Draft Taxation Determinations (TDs) represent the preliminary, though considered, views of the ATO. Draft TDs may not be relied on; only final TDs are authoritative statements of the ATO.

Draft Taxation Determination

Income tax: in calculating the residual value of a leased item, may a lower residual value than those outlined in IT 28 be adopted in light of the more generous depreciation rates?

1. No. The residual value of a leased item should reflect its market value at the end of the lease.

2. The table at para. 20 of IT 28 is intended to be a rough guide to the minimum market value of items with different effective lives. It is based on a straight-line amortisation of the cost of an item over its effective life, requiring a minimum residual value of 75% of the cost written down in that way. It is not based on actual depreciation allowable, whether by the diminishing value method or at accelerated or broadbanded rates, although the table in IT 28 was set out, for convenience, according to prime cost depreciation rates.

3. A table based on effective lives, rather than depreciation rates, is set out below.

Minimum residual values - percentage of cost

	Plant and machinery classified according to effective life in years				
	5	6.66	10	13.3	20
Term of lease					
1st year	60	63.75	67.5	68.5	70
2nd year	45	52.5	60.0	62.5	65
3rd year	30	41.25	52.5	55.0	60
4th year	15	30.0	45.0	50.0	55
5th year	nil	18.75	37.5	45.0	50

A residual value lower than those outlined in the table may be used where a well considered and fair estimate of the likely market value of the item at the end of the lease would result in a lower value

Example

An asset with an effective life of 20 years, acquired after 26 February 1992, is leased for 4 years.

The 20 year effective life column should be used to determine an acceptable minimum residual value, even though the prime cost rate of depreciation for such an asset would now be 13%. In the absence of evidence indicating that the asset would have a lower market value at the end of the lease, the minimum acceptable residual value for the item would be 55% of the cost of the asset.

Commissioner of Taxation
6/5/93

FOI INDEX DETAIL: Reference No.

Related Determinations:

Related Rulings: IT 28

Subject Ref: Leasing; residual values.

Legislative Ref:

Case Ref:

ATO Ref: 92/1936-6

ISSN 1038 - 8982