

26 U.S. Code § 1202 - Partial exclusion for gain from certain small business stock

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(a)Exclusion

(1)In general

In the case of a taxpayer other than a corporation, gross income shall not include—

(A)except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), 50 percent of any gain from the sale or exchange of [qualified small business stock](#) acquired on or before the [applicable date](#) and held for more than 5 years, and

(B)the applicable percentage of any gain from the sale or exchange of [qualified small business stock](#) acquired after the [applicable date](#) and held for at least 3 years.

(2)Empowerment zone businesses

(A)In general

In the case of [qualified small business stock](#) acquired after the date of the enactment of this paragraph in a corporation which is a qualified business entity (as defined in section 1397C(b)) during substantially all of the taxpayer's holding period for such stock, paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting "60 percent" for "50 percent".

(B)Certain rules to apply

Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (5) and (7) of section 1400B(b) (as in effect before its repeal) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.

(C)Gain after 2018 not qualified

Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to gain attributable to periods after December 31, 2018.

(D)Treatment of DC zone

The District of Columbia Enterprise Zone shall not be treated as an empowerment zone for purposes of this paragraph.

(3)Special rules for 2009 and certain periods in 2010

In the case of [qualified small business stock](#) acquired after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and on or before the date of the enactment of the [Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010](#)—

(A)paragraph (1)(A) shall be applied by substituting “75 percent” for “50 percent”, and

(B)paragraph (2) shall not apply.

In the case of any stock which would be described in the preceding sentence (but for this sentence), the acquisition date for purposes of this subsection shall be the first day on which such stock was held by the taxpayer determined after the application of section 1223.

(4)100 percent exclusion for stock acquired during certain periods in 2010 and thereafter

In the case of [qualified small business stock](#) acquired after the date of the enactment of the [Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010](#) and on or before the [applicable date](#)—

The term “**applicable date**” means the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

(B)Acquisition date

In the case of any stock which would (but for this paragraph) be treated as having been acquired before, on, or after the [applicable date](#), whichever is applicable, the acquisition date for purposes of this section shall be the first day on which such stock was held by the taxpayer determined after the application of section 1223.

(b)Per-issuer limitation on taxpayer's eligible gain

(1)In general

If the taxpayer has [eligible gain](#) for the taxable year from 1 or more [dispositions](#) of stock issued by any corporation, the aggregate amount of such gain from [dispositions](#) of stock issued by such corporation which may be taken into account under subsection (a) for the taxable year shall not exceed the greater of—

(A)the applicable dollar limit for the taxable year, or

(B)10 times the aggregate adjusted bases of [qualified small business stock](#) issued by such corporation and disposed of by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

For purposes of subparagraph (B), the adjusted basis of any stock shall be determined without regard to any addition to basis after the date on which such stock was originally issued.

(2)Eligible gain

For purposes of this subsection, the term “[eligible gain](#)” means any gain from the sale or exchange of [qualified small business stock](#) held for at least 3 years (more than 5 years in the case of stock acquired on or before the [applicable date](#)).

(3)Treatment of married individuals

(A)Separate returns

In the case of a separate return by a married individual for any taxable year—

(i) paragraph (4)(A) shall be applied by substituting “\$5,000,000” for “\$10,000,000”, and

(ii) paragraph (4)(B) shall be applied by substituting one-half of the dollar amount in effect under such paragraph for the taxable year for the amount so in effect.

(B) Allocation of exclusion

In the case of any joint return, the amount of gain taken into account under subsection (a) shall be allocated equally between the spouses for purposes of applying this subsection to subsequent taxable years.

(C) Marital status

For purposes of this subsection, marital status shall be determined under section 7703.

