



Companies Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 46

PART 23

DISTRIBUTIONS

CHAPTER 2

JUSTIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTION BY REFERENCE TO ACCOUNTS

Requirements applicable in relation to relevant accounts

837 Requirements where last annual accounts used

- (1) The company's last annual accounts means the company's individual accounts—
 - (a) that were last circulated to members in accordance with section 423 (duty to circulate copies of annual accounts and reports), or
 - ^{F1}(b)
- (2) The accounts must have been properly prepared in accordance with this Act, or have been so prepared subject only to matters that are not material for determining (by reference to the items mentioned in section 836(1)) whether the distribution would contravene this Part.
- (3) Unless the company is exempt from audit and the directors take advantage of that exemption, the auditor must have made his report on the accounts.
- (4) If that report was qualified—
 - (a) the auditor must have stated in writing (either at the time of his report or subsequently) whether in his opinion the matters in respect of which his report is qualified are material for determining whether a distribution would contravene this Part, and
 - (b) a copy of that statement must—

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- (i) in the case of a private company, have been circulated to members in accordance with section 423, or
 - (ii) in the case of a public company, have been laid before the company in general meeting.
- (5) An auditor's statement is sufficient for the purposes of a distribution if it relates to distributions of a description that includes the distribution in question, even if at the time of the statement it had not been proposed.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F1** S. 837(1)(b) omitted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(4) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of [The Companies Act 2006 \(Strategic Report and Directors' Report\) Regulations 2013](#) (S.I. 2013/1970), reg. 1(2)(3), [Sch. para. 23](#)

Commencement Information

- II** S. 837 wholly in force at 6.4.2008; s. 837 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 1300; s. 837 in force at 6.4.2008 by [S.I. 2007/3495](#), [art. 3\(1\)\(k\)](#) (with savings in [arts. 7, 12](#) and subject to transitional adaptations in [Sch. 1 paras. 14-20](#) and with savings in [Sch. 4 paras. 33-35](#))

838 Requirements where interim accounts used

- (1) Interim accounts must be accounts that enable a reasonable judgment to be made as to the amounts of the items mentioned in section 836(1).
- (2) Where interim accounts are prepared for a proposed distribution by a public company, the following requirements apply.
- (3) The accounts must have been properly prepared, or have been so prepared subject to matters that are not material for determining (by reference to the items mentioned in section 836(1)) whether the distribution would contravene this Part.
- (4) “Properly prepared” means prepared in accordance with sections 395 to 397 (requirements for company individual accounts), applying those requirements with such modifications as are necessary because the accounts are prepared otherwise than in respect of an accounting reference period.
- (5) The balance sheet comprised in the accounts must have been signed in accordance with section 414.
- (6) A copy of the accounts must have been delivered to the registrar.

Any requirement of Part 35 of this Act as to the delivery of a certified translation into English of any document forming part of the accounts must also have been met.

Annotations:

Commencement Information

- I2** S. 838 wholly in force at 6.4.2008; s. 838 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 1300; s. 838 in force at 6.4.2008 by [S.I. 2007/3495](#), [art. 3\(1\)\(k\)](#) (with savings in [arts. 7, 12](#) and subject to transitional adaptations in [Sch. 1 paras. 14-20](#) and with savings in [Sch. 4 paras. 33-35](#))

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839 Requirements where initial accounts used

- (1) Initial accounts must be accounts that enable a reasonable judgment to be made as to the amounts of the items mentioned in section 836(1).
- (2) Where initial accounts are prepared for a proposed distribution by a public company, the following requirements apply.
- (3) The accounts must have been properly prepared, or have been so prepared subject to matters that are not material for determining (by reference to the items mentioned in section 836(1)) whether the distribution would contravene this Part.
- (4) “Properly prepared” means prepared in accordance with sections 395 to 397 (requirements for company individual accounts), applying those requirements with such modifications as are necessary because the accounts are prepared otherwise than in respect of an accounting reference period.
- (5) The company's auditor must have made a report stating whether, in his opinion, the accounts have been properly prepared.
- (6) If that report was qualified—
 - (a) the auditor must have stated in writing (either at the time of his report or subsequently) whether in his opinion the matters in respect of which his report is qualified are material for determining whether a distribution would contravene this Part, and
 - [^{F2}(b) a copy of that statement must have been laid before the company in general meeting.]
- (7) A copy of the accounts, of the auditor's report and of any auditor's statement must have been delivered to the registrar.

Any requirement of Part 35 of this Act as to the delivery of a certified translation into English of any of those documents must also have been met.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F2** S. 839(6)(b) substituted (1.10.2009) by [The Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1941\)](#), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 260(4)** (with art. 10)

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 839 wholly in force at 6.4.2008; s. 839 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 1300; s. 839 in force at 6.4.2008 by [S.I. 2007/3495](#), **art. 3(1)(k)** (with savings in [arts. 7, 12](#) and subject to transitional adaptations in [Sch. 1 paras. 14-20](#) and with savings in [Sch. 4 paras. 33-35](#))

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Companies Act 2006. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 11(1) by [S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 9\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 2008/373 reg. 3(4) by [S.I. 2013/1971 reg. 4](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Amending Regulations revoked (1.10.2013) without ever being in force by S.I. 2013/2224, reg. 2)
- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision SI 2008/373 reg. 11 by [S.I. 2017/1164 reg. 11](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 156A-156C inserted by [2015 c. 26 s. 87\(4\)](#)
- s. 444(8) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 8](#)
- s. 444A(4A) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 9](#)
- s. 445(6A) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 10](#)
- s. 446(4A) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 11](#)
- s. 447(5) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 12](#)
- s. 463(1)(d) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 13\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 474(1)(a) amendment to earlier affecting provision SI 2017/701 Sch. 4 para. 9(2) (b) by [S.I. 2017/1255 reg. 37](#)
- s. 474(1)(b) amendment to earlier affecting provision SI 2017/701 Sch. 4 para. 9(2) (c) by [S.I. 2017/1255 reg. 37](#)
- s. 474(1)(b) substituted by [S.I. 2017/1255 reg. 7\(a\)](#)
- s. 474(1)(c) word substituted by [S.I. 2017/1255 reg. 7\(b\)](#)
- s. 486A applied (with modifications) by SI 2008/565 reg. 6(1)(1A) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 2 para. 6\(a\)](#)
- s. 486A inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 16](#)
- s. 490A inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 19](#)
- s. 1099(3)(f)(g) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1233 art. 2](#)
- s. 1221(1A)(1B) substituted for s. 1221(1A) by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 21\(a\)](#)
- s. 1221(7C)(7D) inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 21\(e\)](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 7A inserted by [S.I. 2017/1164 Sch. 1 para. 22](#)