this paragraph, a supporting organization will be considered as being operated in connection with one or more publicly supported organizations only if it meets the responsiveness test which is defined in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph and the integral part test which is defined in subparagraph (3) of this paragraph.

(ii) In the case of an organization which was supporting or benefiting one or more publicly supported organizations before November 20, 1970, additional facts and circumstances, such as a historic and continuing relationship between organizations, may be taken into account, in addition to the factors described in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, to establish compliance with the responsiveness test.

(iii) If:

(a) A supporting organization can establish that it has met the integral part test set forth in subparagraph (3)(iii) of this paragraph for any 5-year period, and

(b) Such organization cannot meet the requirements of such test for its current taxable year solely because the amount received by one or more of the publicly supported beneficiary organizations from such supporting organization is no longer sufficient, with respect to such beneficiary organizations, to satisfy subparagraph (3)(iii) of this paragraph, and

(c) There has been a historic and continuing relationship of support between such organizations between the end of such 5-year period and the taxable year in question then such supporting organization will be considered as meeting the requirements of the integral part test in subparagraph (3)(iii) of this paragraph for such taxable year.

(2) Responsiveness test. (i) For purposes of this paragraph, a supporting organization will be considered to meet the responsiveness test if the organization is responsive to the needs or demands of the publicly supported organizations within the meaning of this subparagraph. In order to meet this test, either subdivision (ii) or subdivision (iii) of this subparagraph must be satisfied.

(ii)(a) One or more officers, directors, or trustees of the supporting organization are elected or appointed by the officers, directors, trustees, or membership of the publicly supported organizations;

(b) One or more members of the governing bodies of the publicly supported organizations are also officers, directors, or trustees of, or hold other important offices in, the supporting organization; or

(c) The officers, directors, or trustees of the supporting organization maintain a close and continuous working relationship with the officers, directors, or trustees of the publicly supported organizations; and

(d) By reason of (a), (b), or (c) of this subdivision, the officers, directors, or trustees of the publicly supported organizations have a significant voice in the investment policies of the supporting organization, the timing of grants, the manner of making them, and the selection of recipients by such supporting organization, and in otherwise directing the use of the income or assets of such supporting organization.

(iii)(a) The supporting organization is a charitable trust under State law;

(b) Each specified publicly supported organization is a named beneficiary under such charitable trust’s governing instrument; and

(c) The beneficiary organization has the power to enforce the trust and compel an accounting under State law.

(3) Integral part test; general rule. (i) For purposes of this paragraph, a supporting organization will be considered to meet the integral part test if it maintains a significant involvement in the
operations of one or more publicly supported organizations and such publicly supported organizations are in turn dependent upon the supporting organization for the type of support which it provides. In order to meet this test, either subdivision (ii) or subdivision (iii) of this subparagraph must be satisfied.

(ii) The activities engaged in for or on behalf of the publicly supported organizations are activities to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of, such organizations, and, but for the involvement of the supporting organization, would normally be engaged in by the publicly supported organizations themselves.

(iii) (a) The supporting organization makes payments of substantially all of its income to or for the use of one or more publicly supported organizations, and the amount of support received by one or more of such publicly supported organizations is sufficient to insure the attentiveness of such organizations to the operations of the supporting organization. In addition, a substantial amount of the total support of the supporting organization must go to those publicly supported organizations which meet the attentiveness requirement of this subdivision with respect to such supporting organization. Except as provided in (b) of this subdivision, the amount of support received by a publicly supported organization must represent a sufficient part of the organization’s total support so as to assure its attentiveness. In applying the preceding sentence, if such supporting organization makes payments to, or for the use of, a particular department or school of a university, hospital or church, the total support of the department or school shall be substituted for the total support of the beneficiary organization.

(b) Even where the amount of support received by a publicly supported beneficiary organization does not represent a sufficient part of the beneficiary organization’s total support, the amount of support received from a supporting organization may be sufficient to meet the requirements of this subdivision if it can be demonstrated that in order to avoid the interruption of the carrying on of a particular function or activity, the beneficiary organization will be sufficiently attentive to the operations of the supporting organization. This may be the case where either the supporting organization or the beneficiary organization earmarks the support received from the supporting organization for a particular program or activity, even if such program or activity is not the beneficiary organization’s primary program or activity so long as such program or activity is a substantial one.

