

No. S000

**INCOME TAX ACT
(CHAPTER 134)**

**INCOME TAX (EXEMPTION AND CONCESSIONARY TAX
RATE FOR INCOME FROM LIFE REINSURANCE BUSINESS)
REGULATIONS 2017**

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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 43C of the Income Tax Act, the Minister for Finance makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations are the Income Tax (Exemption and Concessionary Tax Rate for Income from Life Reinsurance Business) Regulations 2017 and are deemed to come into operation on 1 June 2017.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations —

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- “approved captive insurer” means a captive insurer approved under regulation 5;
- “approved insurer” means an insurer approved under regulation 4;
- “capital allowances” means the allowances under section 19, 19A, 20, 21 or 22 or 23 of the Act;
- “captive insurance business” means life insurance business in relation to the risks of related companies, including third party risks underwritten in the course of and incidental to the business;
- “deposit” has the same meaning as in section 4B(4) of the Banking Act (Cap. 19);
- “dividends” means dividends paid by a company (other than those exempt from tax under section 13(1)(za), (8) or (12) of the Act);
- “life business” has the same meaning as in section 2(1)(a) of the Insurance Act (Cap. 142);
- “life insurance fund”, “non-participating fund”, “offshore life business”, “offshore life reinsurance business”, “offshore risk”, “onshore life business” and “onshore life reinsurance business” have the same meanings as in section 26(12) of the Act;
- “offshore captive insurance business” means captive insurance business concerned with offshore risks;
- “prescribed asset or project” means an infrastructure asset or project prescribed in regulation 5 of the Income Tax (Qualifying Project Debt Securities) Regulations 2008 (G.N. No. S 315/2008);
- “qualifying interest” means —
- (a) any interest derived from any deposit held in a bank;
 - (b) any interest derived from a certificate of deposit issued by a bank;

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- (c) any interest derived from debt securities (other than interest that is exempt from tax under section 13(1)(b)(i) or (bc)(i), or an amount that is exempt from tax under section 13(1)(bd) of the Act);

“qualifying investment” means —

- (a) any stock or share of a company;
- (b) securities (other than stocks and shares), bonds, notes, certificates of deposits or treasury bills that are issued by a government, bank or company;
- (c) any futures contract made in any future exchange;
- (d) any investment in a prescribed asset or project;

“qualifying return in lieu of interest” means any return in lieu of interest from investing in products endorsed by any Shari’ah council or body, or by any committee formed for the purpose of providing guidance on compliance with Shari’ah law;

“specified captive business” means the business of underwriting any or both of the following:

- (a) policies covering third parties which are not underwritten by the insurer in the course of, nor incidental to, its captive insurance business; and
- (b) policies underwritten by the insurer in the course of its business of insuring direct life risk;

“specified premiums”, in relation to a basis period of an approved captive insurer, means the amount of gross premiums received or receivable by the insurer in the basis period in respect of —

- (a) all policies covering third parties which are not underwritten by the insurer in the course of, nor incidental to, its captive insurance business; and
- (b) all policies underwritten by the insurer in the course of its business of insuring direct life risk.

Application

3. These Regulations apply to —

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- (a) an approved captive insurer that is approved as such on or after 1 June 2017; and
 - (b) an approved insurer that is approved as such on or after 1 June 2017.

Approval of insurer

4. During the period from 1 June 2017 to 31 March 2020 (both dates inclusive), the Minister or such person as the Minister may appoint may, upon application by any insurer licensed under the Insurance Act (Cap. 142) to carry on life business (whether or not the insurer is also licensed under that Act to carry on general business), and if the Minister or the person (as the case may be) considers it expedient in the public interest to do so, approve the insurer as an approved insurer for a period of 10 years.

Approval of captive insurer

5.—(1) During the period from 1 June 2017 to 31 March 2020 (both dates inclusive), the Minister or such person as the Minister may appoint may, upon application by any captive insurer (whether or not the insurer is licensed under the Insurance Act (Cap. 142) to carry on general business), and if the Minister or the person (as the case may be) considers it expedient in the public interest to do so, approve the insurer as an approved captive insurer.

(2) Any approval under paragraph (1) is for a period of —

- (a) 10 years if the approval is granted before 1 April 2018; or
- (b) 5 years if the approval is granted on or after 1 April 2018.

