Division 7A Checklist 2024

# Division 7A Checklist 2024

This checklist will assist public practice members to determine whether Division 7A applies and is to be completed for all private companies each year.

This checklist only deals with payments, loans and debt forgiveness that are made (directly or indirectly) by private companies to shareholders and/or their associates.

This checklist covers the following key areas:

* Payments, loans and debt forgiveness
* Guarantees
* Refinancing
* Meaning of distributable surplus
* Exclusions from Division 7A
* Integrity provisions
* Interposed entities
* Payments, loans or debt forgiveness by trusts with an unpaid present entitlement to a private company.

Please refer to CPA Australia’s 2024 Division 7A: UPE Checklist in the [tax time year end resources](https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/tools-and-resources/taxation/tax-time-year-end-updates-and-resources/checklists) for potential Division 7A transactions where:

* a private company beneficiary is owed, whether directly or indirectly (via a chain of trusts) an unpaid present entitlement by a trust estate
* a payment, loan or a debt forgiveness is made (including payments and loans made through an interposed entity) by the trustee of the trust estate to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder of the private company.

This information is based on legislation current as at 20 May 2024. All legislative references below are to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*, unless otherwise noted.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DIVISION 7A**

Significant targeted changes to Division 7A were announced by the previous Federal Government, with a consultation paper being released by Treasury in October 2018. However, there have been successive deferrals to these announced reforms, and, in the absence of draft legislation or meaningful detail, the scope and impact of such changes remains unclear, save for the commitment of the previous government that changes would be prospective commencing on or after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation. Notwithstanding this, it is important to monitor any new changes to the rules as any new announcements in this regard are made.

