LB&I International Practice Service Process Unit – Audit

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Volume	18	Foreign Currency	Level 1 UIL	9470
Part	18.2	Transactions in a foreign currency - §988	Level 2 UIL	9470.02
Chapter	18.2.1	Computation of exchange gain or loss - general	Level 3 UIL	9470.02-01
Sub-Chapter	N/A		_	_

Unit Name	How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

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Table of Contents

(View this PowerPoint in "Presentation View" to click on the links below)

Process Overview

Determination of Process Applicability

Summary of Process Steps

Process Steps

Other Considerations and Impacts to Audit

Training and Additional Resources

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Index of Related Issues

Process Overview

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Process Description

Under IRC 6707A and the regs under IRC 6011, if a taxpayer incurs or deducts a foreign currency loss under IRC 988 in excess of \$10,000,000 for corporations and partnerships (with only corporate partners) (\$50,000 for individuals and trusts), then it must complete and attach a copy of Form 8886 Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement to the original or amended return. If the taxpayer does not file the Form 8886 there are penalties for failure to complete and attach the Form 8886. The amount of the penalty varies depending on the type of entity, the date when the assessment is being made, and whether it was reportable transaction or a listed transaction.

Rev. Proc. 2013-11 (modifying and superseding Rev. Proc. 2004-66) limits reporting of transactions for certain losses under Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b)(5). The IRC 988 loss must be ordinary (except for certain banks) and also excludes mark-to-market losses under Treas. Reg. 1.988-5(a)(6). If no reporting is required then there is no penalty for failure to file

If the taxpayer is required to file a copy of the Form 8886, then it must also send a copy to the Office of Tax Shelter Analysis ("OTSA"). The penalties for failure to file a copy of the Form 8886 with OTSA are the same as they are for not filing a disclosure with the taxpayer's return.

The penalties are in addition to any other penalties imposed. The penalties may be determined through examination of taxpayer, preparer or promoter filings. The penalty will not be imposed until the taxpayer files a return and fails to provide the required disclosure statement or fails to file the Form 8886 with OTSA. There is no reasonable cause exception to this penalty. IRS Commissioner can rescind all or any portion of the penalty upon application by the taxpayer, but not for listed transactions. Rev. Proc. 2007-21 and Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1(d). There is no judicial appeal of Commissioner's determination.

The assessment of penalties must be disclosed in any SEC filings the taxpayer is required to make.

IRM 4.32.4 contains all of the technical and processing information needed to develop and close a penalty case under IRC 6707A.

Process Overview cont'd

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Example Circumstances Under Which Process Applies

While examining a corporate tax return, field personnel learn that there is a IRC 988 loss deducted on the return and the amount of the loss exceeds \$10,000,000. A Form 8886 Disclosure was not filed with the return. First, field personnel should ask the taxpayer to explain why a Form 8886 was not filed with the return. If the taxpayer does not provide an adequate explanation or exception for failing to file a Form 8886 Disclosure, or if the taxpayer provides a copy of a Form 8886 which is incomplete, then field personnel may begin the process of determining whether assessing penalties for failure to file Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses as discussed below is appropriate. Second, field personnel should determine whether a copy of the Form 8886 was filed with the Office of Tax Shelter Analysis ("OTSA"), if not, then field personnel should consider assessing penalties for failure to file Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses with OTSA.

Determination of Process Applicability

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Verify whether the taxpayer deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amounts which require disclosure.

Criteria	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
 Determine whether a taxpayer deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure. 	■ IRC 6707A ■ Treas. Reg. 6707A-1 ■ Treas. Regs. 1.6011	
 Ascertain whether the taxpayer filed a Form 8886 with the return and whether it was complete and accurate 	■ IRM 4.32.4.1.3 ■ Penalties PN Website and Audit Tools	
 Determine whether the taxpayer filed a copy of the Form 8886 with OTSA 	■ Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1(c) and Example 6 ■ IRM 4.32.4.3.2.1	
 Obtain management approval to proceed with penalty case 	■ IRM 4.32.4.4	

Determination of Process Applicability cont'd

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Verify whether the taxpayer deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amounts which require disclosure.

