



Companies Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 46

PART 17

A COMPANY'S SHARE CAPITAL

CHAPTER 3

ALLOTMENT OF EQUITY SECURITIES: EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHT OF PRE-EMPTION

Existing shareholders' right of pre-emption

561 Existing shareholders' right of pre-emption

- (1) A company must not allot equity securities to a person on any terms unless—
 - (a) it has made an offer to each person who holds ordinary shares in the company to allot to him on the same or more favourable terms a proportion of those securities that is as nearly as practicable equal to the proportion in nominal value held by him of the ordinary share capital of the company, and
 - (b) the period during which any such offer may be accepted has expired or the company has received notice of the acceptance or refusal of every offer so made.
- (2) Securities that a company has offered to allot to a holder of ordinary shares may be allotted to him, or anyone in whose favour he has renounced his right to their allotment, without contravening subsection (1)(b).
- (3) ^{F1}.....
- (4) Shares held by the company as treasury shares are disregarded for the purposes of this section, so that—
 - (a) the company is not treated as a person who holds ordinary shares, and
 - (b) the shares are not treated as forming part of the ordinary share capital of the company.

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- (5) This section is subject to—
- (a) sections 564 to [^{F2}566A] (exceptions to pre-emption right),
 - (b) sections 567 and 568 (exclusion of rights of pre-emption),
 - (c) sections 569 to 573 (disapplication of pre-emption rights), and
 - (d) section 576 (saving for certain older pre-emption procedures).

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 561(3) omitted (1.10.2009) by virtue of [The Companies Act 2006 \(Allotment of Shares and Right of Pre-emption\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2561\)](#), [reg. 2\(3\)](#)
- F2** Word in s. 561(5)(a) substituted (26.6.2020) by [Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 49(1), [Sch. 9 para. 33\(3\)\(a\)](#) (with ss. 2(2), 5(2))

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

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1989/638, Sch. 4 by [S.I. 2024/410 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- 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)

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

- s. 479A(2)(c)(zi) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 4 substituted by regs. 4, 4A immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2019/1392, regs. 1(2), 4)
- s. 479B(a)(iii) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I.2008/1991 reg.34 by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 31\(4\)](#)
- s. 479B(a)(iii) amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I.2008/1991 reg.34A by [S.R. 2024/78 reg. 31\(5\)](#)
- s. 1087A-1807C applied by S.I. 2009/2436, Sch. 1 para. 20(1)(ca) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2024/410 Sch. 2 para. 5\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 10 para. 6(2D) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 28\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 28(e) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/523, regs. 1(2), 14(e)(iv))
- Sch. 10 para. 7(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2019/177 reg. 29\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 29 substituted immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2020/523, regs. 1(2), 14(f))