(c) This subdivision may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. X, an organization described in section 501(c)(3), pays over all of its annual net income to Y, a museum described in section 509(a)(2). X meets the responsiveness test described in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph. In recent years, Y has earmarked the income received from X to underwrite the cost of carrying on a chamber music series consisting of 12 performances a year which are performed for the general public free of charge at its premises. Because of the expense involved in carrying on these recitals, Y is dependent upon the income from X for their continuation. Under these circumstances, X will be treated as providing Y with a sufficient portion of Y’s total support to assure Y’s attentiveness to X’s operations, even though the chamber music series is not the primary part of Y’s activities.

Example 2. M, an organization described in section 501(c)(3), pays over all of its annual net income to the Law School of N University, a publicly supported organization. M meets the responsiveness test described in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph. M has earmarked the income paid over to N’s Law School to endow a chair in its Department of International Law. Without M’s continued support, N might not continue to maintain this chair. Under these circumstances, M will be treated as providing N with a sufficient portion of N’s total support to assure N’s attentiveness to M’s operations.

(d) All pertinent factors, including the number of beneficiaries, the length and nature of the relationship between the beneficiary and supporting organization and the purpose to which the funds are put (as illustrated by subdivision (iii) (b) and (c) of this subparagraph), will be considered in determining whether the amount of support
received by a publicly supported beneficiary organization is sufficient to insure the attentiveness of such organization to the operations of the supporting organization. Normally the attentiveness of a beneficiary organization is motivated by reason of the amounts received from the supporting organization. Thus, the more substantial the amount involved, in terms of a percentage of the publicly supported organization's total support the greater the likelihood that the required degree of attentiveness will be present. However, in determining whether the amount received from the supporting organization is sufficient to insure the attentiveness of the beneficiary organization to the operations of the supporting organization (including attentiveness to the nature and yield of such supporting organization's investments), evidence of actual attentiveness by the beneficiary organization is of almost equal importance. An example of acceptable evidence of actual attentiveness is the imposition of a requirement that the supporting organization furnish reports at least annually for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1971, to the beneficiary organization to assist such beneficiary organization in insuring that the supporting organization has invested its endowment in assets productive of a reasonable rate of return (taking appreciation into account) and has not engaged in any activity which would give rise to liability for a tax imposed under sections 4941, 4943, 4944, or 4945 if such organization were a private foundation. The imposition of such requirement within 120 days after October 16, 1972, will be deemed to have retroactive effect to January 1, 1970, for purposes of determining whether a supporting organization has invested its endowment in assets productive of a reasonable rate of return (taking appreciation into account) and has not engaged in any activity which would give rise to liability for a tax imposed under sections 4941, 4943, 4944, or 4945 if such organization were a private foundation. The imposition of such requirement within 120 days after October 16, 1972, will be deemed to have retroactive effect to January 1, 1970, for purposes of determining whether a supporting organization has invested its endowment in assets productive of a reasonable rate of return (taking appreciation into account) and has not engaged in any activity which would give rise to liability for a tax imposed under sections 4941, 4943, 4944, or 4945 if such organization were a private foundation.

(e) However, where none of the beneficiary organizations is dependent upon the supporting organization for a sufficient amount of the beneficiary organization's support within the meaning of this subdivision, the requirements of this subparagraph will not be satisfied, even though such beneficiary organizations have enforceable rights against such organization under State law.

(4) Integral part test; transitional rule.

(i) A trust (whether or not exempt from taxation under section 501(a)) which on November 20, 1970, has met and continues to meet the requirements of subdivisions (ii) through (vi) of this subparagraph shall be treated as meeting the requirements of the integral part test (whether or not it meets the requirements of subparagraph (3) (ii) or (iii) of this paragraph) if for taxable years beginning after October 16, 1972, the trustee of such trust makes annual written reports to all of the beneficiary publicly supported organizations with respect to such trust setting forth a description of the assets of the trust, including a detailed list of the assets and the income produced by such assets. A trust organization which meets the requirements of this subparagraph may request a ruling that it is described in section 509(a)(3) in such manner as the Commissioner may prescribe.

(ii) All the unexpired interests in the trust are devoted to one or more purposes described in section 170(c) (1) or (2)(B) and a deduction was allowed with respect to such interests under section 170, 545(b)(2), 556(b)(2), 642(c), 2055, 2106(a)(2), 2522, or corresponding provisions of prior law (or would have been allowed such a deduction if the trust had not been created before 1913).

(iii) The trust was created prior to November 20, 1970, and did not receive any grant, contribution, bequest or other transfer on or after such date. For purpose of this subdivision, a split-interest trust described in section 4947(a)(2) which was created prior to November 20, 1970, which was irrevocable on such date, and which becomes a charitable trust described in section 4947(a)(1) after such date shall be treated as having been created prior to such date.

