§ 1.803–1 Life insurance reserves. 

(a) The term "life insurance reserves" is defined in section 803(b). Generally, such reserves, as in the case of level premium life insurance, are held to supplement the future premium receipts when the latter, alone, are insufficient to cover the increased risk in the later years. In the case of cancellable health and accident policies and similar cancellable contracts, the unearned premiums held to cover the risk for the unexpired period covered by the premiums are not included in life insurance reserves. Unpaid loss reserves for noncancellable health and accident policies are included in life insurance reserves if they are computed or estimated on the basis of recognized mortality or morbidity tables and assumed rates of interest.

(b) In the case of an assessment life insurance company or association, life insurance reserves include sums actually deposited by such company or association with State or Territorial officers pursuant to law as guaranty or reserve funds, and any funds maintained under the charter or articles of incorporation or association of such company or association, or bylaws (approved by the State insurance commissioner) of such company or association, exclusively for the payment of claims arising under certificates of membership or policies issued upon the assessment plan and not subject to any other use.

(c) Life insurance reserves, except as otherwise provided in section 803(b), must be required by law either by express statutory provisions or by rules and regulations of the insurance department of a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia when promulgated in the exercise of a power conferred by statute but such requirement, without more, is not conclusive; for example, life insurance reserves do not include reserves required to be maintained to provide for the ordinary running expenses of a business which must be currently paid by every company from its income if its business is to continue, such as taxes, salaries, and unpaid brokerage; nor do they include the net value of risks reinsured in other solvent companies; liability for premiums paid in advance; liability for annual and deferred dividends declared or apportioned; liability for dividends left on deposit at interest; liability for accrued but unsettled policy claims whether known or unreported; liability for supplementary contracts not involving, at the time with respect to which the liability is computed, life, health, or accident contingencies.

(d) In any case where reserves are claimed, sufficient information must be filed with the return to enable the district director to determine the validity of the claim. Only reserves which are required by law or insurance department ruling, which are peculiar to insurance companies, and which are dependent upon interest earnings for their maintenance will, except as otherwise specifically provided in section 803(b), be considered as life insurance reserves. A company is permitted to make use of the highest aggregate reserve required by any State or Territory or the District of Columbia in which it transacts business, but the reserve must have been actually held.

(e) In the case of life insurance companies issuing policies covering life, health, and accident insurance combined in one policy issued on the weekly premium payment plan, continuing for life and not subject to cancellation, it is required that reserve funds thereon be based upon recognized mortality or morbidity tables covering disability benefits of the kind contained in policies issued by this particular class of companies but they need not be required by law.

§ 1.803–2 Adjusted reserves.

For the purpose of determining "required interest" for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1953, but before January 1, 1955, and ending after August 16, 1954, certain reserves computed on a preliminary term method are to be adjusted by increasing such reserves by 7 percent. The reserves to be thus adjusted are reserves computed on preliminary term methods, such as the Illinois Standard, or the Select and Ultimate methods. Only reserves on policies in the modification period are to be so adjusted. Where reserves under a preliminary term method are the same as on the level premium method, and in the case of reserves for extended
or paid-up insurance, no adjustment is to be made. The reserves are thus adjusted, and the rate of interest on which they are computed, should be reported in Schedule A, Form 1120L.

§ 1.803–3 Interest paid or accrued.

Interest paid or accrued is one of the elements to be used in computing the amount of "required interest" for purposes of determining the reserve interest credit provided in section 805. See § 1.803–1. Interest paid or accrued consists of (a) interest paid or accrued on indebtedness (except indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry tax-exempt securities as set forth in section 803(f)(1)) and (b) amounts in the nature of interest paid or accrued on certain contracts, as provided in section 803(f)(2). Interest on indebtedness includes interest on dividends held on deposit and surrendered during the taxable year but does not include interest paid or accrued on deferred dividends. Life insurance reserves as defined in § 1.803–1 are not indebtedness. Dividends left with the company to accumulate at interest are a debt and not a reserve liability. Amounts in the nature of interest include so-called excess-interest dividends as well as guaranteed interest paid or accrued within the taxable year on insurance or annuity contracts or contracts arising out of insurance or annuity contracts which, at the time of payment, do not involve life, health, or accident contingencies. It is immaterial whether the optional mode of settlement specified in the insurance or annuity contract arises from an option exercised by the insured during his or her lifetime or from an option exercised by a beneficiary after the policy has matured, frequently referred to as a supplementary contract not involving life contingencies; for example, a contract to pay the insurance benefit in 10 annual installments. No distinction is made based on the person choosing the method of payment, and the full amount of the interest paid or accrued and not merely the guaranteed interest is considered as interest paid or accrued.

§ 1.803–4 Taxable income and deductions.

(a) In general. The taxable income of a life insurance company is its gross amount of income received or accrued during the taxable year from interest, dividends, and rents, less the deductions provided in section 803(g) for wholly tax-exempt interest, investment expenses, real estate expenses, depreciation, and the special deductions provided in part VIII (section 241 and following, except section 248), subchapter B, chapter 1 of the Code. In addition to the limitations on deductions relating to real estate owned and occupied by a life insurance company provided in section 803(h), the limitations on the adjustment for amortization of premium and accrual of discount provided in section 803(i), and the limitation on the deduction for investment expenses where general expenses are allocated to investment income provided in section 803(g)(2), life insurance companies are subject to the limitations on deductions relating to wholly tax-exempt income provided in section 265.

(b) Wholly tax-exempt interest. Interest which in the case of other taxpayers is excluded from gross income by section 103 but included in the gross income of a life insurance company by section 803(a)(2) is allowed as a deduction from gross income by section 803(g)(1).

(c) Investment expenses. (1) As used in the Code, the term general expenses means any expense paid or incurred for the benefit of more than one department of the company rather than for the benefit of a particular department thereof. Any assignment of such expense to the investment department of the company for which a deduction is claimed under section 803(g)(2) subjects the entire deduction for investment expenses to the limitation provided in that section. The accounting procedure employed is not conclusive as to whether any assignment has in fact been made. Investment expenses do not include Federal income and excess profits taxes.