**About the author**This checklist was prepared by SW Accountants & Advisors on behalf of CPA Australia.

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| **CURRENT YEAR DEEMED DIVIDEND?** | | |
| 1. Has the private company entered into a payment, loan or debt forgiveness transaction with a shareholder or associate of a shareholder in the 2024 year? | Yes | No |
| Consider:   * payments, loans and debt forgiveness are potentially caught [Guidance: Section 109C, D, E and F] * indirect payments and loans under the ‘interposed entity’ provisions [Guidance: Subdivision E] * payments to a person other than a shareholder or associate are not generally caught (but may be subject to FBT depending on the circumstances) * associate has a broad meaning [Guidance: Section 318]. |  |  |
| If the answer is yes, continue to question 2. | | |
| 2. Does the private company have a distributable surplus for the year of income? | Yes | No |
| If the answer is yes, Division 7A can potentially apply. Continue to question 3.  If the answer is no, continue to question 6.  If the answer is no, Division 7A cannot result in the private company being deemed to have paid an unfranked dividend in the current year. However, you may still need to consider the application of FBT or, in the case of a debt forgiveness, the Commercial Debt Forgiveness provisions in Division 245 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA 1997).*  Also, consider the appropriateness of quarantining any loans in the financial accounts where there is an insufficient distributable surplus to deem an unfranked dividend in the current year, to ensure that a deemed dividend does not arise when the company is back in a distributable surplus position in a subsequent year.  In relation to a prior year Division 7A complying loan, where a minimum yearly repayment is not made in a subsequent income year where there is no distributable surplus, it should be noted that the loan balance will not reduce by the amount of the minimum yearly repayment that should have been made. Furthermore, this will increase the amount of the loan repayments and interest charged for the future of the loan term to ensure the loan is still paid off within the 7 or 25 year term (as applicable). |  |  |
| Notes:  Distributable surplus is determined under a formula prescribed by section 109Y(2) as:  *Net Assets + Division 7A amounts - Non-commercial loans - Paid-up share value - Repayments of non-commercial loans*  ‘Net assets’ means the amount (if any), at the end of the company’s year of income by which the company’s assets (as shown in the company’s accounts) exceed the sum of the company’s present legal obligations to other persons and provisions for depreciation, annual leave and long service leave, and the amortisation of intellectual property and trademarks. Taxation Determination TD 2007/28 defines a 'present legal obligation' to mean an immediate obligation binding at law, whether payable and enforceable presently or at a future time. Where the provision is contingent in nature (e.g., provision for warranty) that would not be regarded as a present legal obligation. In working out the company’s distributable surplus, it is important to take into account the income tax liability that may arise at year-end and any unpaid PAYG instalments, as set out in Taxation Determination TD 2012/10. Note also that the Commissioner is empowered by law to revalue assets and provisions in the accounting records if the Commissioner considers that these are significantly over valued or undervalued.  ‘Division 7A amounts’ means any amounts that the company is taken to have paid as a deemed dividends during the current year in respect of a payment or debt forgiveness to a shareholder or associate (under sections 109C and 109F).  ‘Non-commercial loans’ means any deemed dividends that the company is taken to have made in earlier income years in respect of loans which are shown as assets in the company’s accounts at the end of the current year. ‘Repayments of non-commercial loans’ essentially means the repayment of such loans.  ‘Paid-up share value’ is the paid up share capital of the private company at the end of the year. | | |
| 2. Does the private company have a distributable surplus for the year of income? (Continued) | Yes | No |
| **Notes (continued):**  In addition to the revaluation power referred to above, the Commissioner of Taxation may include the value of assets not shown in the company’s accounts for the purposes of determining the company’s distributable surplus, as discussed in Taxation Determination TD 2009/5. Where the private company making the loan, payment or debt forgiveness is part of a tax consolidated group, and the recipient of the loan, payment or debt forgiveness is outside the group, only that company’s accounts are considered in the distributable surplus calculation as set out in Taxation Determination TD 2004/68.  Where the private company’s distributable surplus is less than the amount of any deemed dividend calculation under Division 7A, the amount of the deemed dividend will be proportionally reduced (i.e., capped) to the balance of the distributable surplus. |  |  |
| 3. Did one of the following transactions occur during the current financial year? | Yes | No |
| 1. Did the private company make a payment (other than a loan) to a shareholder, an associate of a shareholder or a person that was previously a shareholder or an associate, in circumstances where a reasonable person would conclude that the payment has been made because of that previous relationship (section 109C)? (Refer to Note 1) |  |  |
| 1. Has a loan provided by the private company to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder prior to 4 December 1997 been varied by increasing the amount of the loan or extending the term of the loan (section 109D(5))? |  |  |
| 1. Did the private company make a new loan to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder or a person that was previously a shareholder or an associate, in circumstances where a reasonable person would conclude that the loan has been made because of that previous relationship (section 109D)? (Refer to Note 2) |  |  |
| 1. Was a debt owed by a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder or a person that was previously a shareholder or an associate to the private company forgiven by the private company, in circumstances where a reasonable person would conclude that the loan was forgiven because of that previous relationship (section 109F)? (Refer to Note 3) |  |  |