(3) No approval may be given under paragraph (1) unless, at the time of such approval, all the functions in the following paragraphs are undertaken for the captive insurer by a company incorporated in Singapore, or by personnel located in Singapore who are employed by a company incorporated outside Singapore:

- (a) either or both of the following:
 - (i) ensuring compliance with any requirement or any direction, notice or other document issued under the Insurance Act;

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- (ii) ensuring compliance with any requirement or any direction, notice or other document issued under the Monetary Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 186);
 - (b) ensuring compliance with any requirement relating to financial accounting, auditing and reporting under the Companies Act (Cap. 50);
 - (c) the day-to-day management of the captive insurer's business.

Concessionary rate of tax for approved insurer

6.—(1) Subject to this regulation, tax is payable at the rate of 10% on the income mentioned in paragraph (2) that is derived by an approved insurer in a basis period for any year of assessment.

- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the income is —
 - (a) the amount mentioned in section 26(7A)(a)(i) of the Act in relation to life reinsurance policies but excluding —
 - (i) gains or profits from the sale of investments that are acquired using the life insurance fund established under the Insurance Act relating to life reinsurance policies; and
 - (ii) investment income or any other income derived from such life insurance fund, whether or not the income is derived in Singapore or elsewhere;
 - (b) the part of A that is attributable to the insurer's offshore life reinsurance business in Singapore, ascertained by the following formula:

$$\frac{P_{olr}}{P_{onp}} \times A$$

- (c) the part of B that is attributable to the insurer's onshore life reinsurance business in Singapore, ascertained by the following formula:

$$\frac{P_{ilr}}{P_{inp}} \times B$$

; and

- (d) the part of C that is attributable to the insurer's offshore life reinsurance business in Singapore and onshore life reinsurance business in Singapore, ascertained by the following formula:

$$\frac{P_{olr} + P_{ilr}}{P_{ol} + P_{il}} \times C$$

- (3) In paragraph (1) —

“A” is the total amount of the following income (excluding the excluded income) derived in the basis period:

- (a) dividends and qualifying interest derived from the investment of its non-participating fund established and maintained under the Insurance Act (Cap. 142) for the insurer's offshore life business;
- (b) gains or profits from the sale of qualifying investments acquired using such non-participating fund,

less any expenses incurred in the production of such income for which a deduction is allowed under the Act;

“B” is the total amount of the following income (excluding the excluded income) derived in the basis period:

- (a) dividends and qualifying interest derived from the investment of its non-participating fund established and maintained under the Insurance Act (Cap. 142) for the insurer's onshore life business;
- (b) gains or profits from the sale of qualifying investments acquired using such non-participating fund,

less any expenses incurred in the production of such income for which a deduction is allowed under the Act;

“C” is the total amount of the following income (excluding the excluded income) derived in the basis period:

- (a) dividends and qualifying interest derived from the investment of its shareholders' fund established in Singapore which are used to support the insurer's offshore life business and onshore life business;

(b) gains or profits from the sale of qualifying investments acquired using such shareholders' fund,

less any expenses incurred in the production of such income for which a deduction is allowed under the Act;

“P_{il}” is the total amount of the gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its onshore life business in Singapore;

“P_{ilr}” is the total amount of gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all non-participating policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its onshore life reinsurance business in Singapore;

“P_{inp}” is the total amount of the gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all non-participating policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its onshore life business in Singapore;

“P_{ol}” is the total amount of gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its offshore life business in Singapore;

“P_{olr}” is the total amount of gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all non-participating policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its offshore life reinsurance business in Singapore;

“P_{onp}” is the total amount of gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all non-participating policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its offshore life business in Singapore; and

“excluded income” means any income derived in the basis period from any investment in or the sale of, any stock, share or other securities of a company that —

(a) is in the business of trading or holding —

(i) prescribed assets or projects, and other immovable property; or

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- (ii) immovable properties other than prescribed assets or projects;
 - (b) is not in the business of property development; and
 - (c) is not listed on a stock exchange in Singapore or elsewhere.

