

# Gains and Losses From Section 1256 Contracts and Straddles

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Attach to your tax return.**

Name(s) shown on tax return

Identifying number

Check all applicable boxes (see instructions). **A**  Mixed straddle election **C**  Mixed straddle account election  
**B**  Straddle-by-straddle identification election **D**  Net section 1256 contracts loss election

**Part I Section 1256 Contracts Marked to Market**

(a) Identification of account	(b) Gain or (loss) for entire year	(c) Post-May 5 gain or (loss)
1		
2 Net gain or (loss). Add the amounts on line 1 in columns (b) and (c)	2	
3 Form 1099-B adjustments. See instructions and attach schedule	3	
4 Combine lines 2 and 3, column (b)	4	
5 Combine lines 2 and 3, column (c)	5	
<b>Note:</b> If line 4 shows a net gain, skip line 6 and enter the line 4 and 5 amounts on line 7. Partnerships and S corporations, see instructions.		
6 If you have a net section 1256 contracts loss and you checked box D above, enter the amount of that loss to be carried back, as a positive number. Do not enter in column (c) more than any loss on line 5	6	
7 Combine lines 4 and 6, column (b), and combine lines 5 and 6, column (c)	7	
8 Short-term capital gain or (loss). Multiply line 7, columns (b) and (c), by 40% (.40). Enter here and include on the appropriate line of Schedule D (see instructions)	8	
9 Long-term capital gain or (loss). Multiply line 7, columns (b) and (c), by 60% (.60). Enter here and include on the appropriate line of Schedule D (see instructions)	9	

**Part II Gains and Losses From Straddles.** Attach a separate schedule listing each straddle and its components.

**Section A—Losses From Straddles**

(a) Description of property	(b) Date entered into or acquired	(c) Date closed out or sold	(d) Gross sales price	(e) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(f) Loss. If column (e) is more than (d), enter difference. Otherwise, enter -0-	(g) Unrecognized gain on offsetting positions	(h) Recognized loss for entire year. If column (f) is more than (g), enter difference. Otherwise, enter -0-	*(i) 28% rate loss (see instr. below)	(j) Post-May 5 loss (see instructions)
10									
11a Enter the short-term portion of losses from line 10, columns (h) and (j), here and include on the appropriate line of Schedule D (see instructions)						11a			
b Enter the long-term portion of losses from line 10, columns (h), (i), and (j), here and include on the appropriate line of Schedule D (see instructions)						11b			

**Section B—Gains From Straddles**

(a) Description of property	(b) Date entered into or acquired	(c) Date closed out or sold	(d) Gross sales price	(e) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(f) Gain for entire year. If column (d) is more than (e), enter difference. Otherwise, enter -0-	*(g) 28% rate gain (see instr. below)	(h) Post-May 5 gain (see instructions)
12							
13a Enter the short-term portion of gains from line 12, columns (f) and (h), here and include on the appropriate line of Schedule D (see instructions)						13a	
b Enter the long-term portion of gains from line 12, columns (f), (g), and (h), here and include on the appropriate line of Schedule D (see instructions)						13b	

**Part III Unrecognized Gains From Positions Held on Last Day of Tax Year.** Memo Entry Only (see instructions)

(a) Description of property	(b) Date acquired	(c) Fair market value on last business day of tax year	(d) Cost or other basis as adjusted	(e) Unrecognized gain. If column (c) is more than (d), enter difference. Otherwise, enter -0-
14				

\*28% rate gain or loss includes all "collectibles gains and losses" and up to 50% of the eligible gain on qualified small business stock. See Instructions for Schedule D (Form 1040).

## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

### A Change To Note

For individuals, the 20% maximum tax rate on net capital gain (net long-term capital gain reduced by any net short-term capital loss) has been reduced to 15%, and the 10% rate has been reduced to 5%, for sales and other dispositions after May 5, 2003 (and installment payments received after that date). Therefore, a new column has been added to Form 6781 to identify post-May 5 gain or loss. The 28% rate on collectibles gain and section 1202 gain has not changed. See the instructions for Schedule D (Form 1040 or Form 1041) for other details.

### Purpose of Form

Use Form 6781 to report:

- Any gain or loss on section 1256 contracts under the mark-to-market rules and
- Gains and losses under section 1092 from straddle positions.

For details on section 1256 contracts and straddles, see **Pub. 550**, Investment Income and Expenses.

### Section 1256 Contract

A section 1256 contract is any:

- Regulated futures contract,
- Foreign currency contract,
- Nonequity option,
- Dealer equity option, or
- Dealer securities futures contract.