| 1. Was a debt owed by a shareholder, or an associate of a shareholder or a person that was previously a shareholder or an associate to the private company, assigned to a new creditor being:  * an associate of the debtor or * a person who is party to an arrangement with the debtor about the assignment AND * a reasonable person would conclude that the new creditor would not call on the debt (section 109F(5))? |  |  |
| If the answer to ANY of the above is yes, continue to question 4. If the answer to ALL of the above is no, continue to question 5.  Notes:   1. Section 109C(3) provides that a payment means:  * a payment to the extent that it is to the entity, on behalf of the entity or for the benefit of the entity * a credit to the extent that it is to the entity, on behalf of the entity or for the benefit of the entity * a transfer of property to the entity.  1. Section 109CA further provides that a payment also includes the provision of an asset by a private company for use by an entity being a current or former shareholder (or an associate of such a person). The amount of any payment which is a deemed dividend under section 109CA is the arm’s length value that would have been provided for the use of the asset less | | |
| **3. Did one of the following transactions occur during the current financial year? (Continued)** | **Yes** | **No** |
| Notes (continued):  any consideration given for that use by the shareholder or associate. A payment will not be taken to have been made under section 109CA where the value of the usage of the asset is less than $300 (i.e. would be a minor benefit under section 58P of the *FBT Act* if it was provided to an employee), the amount would otherwise have been deductible as a once-only deduction to the shareholder or associate or the use is in respect of certain residences.  Also, where a private company makes a payment to an entity which will trigger a deemed dividend under section 109C, it may also be possible for the payment to be converted into a loan before the lodgment day of the private company’s income tax return for the year in which the payment arose under section 109D(4A). Accordingly, in practice, a shareholder or associate has until the day before the lodgment day to either fully repay the ‘converted’ loan or enter into a written excluded loan agreement under section 109N.  Whilst, in many cases it will be readily apparent whether a loan has been made, it is also necessary to consider the extended definition of this term in section 109D(3), particularly in relation to trust distributions owing to a private company beneficiary that remain unpaid (commonly referred to as unpaid present entitlements or ‘UPEs’). In this regard, the ATO has issued Taxation Determination TD 2022/11 which effectively expands arrangements that will be regarded as a loan for Division 7A purposes. It states that a UPE owed by a trust to an associated private company or amount held on sub-trust that is not used for the exclusive benefit of the private company beneficiary will constitute a loan for the purposes of section 109D of the general provisions of Division 7A. The Commissioner’s view in TD 2022/11 is that the loan will generally be deemed to arise in the year of income following the year in which the UPE arose. The Tribunal’s decision in *Bendel and Commissioner of Taxation [2023] AAT 3074* treated UPE as not being a loan under s109D(3). However, an appeal has been lodged by the Commissioner and the ATO will administer Division 7A in accordance with their views in TD2022/11 until the appeal process finalises. For UPEs conferred before 1 July 2022, Taxation Ruling TR 2010/3 and Practice Statement PS LA 2010/4 may still be relied upon to determine when UPEs will be regarded as a loan for the purposes of Division 7A and thus potentially a deemed dividend. In broad terms, the ATO position for pre-1 July 2022 UPEs is that unpaid beneficiary entitlements that have been documented or accounted for as ‘loans’ will be treated as loans; UPEs that arose post-16 December 2009 that have been recorded as unpaid beneficiary entitlements and not loans would also be deemed to be loans in the year following the year in which the UPE arose. Notably, the Commissioner has stated in PS LA 2010/4 that pre-16 December 2009 UPEs that have been consistently accounted for as unpaid beneficiary entitlements and not loans will not be treated as giving rise to a deemed dividend under Division 7A.  Whilst PS LA 2010/4 has been withdrawn, for pre-1 July 2022 trust entitlements it sets out what must be done to ensure that a post-16 December 2009 UPE that remains on foot beyond the lodgment date for the company beneficiary’s income tax return (without being replaced with a complying section 109N loan agreement) is not treated as a deemed loan by the Commissioner under section 109D. A pre-1 July 2022 UPE will not give rise to a deemed dividend if it is set aside on a sub-trust for the sole benefit of the company beneficiary pursuant to one of three methods listed in the Practice Statement.   1. Section 109F(3) provides that a debt is forgiven where the amount of the debt would be forgiven under sections 245-35 and 245-37 of the *ITAA 1997*. This would include where the debt is realised, waived or otherwise extinguished, the debt is deemed to be forgiven because the right to recover the debt expires under a statute of limitations or if an entity subscribes for shares in a company to enable it to pay or discharge a debt it owes to the entity. A debt forgiveness will also arise in relation to certain ‘debt parking’ arrangements under section 109F(5), or where it can be reasonably expected that a private company will not insist on payment or rely on the debtor’s obligation to repay under section 109F(6). However, section 109F(8) provides that if the same debt is forgiven at different times under different provisions of section 109F then section 109F will only apply to the first debt forgiveness. | | |
| **4. Does the transaction identified at question 3 satisfy any of the following criteria?** | **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. The payment made by the private company represents the discharge of an obligation by the private company to pay money to an entity where the amount paid in discharging the obligation is made on an arm’s length basis (section 109J). (Refer to Note 1 below) |  |  |
| 1. The payment or loan made by the private company was made to another company (other than a company acting in the capacity of a corporate trustee) (section 109K). |  |  |