(4) [2] Applicable dollar limit

For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the applicable dollar limit for any taxable year with respect to **eligible gain** from 1 or more **dispositions** by a taxpayer of qualified business stock of a corporation is—

(A) if such stock was acquired by the taxpayer on or before the **applicable date**, \$10,000,000, reduced by the aggregate amount of **eligible gain** taken into account by the taxpayer under subsection (a) for prior taxable years and attributable to **dispositions** of stock issued by such corporation and acquired by the taxpayer before, on, or after the **applicable date**, and

(B) if such stock was acquired by the taxpayer after the **applicable date**, \$15,000,000, reduced by the sum of —

(i) the aggregate amount of **eligible gain** taken into account by the taxpayer under subsection (a) for prior taxable years and attributable to **dispositions** of stock

issued by such corporation and acquired by the taxpayer before, on, or after the [applicable date](#), plus

(ii) the aggregate amount of [eligible gain](#) taken into account by the taxpayer under subsection (a) for the taxable year and attributable to [dispositions](#) of stock issued by such corporation and acquired by the taxpayer on or before the [applicable date](#).

(5) Inflation adjustment

(A) In general

In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2026, the \$15,000,000 amount in paragraph (4)(B) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting “calendar year 2025” for “calendar year 2016” in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

If any increase under this subparagraph is not a multiple of \$10,000, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.

(B) No increase once limit reached

If, for any taxable year, the [eligible gain](#) attributable to [dispositions](#) of stock issued by a corporation and acquired by the taxpayer after the [applicable date](#) exceeds the applicable dollar limit, then notwithstanding any increase under subparagraph (A) for any subsequent taxable year, the applicable dollar limit for such subsequent taxable year shall be zero.

(4) ² Inflation adjustment

In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2026, the \$75,000,000 amounts in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by
(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting “calendar year 2025” for “calendar year 2016” in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

If any increase under this paragraph is not a multiple of \$10,000, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.

(c) Qualified small business stock

For purposes of this section—

(1) In general

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the term “qualified small business stock” means any stock in a C corporation which is originally issued after the date of the enactment of the [Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993](#), if—

(A) as of the date of issuance, such corporation is a [qualified small business](#), and

(B) except as provided in subsections (f) and (h), such stock is acquired by the taxpayer at its original issue (directly or through an underwriter)—

(i) in exchange for money or other property (not including stock), or

(ii) as compensation for services provided to such corporation (other than services performed as an underwriter of such stock).

(2) Active business requirement; etc.

(A) In general

Stock in a corporation shall not be treated as [qualified small business stock](#) unless, during substantially all of the taxpayer’s holding period for such stock, such corporation meets the active business requirements of subsection (e) and such corporation is a C corporation.

(B)Special rule for certain small business investment companies

(i)Waiver of active business requirement

Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (e), a corporation shall be treated as meeting the active business requirements of such subsection for any period during which such corporation qualifies as a [specialized small business investment company](#).

(ii)Specialized small business investment company

For purposes of clause (i), the term “[specialized small business investment company](#)” means any [eligible corporation](#) (as defined in subsection (e)(4)) which is licensed to operate under section 301(d) of the [Small Business Investment Act of 1958](#) (as in effect on May 13, 1993).

(3)Certain purchases by corporation of its own stock

(A)Redemptions from taxpayer or related person

Stock acquired by the taxpayer shall not be treated as [qualified small business stock](#) if, at any time during the 4-year period beginning on the date 2 years before the issuance of such stock, the corporation issuing such stock purchased (directly or indirectly) any of its stock from the taxpayer or from a person related (within the meaning of section [267\(b\)](#) or [707\(b\)](#)) to the taxpayer.

(B)Significant redemptions

Stock issued by a corporation shall not be treated as qualified business stock if, during the 2-year period beginning on the date 1 year before the issuance of such stock, such corporation made 1 or more purchases of its stock with an aggregate value (as of the time of the respective purchases) exceeding 5 percent of the

aggregate value of all of its stock as of the beginning of such 2-year period.

(C) Treatment of certain transactions

If any transaction is treated under section 304(a) as a distribution in redemption of the stock of any corporation, for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), such corporation shall be treated as purchasing an amount of its stock equal to the amount treated as such a distribution under section 304(a).

(d) Qualified small business

For purposes of this section—

(1) In general

The term “[qualified small business](#)” means any domestic corporation which is a C corporation if—

(A) the [aggregate gross assets](#) of such corporation (or any predecessor thereof) at all times on or after the date of the enactment of the [Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993](#) and before the issuance did not exceed \$75,000,000,

(B) the [aggregate gross assets](#) of such corporation immediately after the issuance (determined by taking into account amounts received in the issuance) do not exceed \$75,000,000, and

(C) such corporation agrees to submit such reports to the Secretary and to shareholders as the Secretary may require to carry out the purposes of this section.

