

Internal Revenue Code Section 842 (b) states that Canadian companies must report a minimum amount of "effectively connected" net investment income to their U.S. branch operations. Canadian companies find these rules to be punitive and not reflective of the realities of their U.S. operations. As a result, some have moved their U.S. branch business to U.S. subsidiaries to avoid the rules.

Internal Revenue Code Section 882 (c) and regulation 882-5 provide a formula for allocating interest that is deductible by a foreign corporation for U.S. tax purposes. This differs from interest actually paid to generate income in the United States. Canadian life insurance companies are concerned that the application of this regulation will result in the disallowance for U.S. tax purposes of significant amounts of customer liability expenses on their guaranteed income certificate business.

Internal Revenue Code Section 884 imposes a branch profits tax on U.S. branches of foreign corporations. Canadian life insurance companies are concerned that the computation is unwieldy and not consistent with Sections 842 (b) and 882 (c).

Selective Tax Measures

Selective tax measures confer subsidies in the form of special benefits to specific domestic firms, industries, activities or regions, and have the potential to distort international trade. Some of the more generous selective tax measures for U.S. industries are provided through tax-deferral measures such as the Foreign Sales Corporation Program which permits the permanent deferral of income taxes on certain export-related income.

Taxes on Alcohol

The federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 provided substantial excise tax exemptions for most U.S. beer and wine producers. Several states also grant substantial excise tax exemptions for local producers. The cumulative effect of such measures for small New York breweries, for instance, is equivalent to a tax rebate of over \$17 per barrel of beer. Canadian brewers and wineries shipping to the United States must compete against such subsidies.

Canadian Actions

Non-resident corporation-related tax measures are currently under discussion with U.S. officials, while alcohol taxes were the subject of a recent GATT panel established at Canada's request.