Criteria	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
If penalties have been assessed, determine if any or all of the penalty should be rescinded (only available for non-listed transactions).	■ IRM 4.32.4.8(1) and (2) ■ IRC 6707A ■ Treas. Reg. 6707A-1 ■ Treas. Regs. 1.6011	
If penalties have been assessed, determine if any or all of the penalty should be rescinded (only available for non-listed transactions).	■ IRM 4.32.4.9 ■ IRM 1.32.4.10 ■ Rev. Proc. 2007-21 ■ Treas. Reg. 301-6707A-1(d)	

Summary of Process Steps

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses		
Step 1	Determine whether a taxpayer has deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure.	
Step 2	Determine whether a taxpayer filed Form 8886 with the return and whether it was complete and accurate.	
Step 3	Determine whether the taxpayer filed a copy of the Form 8886 with OTSA.	
Step 4	If a Form 8886 Disclosure was not filed with the original return, was not filed with OTSA or the information contained on the Form 8886 Disclosure was inaccurate or incomplete, consider assessing penalties.	

Summary of Process Steps cont'd

| Step 5 | If penalties are going to be assessed, before proceeding, obtain necessary approval from immediate manager and Territory Manager to proceed with the penalty. | Step 6 | Calculate the amount of the penalty based on the year of assessment, the type of taxpayer and the type of transaction not disclosed (reportable or listed). | Step 7 | Prepare a Revenue Agent Report and issue to the taxpayer with a thirty-day letter.

If the taxpayer agrees with the proposed penalty, obtain a signed Form 870 documenting taxpayer agreement.

Step 8

Summary of Process Steps cont'd

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses			
Step 9	If penalties have been assessed, determine if all or any portion of the penalty being assessed should be abated.		
Step 10	If penalties have been assessed, determine if any or all of the penalty should be rescinded (only available for non-listed transactions).		

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 1: Determine whether a taxpayer has deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
 Did the taxpayer deduct a IRC 988 foreign currency on its US return? Review the taxpayer's return and determine if any IRC 988 foreign currency losses were deducted. Other income and other deductions are common lines on the return where foreign currency losses will be included as deductions or netted against other foreign currency gains. The amount of IRC 988 losses, which may not be netted or offset against any gains, is the determining factor in whether a Form 8886 disclosure may be required to be filed. 	 Issue an IDR asking whether any foreign currency losses were included on the return. IRM 1.32.4 1.6011-4(b)(5)(iii)(A) Forms: 1120, lines 11 and 26 1120-S 1065, pg. 1, lines 7 and 20 Sch K, lines 11 and 13d 1040, line 21, Sch C, Sch E 1041, lines 8 and 15a 	
 Determine whether the E&P of a foreign entity owned by the taxpayer is reduced by more than \$10 million due to a IRC 988 loss. 	■ Foreign Information Forms: - 5471, Sch C, lines 8 and 16 - 8865, Sch B, lines 7 and 20 - Sch K, lines 11 and 13d - 8858, lines 4 and 6 - 4520	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 1: Determine whether a taxpayer has deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Determine whether the loss was in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886	■ IRC 6707A	
Disclosure, (unless an exception applies, see Step 2):	■ Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b)(5)	
Loss amount exceeds:	■ Form 8886 Reportable Transaction	
■ \$10,000,000 for corporations and	Disclosure Statement (2011)	
partnerships (with only corporate partners)		
\$2,000,000 for all other partnerships		
■ \$50,000 for individuals and trusts		

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 1: Determine whether a taxpayer has deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Determine whether any of the exceptions for disclosure of the 988 losses apply to the taxpayer or the transaction: Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b)(5): IRC 988 loss is not treated as ordinary (except for banks). Rev. Proc. 2013-11, Sect. 4.03 provides that the following losses are not taken into account in determining whether a transaction is a loss transaction under Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b)(5): A loss from fire, storm, shipwreck, or other casualty, or from theft, as those terms are defined for purposes of IRC 165(c)(3); A loss from a compulsory or involuntary conversion as described in IRC 1231(a)(3)(A)(ii) and (a)(4)(B);	Rev. Proc. 2004-66 Rev. Proc. 2013-11, IRC 4.02 and .03	6103 Protected Resources
3. A loss to which IRC 475(a) or IRC 1256(a) applies;		

