

Background

Section 6043(c) provides that if any person acquires control of a corporation, or if there is a recapitalization or other substantial change in capital structure of a corporation, the corporation, when required by the Secretary, shall make a return setting forth the identity of the parties to the transaction, the fees involved, the changes in the capital structure involved, and such other information as the Secretary may require with respect to such transaction.

On November 18, 2002, the IRS published temporary regulations under section 6043(c) (TD 9022). The transactions covered by the reporting requirement were certain acquisitions of control and substantial changes in the capital structure of a corporation. These regulations required a corporation to attach a form to its income tax return describing these transactions and to file information returns with respect to certain shareholders in such transactions. On November 18, 2002, the IRS also published temporary regulations under section 6045, which provided for information reporting with respect to these transactions by brokers (together with the section 6043(c) temporary regulations, the 2002 temporary regulations). The 2002 temporary regulations were applicable to acquisitions of control and substantial changes in capital structure occurring after December 31, 2001, if the reporting corporation or any shareholder was required to recognize gain (if any) as a result of the application of section 367(a) as a result of the transaction.

The text of the 2002 temporary regulations also served as the text of proposed regulations set forth in a cross-referencing notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Proposed Rules section of the same issue of the **Federal Register** (2002 proposed regulations) (REG-143321-02). The provisions of the proposed regulations were proposed to apply with respect to any acquisition of control or substantial change in capital structure occurring after the date on which final regulations would be published in the **Federal Register**. The preamble to the notice of proposed rulemaking invited public comments with respect to the potential for duplicate reporting and with respect to the burden of compliance with the reporting requirements.

The IRS received a number of written public comments with respect to the information reporting requirements set forth in the 2002 temporary and proposed regulations. In addition, the IRS met with representatives of the

Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC) and other representatives of the securities industry to discuss their concerns and suggestions for revisions to the regulations.

After considering the issues concerning affected taxpayers, the IRS has decided to revise the 2002 temporary regulations. The revised temporary regulations set forth information reporting rules that will help ensure that brokers and shareholders receive information regarding these corporate transactions, without unduly burdening brokers and other members of the securities industry.

The text of the revised temporary regulations also serves as the text of new proposed regulations (reproposed regulations) set forth in the cross-referencing notice of proposed rulemaking published in the proposed rules section of this issue of the **Federal Register**. The preamble to that notice of proposed rulemaking invites public comments with respect to the revised temporary and reproposed regulations, particularly with respect to the ability of brokers to obtain the information necessary for reporting under revised § 1.6045-3T and proposed § 1.6045-3.

Summary of Comments

The commentators noted certain gaps in the transmission of information under the 2002 temporary and proposed regulations between corporations subject to reporting and brokers. Information reporting by brokers depends upon the effective dissemination of information from the corporation to the reporting community, and broker reporting is difficult to effectuate if there are gaps in the process of transmitting this information.

As provided in the 2002 temporary regulations, a reporting corporation would file Forms 1099-CAP, "Changes in Corporate Control and Capital Structure", with respect to its shareholders of record, including brokers, under § 1.6043-4T(b). Brokers who received Forms 1099-CAP would then file Forms 1099-CAP with respect to their customers pursuant to § 1.6045-3T. The commentators pointed out that a large majority of U.S. publicly issued securities are actually held on behalf of brokerage firms through clearing organizations. Pursuant to the 2002 temporary regulations, clearing organizations would receive Forms 1099-CAP from the reporting corporation; however, because clearing organizations are not treated as brokers, they in turn would not be required under § 1.6045-3T to file Forms 1099-

CAP with respect to their broker-members. Consequently, brokers (who otherwise had the requirement to file a Form 1099-CAP upon receiving one) would not receive Form 1099-CAP if they held their shares through a clearing organization. In addition, brokers may not be aware of the requirement to report with respect to a particular corporate transaction, or may have difficulty obtaining the information necessary for reporting. Thus, under the 2002 temporary regulations, the actual shareholders of the reporting corporation, the broker's customers, may not receive information returns to assist them in preparing their income tax returns.

To address this issue, commentators suggested an alternative procedure to ensure that brokers receive the required information for reporting and to bridge any potential gaps in the chain of reporting. Commentators recommended that the IRS act as a central repository of information necessary for brokers and issue a publication containing information needed for brokers to satisfy their reporting obligations. Brokers and commercial tax services that publish current developments could access this information, and brokers could use this information in preparing Forms 1099-CAP with respect to their customers. An alternative suggested by commentators was to require the reporting corporation to post essential information for reporting, from its Form 8806, "Information Return for Acquisition of Control or Substantial Change in Capital Structure", to an IRS Web site.

Based on the comments, the revised temporary regulations provide in § 1.6043-4T(a)(1)(vi) that reporting corporations may elect on Form 8806 to consent to the publication by the IRS of information necessary for brokers to file information returns with respect to their customers. To provide every corporation with the ability to make this election, the revised temporary regulations require reporting corporations to file Form 8806 even though the corporation may also report the transaction under sections 351, 355, or 368. In order to enable the IRS to publish the information timely, the revised temporary regulations require reporting corporations to file Form 8806 within 45 days after the transaction, and in no event later than January 5 of the year following the calendar year in which the transaction occurs.

The role of clearing organizations was also the subject of comments. Commentators suggested that the regulations use existing processes for distributing information to minimize the cost of and the time required for