| 1. The payment or loan is otherwise assessable to the shareholder or an associate of the shareholder or such amounts would be excluded from assessable income outside of Division 7A (section 109L). |  |  |
| 1. The loan was made in the ordinary course of business of the private company and on the usual terms that similar loans are provided to arm’s length parties (section 109M). (Refer to Note 2 below) |  |  |
| 1. The loan or payment represents a distribution made by a liquidator in the course of winding-up a company (section 109NA). |  |  |
| 1. The loan was made to an employee shareholder or associate solely for the purpose of purchasing shares or rights under an employee share scheme as defined in Division 83A of the *ITAA 1997* (section 109NB). |  |  |
| 1. The loan was established on excluded loan terms (section 109N). Under Section 109N, a loan will be established on excluded loan terms where, prior to the earlier of the lodgment due date or the actual lodgment date of the income tax return of the private company for the year in which the loan is made all the following conditions are satisfied:  * the loan is established under a written loan agreement * the rate of interest payable on the loan for years following the year the loan is first established is equal to the benchmark interest rate (being the Indicator Lending Rates – Bank variable housing loans interest rate published by the Reserve Bank) of that particular year * the term of the loan does not exceed 25 years where the loan is fully secured by first registered mortgage (subject to certain conditions), or seven years in all other cases.   (Refer to Note 3 below) |  |  |
| 1. The loan was fully repaid before the earlier of the due date for lodgment of the private company’s return of income for the current year and the actual date of lodgment of the private company’s return of income for the current year (section 109D(1)(b)). |  |  |
| 1. The forgiven debt was owed to the private company by another private company (other than a company acting in the capacity of a corporate trustee) (section 109G(1)). |  |  |
| 1. Other exclusions or exemptions relating to forgiven debts apply under section 109G where:  * the debt is forgiven because the debtor becomes a bankrupt or because of the operation of Part X of the Bankruptcy Act (1966) * the debt forgiven has previously been a loan which was treated as a deemed dividend under section 109D or as a deemed dividend under the amalgamated loan rules in section 109E to the extent that there was a failure to make the required minimum yearly repayment(s) or * the Commissioner of Taxation exercises a discretion to not apply section 109F on the basis that it would cause the debtor entity undue hardship. (Refer to Note 4 below) |  |  |
| If the answer to ANY of the above is yes, the loan, payment or debt forgiveness may not be treated as a deemed unfranked dividend in the current year. Continue to question 6.  If the answer to ALL of the above is no, the loan, payment or debt forgiveness may be treated as a deemed unfranked dividend in the current year (unless the Commissioner otherwise exercises his discretion to allow the deemed dividend to be franked), subject to the amount of the distributable surplus for the current year and also subject to question 5 below. The private company taken to pay the unfranked dividend will not be required to debit its franking account when a deemed dividend arises. Continue to question 5. | | |
| **4. Does the transaction identified at question 3 satisfy any of the following criteria? (Continued)** | **Yes** | **No** |
| **Notes:**   1. The ATO confirmed in Taxation Ruling TR 2014/5 (under review) that section 109J will not be available to exempt a deemed dividend under section 109C in respect of any payment of money or transfer of property made by a private company to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder in accordance with a matrimonial settlement order under section 79 of the Family Law Act (1975).   The Commissioner takes a strict view of this exemption. Refer further ATO Interpretative Decision 2003/588, for example.   1. If the loan was established as an excluded loan in the current financial year, a minimum repayment will not be required to be made on the loan in the current financial year. The first minimum repayment is only required to be made in the year of income after the year in which the loan was first established. The relevant benchmark interest rate for the 2024 year of income is 8.27%. 2. Practice Statement PS LA 2006/2 (GA) also provides that the ATO will not take active compliance action in respect of a deemed dividend arising under section 109F where a debt forgiveness has been triggered in respect of a debt entered into before the commencement of Division 7A on 4 December 1997 because of the operation of a statute of limitations on recovery. (Note that this Practice Statement does not mean that long standing loans can necessarily be written off or cleaned out without adverse tax consequences, especially given the legislation dealing with the statute of limitation varies between States and Territories) | | |
| **5. Has the Commissioner exercised his discretion in the taxpayer’s favour?** | **Yes** | **No** |
| Taxpayers may apply in writing to the Commissioner of Taxation requesting the Commissioner to apply his discretion to disregard the deemed dividend or frank the deemed dividend under section 109RB where that deemed dividend has arisen because of an honest mistake or inadvertent omission by the recipient entity, the private company or the tax agent. |  |  |
| If the answer is no, a deemed unfranked dividend is expected to arise. Continue to question 6.  If the answer is yes, the loan, payment or debt forgiveness will either not be treated as a deemed dividend or will be treated as a franked dividend in the current year. Continue to question 6.  The ATO has issued Taxation Ruling TR 2010/8, which sets out the requirements to be satisfied before the Commissioner will exercise the discretion under section 109RB. The ruling also explains the Commissioner’s interpretation of the words “an honest mistake” or “inadvertent error”. The ATO has also released Practice Statement PS LA 2011/29, which sets out when the Commissioner is likely to exercise the discretion in section 109RB to disregard a deemed dividend or allow the deemed dividend to be franked. The Practice Statement also outlines what matters the Commissioner must have regard to when considering requests to exercise the section109RB discretion.  Where the dividend is treated as a franked dividend, the company will be required to debit its franking account. |  |  |