(2) Aggregate gross assets

(A) In general

For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “[aggregate gross assets](#)” means the amount of cash and the aggregate adjusted bases of other property held by the corporation.

(B) Treatment of contributed property

For purposes of subparagraph (A), the adjusted basis of any property contributed to the corporation (or other property with a basis determined in whole or in part by reference to the adjusted basis of property so contributed) shall be determined as if the basis of the property contributed to the corporation (immediately after such contribution) were equal to its fair market value as of the time of such contribution.

(3)Aggregation rules

(A)In general

All corporations which are members of the same [parent-subsidiary controlled group](#) shall be treated as 1 corporation for purposes of this subsection.

(B)Parent-subsidiary controlled group

For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "[parent-subsidiary controlled group](#)" means any controlled group of corporations as defined in section 1563(a)(1), except that—

(i)"more than 50 percent" shall be substituted for "at least 80 percent" each place it appears in section 1563(a)(1), and

(ii)[section 1563\(a\)\(4\)](#) shall not apply.

(e)Active business requirement

(1)In general

For purposes of subsection (c)(2), the requirements of this subsection are met by a corporation for any period if during such period—

(A)at least 80 percent (by value) of the assets of such corporation are used by such corporation in the active conduct of 1 or more qualified trades or businesses, and

(B)such corporation is an [eligible corporation](#).

(2)Special rule for certain activities

For purposes of paragraph (1), if, in connection with any future [qualified trade or business](#), a corporation is engaged in—

(A) start-up activities described in section 195(c)(1)(A),
(B) activities resulting in the payment or incurring of expenditures which are treated as foreign research or experimental expenditures under [section 174](#) or domestic research or experimental expenditures under section 174A, or

(C) activities with respect to in-house research expenses described in section 41(b)(4),
assets used in such activities shall be treated as used in the active conduct of a [qualified trade or business](#). Any determination under this paragraph shall be made without regard to whether a corporation has any gross income from such activities at the time of the determination.

(3) Qualified trade or business

For purposes of this subsection, the term “[qualified trade or business](#)” means any trade or business other than—

(A) any trade or business involving the performance of services in the fields of health, law, engineering, architecture, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, athletics, financial services, brokerage services, or any trade or business where the principal asset of such trade or business is the reputation or skill of 1 or more of its employees,

(B) any banking, insurance, financing, leasing, investing, or similar business,

(C) any farming business (including the business of raising or harvesting trees),

(D) any business involving the production or extraction of products of a character with respect to which a deduction is allowable under [section 613](#) or 613A, and

(E)any business of operating a hotel, motel, restaurant, or similar business.

(4)Eligible corporation

For purposes of this subsection, the term “eligible corporation” means any domestic corporation; except that such term shall not include—

(A)a DISC or former DISC,

(B)a regulated investment company, real estate investment trust, or REMIC, and

(C)a cooperative.

(5)Stock in other corporations

(A)Look-thru in case of subsidiaries

For purposes of this subsection, stock and debt in any subsidiary corporation shall be disregarded and the parent corporation shall be deemed to own its ratable share of the subsidiary’s assets, and to conduct its ratable share of the subsidiary’s activities.

(B)Portfolio stock or securities

A corporation shall be treated as failing to meet the requirements of paragraph (1) for any period during which more than 10 percent of the value of its assets (in excess of liabilities) consists of stock or securities in other corporations which are not subsidiaries of such corporation (other than assets described in paragraph (6)).

(C)Subsidiary

For purposes of this paragraph, a corporation shall be considered a subsidiary if the parent owns more than 50 percent of the combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote, or more than 50 percent in value of all outstanding stock, of such corporation.

(6)Working capital

For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), any assets which—
(A)are held as a part of the reasonably required working capital needs of a [qualified trade or business](#) of the corporation, or

(B)are held for investment and are reasonably expected to be used within 2 years to finance research and experimentation in a [qualified trade or business](#) or increases in working capital needs of a [qualified trade or business](#),

shall be treated as used in the active conduct of a [qualified trade or business](#). For periods after the corporation has been in existence for at least 2 years, in no event may more than 50 percent of the assets of the corporation qualify as used in the active conduct of a [qualified trade or business](#) by reason of this paragraph.

