

LB&I Process Unit

Knowledge Base – Corporate/Business Issues & Credits

Library Level	Number	Title
Shelf		Deductible and Capital Expenditures
Book	252	Dispositions, Losses and Basis
Chapter	4	Dispositions of MACRS Property
Section		

Unit Name	Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building		
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Process Overview

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

This Process Unit focuses on identifying when taxpayers elect a partial disposition of a building or its structural components. The identification process occurs through a review of taxpayer documents and tax return information during an examination. After a positive identification, you, the examiner, can determine if there is a risk of noncompliance in recognizing the partial disposition.

Identifying that a taxpayer elected to take a partial disposition of a building is the first step in determining whether they are compliant with the IRC 168 disposition regulations. Taxpayers may make an annual partial disposition election to recognize the disposition of a portion of a building, including its structural components, in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014. The election is made by reporting the gain or loss on a timely-filed original tax return, including extensions, for the taxable year in which the portion of the building is disposed. No specific form or election statement is required to be attached to the return. The election may be made by any taxpayer having a depreciable interest in a building or its structural components. Electing a partial disposition of a building will generally result in a loss recognized on the tax return.

This Unit will also provide instances where taxpayers are required to recognize a partial disposition. Those include:

- A casualty event under IRC 165;
- A disposition of a portion of an asset for which gain is not recognized in whole or in part under IRC 1031 or 1033;
- Transfers of a portion of an asset in a "step-in-the-shoes" transaction described in IRC 168(i)(7)(B); or
- Sales of a portion of an asset.

Detailed Explanation of the Process

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building		
Analysis		
Tax Law		
Treasury Disposition Regulations under Section 1.168(i)-8 provide rules for recognizing gain or loss on the disposition of Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) property. Section 1.168(i)-8(d)(2) allows taxpayers to elect to recognize partial dispositions of MACRS property, including the disposition of a portion of a building or its structural components. The partial disposition election is an annual election for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014.		
The Section 168 regulations only apply to MACRS property. If the books and records show that the partially disposed asset was depreciated under a pre-MACRS method, a loss cannot be recognized on the partial disposition. Prior to these regulations, recognizing a loss on a disposed portion of an asset was generally prohibited, requiring taxpayers to continue depreciating the basis associated with the disposed portion. For example, a loss could not be recognized when an old roof was disposed and replaced with a new roof.		
Identification of Partial Disposition Election		
Since no specific form is filed in making the election, identification of a partial disposition election for a building, including its structural components, occurs through a review of documents and tax return information during an examination.		
 Review Annual Reports and Forms 10-K. Review the depreciation tax asset detail schedules. Review the tax return for specific forms filed related to asset dispositions. 		

Process Applicability

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Taxpayers may make annual election to recognize partial disposition of a building, including structural components. Election does not require a form or statement attached to the return. identification through review of documents and return information during exam.

Criteria	Resources
 Does the taxpayer's Annual Report or Form 10-K disclose any dispositions of property owned or leased? capital improvements made to property owned or leased? casualty events? involuntary conversions? like-kind exchange transactions? 	 IRC 168 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 263(a) Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-3 IRC 165 IRC 1033 IRC 1031
 Review the taxpayer's tax asset depreciation detail schedules for dispositions and capitalized improvements. Consider the taxpayer's line of business. Has the taxpayer capitalized improvements to a building or its structural components? Is the taxpayer the owner, lessor or lessee? Has the taxpayer implemented the IRC 263(a) Tangible Property Regulations (TPR)? For example, Form 3115, DCN 184. (For Form 3115, DCN stands for Designated Change Number.) Did the taxpayer file a Form 3115, DCN 196, in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, and before January 1, 2015, to make a late partial disposition election for partial dispositions in prior years? 	 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1) Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(2) IRC 263(a) Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-1, 2, 3 Form 3115 - Application for Change of Accounting Method

Process Applicability (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building		
Criteria	Resources	
 Does the taxpayer's tax return have forms, including attachments or supporting tax return information, that indicate a partial disposition of a building or its structural components? Form 4797 Form 8949 Form 8824 	 IRC 168 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 165 IRC 1033 IRC 1031 IRC 1221 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1) Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(2) Form 4797 - Sales of Business Property Form 8949 - Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets Form 8824 - Like-Kind Exchanges 	

Summary of Process Steps

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Process Steps

You will have to identify whether taxpayers under examination made a partial disposition election. Identification will occur through review of documents and tax return information for the year under examination.

<u>Step 1</u>	Review Annual Report or 10-K for Dispositions
<u>Step 2</u>	Review Tax Asset Depreciation Schedules
<u>Step 3</u>	Review Forms 4797, 8949 and 8824

Step 1: Review Annual Report or 10-K for Dispositions

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Step 1

Review Annual Report or Form 10-K for dispositions.