For definitions of these terms and more details, see section 1256(g) and **Pub. 550**.

Special rules apply to certain foreign currency contracts. See section 988 and Regulations sections 1.988-1(a)(7) and 1.988-3. If an election is made under section 988(a)(1)(B) or 988(c)(1)(D), attach to your return a list of the contracts covered by the election(s), showing the net gain or loss reported from those contracts and identifying where the gain or loss is reported on the return. If an election is made under section 988(a)(1)(B), report on Form 6781 the gains and losses from section 1256 contracts that are also section 988 transactions.

Options and commodities dealers must take any gain or loss from the trading of section 1256 contracts into account in figuring net earnings subject to self-employment tax. See section 1402(i).

Gains or losses on section 1256 contracts open at the end of the year, or terminated during the year, are treated

as 60% long term and 40% short term, regardless of how long the contracts were held.

### Mark-To-Market Rules

Under these rules, each section 1256 contract held at year end is treated as if it were sold at fair market value (FMV) on the last business day of the tax year. The wash-sale rules do not apply.

### Straddle

A straddle means offsetting positions with respect to personal property of a type that is actively traded.

### Offsetting Positions

If there is a substantial decrease in risk of loss to a taxpayer holding a position because that taxpayer or a related party also holds one or more other positions, then those positions are offsetting and may be part of a straddle. However, if an identified straddle is properly established, other positions held by the taxpayer will not be treated as offsetting with respect to any position which is part of the identified straddle.

### Box A. Mixed Straddle Election

Under section 1256(d), you may elect to have the mark-to-market rules not apply to section 1256 contracts that are part of a mixed straddle. A mixed straddle is any straddle in which at least one but not all of the positions is a section 1256 contract. On the day the first section 1256 contract forming part of the straddle is acquired, each position forming part of the straddle must be clearly identified as being part of such straddle. If you make this election, it will apply for all later years and cannot be revoked without IRS consent. If you are making or have previously made this election, check box A and report the section 1256 component in Part II instead of Part I.

### Box B. Straddle-By-Straddle Identification Election

Make this election for mixed straddles according to Temporary Regulations section 1.1092(b)-3T(d) by clearly identifying each position by the earlier of (a) the close of the day the identified mixed straddle is established or (b) the time the position is disposed of. No straddle-by-straddle identification election may be made for any straddle for which a mixed straddle election was made or if one or more positions are includible in a mixed straddle account. If you are making or have previously made this election, check box B.

If the net gain or loss is attributable to a net non-section 1256 position, then the net gain or loss is treated as a

short-term capital gain or loss. Enter it directly on Schedule D and identify the election. If the net gain or loss is attributable to a section 1256 position, enter the gain or loss in Part I of Form 6781 and identify the election.

### Box C. Mixed Straddle Account Election

Make this election according to Temporary Regulations section 1.1092(b)-4T(f) to establish one or more mixed straddle accounts for 2004, by the due date (without extensions) of your 2003 tax return. To make this election, check box C and attach to your return the statement required by the regulations. Report the annual account net gain or loss from a mixed straddle account in Part II and identify the election. See Temporary Regulations section 1.1092(b)-4T(c)(4) for limits on the total annual account net gain or loss.

**Note:** If you did not make any of the above elections and you have a loss on the section 1256 component, use Part II to reduce the loss by any unrecognized gain on the non-section 1256 component before making an entry in Part I. You also must reduce the loss from any section 1256 component of a straddle that would be a mixed straddle if the positions had been properly identified as such.

### Box D. Net Section 1256 Contracts Loss Election

If you have a net section 1256 contracts loss for 2003, you may elect to carry it back 3 years. Corporations, partnerships, estates, and trusts are not eligible to make this election. Your **net section 1256 contracts loss** is the **smaller** of:

- The **excess** of your losses from section 1256 contracts over the total of (a) your gains from section 1256 contracts plus (b) \$3,000 (\$1,500 if married filing separately) or
- The total you would figure as your short-term and long-term capital loss carryovers to 2004 if line 6 of Form 6781 were zero. Use a separate Schedule D (Form 1040) and **Capital Loss Carryover Worksheet** (in **Pub. 550**) to figure this amount.

The amount you may carry back to any prior year is limited to the **smaller** of:

- The gain, if any, that you would report on line 17 of Schedule D for that carryback year if only gains and losses from section 1256 contracts were taken into account or
- The gain, if any, reported on line 17 of Schedule D for that carryback year.

