



# Companies Act 1985

## 1985 CHAPTER 6

### PART I

#### FORMATION AND REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES; JURIDICAL STATUS AND MEMBERSHIP

### CHAPTER I

#### COMPANY FORMATION

##### *Memorandum of association*

#### **1 Mode of forming incorporated company.**

**F1** .....

##### **Textual Amendments**

**F1** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1941, art. 13(1)(a)) (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

#### **2 Requirements with respect to memorandum.**

**F2** .....

##### **Textual Amendments**

**F2** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

**3 Forms of memorandum.**

F3 .....

**Textual Amendments**  
F3 Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**3A Statement of company’s objects: general commercial company.**

F4 .....

**Textual Amendments**  
F4 Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**4 Resolution to alter objects.**

F5 .....

**Textual Amendments**  
F5 Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**5 Procedure for objecting to alteration.**

F6 .....

**Textual Amendments**  
F6 Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**6 Provisions supplementing ss. 4, 5.**

F7 .....

**Textual Amendments**  
F7 Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part 1. (See end of Document for details)

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### *Articles of association*

#### **7 Articles prescribing regulations for companies.**

**F8** .....

##### **Textual Amendments**

**F8** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

#### **8 Tables A, C, D and E.**

**F9** .....

##### **Textual Amendments**

**F9** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

#### **8A Table G.**

**F10** .....

##### **Textual Amendments**

**F10** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

#### **9 Alteration of articles by special resolution.**

**F11** .....

##### **Textual Amendments**

**F11** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

### *Registration and its consequences*

#### **10 Documents to be sent to registrar.**

**F12** .....

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

**Textual Amendments**

**F12** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**11 Minimum authorised capital (public companies).**

**F13** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F13** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**12 Duty of registrar.**

**F14** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F14** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**13 Effect of registration.**

**F15** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F15** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**14 Effect of memorandum and articles.**

**F16** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F16** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.)) and with savings for repeal of s. 14(2) (1.10.2009) by S.I. 2009/1941, **art. 11(3)(a)**

**15 Memorandum and articles of company limited by guarantee.**

**F17** .....

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

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**Textual Amendments**

**F17** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**16 Effect of alteration on company’s members.**

**F18** .....

.....  
**Textual Amendments**

**F18** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**17 Conditions in memorandum which could have been in articles.**

**F19** .....

.....  
**Textual Amendments**

**F19** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**18 Amendments of memorandum or articles to be registered.**

**F20** .....

.....  
**Textual Amendments**

**F20** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**19 Copies of memorandum and articles to be given to members.**

**F21** .....

.....  
**Textual Amendments**

**F21** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**20 Issued copy of memorandum to embody alterations.**

**F22** .....

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

**Textual Amendments**

**F22** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**21** .....

**F23** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F23** S. 21 repealed (1.2.1994) by 1993 c. 38, ss. 30(2), 35(1), **Sch. 2**; S.I. 1994/115, **art. 2(2)**

*A company’s membership*

**22** **Definition of “member”.**

**F24** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F24** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**23** **Membership of holding company.**

**F25** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F25** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**24** **Minimum membership for carrying on business.**

**F26** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F26** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

## CHAPTER II

### COMPANY NAMES

#### 25 Name as stated in memorandum.

F27 .....

##### Textual Amendments

**F27** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

#### 26 Prohibition on registration of certain names.

F28 .....

##### Textual Amendments

**F28** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**)) and with savings for the repeal of s. 26(2)(a) by virtue of S.I. 2008/2860, **Sch. 2 para. 114A** (as inserted (1.10.2009) by S.I. 2009/2476, **art. 2**)

#### 27 Alternatives of statutory designations.

F29 .....

##### Textual Amendments

**F29** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

#### 28 Change of name.

F30 .....

##### Textual Amendments

**F30** Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss.1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4, Sch. 1** (with arts. 5, 7, 8, **Sch. 2** (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, **Sch.**))

#### 29 Regulations about names.

(1) F31 .....

(2) F31 .....

(3) F31 .....

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

- (4) <sup>F32</sup> .....
- (5) <sup>F31</sup> .....
- (6) <sup>F31</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F31** S. 29(1)-(3)(5)(6) repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))
- F32** S. 29(4) repealed (1.1.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2006/3428, **art. 7(a)**, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5 (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5))

**30 Exemption from requirement of “limited” as part of the name.**

<sup>F33</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F33** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**31 Provisions applying to company exempt under s. 30.**

<sup>F34</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F34** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**32 Power to require company to abandon misleading name.**

<sup>F35</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F35** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**33 Prohibition on trading under misleading name.**

<sup>F36</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F36** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

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**34 Penalty for improper use of “limited” or “cyfyngedig”.**

F37 .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F37** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**34A Penalty for improper use of “community interest company” etc.**

F38 .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F38** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**CHAPTER III**

**A COMPANY’S CAPACITY; FORMALITIES OF CARRYING ON BUSINESS**

**35 A company’s capacity not limited by its memorandum.**

F39 .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F39** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**35A Power of directors to bind the company.**

F40 .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F40** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**35B No duty to enquire as to capacity of company or authority of directors.**

F41 .....

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

**Textual Amendments**

**F41** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**36 Company contracts: England and Wales.**

F42 .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F42** Ss. 30-36 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**36A Execution of documents: England and Wales.**

- (1) <sup>F43</sup> .....
- (2) <sup>F44</sup> .....
- (3) <sup>F43</sup> .....
- (4) <sup>F44</sup> .....
- (4A) <sup>F44</sup> .....
- (5) <sup>F44</sup> .....
- (6) <sup>F44</sup> .....
- (7) <sup>F44</sup> .....
- (8) <sup>F44</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F43** S. 36A(1)(3) repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.) and with savings in S.I. 2008/948, arts. 2(2), 7)

**F44** S. 36A(2)(4)-(8) repealed (6.4.2008) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2007/3495, **art. 8(a)**, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 7, 12, Sch. 4 para. 1(2)(3) and with savings in S.I. 2008/948, arts. 2(2), 7)

**36AA Execution of deeds: England and Wales**

F45 .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F45** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

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### **36B Execution of documents by companies.**

F46 .....

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F46** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

### **36C Pre-incorporation contracts, deeds and obligations.**

F47 .....

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F47** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

### **37 Bills of exchange and promissory notes.**

F48 .....

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F48** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

### **38 Execution of deeds abroad.**

F49 .....

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F49** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

### **39 Power of company to have official seal for use abroad.**

F50 .....

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F50** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2008/2860, **art. 4**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

### **40 Official seal for share certificates, etc.**

F51 .....

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects  
 for the Companies Act 1985, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

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**Textual Amendments**

**F51** Ss. 36AA-40 repealed (1.10.2009) by [Companies Act 2006 \(c. 46\)](#), ss. 1295, 1300, [Sch. 16](#); S.I. 2008/2860, [art. 4](#), Sch. 1 (with arts. 5, 7, 8, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2009/1802, art. 18, Sch.))

**41 Authentication of documents.**

**F52** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F52** S. 41 repealed (6.4.2007) by [Companies Act 2006 \(c. 46\)](#), ss. 1295, 1300, [Sch. 16](#); S.I. 2006/3428, [art. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#), (subject to art. 5, Sch. 1 and with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5 (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5))

**42 Events affecting a company's status.**

**F53** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F53** S. 42 repealed (1.1.2007) by [Companies Act 2006 \(c. 46\)](#), ss. 1295, 1300, [Sch. 16](#); S.I. 2006/3428, [art. 7\(a\)](#), Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (with arts. 6, 8, Sch. 5) (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5))

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Companies Act 1985, Part I.