(7)Maximum real estate holdings

A corporation shall not be treated as meeting the requirements of paragraph (1) for any period during which more than 10 percent of the total value of its assets consists of real property which is not used in the active conduct of a [qualified trade or business](#). For purposes of the preceding sentence, the ownership of, dealing in, or renting of real property shall not be treated as the active conduct of a [qualified trade or business](#).

(8)Computer software royalties

For purposes of paragraph (1), rights to computer software which produces active business computer software royalties (within the meaning of [section 543\(d\)\(1\)](#)) shall be treated as an asset used in the active conduct of a trade or business.

(f)Stock acquired on conversion of other stock

If any stock in a corporation is acquired solely through the conversion of other stock in such corporation which

is **qualified small business stock** in the hands of the taxpayer—

- (1)**the stock so acquired shall be treated as **qualified small business stock** in the hands of the taxpayer, and
- (2)**the stock so acquired shall be treated as having been held during the period during which the converted stock was held.

(g)Treatment of pass-thru entities

(1)In general

If any amount included in gross income by reason of holding an interest in a **pass-thru entity** meets the requirements of paragraph (2)—

(A)such amount shall be treated as gain described in subsection (a), and

(B)for purposes of applying subsection (b), such amount shall be treated as gain from a **disposition** of stock in the corporation issuing the stock disposed of by the **pass-thru entity** and the taxpayer's proportionate share of the adjusted basis of the **pass-thru entity** in such stock shall be taken into account.

(2)Requirements

An amount meets the requirements of this paragraph if—

(A)such amount is attributable to gain on the sale or exchange by the **pass-thru entity** of stock which is **qualified small business stock** in the hands of such entity (determined by treating such entity as an individual) and which was held by such entity for at least 3 years (more than 5 years in the case of stock acquired on or before the **applicable date**), and

(B)such amount is includible in the gross income of the taxpayer by reason of the holding of an interest in such entity which was held by the taxpayer on the date on which such **pass-thru entity** acquired such stock and at

all times thereafter before the **disposition** of such stock by such **pass-thru entity**.

(3) Limitation based on interest originally held by taxpayer

Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any amount to the extent such amount exceeds the amount to which paragraph (1) would have applied if such amount were determined by reference to the interest the taxpayer held in the **pass-thru entity** on the date the **qualified small business stock** was acquired.

(4) Pass-thru entity

For purposes of this subsection, the term "**pass-thru entity**" means—

- (A)** any partnership,
- (B)** any S corporation,
- (C)** any regulated investment company, and
- (D)** any common trust fund.

(h) Certain tax-free and other transfers

For purposes of this section—

(1) In general

In the case of a transfer described in paragraph (2), the transferee shall be treated as—

- (A)** having acquired such stock in the same manner as the transferor, and
- (B)** having held such stock during any continuous period immediately preceding the transfer during which it was held (or treated as held under this subsection) by the transferor.

(2) Description of transfers

A transfer is described in this subsection if such transfer is—

- (A)** by gift,
- (B)** at death, or

(C)from a partnership to a partner of stock with respect to which requirements similar to the requirements of subsection (g) are met at the time of the transfer (without regard to the 5-year holding period requirement).

(3) Certain rules made applicable

Rules similar to the rules of [section 1244\(d\)\(2\)](#) shall apply for purposes of this section.

(4) Incorporations and reorganizations involving nonqualified stock

(A) In general

In the case of a transaction described in [section 351](#) or a reorganization described in [section 368](#), if [qualified small business stock](#) is exchanged for other stock which would not qualify as [qualified small business stock](#) but for this subparagraph, such other stock shall be treated as [qualified small business stock](#) acquired on the date on which the exchanged stock was acquired.