(iv) The trust is required by its governing instrument to distribute all of
its net income currently to a designated publicly supported beneficiary organization. Where more than one publicly supported beneficiary organization is designated in the governing instrument of a trust, all of the net income must be distributable and must be distributed currently to each of such beneficiary organizations in fixed shares pursuant to such governing instrument. For purposes of this subdivision, the governing instrument of a charitable trust shall be treated as requiring distribution to a designated beneficiary organization where the trust instrument describes the charitable purpose of the trust so completely that such description can apply to only one existing beneficiary organization and is of sufficient particularity as to vest in such organization rights against the trust enforceable in a court possessing equitable powers;

(v) The trustee of the trust does not have discretion to vary either the beneficiary or the amounts payable to the beneficiaries. For purposes of this subdivision, a trustee shall not be treated as having such discretion where the trustee has discretion to make payments of principal to the single section 509(a) (1) or (2) organization that is currently entitled to receive all of the trust’s income or where the trust instrument provides that the trustee may cease making income payments to a particular charitable beneficiary in the event of certain specific occurrences, such as the loss of exemption under section 501(c)(3) or classification under section 509(a) (1) or (2) by the beneficiary or the failure of the beneficiary to carry out its charitable purpose properly;

(vi) None of the trustees would be disqualified persons within the meaning of section 4946(a) (other than foundation managers under 4946(a)(1)(B)) with respect to the trust if such trust were treated as a private foundation.

(5) Examples. The provisions of this paragraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. N is a nonprofit publishing organization described in section 501(c)(3). It does all of the publishing and printing for the churches of a particular denomination (which are publicly supported organizations). Control of the organization is vested in a five-man Board of Directors, which includes one church official and four lay members of the congregations of that denomination. N does no other printing or publishing. It publishes all of the churches’ religious as well as secular tracts and materials. Under these circumstances, N is considered as being operated in connection with a number of publicly supported organizations. Publishing religious literature is an integral part of the churches’ activities; it is carried on by N on behalf of the churches, and there is sufficient direction of N’s activities by the churches to insure responsiveness by N to their needs.

Example 2. O, an alumni association described in section 501(c)(3), was formed to promote a spirit of loyalty among graduates of Y University, a publicly supported organization, and to effect united action in promoting the general welfare of the university. A special committee of Y’s governing board meets with O and makes recommendations as to the allocation of O’s program of gifts and scholarships to the university and its students. O also provides certain functions which would otherwise be part of Y’s functions, such as maintaining records of alumni. O publishes a bulletin to keep alumni aware of the activities of the university. Under these circumstances O is considered to be operated in connection with Y within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B).

Example 3. P is a trust created under the will of A for the purpose of furthering musical education. As a means of accomplishing its purposes P founded X, a school of music described in section 501(c)(3), and created under the will of C. Prior to his death, C built H Hospital and deeded it to I University for use as a training and clinical facility for I’s medical school. Both H and I are publicly supported organizations. C created Q to perpetuate his interest in, and assistance to, H Hospital. The sole purpose of Q was to provide financial support for H, the beneficiary organization named in C’s will. H can enforce its equitable rights as trust beneficiary under

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State law. After the death of C, Q continued to provide substantial support for H. It was primarily responsible for the erecting of a new hospital building, as well as the construction of other facilities for the hospital. In addition, each medical department of H indicates during the year what its greatest needs are. Once these requests are approved by the director of H's University's Medical School, they are presented to Q, and subject to the amount of Q’s income (all of which is applied to H), these requests are honored and the new equipment of facility is supplied through Q's funds. The governing body of Q and those of H and I are completely independent. However, based on the above facts, Q is responsive to the needs of H. Q maintains a substantial involvement in the conduct of H, and H is substantially dependent upon the receipt of support from Q. Accordingly, Q is operated in connection with one or more section 509(a)(1) organizations within the meaning of section 509(a)(3)(B).

Example 5. R is a charitable trust created under the will of B, who died in 1971. Its purpose is to hold assets as an endowment for S, a hospital, T, a university, and U, a national medical research organization (all being publicly supported organizations and specifically named in the trust instrument), and to distribute all of the income each year in equal shares among the three named beneficiaries. S, T, and U have certain enforceable rights against R under State law, including the right to compel an accounting. Except for making these annual payments, the trustees of R have no further contacts or relationships with S, T, or U. The payments by R to such organizations do not comprise a sufficient amount of support to meet the requirements of subparagraph (3) of this paragraph. Nevertheless, R meets the integral part test described in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph. R is not, therefore, considered as operated in connection with S, T, or U. However, as a result of the merger and certain changes in the methods of financing the operations, the payments made by S after 1955 no longer were sufficient to satisfy the integral part test of §1.509(a)(3)(iii). W qualifies as an organization described in section 509(a)(2). For the taxable year 1971, S meets the responsiveness test under §1.509(a)(4)(i)(ii). Although W is not a named beneficiary under S’s governing instrument, pursuant to §1.509(a)(4)(i)(ii) the historic and continuing relationship between the organizations will be taken into account to establish compliance with the responsiveness test. Furthermore, pursuant to §1.509(a)(4)(i)(iii), under the facts set forth above, the integral part test under §1.509(a)(4)(i)(iii) will be considered as being satisfied for the taxable year 1971. Thus S will be considered as operated in connection with W for the taxable year 1971.