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| **PRIOR YEAR COMPLYING LOANS** | | |
| 6. Amalgamated loans (section 109E) | Yes | No |
| 1. In relation to loans established on excluded loan terms in prior years (in accordance with section 109N), has the required minimum yearly repayment been made on the loan in the current financial year? |  |  |
| If the answer is yes, continue to question 6b.  If the answer is no, continue to question 6c. | | |
| 1. Was the payment made with the intention to obtain a loan from the private company of an amount similar to or larger than the payment (section 109R)? |  |  |
| If the answer is no, no deemed dividend will arise.  If the answer is yes, the payment will be disregarded. Hence, the minimum yearly repayment will be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend, subject to the amount of the distributable surplus for the current year.  A minimum yearly repayment made will also be disregarded if it could be reasonably concluded that the shareholder or associate borrowed a similar or larger amount from the private company before the repayment was actually made with the intention to use that loan to fund the minimum yearly repayment. | | |
| 1. Has the Commissioner made a decision in writing under section 109RD to extend the date by which the minimum yearly repayment is required to be made because of circumstances beyond the taxpayer’s control? |  |  |
| If the answer is yes, and the minimum yearly repayment was paid by the required time or the Commissioner has allowed an extension, no deemed dividend will arise. Continue to question 7.  If the answer is no, continue to question 6d. | | |
| 1. Was the Commissioner satisfied that the taxpayer would suffer undue hardship if the private company was taken under section 109E to pay a dividend to the taxpayer at the end of the current year because of the loan (section 109Q)? |  |  |
| If the answer is no, continue to question 6e.  If the answer is yes, the shortfall in the minimum yearly repayment of the loan in that income year will not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend. Continue to question 7. | | |
| 1. Taxpayers may apply in writing to the Commissioner requesting the Commissioner of Taxation apply his discretion under section 109RB to disregard the deemed dividend or frank the deemed dividend. Has the Commissioner exercised his discretion in the taxpayer’s favour? |  |  |
| If the answer is no, the shortfall in the minimum yearly repayment of the loan in that income year will be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend, subject to the amount of the distributable surplus for the current year. Continue to question 7.  If the answer is yes, the shortfall in the minimum yearly repayment of the loan in that income year will not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend. Continue to question 7.  Taxation Ruling TR 2010/8 sets out the requirements to be satisfied before the Commissioner is able to exercise the discretion under section 109RB. The ruling also explains the Commissioner’s interpretation of the words “an honest mistake” or “inadvertent error”. The ATO’s Practice Statement PS LA 2011/29 sets out when the Commissioner is likely to exercise the discretion in 109RB to disregard a deemed dividend or allow the deemed dividend to be franked. The Practice Statement also outlines what matters the Commissioner must have regard to when considering requests to exercise the 109RB discretion.  Where the dividend is treated as a franked dividend, the company will be required to debit its franking account. | | |

