



BEPS ACTION 10: PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO CHAPTER VII OF THE TRANSFER PRICING GUIDELINES RELATING TO LOW VALUE-ADDING INTRA- GROUP SERVICES

ICAEW welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Public Discussion Draft [BEPS Action 10: Proposed modifications to Chapter VII of the transfer pricing guidelines relating to low value-adding intra-group services](#) published by OECD on 3 November 2014.

This response of 14 January 2015 has been prepared on behalf of ICAEW by the Tax Faculty. Internationally recognised as a source of expertise, the Faculty is a leading authority on taxation. It is responsible for making submissions to tax authorities on behalf of ICAEW and does this with support from over 130 volunteers, many of whom are well-known names in the tax world. Appendix 1 sets out the ICAEW Tax Faculty's Ten Tenets for a Better Tax System, by which we benchmark proposals for changes to the tax system.

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For more information, please contact ICAEW Tax Faculty: taxfac@icaew.com

icaew.com

1. In paragraph 7.47 we think that “purchasing activities” should be added to the list of activities considered as qualifying for the simplified approach outlined.
2. In paragraph 7.48 there should be some recognition that the legal services mentioned may not all be of a routine nature and so “low value-adding”.
3. We consider that the proposed mark-up in paragraph D.2.3, in the range of 2% to 5%, is reasonable and agrees with the views of our business members as to what is an appropriate mark up.

lan.young@icaew.com

APPENDIX 1

ICAEW TAX FACULTY'S TEN TENETS FOR A BETTER TAX SYSTEM

The tax system should be:

1. Statutory: tax legislation should be enacted by statute and subject to proper democratic scrutiny by Parliament.
2. Certain: in virtually all circumstances the application of the tax rules should be certain. It should not normally be necessary for anyone to resort to the courts in order to resolve how the rules operate in relation to his or her tax affairs.
3. Simple: the tax rules should aim to be simple, understandable and clear in their objectives.
4. Easy to collect and to calculate: a person's tax liability should be easy to calculate and straightforward and cheap to collect.
5. Properly targeted: when anti-avoidance legislation is passed, due regard should be had to maintaining the simplicity and certainty of the tax system by targeting it to close specific loopholes.
6. Constant: Changes to the underlying rules should be kept to a minimum. There should be a justifiable economic and/or social basis for any change to the tax rules and this justification should be made public and the underlying policy made clear.
7. Subject to proper consultation: other than in exceptional circumstances, the Government should allow adequate time for both the drafting of tax legislation and full consultation on it.
8. Regularly reviewed: the tax rules should be subject to a regular public review to determine their continuing relevance and whether their original justification has been realised. If a tax rule is no longer relevant, then it should be repealed.
9. Fair and reasonable: the revenue authorities have a duty to exercise their powers reasonably. There should be a right of appeal to an independent tribunal against all their decisions.
10. Competitive: tax rules and rates should be framed so as to encourage investment, capital and trade in and with the UK.

These are explained in more detail in our discussion document published in October 1999 as TAXGUIDE 4/99 (see icaew.com/en/technical/tax/tax-faculty/~media/Files/Technical/Tax/Tax%20news/TaxGuides/TAXGUIDE-4-99-Towards-a-Better-tax-system.ashx)