(4) Where the approved insurer is also an approved captive insurer, the reference to “gross premiums” in the definitions of “P_{ilr}” and “P_{olr}” in paragraph (3) excludes the gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all policies underwritten by the approved insurer in the course of carrying on its captive insurance business in Singapore.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (2), where the Comptroller is satisfied that any part of the non-participating fund mentioned in the definition of “A” or “B” in paragraph (3) is not required to support the offshore life reinsurance business or the onshore life reinsurance business of the approved insurer (as the case may be), the Comptroller may adopt such reduced amount of “A” in paragraph (2)(b) or “B” in paragraph (2)(c) as appears to the Comptroller to be reasonable in the circumstances.

(6) For the purposes of paragraph (2), where the Comptroller is satisfied that any part of the shareholders’ fund mentioned in the definition of “C” in paragraph (3) is not required to support the approved insurer’s offshore life reinsurance business and onshore life reinsurance business, the Comptroller may adopt such reduced amount of “C” in paragraph (2)(d) as appears to the Comptroller to be reasonable in the circumstances.

(7) A reference in this regulation to interest includes a reference to qualifying return in lieu of interest.

Concessionary rate of tax and exemption for approved captive insurer

7.—(1) Subject to the condition in paragraph (5), the income mentioned in paragraph (3) derived by an approved captive insurer in a basis period for any year of assessment is exempt from tax, if its approval is granted on or after 1 June 2017 but before 1 April 2018.

(2) Subject to the condition in paragraph (5), tax is payable at the rate of 10% on the income mentioned in paragraph (3) derived by an approved captive insurer in a basis period for any year of assessment, if its approval is granted on or after 1 April 2018.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the income is —

(a) the amount mentioned in section 26(7A)(a)(i) of the Act derived by the insurer from accepting life reinsurance policies, excluding —

(i) income derived by the insurer from accepting life reinsurance policies covering third parties which are not underwritten in the course of, nor incidental to, its captive insurance business;

(ii) gains or profits from the sale of investments that are acquired using the life insurance fund established under the Insurance Act relating to life reinsurance policies; and

(iii) investment income or any other income derived from such life insurance fund, whether or not the income is derived in Singapore or elsewhere;

(b) the part of *A* that is attributable to the insurer's offshore captive insurance business in Singapore in respect of non-participating policies underwritten by the insurer (excluding specified captive business) ascertained by the following formula:

$$\frac{P_{olc}}{P_{onp}} \times A$$

(c) the part of *B* that is attributable to the insurer's captive insurance business in Singapore (other than offshore captive insurance business) in respect of non-participating policies underwritten by the insurer, excluding specified captive business, ascertained by the following formula:

$$\frac{P_{ic}}{P_{inp}} \times B$$

; and

- (d) the part of C that is attributable to the insurer's offshore captive insurance business in Singapore in respect of non-participating policies underwritten by the insurer, and captive insurance business in Singapore (other than offshore captive insurance business) in respect of non-participating policies underwritten by the insurer, excluding specified captive business, ascertained by the following formula:

$$\frac{P_{olc} + P_{ilc}}{P_{ol} + P_{il}} \times C$$

- (4) In paragraph (3) —

“ P_{il} ”, “ P_{inp} ”, “ P_{ol} ”, “ P_{onp} ”, “ A ”, “ B ” and “ C ” have the same meanings as in regulation 6(3), with the reference to approved insurer substituted with the reference to approved captive insurer;

“ P_{ilc} ” is the total amount of gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all non-participating policies underwritten by the approved captive insurer in the course of carrying on its captive insurance business in Singapore (other than offshore captive insurance business), excluding specified premiums; and

“ P_{olc} ” is the total amount of gross premiums received or receivable in the basis period in respect of all non-participating policies underwritten by the approved captive insurer in the course of carrying on its offshore captive insurance business in Singapore, excluding specified premiums.

- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the condition is that at all times during the basis period in which the income is derived, all the functions in the following paragraphs are undertaken for the captive insurer by a company incorporated in Singapore, or by personnel located in Singapore who are employed by a company incorporated outside Singapore:

- (a) either or both of the following:

- (i) ensuring compliance with any requirement or any direction, notice or other document issued under the Insurance Act (Cap. 142);

(ii) ensuring compliance with any requirement or any direction, notice or other document issued under the Monetary Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 186);

(b) ensuring compliance with any requirement relating to financial accounting, auditing and reporting under the Companies Act (Cap. 50);

(c) the day-to-day management of the captive insurer's business.

