

# ***TR 93/D19 - Income tax: tax shortfall penalties: calculation of a tax shortfall and allocation of additional tax***

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This document has been finalised by TR 94/3.

## Draft Taxation Ruling

### Income tax: tax shortfall penalties: calculation of a tax shortfall and allocation of additional tax

*Draft Taxation Rulings (DTRs) represent the preliminary, though considered, views of the Australian Taxation Office.*

*DTRs may not be relied on by taxation officers, taxpayers and practitioners. It is only final Taxation Rulings which represent authoritative statements by the Australian Taxation Office of its stance on the particular matters covered in the Ruling.*

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## What this Ruling is about

1. This Ruling outlines the general basis on which additional tax should be calculated under sections 226G, 226H, 226J, 226K, 226L and 226M (the shortfall sections) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (ITAA).

## Ruling

2. Additional tax under the shortfall sections is calculated in respect of a tax shortfall or part of a tax shortfall. While a tax shortfall is broadly the gross difference between the tax properly payable by a taxpayer and the tax that would have been payable by the taxpayer if it were assessed on the basis of the taxpayer's return, a tax shortfall will frequently need to be split into its component parts to determine the correct application of the shortfall sections.

3. The examples below illustrate the calculations to be followed in applying shortfall sections. The examples recognise that in the course of an audit a tax officer may detect a number of items that require adjustment, some of which may warrant penalty, some of which may not. In addition, there may be adjustments made in a taxpayer's favour which may or may not relate to the debit adjustments made. Further, the adjustments may be to income, deductions, rebates, foreign tax credits or offsets of franking deficit tax.

4. The basic rule is that if there is not a tax shortfall for a year then additional tax cannot be imposed. For example, if a taxpayer has omitted an amount of income, but the tax related to that matter is more than offset by an adjustment in the taxpayer's favour (whether or not

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related to the omitted income), no additional tax would be payable. Accordingly, the examples below only cover situations where, after the various adjustments to the taxpayer's assessment, there is a tax shortfall. Although all of the examples assume that the taxpayer was taxable to start with, the same principles for calculating penalty would apply where a taxpayer had originally returned a loss, provided there was in fact a tax shortfall after all adjustments had been made.

5. The examples below are assumed to be in respect of assessments for the 1992-93 year of income for a resident individual taxpayer. The principles illustrated apply equally to the calculation of penalty under the shortfall sections for other kinds of taxpayers.

## Date of effect

6. This Ruling (that is, the final Taxation Ruling based on this Draft Taxation Ruling) sets out the current practice of the Australian Taxation Office and is not concerned with a change in interpretation. Consequently, it applies from the date on which the shortfall sections commenced to operate.

## Examples

7. The examples below are based around combinations of the following income/rebate/credit adjustments:

TAXABLE INCOME AS RETURNED / ASSESSED	(TIAR/A)	35,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (caused by recklessness - penalty 50%)	(IM NO.1)	1,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (caused by lack of reasonable care - penalty 25%)	(IM NO.2)	2,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (not culpable - no penalty)	(IM NO.3)	500
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 4 (OVERSTATEMENT OF INCOME UNRELATED TO OTHER MISSTATEMENTS)	(UIM)	(300)
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (caused by recklessness - penalty 50%)	(R/C NO.1)	500
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (caused by lack of reasonable care - penalty 25%)	(R/C NO.2)	1,000
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 3	(UR/C)	(400)

(UNDERSTATED REBATE/CREDIT UNRELATED  
TO OTHER REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENTS)

**NOTES:**

- "income misstatements" may be either understated income amounts or overstated deductions, or a combination of both;
- "credits" for penalty purposes are foreign tax credits under Divisions 18, 18A and 18B of Part III of the ITAA, and offsets of franking deficit tax;
- for the purpose of calculating tax shortfalls in the following examples, 1992-93 resident individual rates of tax have been used;
- for the purpose of calculating interest in the following examples, the tax is assumed to have been avoided for a period of one year, and the rate of interest for the purpose of section 170AA of the ITAA is assumed to be 9.6% for that whole year.