The above amounts are figured prior to any carryback from the loss year. Also, the carryback is allowed only to the extent it does not increase or produce a net operating loss for the carryback year. The loss is carried to the earliest year first.

Make the election by checking box D and entering the amount to be carried back on line 6. To carry your loss back, file **Form 1045**, Application for Tentative Refund, or an amended return. Attach an amended Form 6781 and an amended Schedule D for the applicable years.

On the amended Forms 6781 for the years to which the loss is carried back, report the carryback on line 1 of that year's amended Form 6781. Enter "Net section 1256 contracts loss carried back from" and the tax year in column (a), and enter the amount of the loss carried back in column (b).

## Specific Instructions

### Part I

#### Line 1

Include on line 1 all gains and losses from section 1256 contracts open at the end of your tax year or closed out during the year. If you received a **Form 1099-B**, Proceeds From Broker and Barter Exchange Transactions, or equivalent statement, include on line 1, column (b), the amount from box 9a of each form. Include in column (c) the amount from box 9b. (Disregard the second sentence of the instructions for box 6b in the Form 1099-B Instructions for Recipient, which incorrectly says to include the box 6b amount in column (c).) In column (a), write "Form 1099-B" and the broker's name. List separately each transaction for which you did not receive a Form 1099-B or equivalent statement, or received a Form 1099-B that is not for your tax year.

If you are completing an amended 2003 Form 6781 to carry back a net section 1256 contracts loss from 2004 or a later year, report the carryback on line 1. Enter "Net section 1256 contracts loss carried back from" and the tax year in column (a), and enter the amount of the loss carried back to 2003 in column (b). See the instructions for Box D for details.

#### Line 3

If the Form 1099-B you received includes a straddle or hedging transaction (as defined in section 1256(e)(2)), you may need to make certain adjustments listed below. Attach a schedule listing each of these adjustments and enter the total(s) on line 3, column (b), and if appropriate, column (c).

- The regulated futures part of a mixed straddle, if you made any of the mixed straddle elections.
- The amount of the loss, if you did not make any of the mixed straddle elections or the straddle was not identified as a mixed straddle and you had a loss on the regulated futures part that was less than the unrecognized gain on the nonregulated futures part. If the unrecognized gain is less than the loss, enter the unrecognized gain. Use Part I for a loss on the disposition of one or more positions that are part of a mixed straddle and that are non-section 1256 positions if no disposition of a non-section 1256 position in the straddle would be a long-term capital gain or loss, and the disposition of one or more section 1256 positions in the straddle would be a capital gain or loss.
- The regulated futures part of a hedging transaction. The gain or loss on a hedging transaction is treated as ordinary income or loss. See Pub. 550 for details.

#### Line 4

Partnerships enter the amount from line 4 on Form 1065, Schedule K, line 7. Electing large partnerships enter the amount from line 4 on Form 1065-B, Part II, line 5. S corporations enter the amount from line 4 on Form 1120S, Schedule K, line 6. Partnerships and S corporations must attach a statement for the above lines that separately identifies the amount of post-May 5, 2003, gain or loss from line 5 of Form 6781. Lines 6 through 9 in Part I do not apply to partnerships or S corporations and are left blank.

#### Line 6

See the instructions for Box D.

#### Line 8

Include the columns (b) and (c) amounts on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 4, columns (f) and (g); or on Schedule D (Form 1041), line 2, columns (f) and (g). Or enter the column (b) amount as a short-term capital gain or (loss) on the Schedule D for your return, enter the column (c) amount in column (g) of that Schedule D (if your return is a Form 1065, Form 1065-B, or Form 1120S), and enter "Form 6781, Part I" in column (a) of that Schedule D.

#### Line 9

Include the columns (b) and (c) amounts on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 11, columns (f) and (g); or on Schedule D (Form 1041), line 7, columns (f) and (g). Or enter the column (b) amount as a long-term capital gain or (loss) on the Schedule D for your return, enter the column (c) amount in column (g) of that Schedule D (if your return is a Form

1065, Form 1065-B, or Form 1120S), and enter "Form 6781, Part I" in column (a) of that Schedule D.

### Part II

Use Section A for losses from positions that are part of a straddle. A loss is allowed only to the extent it exceeds the unrecognized gain on offsetting positions. The part of the loss not allowed is treated as if incurred in the following year and is allowed to the same extent.

Use Section B for gains from positions that are part of a straddle.

