

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 100-647, §2004(e)(13), inserted “except as provided in regulations,” before “the term”.

Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 100-647, §2004(e)(12), inserted “or otherwise terminates such election” after “its taxable year”.

Subsec. (d)(2)(B). Pub. L. 100-647, §2004(e)(1)(C), inserted “or paragraph (3)(A)” after “under subparagraph (A)”.

Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 100-647, §2004(e)(1)(B), amended par. (3) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (3) read as follows: “No election may be made under subsection (a) with respect to an entity which is part of a tiered structure other than a tiered structure comprised of 1 or more partnerships or S corporations all of which have the same taxable year.”

Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 100-647, §2004(e)(2)(A), added subsec. (f) and redesignated former subsec. (f) as (g).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-647 effective, except as otherwise provided, as if included in the provisions of the Revenue Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-203, title X, to which such amendment relates, see section 2004(u) of Pub. L. 100-647, set out as a note under section 56 of this title.

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 100-203, title X, §10206(d), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-403, as amended by Pub. L. 100-647, title II, §2004(e)(11), Nov. 10, 1988, 102 Stat. 3602, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section [enacting this section and sections 280H and 7519 of this title] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1986.

“(2) REQUIRED PAYMENTS.—The amendments made by subsection (b) [enacting section 7519 of this title] shall apply to applicable election years beginning after December 31, 1986.

“(3) ELECTIONS.—Any election under section 444 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by subsection (a)) for an entity’s 1st taxable year beginning after December 31, 1986, shall not be required to be made before the 90th day after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 22, 1987].

“(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR EXISTING ENTITIES ELECTING S CORPORATION STATUS.—If a C corporation (within the meaning of section 1361(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) with a taxable year other than the calendar year—

“(A) made an election after September 18, 1986, and before January 1, 1988, under section 1362 of such Code to be treated as an S corporation, and

“(B) elected to have the calendar year as the taxable year of the S corporation, then section 444(b)(2)(B) of such Code shall be applied by taking into account the deferral period of the last taxable year of the C corporation rather than the deferral period of the taxable year being changed. The preceding sentence shall apply only in the case of an election under section 444 of such Code made for a taxable year beginning before 1989.”

## PART II—METHODS OF ACCOUNTING

### Subpart

- A. Methods of accounting in general.
- B. Taxable year for which items of gross income included.
- C. Taxable year for which deductions taken.
- D. Inventories.

### SUBPART A—METHODS OF ACCOUNTING IN GENERAL

- Sec. 446. General rule for methods of accounting.

- Sec. 447. Method of accounting for corporations engaged in farming.
- 448. Limitation on use of cash method of accounting.

## Editorial Notes

### AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-514, title VIII, §801(c), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2348, added item 448.

1976—Pub. L. 94-455, title II, §207(c)(1)(B), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1541, added item 447.

## § 446. General rule for methods of accounting

### (a) General rule

Taxable income shall be computed under the method of accounting on the basis of which the taxpayer regularly computes his income in keeping his books.

### (b) Exceptions

If no method of accounting has been regularly used by the taxpayer, or if the method used does not clearly reflect income, the computation of taxable income shall be made under such method as, in the opinion of the Secretary, does clearly reflect income.

### (c) Permissible methods

Subject to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b), a taxpayer may compute taxable income under any of the following methods of accounting—

- (1) the cash receipts and disbursements method;
- (2) an accrual method;
- (3) any other method permitted by this chapter; or
- (4) any combination of the foregoing methods permitted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

### (d) Taxpayer engaged in more than one business

A taxpayer engaged in more than one trade or business may, in computing taxable income, use a different method of accounting for each trade or business.

### (e) Requirement respecting change of accounting method

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, a taxpayer who changes the method of accounting on the basis of which he regularly computes his income in keeping his books shall, before computing his taxable income under the new method, secure the consent of the Secretary.