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**EXAMPLE A:****INCOME INCREASE**

TAXABLE INCOME AS RETURNED / ASSESSED	(TIAR/A)	35,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (penalty 50%)	(IM NO.1)	1,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (penalty 25%)	(IM NO.2)	2,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (no penalty 0%)	(IM NO.3)	500
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 4 (UNRELATED OVERSTATEMENTS)	(UIM)	(300)

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TIAR/A		35,000
Less UIM		<u>300</u>
		34,700
Plus	IM NO.1	1,000
	IM NO.2	2,000
	IM NO.3	<u>500</u>
Net Debit Adjustment		3,500
Amended Taxable Income (ATI)		<u>38,200</u>

**Tax Shortfall**

Tax on ATI	38,200	9,886
Less		
Tax on TIAR/A	35,000	8,494
Plus		
Adjusted Medicare Levy		40
Tax Shortfall		<u>1,432</u>

**Allocation of Tax Shortfall to Income Misstatements**

IM NO.1	IM NO.2	IM NO.3
$\frac{1,000}{3,500} \times 1,432$	$\frac{2,000}{3,500} \times 1,432$	$\frac{500}{3,500} \times 1,432$
= 409.14	= 818.28	=204.57

**Penalties**

IM NO.1	IM NO.2	IM NO.3
50% flat	25% flat	no penalty
$409.14 \times 50\%$	$818.28 \times 25\%$	
= 204.57	= 204.57	

Total Penalties = 204.57 + 204.57 = \$409.14

**Interest**

$1432 \times 9.6\% = \$137.47$  (deductible)

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**EXAMPLE B:****REBATE/CREDIT REDUCTION**

TAXABLE INCOME AS RETURNED / ASSESSED	(TIAR/A)	35,000
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (penalty 50%) (R/C NO.1)		500
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (penalty 25%) (R/C NO.2)		1,000
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (UNRELATED UNDERSTATED REBATE)	(UR/C)	(400)
<hr/>		
TIAR/A		35,000
Amended Taxable Income (ATI)		35,000

**Tax Shortfall**

Tax on ATI	35,000	8,494	
Less			
Tax on TIAR/A	35,000	<u>8,494</u>	
			0
Plus R/C No.1		500	
R/C No.2		<u>1,000</u>	
			1,500
Less UR/C		<u>400</u>	
			1,100
Tax Shortfall			<u>1,100</u>

**Allocation of Tax Shortfall to Rebate/Credit Misstatements**

R/C NO.1	R/C NO.2
<u>500</u> x 1,100	<u>1,000</u> x 1,100
1,500	1,500
= 366.66	= 733.33

**Penalties**

R/C NO.1	R/C NO.2
50% flat	25% flat
366.66 x 50%	733.33 x 25%
= 183.33	= 183.33

Total Penalties = 183.33 + 183.33 = \$366.66

**Interest**

1,100 x 9.6% = \$105.60 (deductible)

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**EXAMPLE C****INCOME INCREASE, REBATE/CREDIT INCREASE**

TAXABLE INCOME AS RETURNED / ASSESSED	(TIAR/A)	35,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (penalty 50%)	(IM NO.1)	1,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (penalty 25%)	(IM NO.2)	2,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (no penalty)	(IM NO.3)	500
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 4 (UNRELATED OVERSTATEMENT)	(UIM)	(300)
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (UNRELATED UNDERSTATED REBATE)	(UR/C)	(400)

TIAR/A	35,000
Less UIM	300
	<u>34,700</u>
Plus	
IM NO.1	1,000
IM NO.2	2,000
IM NO.3	500
	<u>3,500</u>
Net debit adjustment	3,500
Amended Taxable Income (ATI)	<u>38,200</u>

**Tax Shortfall**

Tax on ATI	38,200	9,886
Less		
Tax on TIAR/A	35,000	<u>8,494</u>
		1,392
Plus		
Adjusted Medicare Levy		40
Less		
Unrelated Rebate (UR/C)		(400)
Tax Shortfall		<u>1,032</u>

**Allocation of Tax Shortfall to Income Misstatements**

IM NO.1	IM NO.2	IM NO.3
<u>1,000</u> x 1,032	<u>2,000</u> x 1,032	<u>500</u> x 1,032
3,500	3,500	3,500
= 294.85	= 589.71	= 147.42

**Penalties**

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IM NO.1

50% flat

 $294.85 \times 50\%$  $= 147.42$ 

IM NO.2

25%flat

 $589.71 \times 25\%$  $= 147.42$ 

IM NO.3

no penalty

 $\text{Total Penalties} = 147.42 + 147.42 = \$294.84$ **Interest** $1,032 \times 9.6\% = \$99.07 \text{ (deductible)}$



