

701—53.29(422) Interest expense deduction adjustments. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, the limit on the amount of business interest expense that a taxpayer may deduct in a taxable year under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 163(j) does not apply for Iowa purposes. This rule provides information on how taxpayers must calculate and report their business interest expense deduction for Iowa purposes, for tax year 2018 (subrule 53.29(2)), when Iowa did not conform to the limitation; tax year 2019 (subrule 53.29(3)), when Iowa did conform to the limitation; and tax years 2020 and later (subrule 53.29(4) et seq.), when Iowa again does not conform to this limitation. All references to the Code of Federal Regulations (Treas. Reg.) and certain other information in this rule are based on final Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations and guidance in effect on January 13, 2021.

53.29(1) Definitions. The following terms apply to the interpretation and application of this rule.

“*Current-year business interest expense*” means the same as defined in Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-1(b)(9).

“*Excess business interest expense*” means the same as defined in Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-1(b)(16).

“*Iowa partnership*” means any partnership required to file an Iowa return (IA 1065) for the relevant tax year.

“*Iowa S corporation*” means any S corporation required to file an Iowa return (IA 1120S) for the relevant tax year.

“*Non-Iowa partnership*” means any partnership that is not required to file an Iowa return (IA 1065) for the relevant tax year.

“*Non-Iowa S corporation*” means any S corporation that is not required to file an Iowa return (IA 1120S) for the relevant tax year.

53.29(2) Tax year 2018. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, but before January 1, 2019 (tax year 2018), Iowa conforms with the IRC in effect on January 1, 2015, meaning the 30 percent limitation on the business interest expense deduction first imposed by IRC Section 163(j) under Public Law 115-97 (TCJA) does not apply for Iowa purposes.

a. In general. For tax year 2018, Iowa taxpayers are permitted to deduct current-year business interest expense without regard to the limitations imposed by IRC Section 163(j) under the TCJA. The taxpayer’s additional deduction is computed on the 2018 Nonconformity Adjustments Worksheet. Taxpayers who qualify for these higher Iowa deductions in 2018 may need to make further adjustments in 2019 for amounts deducted under this subrule for Iowa purposes but disallowed and carried forward for federal purposes. See subrule 53.29(3) for more information about these 2019 adjustments.

b. Special rules for partnerships and S corporations.

(1) Iowa partnerships and S corporations. Partnerships and S corporations required to file Iowa returns in tax year 2018 are required to make adjustments for Iowa’s nonconformity with IRC Section 163(j) at the entity level, meaning they can deduct the full interest expense on the entity’s own Iowa return and the reduction to the partner’s or shareholder’s share of the entity’s income will be included in the all source modifications line of the partners’ or shareholders’ Iowa Schedules K-1.

EXAMPLE 1: P, a partnership doing business in Iowa, has \$100,000 in current-year business interest expense in 2018. For federal purposes, \$20,000 of that amount is disallowed under IRC Section 163(j). The partnership deducts \$80,000 at the entity level in 2018, and the remaining disallowed \$20,000 is allocated to the partners to be deducted in future years. For Iowa purposes, the \$80,000 of business interest expense allowed for federal purposes is included in the partnership’s non-separately stated ordinary business income (loss), and the partnership will make an adjustment on the entity’s IA 1065 to deduct the \$20,000 of current-year business interest expense that was disallowed for federal purposes. The \$20,000 additional Iowa deduction will be reported to the partners as an all source modification on the partners’ IA 1065 Schedules K-1, and partners will receive the benefit of this all source modification item when the partners report their Iowa partnership income on their own Iowa tax return for the year. The partners will not be permitted to make further Iowa adjustments on their own Iowa tax return for the excess business interest expense amounts passed through to them from the partnership for federal purposes.

(2) Owners of partnerships and S corporations with no entity-level 2018 Iowa filing requirement.

1. Non-Iowa partnerships. Iowa partners who received interest expense deductions from partnerships which were not required to file 2018 Iowa returns may claim the larger Iowa deduction for business interest expenses passed through from the partnership on the partner's own 2018 Iowa return by including in the partner's Iowa deduction the amount of disallowed business interest expense deduction shown on the 2018 federal Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 13, code K, received from the non-Iowa partnership.

EXAMPLE 2: ABC, Inc. is a corporation doing business in Iowa and a partner in P2, an out-of-state partnership with no business in Iowa and no Iowa filing obligation. In 2018, P2 has \$100,000 in current-year business interest expense and is subject to the IRC Section 163(j) limitation for federal purposes. At the entity level, P2 is permitted to deduct \$80,000 on its 2018 federal partnership return. The \$20,000 in excess business interest expense is then allocated to P2's partners. ABC, Inc. is allocated \$5,000 in excess business interest expense from P2. Because P2 is not required to file an Iowa return, and therefore ABC, Inc. did not receive a 2018 IA 1065 Schedule K-1 from P2, ABC, Inc. is permitted to deduct the \$5,000 allocated from P2 as current-year business interest expense on ABC, Inc.'s 2018 Iowa income tax return.