Considerations	Resources
In General	
Reviewing the taxpayer's Annual Report or its Form 10-K can provide you with a framework of what occurred in the taxpayer's business during the taxable year. These documents may provide sections regarding challenges or opportunities that the taxpayer encountered. The disclosures can assist you in determining if the taxpayer had opportunities to make the election or was required to recognize the disposition of assets or portions of assets. For example, these disclosures might include: • A casualty event; • An involuntary conversion; or • Projects such as remodels or improvements.	

Step 1: Review Annual Report or 10-K for Dispositions (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Step 1

Considerations	Resources
 <u>Tangible Property Regulations and Disposition Regulations</u> The Tangible Property Regulations (TPR) under 1.263(a)-3 provide rules for improvements to buildings, including their structural components. The TPR and the disposition regulations under 1.168(i)-8 interact with each other. In some cases, capitalization of the replacement costs is required on the partial disposition of an asset or portion of an asset. A review of the Annual Report or 10-K may help determine if there was a partial disposition of a building or its structural components that required the taxpayer to capitalize the replacement of the disposed portion of the asset. Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-3(k) requires capitalization when a part or a combination of parts, that comprise a major component or substantial structural part of a Unit of Property (UOP), is replaced. Replacement costs must be capitalized regardless of the size or importance if: The taxpayer has properly deducted a loss for that component; The taxpayer has properly considered the adjusted basis of the component in realizing gain or loss resulting from the sale or exchange of the component; or A UOP is restored following a casualty loss/event under Section 165. Refer to Section 263(a) for capitalization requirements. 	 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2) IRC 168 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 263(a) Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-3 IRC 165 IRC 1033 IRC 1031

Step 1: Review Annual Report or 10-K for Dispositions (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Step 1

Considerations	Resources
Partial Dispositions Required Review the Annual Report or 10-K for statements regarding casualty events or involuntary conversions such as a flood, hurricane, fire or other disaster; or the exchange of property in a like-kind exchange. Certain partial dispositions are required to be recognized: • A casualty event described in IRC 165;	 IRC 168 IRC 165 IRC 1033 IRC 1031 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2) Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8
 A disposition of a portion of an asset for which gain (determined without regard to Sections 1245 or 1250) is not recognized in whole or in part under Sections 1033 or 1031. Transfers of a portion of an asset in a "step-in-the-shoes" transaction described in Section 168(i)(7)(B); or Sales of a portion of an asset. 	
Statements of Other Asset Dispositions	
Look for statements regarding the disposition of any property owned or leased by the taxpayer. Does the taxpayer state that it has abandoned, sold, retired, or exchanged property, such as a building or its structural components? For example, the Annual Report may state that a building or other property was destroyed.	

Step 2: Review Tax Asset Depreciation Schedules

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Step 2

Review the tax asset depreciation detail schedules for dispositions and capitalization.

Considerations	Resources
Tax Asset Depreciation Schedules Review the tax asset depreciation detail schedules for dispositions, partial dispositions and capitalized improvements. The tax depreciation schedules can provide information as to assets capitalized in the current year and assets or portions of assets disposed in the current year. If any of the descriptions appear to be related to a building or its structural components, the taxpayer may have elected to recognize a partial disposition. For example, look for descriptions of portions of a building removed or added during the year such as Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC), roof, plumbing, walls, floors, or windows. Change of Accounting Method Has the taxpayer implemented the IRC 263(a) TPR? This is required for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014. Generally, a Form 3115, <i>Application for Change of Accounting</i> <i>Method</i> , would be filed by a LB&I taxpayer to comply with the TPR.	 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2) IRC 168 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 263(a) Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-1, 2, 3 Form 3115 - Application for Change of Accounting Method

Step 2: Review Tax Asset Depreciation Schedules (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Step 2

Considerations	Resources
Taxpayer's Line of Business	 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2)
Open sides the term events line of husiness and its demonstickly interact in its fixed exects	• IRC 165
Consider the taxpayer's line of business and its depreciable interest in its fixed assets.	• IRC 168
 Is the taxpayer an owner of a building, including its structural components? Is the taxpayer a lessor of a building? 	 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 263(a)
 Is the taxpayer a lesser of a building or a portion of a building? 	■ Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-1, 2, 3
	■ IRC 1031
If the taxpayer has a depreciable interest in a leasehold improvement, they can recognize a partial disposition of that leasehold improvement.	• IRC 1033
Building Additions or Expansions	
A partial disposition may not occur if the taxpayer merely adds or expands the building, such as the addition of new rooms or walls in a formerly open area. A taxpayer must actually dispose of a structural component of a building or a portion of a component to make a partial disposition election. Does the tax asset depreciation schedule show a gain or loss on a	
disposed asset or portion of an asset? Generally, a taxpayer's fixed asset detail schedule will have additional schedules that will report gains/losses on specific tax return forms, such as Form 4797, 8824, 8949.	
Is there a gain or loss calculated with sale proceeds?	
Is there a gain or loss calculated through a like-kind exchange or an involuntary conversion?	
Is there a physical abandonment that shows a loss without any sale proceeds?	