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 1: Determine whether a taxpayer has deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
 4. A loss arising from any mark-to-market treatment of an item under IRC 475(f), 1296(a), Treas. Regs. 1.446-4(e), 1.988-5(a)(6), or 1.1275-6(d)(2), and any loss from a sale or disposition of an item to which one of the foregoing provisions applied, provided that the taxpayer computes its loss by using a qualifying basis (as defined in IRM section 4.02(2) of this revenue procedure) or a basis resulting from previously marking the item to market, or computes its loss by making appropriate adjustments for previously determined mark-to-market gain or loss; 5. A loss arising from a hedging transaction described in IRC 1221(b), if the taxpayer properly identifies the transaction as a hedging transaction, or from a mixed straddle account under Treas. Reg. 1.1092(b)-4T. 	■ Rev. Proc. 2004-66 ■ Rev. Proc. 2013-11, Section 4.02 and .03	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 1: Determine whether a taxpayer has deducted a IRC 988 foreign currency loss in excess of the amount which requires the filing of a Form 8886 Disclosure.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Examiners should consult with Counsel if the examiner believes that a disclosure requirement may apply.	■ IRM 4.32.4.2.2(3)	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 2: Determine whether a taxpayer filed Form 8886 with the return and whether it was complete and accurate.

Determining whether a taxpayer filed Form 8886 with the return and whether it was complete and accurate requires following the rules and procedures below.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Review the taxpayer return and determine whether the taxpayer filed Form 8886 with the return and whether it was complete and accurate.	■ Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(e) ■ Forms: - 1120 - 1120-S - 1065 - 1040 - 1041 - 5471 - 8865 - 8858	
If Form 8886 was not attached to the return and it is required, then issue an IDR to the taxpayer asking for the rationale or citations for non-filing.	 Form 8886, Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement (2011) IRC 6707A Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1 	
Examiners should consult with Counsel if the examiner believes that a disclosure requirement may apply and whether it was complete and accurate.	■ IRM 4.32.4.2.2(3)	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 3: Determine whether the taxpayer filed a copy of the Form 8886 with OTSA

Determining whether the taxpayer filed a copy of the Form 8886 with OTSA should be determined based on the facts and using the procedures below.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Examiners should contact OTSA at the beginning of an examination to determine whether a Form 8886 was filed with OTSA and the date and tax year of such filing. The examiner should be prepared to provide the taxpayer's name, TIN, year or years of interest, type of transaction and whether the transaction was incomplete or not attached to the return.	 OTSA Website Contacts IRM 4.32.4.3.2.1(1) Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1(c) and Example 6 	
If Form 8886 was not filed with OTSA as required, then issue an IDR to the taxpayer asking for the rationale or citations for non-filing.	 Form 8886, Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement (2011) IRC 6707A Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1 	
Examiners should consult with Counsel if the examiner believes that a disclosure requirement may apply.	■ IRM 4.32.4.2.2(3)	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 4: Consider assessing penalties.

Consider assessing penalties if a Form 8886 Disclosure was not filed with the original return, was not filed with OTSA or the information contained on the Form 8886 Disclosure was inaccurate or incomplete based on the facts and procedures below.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
If a Form 8886 Disclosure was not filed with the original return, was not filed with OTSA or the information contained on the Form 8886 Disclosure was inaccurate or incomplete, consider assessing penalties.	■ IRC 6707A ■ Reg. 301.6707A-1 ■ 1.6011-4(b)(5)	
Consider any taxpayer responses to the IDR issued asking for the rationale or citations for non-filing regarding why the taxpayer either didn't attach a Form 8886, for any inaccuracies on the form or why the form was not filed with OTSA.	■ IRM 4.32.4.3.2(1) ■ Treas. Reg. 6707A-1(d)	
Examiners must evaluate a taxpayer's participation in a reportable transaction within the meaning of the regulations. This determination will vary based upon which version of the regulations is in effect for the transaction, so the date of the transaction and the actual language of the regulations must be consulted.	 IRM 4.32.4.2.2(1) Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(c)(3)(i)(A) through (3)(i)(G) 	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 4: Consider assessing penalties.