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| INTERPOSED ENTITIES, GUARANTEES AND REFINANCING | | |
| **7. Was a payment or loan made through an interposed entity in the current financial year? (Section 109T)** | **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. Did the private company provide a loan or a payment to an interposed entity (including a company, partnership, trust or individual) in the current financial year which the interposed entity (whether directly or via another interposed entity, where a chain of entities and transactions is involved) then provided to the shareholder or associate of the private company (section 109T)? |  |  |
| If the answer is yes, the first set of interposed entity arrangement (IEA) provisions may apply. Continue to question 7b.  If the answer is no, continue to question 8.  The first set of IEA provisions apply where a reasonable person would conclude (having regard to all of the circumstances) that the private company made the payment or loan to the interposed entity solely or mainly so that the interposed entity would provide a payment or loan to the ‘target entity’, being the shareholder or associate.  The result of the first set of IEA provisions applying is that there will be a deemed loan or payment (and thus potentially a deemed unfranked dividend) provided directly from the private company to the target entity.  The amount of the deemed loan or payment will depend on various factors that the Commissioner will take into account (refer to Taxation Determination TD 2011/16). One such factor that the Commissioner will consider, in the circumstance where the first leg of the chain of transactions involves a loan from the private company to the interposed entity (the first stage loan), is whether the first stage loan was put on excluded loan terms.  The first set of IEA provisions will not apply where the loan or payment provided from the private company to the interposed entity has already been classified as a deemed unfranked dividend in accordance with Division 7A (section 109T(3)).  Where the target entity is another private company (not acting in the capacity of a trustee of a trust), the deemed payment or loan will not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend in accordance with section 109K.  Be aware that section 109T can also operate to treat a private company as having made a payment or loan to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder (the target entity) in circumstances where the payment or the loan made by the private company to the interposed entity is an ordinary commercial transaction (refer to Taxation Determination TD 2018/13). | | |
| 1. Was the loan from the interposed entity to the shareholder or associate (second stage loan) put on excluded loan terms under section 109N before the earlier of the due date or actual date of lodgment of the private company’s income tax return? |  |  |
| If the answer is no, the first set of IEA provisions could apply. Continue to question 8.  If the answer is yes, the first set of IEA provisions should not deem a dividend. However, minimum yearly repayments must be made on the second stage loan in subsequent income years. Continue to question 8.  EXAMPLE  Company A makes a loan of $50,000 to Company B (a related company with no distributable surplus) on the condition that Company B will make a loan of the same amount to Mr A, a shareholder in Company A. Ordinarily, the loan from Company A to Company B would not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend because of the company to company exemption under section 109K. Furthermore, the loan from Company B to Mr A would not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend because Company B has no distributable surplus.  Company B is an interposed entity in relation to Company A. Mr A is the target entity in relation to the loan of $50,000 made by Company A to Company B. Company A may be deemed to have paid an unfranked dividend of $50,000 to Mr A under an IEA, subject to the amount of the distributable surplus of Company A for the year of income in which Company B makes a loan of $50,000 to Mr A.  However, if the loan from Company B to Mr A was put on excluded loan terms under section 109N, the loan will not give rise to a deemed dividend provided that minimum yearly repayments are made in subsequent income years. | | |
| **8. Did the private company guarantee a loan made by another private company? (Section 109U)** | **Yes** | **No** |
| If the answer is yes, the second set of IEA provisions could apply. The second set of IEA provisions apply where BOTH of the following conditions apply:   * a reasonable person would conclude (having regard to all the circumstances) that a private company (‘the head company’) gave the guarantee to another private company (‘the first interposed entity’) solely or mainly so that either the first interposed entity would make a loan to another entity (‘the target entity’) or a third private company interposed between the first interposed entity and the target entity (‘the second interposed entity’) would make a payment or loan to the target entity AND * the amount of the payment or loan to the target entity is greater than the distributable surplus for the first interposed entity or, if appropriate, the second interposed entity.   The result of the second set of IEA provisions applying is that where the target entity is a shareholder or associate of a shareholder of the head company, there will be a deemed payment made directly from the head company to the target entity and thus, potentially, a deemed unfranked dividend. Where the target entity is another private company not acting in the capacity of a corporate trustee, the deemed payment or loan by the head company will not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend in accordance with section 109K. Continue to question 9. |  |  |
| **9. Did the private company provide a loan guarantee? (Section 109UA)** | **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. Has the private company provided a guarantee to enable a loan to be provided to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder of the private company in any year of income? |  |  |
| If the answer is yes and the private company is required to make a payment under the guarantee in the current year (i.e. the guarantee is ‘called on’ in the current financial year), the private company may be deemed to have made a payment (and potentially to have paid a deemed unfranked dividend) directly to its shareholder or associate. Continue to question 9b.  If the answer is no, continue to question 10.  If the recipient of the deemed payment (i.e. the entity that defaults on the loan) is another private company, the deemed payment will not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend in accordance with section 109K provided that company was not acting in the capacity of a corporate trustee. | | |
| 1. If the private company is required to make a payment under the guarantee in the current year (as a result of the shareholder defaulting on the loan guaranteed by the private company), has the defaulting borrower entered into a loan agreement (to formalise the common law debt) with the private company which meets the excluded term requirements in section 109N? |  |  |
| If the answer is yes, the payment will not be classified as a deemed unfranked dividend in the current year. However, the shareholder or associate (the borrower) should ensure that minimum yearly repayments are made in subsequent years.  If the answer is no, a deemed unfranked dividend will arise, subject to the amount of the distributable surplus of the private company guarantor (unless the Commissioner exercises a discretion under a special financial hardship rule that this not be the case, under section 109UA(3)) . Continue to question 10.  If the borrower defaults on the third-party loan, which causes the private company guarantor to make a payment to the third party to satisfy the guarantee, a common law debt will arise between the borrower and the private company guarantor. This common law debt may be formalised under a 109N loan agreement to limit the exposure of Division 7A. | | |
| 10. Was an amalgamated loan made by the private company refinanced in the income year? | Yes | No |
| Whilst an integrity measure exists in the form of section 109R (referred to above) that can operate to disregard Division 7A loan repayments funded by the same lending source, certain amalgamated loans can be refinanced without triggering a deemed dividend. Unsecured loans which are subsequently secured by a registered mortgage over real property can have their loan term extended. On a similar basis, a secured loan can be converted into an unsecured loan with a corresponding reduction in the loan term. See section 109N. |  |  |
| EXAMPLE  Smith Pty Ltd has made a loan secured by a mortgage over real property to an associate of a shareholder, Stephen. The term of the loan was 25 years. However, after 20 years, the terms of the loan are changed and it is no longer secured by a mortgage over real property. If the expired term of the old secured loan was less than 18 years, the maximum term of the new loan will be seven years. However, in this particular instance, the original secured loan had already been in place for 20 years. As a result, in the written agreement governing the new loan, the maximum term of the loan can be five years (i.e. seven years – (20 years – 18 years) = 5 years).  A private company loan can also be refinanced without triggering a deemed dividend when the loan becomes subordinated to another loan from another entity, and the refinancing of the private company loan by the recipient shareholder / associate takes place because of that subordination. For this outcome to apply, it is necessary that the subordination have arisen due to circumstances beyond the control of the borrower, with all dealings being at arm’s length.  Continue to question 11. | | |

