

# 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 applicable box(es) (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) LOSS	(c) GAIN
<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b> Add amounts on line 1 in columns (b) and (c) . . . . .	(                      )	
<b>3</b> Net gain or (loss). Combine columns (b) and (c) of line 2 . . . . .		
<b>4</b> Form 1099-B adjustments. See instructions and attach schedule . . . . .		
<b>5</b> Combine lines 3 and 4. If a net gain, skip line 6 and enter the gain on line 7. Partnerships and S corporations, see instructions		
<b>6</b> If you have a net section 1256 contracts loss and checked box D, enter the amount to be carried back . . . . .		
<b>7</b> Subtract line 6 from line 5 . . . . .		
<b>8</b> Short-term capital gain or (loss). Multiply line 7 by 40%. Enter here and on Schedule D. See instructions . . . . .		
<b>9</b> Long-term capital gain or (loss). Multiply line 7 by 60%. Enter here and on Schedule D. See instructions . . . . .		

**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. If column (f) is more than (g), enter difference. Otherwise, enter -0-.
<b>10</b>							
<b>11a</b> Enter short-term portion of line 10, column (h), here and on Schedule D. See instructions . . . . .							(                      )
<b>b</b> Enter long-term portion of line 10, column (h), here and on Schedule D. See instructions . . . . .							(                      )

**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 If column (d) is more than (e), enter difference. Otherwise, enter -0-.
<b>12</b>					
<b>13a</b> Enter short-term portion of line 12, column (f), here and on Schedule D. See instructions . . . . .					
<b>b</b> Enter long-term portion of line 12, column (f), here and on Schedule D. See instructions . . . . .					

**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-.
<b>14</b>				

**Instructions**

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

**Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.**—We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

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**, 10 hr., 17 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 2 hr., 28 min.; **Preparing the form**, 3 hr., 40 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.

**Purpose of Form.**—Use Form 6781 to report:

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

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

**Section 1256 contract.**—A section 1256 contract is (a) any regulated futures contract, (b) any foreign currency contract, (c) any nonequity option, and (d) any dealer equity option. 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).

**Marked-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 on the last business day of the tax year.

**Straddle.**—A straddle means offsetting positions with respect to personal property.

**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. Any position that is not part of an identified straddle cannot offset any position that is part of an identified straddle.

**Box A. Mixed straddle election.**—Under section 1256(d), you may elect to have the marked-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. Each position forming part of the straddle must be clearly identified, on the day the first section 1256 contract forming part of the straddle is acquired, 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 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 in 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 1997, by the due date (without extensions) of your 1996 tax return. To make this election, check box C and attach the statement required by the regulations to your return. 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.

If you did not make 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 must also 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 1996, you may elect to carry it back 3 years. The amount that may be carried back cannot be more than the net section 1256 contracts gain in the year to which the loss is carried. The loss is carried to the earliest year first. See section 1212(c) for definitions of net section 1256 contracts loss and net section 1256 contracts gain. Make the election by checking box D and entering the amount to be carried back on line 6. To carry your loss back, file an amended return, and attach an amended Form 6781 for the applicable year.

## 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) or (c), the amount from box 9 of each form. 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 if the Form 1099-B you received is not for your tax year.

**Line 4.**—If the Form 1099-B you received includes a straddle or hedging transaction (as defined in section 1256(e)(2)), it may be necessary to make certain adjustments listed below. Attach a schedule listing each of these adjustments and enter the total on line 4:

- 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 wasn't 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 the disposition of no 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 more details.

**Line 5.**—Partnerships enter the amount from line 5 on Form 1065, Schedule K, line 7.

S corporations enter the amount from line 5 on Form 1120S, Schedule K, line 6. Lines 6 through 9 in Part I do not apply to partnerships or S corporations and should be left blank.

**Line 8.**—Include this amount on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 4; Schedule D (Form 1041), line 2; or as a short-term capital gain or (loss) on the Schedule D for your return (and enter "Form 6781, Part I" in column (a) of that Schedule D).

**Line 9.**—Include this amount on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 12; Schedule D (Form 1041), line 8; or as a long-term capital gain or (loss) on the Schedule D for your return (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, and 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 personal property, 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 more 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 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 1996 tax year.

**Lines 11 and 13.**—Separate recognized gains and losses into short-term and long-term. Attach a separate schedule. For information about the holding period for straddle positions, see Pub. 550 and Temporary Regulations section 1.1092(b)-2T. Attach a separate schedule 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 11.

Include the line 11a amount on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 4, in column (f); Schedule D (Form 1041), line 2; or as a short-term capital loss on the Schedule D for your return (and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D).

Include the line 11b amount on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 12, in column (f); Schedule D (Form 1041), line 8; or as a long-term capital loss on the Schedule D for your return (and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D).

Include the line 13a amount on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 4, in column (g); Schedule D (Form 1041), line 2; or as a short-term capital gain on the Schedule D for your return (and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D).

Include the line 13b amount on Schedule D (Form 1040), line 12, in column (g); Schedule D (Form 1041), line 8; or as a long-term capital gain on the Schedule D for your return (and enter "Form 6781, Part II" in column (a) of that Schedule D).

## 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 settlement price 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, and property used in a trade or business subject to depreciation.

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