Consider assessing penalties if a Form 8886 Disclosure was not filed with the original return, was not filed with OTSA or the information contained on the Form 8886 Disclosure was inaccurate or incomplete based on the facts and procedures below.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Examiners should consult with Counsel if the examiner believes that a disclosure requirement may apply.	■ IRM 4.32.4.2.2(3)	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 5: Obtain the necessary approvals on the appropriate form.

If penalties are going to be assessed, before proceeding, obtain necessary approval from immediate manager and Territory Manager to proceed with the penalty.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
the Territory Manager level unless the	 IRM 4.32.4.4 IRM Exhibit 4.32.4-4, Case Overview and Record of Approval of IRC 6707A Penalty 	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 6: Calculate the amount of the penalty

Calculate the amount of the penalty based on the year of assessment, the type of taxpayer and the type of transaction not disclosed (reportable or listed) using the rules and procedures below.

Con	siderations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
	Assessment Date Prior to 12/31/06	 IRC 6707A(b) Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1 Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b) IRM 4.32.4.3.2.2 	
Reportable Transactio	ns:	Penalties PN - IRC 6707A Toolkit	
IndividualsAll other taxpayers	\$10,000 \$50,000		
Listed Transactions: Individual All other taxpayers	\$100,000 \$200,000		

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 6: Calculate the amount of the penalty

Calculate the amount of the penalty based on the year of assessment, the type of taxpayer and the type of transaction not disclosed (reportable or listed) using the rules and procedures below.

Cor	nsiderations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Summary of Potential -	Penalties (cont'd): Assessment Date 12/31/06 and Forward	 IRC 6707A(b) Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1 Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b) IRM 4.32.4.3.2.2 	
Listed Transactions:		Penalties PN - IRC 6707A Toolkit	
■ Individuals	\$5,000 minimum 75% of any tax Reduction reported/claimed \$100,000 maximum		
■ All other taxpayers	\$10,000 minimum 75% of any tax Reduction reported/claimed \$200,000 maximum		

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 6: Calculate the amount of the penalty

Calculate the amount of the penalty based on the year of assessment, the type of taxpayer and the type of transaction not disclosed (reportable or listed) using the rules and procedures below.

Cor	nsiderations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Summary of Potential	Penalties (cont'd): Assessment Date 12/31/06 and Forward	 IRC 6707A(b) Treas. Reg. 301.6707A-1 Treas. Reg. 1.6011-4(b) IRM 4.32.4.3.2.2 	
Reportable Transactio	ons:	■ Penalties PN - IRC 6707A Toolkit	
■ Individuals	\$5,000 minimum 75% of any tax Reduction reported/claimed \$10,000 maximum		
■ All other taxpayers	\$10,000 minimum 75% of any tax Reduction reported/claimed \$50,000 maximum		

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 7: Prepare a Revenue Agent Report and issue to the taxpayer with a thirty-day letter.

Prepare a Revenue Agent Report and issue to the taxpayer with a thirty-day letter.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
If it is determined that a penalty is appropriate and has been approved by management, then an RAR should be prepared and issued to the taxpayer with a 30-day letter.	■ IRM 4.32.4.5 ■ Penalties PN Website	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 8: Step 8: Secure a signed Form 870 documenting taxpayer agreement.

If the taxpayer agrees with the proposed penalty, obtain a signed Form 870 documenting taxpayer agreement.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
If the taxpayer agrees with the proposed penalty, obtain a signed Form 870 documenting taxpayer agreement.	■ IRM 4.32.4.5.1	
If the taxpayer does not agree to the penalty assessment, then the examiner should follow the procedures set forth in the IRM.	■ IRM 4.32.4.6	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 9: Determine if all or any portion of the penalty being assessed should be abated.