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Step 3: Review Forms 4797, 8949 and 8824

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Step 3

Review tax return Forms 4797, 8949 and 8824 for partial dispositions of buildings, including its structural components.

Considerations	Resources
Tax Return Forms	■ IRC 168
Does the tax return have forms filed that indicate a partial disposition of a building or its	 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 165
structural components? Although such descriptions are not required to be stated on the	• IRC 1033
forms, look for descriptions of portions of a building such as HVAC, roof, plumbing, walls, and	• IRC 1031
windows.	 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2) Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-1(f)
Form 4797	■ Form 4797 - Sales of Business
	Property
This form reports the gain or loss on the partial disposition of a building or its structural	
components used in a taxpayer's trade or business. While taxpayers may not report the partial disposition under the correct parts of Form 4797, you should review the following areas	
for partial disposition of a building or its structural components, including involuntary conversions:	
 Part I - Reported as Section 1231 property. 	
 Held for more than a year and sold or exchanged at a loss. 	

Step 3: Review Forms 4797, 8949 and 8824 (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

<u>Step 3</u>

Considerations	Resources
 Tax Return Forms, (cont'd) Form 4797 (cont'd) Part II – Reported as ordinary income property. Not sold or exchanged, for example, abandoned, junked, or scrapped. A loss is generally recognized; however, no gain or loss may be recognized when the asset has been fully depreciated. Held for one year or less and sold or exchanged for a gain or loss. Deducted under the Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)-1 de minimis safe harbor and is now either sold, exchanged, abandoned, junked or scrapped. Part III – Used to compute ordinary income recapture. Held for longer than a year and sold or exchanged at a gain. Gain is reported from Part III to Parts I and II, depending upon whether the gain is 1231 gain or ordinary gain under Section 1245 or Section 1250 recapture. Investment Property Gain, if gain is greater than the recapture amount, the excess is reported on Form 8949 as capital gain. 	 IRC 168 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 1033 IRC 1031 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2) IRC 1221

Step 3: Review Forms 4797, 8949 and 8824 (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

<u>Step 3</u>

Considerations	Resources
Tax Return Forms, (cont'd)	• IRC 168
Form 8949	 Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8 IRC 1033
	• IRC 1031
Used with Schedule D. This form can be used to report the gain or loss on the partial disposition of a building or its structural components, including involuntary conversions, held	 Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1), (2) IRC 1221
for investment purposes.	 Form 8949 - Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets
Part I - Held for one year or less (short-term).	Form 8824 - Like-Kind Exchanges
Part II - Held for longer than a year (long-term).	
Forms 4797 and 8824 may be the initial form calculating gain or loss on the disposition of property held for investment purposes, with the result being transferred to Form 8949.	
Form 8824	
This form reports an exchange of business or investment property for property of a like kind.	
 A taxpayer may be exchanging a portion of a building or its structural components and replacing through a like-kind exchange transaction. A taxpayer is required to recognize the partial disposition in this situation. 	

Definitions

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building

Description

- Asset (for disposition purposes): Each building (including its structural components) is the asset.
- If the building includes two or more condominium or cooperative units, each condominium or cooperative unit (including its structural components) is a separate asset.
- After a taxpayer places a building in service, each improvement or addition to that building is a separate asset.
- Building: For purposes of the Disposition Regulations, has the same meaning as that term is defined in Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)(1).
- The term "building" generally means any structure or edifice enclosing a space within its walls, and usually covered by a roof, the purpose of which is, for example, to provide shelter or house, or to provide working, office, parking, display, or sales space. The term includes, for example, structures such as apartment houses, factory and office buildings, warehouses, barns, garages, railway or bus stations, and stores. Such term includes any such structure constructed by, or for, a lessee even if such structure must be removed, or ownership of such structure reverts to the lessor, at the termination of the lease.
- Disposition: A disposition occurs when ownership of the asset is transferred or when the asset is permanently withdrawn from use either in the taxpayer's trade or business or in the production of income.
 - A disposition includes the sale, exchange, retirement, physical abandonment or destruction of an asset.
 - A disposition also occurs when an asset is transferred to a supplies, scrap, or similar account, or when a portion of an asset is disposed.
 - A disposition also includes the disposition of a building's structural component or such portion thereof.
 - Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8(b)(2).
- Disposition Regulations: Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8. Published in T.D. 9689; 2014-36 I.R.B. 456, September 2, 2014.
- MACRS Property: Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) property is defined in Treas. Reg. 1.168(b)-1(a)(2) as tangible, depreciable property that generally is placed in service after December 31, 1986, and subject to IRC 168.

