

the increase in the redemption value of the bond for Federal income tax purposes:

(1) *Cash basis method.* You may defer reporting the increase to the year of final maturity, redemption, or other disposition, whichever is earliest; or

(2) *Accrual basis method.* You may elect to report the increase each year, in which case the election applies to all Series EE bonds that you then own, those subsequently acquired, and to any other obligations purchased on a discount basis.

(b) *Changing methods.* If you use the cash basis method, you may change to the accrual basis method without obtaining permission from the Internal Revenue Service. However, once you elect to use the accrual basis method in paragraph (a)(2), you may change the method of reporting the increase only by following the specific procedures prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service for making a method change. For further information, you may contact the Internal Revenue Service director for your area, or the Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC 20224.

### 3. What transactions have potential tax consequences?

The following types of transactions, among others, may have potential tax consequences:

(a) A reissue that affects the rights of any of the persons named on a definitive Series EE savings bond may have tax consequences for the owner.

(b) The transfer of a book-entry Series EE savings bond from one owner to another may have tax consequences for the transferor.

(c) The redemption of a book-entry Series EE savings bond by the secondary owner may have tax consequences for the primary owner.

(d) The purchase of a Series EE savings bond as a gift may have gift tax consequences.

## PART 353—REGULATIONS GOVERNING UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS, SERIES EE AND HH

■ 5. The authority citation for part 353 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 12 U.S.C. 391; 31 U.S.C. 3105, 3125.

■ 6. Revise § 353.0 to read as follows:

### § 353.0 Applicability.

(a) The regulation in this part govern definitive (paper) United States Savings Bonds of Series EE and Series HH. These bonds bear issue dates of January 1, 1980, or thereafter.

(b) The regulations in 31 CFR part 315 govern all other definitive United States Savings Bonds and Savings Notes.

(c) The regulations in 31 CFR part 363 govern Series EE savings bonds held in book-entry form in New Treasury Direct.

■ 7. Amend § 353.2 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

### § 353.2 Definitions.

(a) *Bond, or Series EE or HH savings bond*, as used in this part, means a

definitive United States Savings Bond of Series EE or HH.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 8. Amend § 353.10 (a) by removing the parenthetical term “face amount” and adding in its place the parenthetical term “principal amount” in the introductory paragraph.

■ 9. Amend § 353.11 by revising paragraph (b)(3) to read as follows:

### § 353.11 Computation of amount.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(3) All bonds registered in the name of that person as first-named coowner.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 10. Revise § 353.12 to read as follows:

### § 353.12 Disposition of excess.

If any person at any time has savings bonds issued during any one calendar year in excess of the prescribed amount, the Bureau of the Public Debt reserves the right to take any action that it deems necessary to adjust the excess.

Instructions for adjustment of the excess can be obtained by email at <savbonds@bpd.treas.gov> or by writing to Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26106–1328.

■ 11. Revise § 353.71 to read as follows:

### § 353.71 Decedent's estate

(a) *Estate is being administered.* (1) Appropriate proof of appointment will be required for the legal representative of the estate. Letters of appointment must be dated within one year of submission.

(2) The bonds will be registered in the following form: “John Doe, SSN 123–45–6789, Legal Representative of the estate of James Doe, deceased, SSN 987–65–4321.”

(3) The legal representative of the estate may request payment of bonds and held payments belonging to a decedent's estate, to the estate or to the person(s) entitled, or may have the bonds reissued to the person(s) entitled.

(b) *Estate has been settled previously.* If the estate has been previously settled through judicial proceedings, the person(s) entitled may request payment of bonds or may have the bonds reissued to the person(s) entitled. A certified copy of the court-approved final accounting for the estate, the court's decree of distribution, or other appropriate evidence will be required.

(c) *Summary administration procedures.* If there is no formal administration and no representative of the estate is to be appointed, the person(s) entitled under state law summary or small estates procedures may request payment of bonds or may

have the bonds reissued to the person(s) entitled. Appropriate evidence is required.

(d) *Survivors' order of precedence for payment or transfer.* Estates with bonds over \$100,000 redemption value must be administered. If there has been no administration, no administration is pending or contemplated, no summary or small estate procedures have been used, and the redemption value of the bonds is \$100,000 or less, then bonds may be paid or reissued to the persons named in the following order of precedence:

(1) There is a surviving spouse and no surviving child or descendant of a deceased child; to the surviving spouse.

(2) There is a surviving spouse and a child or children of the decedent, or descendants of deceased children: one-half to the surviving spouse and one-half to the child or children of the decedent, and the descendants of deceased children, by representation, or by agreement of all persons entitled in this class;

(3) There is no surviving spouse and there is a surviving child or descendant of deceased children: to the child or children of the decedent, and the descendants of deceased children, by representation.

(4) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child, and no surviving descendants of deceased children: to the parents of the decedent, one-half to each, or in full to the survivor.

(5) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, and no surviving parents: to the brothers and sisters and descendants of deceased brothers and sisters by representation.

(6) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, no surviving parents, and no brothers or sisters or descendants of deceased brothers and sisters: to other next of kin, as determined by the laws of the decedent's domicile at the time of death.

(7) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, no surviving parents, no brothers or sisters or descendants of deceased brothers and sisters, and no next of kin, as determined by the laws of the decedent's domicile at the time of death: to persons related to the decedent by marriage, *i.e.*, heirs of a spouse of the last decedent where the spouse predeceased that registrant.

(8) There are no surviving spouse, no surviving child or surviving descendants of deceased children, no surviving parents, no brothers or sisters or descendants of deceased brothers and