If penalties have been assessed, determine if all or any portion of the penalty being assessed should be abated using the rules and procedures below.

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Exam can abate a penalty only if the penalty does not legally apply and was assessed in error.	■ IRM 4.32.4.8(1)	
If the examiner determines that an assessment must be abated in full or in part, the examiner must comply with all of the procedures set forth in the IRM including obtaining approval from the case manager.	■ IRM 4.32.4.8(2)	

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Step 10: Determine if any or all of the penalty should be rescinded (only available for non-listed transactions).

If penalties have been assessed, determine if any or all of the penalty should be rescinded (only available for non-listed transactions).

Considerations	Resources	6103 Protected Resources
Determine if rescission of any penalty is appropriate. Consider any factors weighing in favor of rescission.	 IRM 4.32.4.9 IRM 1.32.4.10 Rev. Proc. 2007-21 Treas. Reg. 301-6707A-1(d) 	
Examiners should consult with Counsel if the examiner believes that a portion of an assessed penalty under 6707A should be rescinded.	■ IRM 4.32.4.2.2(3)	
Currently, in order to request rescission, a taxpayer must have exhausted the administrative remedies available within the Office of Appeals regarding the proposed assessment of the penalty.	■ IRM 4.32.4.10(2)	
If rescission is determined to be appropriate, then the procedures in the IRM should be followed.	■ IRM 4.32.9	

Other Considerations / Impact to Audit

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses		
Considerations	Resources	
Whether the transaction was structured and not disclosed due to a Confidentiality Agreement signed with a promoter. If so whether the transaction is a listed transaction.	OTSA Website	

Training and Additional Resources

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Type of Resource	Description(s) and/or Instructions for Accessing	References
SABA sessions	Refer to Foreign Currency IPN SharePoint Site for a complete listing of Foreign Currency SABA sessions	 INTL Foreign Currency Issues and IFRS plus Audit Techniques IBC ONLY – Foreign Currency & Int'l Matrix IBC Common Errors in translating Foreign Currency Building Blocks of Financial Products IE Phase I, Module E – Lesson 1 Foreign Currency IE Phase III, Module D – Interaction of International and Financial Products Issues FP Phase I, Lesson 9 Foreign Currency FP Phase III, Lesson 4 Foreign Currency

Training and Additional Resources cont'd

How to Assess Penalties for Failure to File Form 8886 Disclosing IRC 988 losses

Type of Resource	Description(s) and/or Instructions for Accessing	References
Reference Materials - Treatises	Other Reading Material	 Bittker & Lokken: Fundamentals of International Taxation, Chapter 74 (Foreign Currency) BNA Tax Management Portfolio 921-2nd Tax Aspects of Foreign Currency Keyes: Federal Taxation of Financial Instruments and Transactions (Chapter 15, Foreign Currency Denominated Instruments

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Term/Acronym	Definition	
AD	Assistant Director	
DFO	Director of Field Operations	
E&P	Earnings and Profits	
IBC	International Business Compliance	
INTL	International	
IRC	Internal Revenue Code	
IRM	Internal Revenue Manual	
LB&I	Large Business and International	
OTSA	Office of Tax Shelter Analysis	
PN	Practice Network	
SB/SE	Small Business/Self Employed	

Index of Related Issues

Issue	Associated UIL(s)	References
Foreign Currency Transactions Entered into by an Individual	■ 9470.02	FCU/P/18_02_01-09
Disposition of a Portion of an Integrated Hedge	■ 9470.02	FCU/T/18_02_03-01 (Formerly FCU/9470.02_03)
Disposition of Nonfunctional Currency	■ 9470.02	FCU/T/18_02_01-08
Integration of Executory Contract and the Currency Hedge	■ 9470.02	FCU/T/18_02_03-03
Legging into Integrated Treatment	■ 9470.02	FCU/T/18_02_03-02
Legging out of Hedged Executory Contract	■ 9470.02	FCU/T/18_02_03-04
Change in Functional Currency – How to Identify Issues	■ 9470.03	FCU/P/18_03_02-03