(B) Limitation

This section shall apply to gain from the sale or exchange of stock treated as [qualified small business stock](#) by reason of subparagraph (A) only to the extent of the gain which would have been recognized at the time of the transfer described in subparagraph (A) if [section 351](#) or [section 368](#) had not applied at such time. The preceding sentence shall not apply if the stock which is treated as [qualified small business stock](#) by reason of subparagraph (A) is issued by a corporation which (as of the time of the transfer described in subparagraph (A)) is a [qualified small business](#).

(C) Successive application

For purposes of this paragraph, stock treated as [qualified small business stock](#) under subparagraph (A) shall be so treated for subsequent transactions or reorganizations, except that the limitation of subparagraph (B) shall be applied as of the time of the first transfer to which such limitation applied (determined after the application of the second sentence of subparagraph (B)).

(D)Control test

In the case of a transaction described in section 351, this paragraph shall apply only if, immediately after the transaction, the corporation issuing the stock owns directly or indirectly stock representing control (within the meaning of section 368(c)) of the corporation whose stock was exchanged.

(i)Basis rules

For purposes of this section—

(1)Stock exchanged for property

In the case where the taxpayer transfers property (other than money or stock) to a corporation in exchange for stock in such corporation—

(A)such stock shall be treated as having been acquired by the taxpayer on the date of such exchange, and

(B)the basis of such stock in the hands of the taxpayer shall in no event be less than the fair market value of the property exchanged.

(2)Treatment of contributions to capital

If the adjusted basis of any [qualified small business stock](#) is adjusted by reason of any contribution to capital after the date on which such stock was originally issued, in determining the amount of the adjustment by reason of such contribution, the basis of the contributed property shall in no event be treated as less than its fair market value on the date of the contribution.

(j) Treatment of certain short positions

(1) In general

If the taxpayer has an offsetting short position with respect to any [qualified small business stock](#), subsection (a) shall not apply to any gain from the sale or exchange of such stock unless—

(A) such stock was held by the taxpayer for at least 3 years (more than 5 years in the case of stock acquired on or before the [applicable date](#)) as of the first day on which there was such a short position, and

(B) the taxpayer elects to recognize gain as if such stock were sold on such first day for its fair market value.

(2) Offsetting short position

For purposes of paragraph (1), the taxpayer shall be treated as having an offsetting short position with respect to any [qualified small business stock](#) if—

(A) the taxpayer has made a short sale of substantially identical property,

(B) the taxpayer has acquired an option to sell substantially identical property at a fixed price, or

(C) to the extent provided in regulations, the taxpayer has entered into any other transaction which substantially reduces the risk of loss from holding such [qualified small business stock](#).

For purposes of the preceding sentence, any reference to the taxpayer shall be treated as including a reference to any person who is related (within the meaning of section [267\(b\)](#) or [707\(b\)](#)) to the taxpayer.

(k) Regulations

The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations to prevent the avoidance of the purposes of this section through split-ups, shell corporations, partnerships, or otherwise.

(Added Pub. L. 103–66, title XIII, § 13113(a), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 422; amended Pub. L. 104–188, title I, § 1621(b)(7), Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1867; Pub. L. 106–554, § 1(a)(7) [title I, § 117(a), (b)(2)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A–604; Pub. L. 108–357, title VIII, § 835(b)(9), Oct. 22, 2004, 118 Stat. 1594; Pub. L. 111–5, div. B, title I, § 1241(a), Feb. 17, 2009, 123 Stat. 342; Pub. L. 111–240, title II, § 2011(a), (b), Sept. 27, 2010, 124 Stat. 2554; Pub. L. 111–312, title VII, §§ 753(b), 760(a), Dec. 17, 2010, 124 Stat. 3321, 3323; Pub. L. 112–240, title III, §§ 324(a), (b), 327(b), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 2333, 2334; Pub. L. 113–295, div. A, title I, § 136(a), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 4019; Pub. L. 114–113, div. Q, title I, § 126(a), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 3054; Pub. L. 115–141, div. U, title IV, § 401(d)(1)(D)(xv), (4)(B)(v), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1208, 1209; Pub. L. 119–21, title VII, §§ 70302(b)(11), 70431(a)(1)–(3), (4)(B), (5), (b)(1)–(3), (c)(1), (2), July 4, 2025, 139 Stat. 192, 240–242.)