### (f) Failure to request change of method of accounting

If the taxpayer does not file with the Secretary a request to change the method of accounting, the absence of the consent of the Secretary to a change in the method of accounting shall not be taken into account—

- (1) to prevent the imposition of any penalty, or the addition of any amount to tax, under this title, or
- (2) to diminish the amount of such penalty or addition to tax.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 151; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906 (b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90

Stat. 1834; Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §161(a), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 696.)

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 98-369 added subsec. (f).  
1976—Subsecs. (b), (c), (e). Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary”.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §161(b), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 697, provided that: “The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act [July 18, 1984].”

### § 447. Method of accounting for corporations engaged in farming

#### (a) General rule

Except as otherwise provided by law, the taxable income from farming of—

- (1) a corporation engaged in the trade or business of farming, or
- (2) a partnership engaged in the trade or business of farming, if a corporation is a partner in such partnership,

shall be computed on an accrual method of accounting. This section shall not apply to the trade or business of operating a nursery or sod farm or to the raising or harvesting of trees (other than fruit and nut trees).

#### (b) Preproductive period expenses

For rules requiring capitalization of certain preproductive period expenses, see section 263A.

#### (c) Exception for certain corporations

For purposes of subsection (a), a corporation shall be treated as not being a corporation for any taxable year if it is—

- (1) an S corporation, or
- (2) a corporation which meets the gross receipts test of section 448(c) for such taxable year.

#### (d) Coordination with section 481

Any change in method of accounting made pursuant to this section shall be treated for purposes of section 481 as initiated by the taxpayer and made with the consent of the Secretary.

#### (e) Certain annual accrual accounting methods

##### (1) In general

Notwithstanding subsection (a) or section 263A, if—

- (A) for its 10 taxable years ending with its first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1975, a corporation or qualified partnership used an annual accrual method of accounting with respect to its trade or business of farming,
- (B) such corporation or qualified partnership raises crops which are harvested not less than 12 months after planting, and
- (C) such corporation or qualified partnership has used such method of accounting for all taxable years intervening between its first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1975, and the taxable year,

such corporation or qualified partnership may continue to employ such method of accounting for the taxable year with respect to its qualified farming trade or business.

#### (2) Annual accrual method of accounting defined

For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “annual accrual method of accounting” means a method under which revenues, costs, and expenses are computed on an accrual method of accounting and the preproductive period expenses incurred during the taxable year are charged to harvested crops or deducted in determining the taxable income for such years.

#### (3) Certain nonrecognition transfers

For purposes of this subsection, if—

(A) a corporation acquired substantially all the assets of a qualified farming trade or business from another corporation in a transaction in which no gain or loss was recognized to the transferor or transferee corporation, or

(B) a qualified partnership acquired substantially all the assets of a qualified farming trade or business from one of its partners in a transaction to which section 721 applies,

the transferee corporation or qualified partnership shall be deemed to have computed its taxable income on an annual accrual method of accounting during the period for which the transferor corporation or partnership computed its taxable income from such trade or business on an annual accrual method.

#### (4) Qualified partnership defined

For purposes of this subsection—

##### (A) Qualified partnership

The term “qualified partnership” means a partnership which is engaged in a qualified farming trade or business and each of the partners of which is a corporation other than—

- (i) an S corporation, or
- (ii) a personal holding company (within the meaning of section 542(a)).

##### (B) Qualified farming trade or business

###### (i) In general

The term “qualified farming trade or business” means the trade or business of farming—

- (I) sugar cane,
- (II) any plant with a preproductive period (as defined in section 263A(e)(3)) of 2 years or less, and
- (III) any other plant (other than any citrus or almond tree) if an election by the corporation under this subparagraph is in effect.

In the case of a partnership and for purposes of paragraph (3)(A), subclauses (II) and (III) shall not apply.

###### (ii) Effect of election

For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 263A(e), any election under this subparagraph shall be treated as if it were an election under subsection (d)(3) of section 263A.