(j) Control by disqualified persons—(1) In general. Under the provisions of section 509(a)(3)(C) a supporting organization may not be controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons (as defined in section 4946) other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations. If a person who is a disqualified person with respect to a supporting organization, such as a substantial contributor to the supporting organization, is appointed or designated as a foundation manager of the supporting organization by a publicly supported beneficiary organization to serve as the representative of such publicly supported organization, then for purposes of this paragraph such person will be regarded as a disqualified person, rather than as a representative of the publicly supported organization. An organization will be considered controlled, for purposes of section 509(a)(3)(C), if the disqualified persons, by aggregating their votes or positions of authority, may require such organization to perform any act which significantly affects its operation or may prevent such organization from performing such act. This includes, but is
not limited to, the right of any substantial contributor or his spouse to designate annually the recipients, from among the publicly supported organizations of the income attributable to his contribution to the supporting organization. Except as provided in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, a supporting organization will be considered to be controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons if the voting power of such persons is 50 percent or more of the total voting power of the organization’s governing body or if one or more of such persons have the right to exercise veto power over the actions of the organization. Thus, if the governing body of a foundation is composed of five trustees, none of whom has a veto power over the actions of the foundation, and no more than two trustees are at any time disqualified persons, such foundation will not be considered to be controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons by reason of this fact alone. However, all pertinent facts and circumstances including the nature, diversity, and income yield of an organization’s holdings, the length of time particular stocks, securities, or other assets are retained, and its manner of exercising its voting rights with respect to stocks in which members of its governing body also have some interest, will be taken into consideration in determining whether a disqualified person does in fact indirectly control an organization. (2) Proof of independent control. Notwithstanding subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, an organization shall be permitted to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that disqualified persons do not directly or indirectly control it. For example, in the case of a religious organization operated in connection with a church, the fact that the majority of the organization’s governing body is composed of lay persons who are substantial contributors to the organization will not disqualify the organization under section 509(a)(3)(C) if a representative of the church, such as a bishop or other official, has control over the policies and decisions of the organization.

(k) Organizations operated in conjunction with certain section 501(c) (4), (5), or (6) organizations. (1) For purposes of section 509(a)(3), an organization which is operated in conjunction with an organization described in section 501(c) (4), (5), or (6) (such as a social welfare organization, labor or agricultural organization, business league, or real estate board) shall, if it otherwise meets the requirements of section 509(a)(3), be considered an organization described in section 509(a)(3) if such section 501(c) (4), (5), or (6) organization would be described in section 509(a)(2) if it were an organization described in section 501(c)(3). The section 501(c) (4), (5), or (6) organization, which the supporting organization is operating in conjunction with, must therefore meet the one-third tests of a publicly supported organization set forth in section 509(a)(2).

(2) This paragraph may be illustrated by the following example:

Example. X medical association, described in section 501(c)(6), is supported by membership dues and funds resulting from the performance of its exempt activities. This support, which is entirely from permitted sources, constitutes more than one-third of X’s support. X does not normally receive more than one-third of its support from items described in section 509(a)(2)(B). X organized and operated an endowment fund for the sole purpose of furthering medical education. The fund is an organization described in section 501(c)(3). Since more than one-third of X’s support is derived from membership dues and from funds resulting from the performance of exempt purposes (all of which are from permitted sources) and not more than one-third of its support is from items described in section 509(a)(2)(B), it would be a publicly supported organization described in section 509(a)(2) if it were described in section 501(c)(3) rather than section 501(c)(6). Accordingly, if the fund otherwise meets the requirements of section 509(a)(3) with respect to X, it will be considered an organization described in section 509(a)(3).


§ 1.509(a)–5 Special rules of attribution.

(a) Retained character of gross investment income. (1) For purposes of determining whether an organization meets the not-more-than-one-third support test set forth in section 509(a)(2)(B),