(6) For the purposes of paragraph (3), where the Comptroller is satisfied that any part of the non-participating fund mentioned in the definition of "A" or "B" in paragraph (4) is not required to support the captive insurance business or the captive insurance business (other than the offshore captive insurance business) of the approved captive insurer (as the case may be), the Comptroller may adopt such reduced amount of "A" in paragraph (3)(b) or "B" in paragraph (3)(c) as appears to the Comptroller to be reasonable in the circumstances.

(7) For the purposes of paragraph (3), where the Comptroller is satisfied that any part of the shareholders' fund mentioned in the definition of "C" in paragraph (4) is not required to support the captive insurance business of the approved captive insurer, the Comptroller may adopt such reduced amount of "C" in paragraph (3)(d) as appears to the Comptroller to be reasonable in the circumstances.

Determination of exempt income of approved captive insurer

8.—(1) In determining the amount of exempt income of an approved captive insurer under regulation 7(1) —

(a) the Comptroller must have regard to such expenses and capital allowances for which a deduction is allowed under the Act as are, in the Comptroller's opinion, to be deducted in ascertaining such income;

(b) any capital allowances attributable to that income must be deducted from that income, even though no claim for those allowances has been made;

(c) any balance of the allowances mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) and any losses incurred in respect of the

captive insurance business (which, had they been profits, would have been exempt from tax under regulation 7(1)) may only be deducted against income to be exempt under regulation 7(1), and any balance of such allowances and losses must not be deducted against any other income;

- (d) any balance of the allowances and losses mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) remaining unabsorbed as at the date of the expiry or withdrawal of the approval under regulation 5 is, subject to paragraph (2), available as a deduction against any other income of the insurer for the year of assessment which relates to the basis period in which that approval expires or is withdrawn and any subsequent year of assessment in accordance with section 23 or 37 of the Act, as the case may be.

(2) Section 37B of the Act applies to any amount of the allowances and losses available as a deduction against any other income as provided under paragraph (1)(d) as if they were unabsorbed allowances or losses in respect of the income of a company subject to tax at a lower rate of tax under that section, and for this purpose the lower rate of tax is 10%.

Apportionment of expenses, allowances and donations

9.—(1) For the purpose of determining the income mentioned in regulation 6(2) —

- (a) any item of expenditure not directly attributable to the onshore life reinsurance business in Singapore and offshore life reinsurance business in Singapore of an approved insurer, and capital allowances and donations for which a deduction is allowed to the insurer under the Act, are to be apportioned between such business and the other life insurance business of the insurer; and
- (b) for the purposes of sub-paragraph (a), the portion of expenditure, capital allowances and donation to be apportioned to the onshore life reinsurance business in Singapore and offshore life reinsurance business in

Singapore of the approved insurer is ascertained using the fraction:

$$\frac{P_{olr} + P_{ilr}}{P_{ol} + P_{il}},$$

Where, “P_{il}”, “P_{ilr}”, “P_{ol}” and “P_{olr}” have the same meanings as in regulation 6(3).

(2) For the purpose of determining the income mentioned in regulation 7(3) —

- (a) any item of expenditure not directly attributable to the captive insurance business in Singapore (excluding specified captive business) of an approved insurer, and capital allowances and donations for which a deduction is allowed to the insurer under the Act, are to be apportioned between such business and the other life insurance business of the insurer; and
- (b) for the purposes of sub-paragraph (a), the portion of expenditure, capital allowances and donation to be apportioned to the captive insurance business in Singapore (excluding specified captive business) of the approved captive insurer is ascertained using the fraction:

$$\frac{P_{olc} + P_{ilc}}{P_{ol} + P_{il}};$$

where —

- (i) “P_{ol}” and “P_{il}” have the same meanings as in regulation 6(3), with the reference to the approved insurer substituted with the reference to the approved captive insurer; and
- (ii) “P_{ilc}” and “P_{olc}” have the same meanings as in regulation 7(4).

(3) The Comptroller may apply any alternative method of apportionment in place of any of the prescribed fractions in paragraph (1) or (2) if the Comptroller is satisfied that the alternative method is reasonable in the circumstances of the business of the insurer mentioned in that paragraph.

Made on 2017.

TAN CHING YEE
*Permanent Secretary,
Prime Minister's Office (Special
Duties),
Singapore.*

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