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| PAYMENTS, LOANS & DEBT FORGIVENESS IF UPE TO A PRIVATE COMPANY | | |
| 11. Has the trustee of a trust with a UPE owing (directly or indirectly – that is, a UPE ‘trail’ via chain of trusts) to a private company made a loan, or payment to, or forgiven a debt in favour of, a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder of the private company? (Subdivision EA) | Yes | No |
| 1. Did the trustee of such a trust make a loan (either directly or indirectly) to a shareholder, or an associate of a shareholder, of a private company (except a shareholder or associate that is a company) during the current year that was not fully repaid before the earlier of the due date for lodgment and the actual date of lodgment of the trust’s tax return for the current year? |  |  |
| 1. Alternatively, did such a trustee forgive a debt or make a payment (directly or indirectly) in favour of a shareholder or associate of the private company beneficiary (except a shareholder or associate that is a company)? |  |  |
| If the answer is no to BOTH question a and b, you have completed this checklist.  If the answer is yes to EITHER question a or b, refer to CPA Australia’s 2024 Division 7A: UPE Checklist in the [tax time year end resources](https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/tools-and-resources/taxation/tax-time-year-end-updates-and-resources/checklists).  The ATO has stated in Taxation Determination TD 2022/11 that where a UPE is deemed to be financial accommodation, and hence a loan for Division 7A purposes, the relevant UPE will in effect, be regarded as being discharged. For trusts that made a loan, payment or debt forgiveness that might otherwise be subject to Subdivision EA, the deemed replacement of a UPE with a loan (with its own potential Division 7A consequences) should mean that Subdivision EA would not apply to the loan, payment or debt forgiveness. This ensures that a UPE is not subject to potential double taxation. However, Subdivision EA still has scope to operate in circumstances where the UPE of a private company does not result in financial accommodation.  Also, pursuant to the now withdrawn Taxation Ruling 2010/3, where pre-1 July 2022 UPEs are held on sub-trust for the sole benefit of the private company, Subdivision EA may still apply where the trustee makes a payment or loan to, or forgives a debt owed by, a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder of the private company. Note that the exclusion referred to for a recipient being a company will not apply where it is acting in the capacity of a corporate trustee. | | |
| Note also that, due to the application of Subdivision EB, Subdivision EA may apply where a trust makes a loan or payment to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder of a private company through one or more entities interposed between the trust and the shareholder or associate. This will only apply where it can be reasonably concluded that the entity was interposed solely or mainly as part of an arrangement involving a payment or loan made by the trust via an interposed entity to a shareholder or an associate of a shareholder. | | |