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**EXAMPLE D****INCOME INCREASE, REBATE/CREDIT REDUCTION**

TAXABLE INCOME AS RETURNED / ASSESSED	(TIAR/A)	35,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (penalty 50%)	(IM NO.1)	1,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (penalty 25%)	(IM NO.2)	2,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 ( no penalty)	(IM NO.3)	500
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 4 (UNRELATED OVERSTATEMENT)	(UIM)	(300)
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (penalty 50%)	(R/C NO.1)	500
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (penalty 25%)	(R/C NO.2)	1,000
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (UNRELATED UNDERSTATED REBATE)	(UR/C)	(400)

TIAR/A	35,000
Less UIM	300
	<u>34,700</u>
Plus	
IM NO.1	1,000
IM NO.2	2,000
IM NO.3	500
	<u>3,500</u>
Net debit adjustment	
Amended Taxable Income (ATI)	<u>38,200</u>

**Tax Shortfall**

Tax on ATI	38,200	9,886	
Less			
Tax on TIAR/A	35,000	<u>8,494</u>	1,392
Plus			
Adjusted Medicare Levy		<u>40</u>	1,432
Plus			
R/C NO.1	500		
R/C NO. 2	1000		
UR/C	<u>(400)</u>		
			<u>1,100</u>
Tax Shortfall			<u>2,532</u>

**Allocation of Tax Shortfall to Income and Rebate/Credit Misstatements**

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IM NO.1  
 $\frac{1,000}{3,500} \times 1,432$   
 = 409.14

IM NO.2  
 $\frac{2,000}{3,500} \times 1,432$   
 = 818.28

IM NO.3  
 $\frac{500}{3,500} \times 1,432$   
 = 204.57

R/C NO.1  
 $\frac{500}{1,500} \times 1,100$   
 = 366.66

R/C NO.2  
 $\frac{1,000}{1,500} \times 1,100$   
 = 733.33

**Penalties**

IM NO.1  
 50% flat  
 $409.14 \times 50\%$   
 = 204.57

IM NO.2  
 25% flat  
 $818.28 \times 25\%$   
 = 204.57

IM NO.3  
 no penalty

R/C NO.1  
 50% flat  
 $366.66 \times 50\%$   
 = 183.33

R/C NO.2  
 25% flat  
 $733.33 \times 25\%$   
 = 183.33

Total Penalties =  $204.57 + 204.57 + 183.33 + 183.33 = \$775.80$

**Interest**

$2532 \times 9.6\% = \$243.07$  (deductible)

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**EXAMPLE E****INCOME REDUCTION, REBATE/CREDIT REDUCTION**

TAXABLE INCOME AS RETURNED / ASSESSED	(TIAR/A)	35,000
INCOME MISSTATEMENT NO. 4 (OVERSTATEMENT)	(UIM)	(300)
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 1 (penalty 50%)	(R/C NO.1)	500
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 2 (penalty 25%)	(R/C NO.2)	1,000
REBATE/CREDIT MISSTATEMENT NO. 3 (UNRELATED UNDERSTATED REBATE)	(UR/C)	(400)
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TIAR/A		35,000
Less UIM		300
Amended Taxable Income (ATI)		<u>34,700</u>

**Tax Shortfall**

Tax on ATI	34,700	8,380	
Less			
Tax on TIAR/A	35,000	<u>8,494</u>	
			(114)
Less Medicare Levy			(3.75)
Plus R/C No.1	500		
R/C No.2	1,000	1,500	
Less UR/C		<u>400</u>	
			<u>1,100</u>
Tax Shortfall			982.25

**Allocation of Tax Shortfall to Rebate/Credit Misstatements**

R/C NO.1	R/C NO.2
<u>500</u> x 982.25	<u>1,000</u> x 982.25
1,500	1,500
= 327.41	= 654.83

**Penalties**

R/C NO.1	R/C NO.2
50% flat	25% flat
327.41 x 50%	654.83 x 25%
= 163.70	= 163.70

Total Penalties = 163.70 + 163.70 = \$327.40

**Interest**

982.25 x 9.6% = \$94.29 (deductible)

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## ATO references

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## FOI index detail

*reference number**subject references*

- additional tax
- calculation
- self assessment
- tax shortfall

*legislative references*

- ITAA 170AA; ITAA 226G;  
ITAA 226H; ITAA 226J;  
ITAA 226K; ITAA 226L;  
ITAA 226M