Definitions (cont'd)

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building		
Description		
 Structural Components: For purposes of Disposition Regulations, has the same meaning as that term is defined in Treas. Reg. 1.48- 1(e)(2). 		
 The term "structural components" includes such parts of a building as walls, partitions, floors, and ceilings, as well as any permanent coverings such as paneling or tiling; windows and doors; all components (whether in, on, or adjacent to the building) of a central air conditioning or heating system, including motors, compressors, pipes and ducts; plumbing and plumbing fixtures, such as sinks and bathtubs; electric wiring and lighting fixtures; chimneys; stairs, escalators, and elevators, including all components thereof; sprinkler systems; fire escapes; and other components relating to the operation or maintenance of a building. 		
However, the term "structural components" does not include machinery the sole justification for the installation of which is the fac that such machinery is required to meet temperature or humidity requirements which are essential for the operation of other machinery or the processing of materials or foodstuffs. Machinery may meet the "sole justification" test provided by the preceding sentence even though it incidentally provides for the comfort of the employees, or serves, to an insubstantial degree, areas wher such temperature or humidity requirements are not essential. For example, an air conditioning and humidification system installed in a textile plant in order to maintain the temperature or humidity within a narrow optimum range which is critical in processing particular types of yarn or cloth is not included within the term "structural components."		

Examples of the Process

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building		
Description		
Example		
 Taxpayer's 2016 tax return is under examination. The tax asset depreciation detail shows that taxpayer owns an office building. The schedule shows an original acquisition cost of \$3,900,000 on 7/1/2010. The schedule shows a reduction in the basis, other than depreciation, in the amount of \$500,000 on 7/1/2016. After depreciation and the \$500,000 reduction, the office building shows an adjusted basis remaining of \$2,800,000. The tax asset depreciation detail shows an acquisition of an elevator and placed in service on 8/1/2016. Taxpayer's Form 4797, Part II shows a loss on a "Building Component" in the amount of \$500,000. 		
The exam team should question the taxpayer about what occurred on 7/1/2016 and 8/1/2016. It appears that the taxpayer took a partial disposition on a portion of the office building or its structural components. Taxpayer may have disposed of an elevator on 7/1/2016 and acquired its replacement. Treas. Reg. Sections 1.168(i)-8, 1.263(a)-3.		
In this example, the exam team has identified a partial disposition of a building, including its structural components. The next step is the risk assessment of noncompliance in recognizing the loss on the partial disposition of a building or its structural components.		

The exam team may look to other Practice Units on this subject, and also contact the Deductible and Capital Expenditures (DCE) Practice Network (PN) for assistance.

Index of Referenced Resources

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building	
RC 165	
RC 168	
RC 263(a)	
RC 1031	
RC 1033	
RC 1221	
Treas. Reg. 1.48-1(e)	
Treas. Reg. 1.168(i)-8	
Treas. Reg. 1.263(a)	
Form 3115 - Application for Change of Accounting Method	
Form 4797 - Sales of Business Property	
Form 8824 - Like-Kind Exchanges	
Form 8949 - Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets	

Training and Additional Resources

Identifying a Taxpayer Electing a Partial Disposition of a Building		
Type of Resource	Description(s)	
Saba Meeting Sessions	 MACRS Property Disposition Reg Part 1 - 2015 Centra MACRS Property Disposition Reg Part 2 – 2015 Centra Tangible Regulations Part 1 - 2014 Centra Tangible Regulations Part 2 - 2014 Centra 	
Issue Toolkits	 Audit Tool - MACRS Dispositions FAQs Audit Tool - Electing a Partial or a Late Partial Disposition Job Aid Audit Tool - MACRS Property Overview Job Aid Audit Tool - MACRS Property Record Keeping Requirements Job Aid Audit Tool - What is a MACRS Disposition? Job Aid 	
Reference Materials	 Audit Technique Guide - Capitalization of Tangible Property 	

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Term/Acronym	Definition
DCE PN	Deductible and Capital Expenditures Practice Network
DCN (In the Context of Form 3115)	Designated Change Number
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning
MACRS	Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System
TPR	Tangible Property Regulations
UOP	Unit of Property

Index of Related Practice Units

Associated UIL(s)	Related Practice Unit	DCN
	None at this time.	