**Do not** include in Part II a disposition of one or more positions that are part of a hedging transaction, a disposition of a loss position included in an identified straddle, or a disposition of a position that is part of a straddle if all the positions of the straddle are section 1256 contracts.

#### Column (a)

Enter the property and delivery date, and indicate whether the property is a long or short position.

#### Column (d)

For positions closed out or sold, enter the closing price or sales price.

#### Column (e)

For positions closed out or sold, enter the cost or other basis plus commissions paid. Include nondeductible interest and carrying charges allocable to personal property that is part of a straddle. See Pub. 550 for details.

#### Line 10, Column (f)

Include in this column any loss not allowed in the prior year to the extent of the unrecognized gain.

#### Line 10, Column (g)

Enter the unrecognized gain on positions offsetting those in columns (a) through (f). Figure the amount to enter in this column by subtracting the cost or other basis of the offsetting position from the settlement price of that position as of the close of the last business day of your 2003 tax year.

#### Line 10, Column (i) and Line 12, Column (g)

Enter in these columns the gain or (loss) for 28% rate transactions.

#### Line 10, Column (j) and Line 12, Column (h)

Enter in these columns the gain or (loss) from dispositions or other terminations of a position after May 5, 2003. But do not include any 28% rate gain or loss.

**Lines 11 and 13**

Separate recognized gains and losses into short-term and long-term. Attach a separate schedule. For information about holding periods for straddle positions, see Pub. 550 and Temporary Regulations section 1.1092(b)-2T. Attach separate schedules for **(a)** section 988 contracts that are part of a mixed straddle and **(b)** any gain on the disposition or other termination of any position held as part of a conversion transaction (as defined in section 1258(c)). Identify the net gain or loss and report it on Form 4797, line 10.

**Line 11a**

Include the columns (h) and (j) amounts on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 4, columns (f) and (g); or on Schedule D (Form 1041), line 2, columns (f) and (g). Or enter the column (h) amount as a short-term capital loss on the Schedule D for your return, enter the column (j) amount in column (g) of that Schedule D (if your return is a Form 1065, Form 1065-B, or Form 1120S), and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D.

**Line 11b, Columns (h) and (j)**

Include the columns (h) and (j) amounts on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 11, columns (f) and (g); or on Schedule D (Form 1041), line 7, columns (f) and (g). Or enter the column (h) amount as a long-term capital loss on the Schedule D for your return, enter the column (j) amount in column (g) of that Schedule D (if your return is a Form 1065, Form 1065-B, or Form 1120S), and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D.

**Line 13a**

Include the columns (f) and (h) amounts on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 4,

columns (f) and (g); or on Schedule D (Form 1041), line 2, columns (f) and (g). Or enter the column (f) amount as a short-term capital gain on the Schedule D for your return, enter the column (h) amount in column (g) of that Schedule D (if your return is a Form 1065, Form 1065-B, or Form 1120S), and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D.

**Line 13b, Columns (f) and (h)**

Include the columns (f) and (h) amounts on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 11, columns (f) and (g); or on Schedule D (Form 1041), line 7, columns (f) and (g). Or enter the column (f) amount as a long-term capital gain on the Schedule D for your return, enter the column (h) amount in column (g) of that Schedule D (if your return is a Form 1065, Form 1065-B, or Form 1120S), and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D.

**Line 11b, Column (i) and Line 13b, Column (g)**

Include the line 11b, column (i) and line 13b, column (g) amounts on line 3 of the 28% Rate Gain Worksheet in the Instructions for Schedule D (Form 1040) if you must complete Schedule D (Form 1040), line 20; or on line 3 of the 28% Rate Gain Worksheet in the Instructions for Form 1041 and Schedules A, B, D, G, I, J, and K-1 if you must complete Schedule D (Form 1041), line 15e.

**Part III**

Complete Part III by listing each position (whether or not part of a straddle) that you held at the end of the tax year (including any position you are treated as holding because it is held by a related party) if the FMV of the position at such time exceeds your cost or other basis as adjusted.

**Do not** include positions that are part of an identified straddle or hedging transaction, property that is stock in trade or inventory, or property subject to depreciation used in a trade or business.

**Do not** complete Part III if you do not have a recognized loss on any position (including regulated futures contracts).

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You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

- Recordkeeping** . . . . 14 hr., 6 min.
- Learning about the law or the form** . . . . 2 hr., 3 min.
- Preparing the form** . . . 3 hr., 18 min.
- Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS** . . . . . 16 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for the tax return with which this form is filed.