2. Non-Iowa S corporations. Iowa shareholders of S corporations that have no Iowa filing requirement are limited to the deduction actually passed through to them on the federal Schedule K-1 received from the S corporation for Iowa purposes in tax year 2018. These shareholders are not permitted to make adjustments for interest expense disallowed at the entity level for the non-Iowa S corporation. See Example 3 in 701—subrule 40.85(2) for an example of how Iowa shareholders of non-Iowa S corporations should report the business interest expense deduction allocated to them from the S corporation.

53.29(3) Tax year 2019. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, but before January 1, 2020 (tax year 2019), Iowa conforms to the IRC in effect on March 24, 2018.

a. Applicable limitation. For tax year 2019, Iowa conforms to the 30 percent limitation on the business interest expense deduction imposed by IRC Section 163(j). Because of Iowa's fixed conformity date, Iowa did not conform with the higher 50 percent limitation retroactively imposed by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136, to the extent that increased limitation applied in tax year 2019 for federal purposes. For tax year 2019 only, taxpayers are required to calculate their Iowa business interest expense deduction by applying the limitations of IRC Section 163(j) without regard to IRC Section 163(j)(10).

EXAMPLE 3: XYZ Corp. has an adjusted taxable income (ATI) of \$100,000 for tax year 2019 and \$80,000 in deductible business interest expense. For federal purposes, XYZ Corp.'s business interest expense deduction is limited to \$50,000 (50 percent of ATI) under the CARES Act. However, because Iowa only conforms to the 30 percent limitation imposed by the TCJA, and not the higher CARES Act limitation for 2019, XYZ Corp.'s Iowa business interest expense deduction for the year is limited to \$30,000. XYZ Corp. will report this difference by making a \$20,000 adjustment on IA 101, line 3 (XYZ Corp. may have additional adjustments on this line if the current-year federal deduction included amounts carried forward from 2018).

b. Addition to income for tax year 2018 federal carryforward amounts deducted in tax year 2019. To the extent a taxpayer's tax year 2019 federal business interest expense deduction includes amounts that were disallowed and carried forward to future years under IRC Section 163(j) in tax year 2018 for federal purposes, but allowed as a deduction in tax year 2018 for Iowa purposes under paragraph 53.29(2) "a" (in general), subparagraph 53.29(2) "b"(1) (Iowa partnerships and S corporations), or numbered paragraph 53.29(2) "b"(2) "1" (non-Iowa partnerships), these carried-forward amounts must be added back in computing Iowa income. These prior deductions and current adjustments are calculated and tracked on the IA 101 Nonconformity Adjustments form. Note that shareholders of non-Iowa S corporations should not be required to add back 2018 carryforward amounts deducted by the S corporation in 2019, because the shareholders were not permitted to deduct these excess amounts for Iowa purposes in 2018. See numbered paragraph 53.29(2) "b"(2) "2."

EXAMPLE 4: QRS, Inc. is a partner in P under the same facts described in Example 1 above. For tax year 2019, QRS, Inc. completes federal Form 8990 and is eligible to deduct \$1,000 of the excess business

interest expense allocated to QRS, Inc. from P in 2018 on QRS, Inc.'s 2019 federal income tax return. This \$1,000 federal deduction for prior-year excess business interest expense allocated from P must be added back in computing QRS, Inc.'s 2019 Iowa income. The same add-back would be required if this scenario was applied to the facts in Example 2 above.

53.29(4) Tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, Iowa does not conform with the IRC Section 163(j) business interest expense deduction limitation.

a. Current-year business interest expense. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, a taxpayer's current-year business interest expense is fully deductible to the extent permitted by IRC Section 163 for Iowa purposes without regard to any limitation under IRC Section 163(j). Even though Iowa does not conform to IRC Section 163(j), provisions of the IRC other than Section 163(j) may subject interest expense to disallowance, deferral, capitalization, or other limitations, and those other provisions of the IRC still generally apply for Iowa purposes. No additional Iowa adjustments are permitted for federal limitations such as those described in Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-3(b)(4), which are determined after the application of IRC Section 163(j) for federal purposes. See Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-3 for examples of other provisions of the IRC that may restrict interest expense deductions for federal and Iowa purposes, independent of the IRC Section 163(j) limitation.

b. Carryforward.

(1) Special one-time carryforward catch-up (tax year 2020 only). For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, but before January 1, 2021 (tax year 2020), taxpayers who filed a 2019 Iowa return are permitted to deduct all interest expense deduction amounts that were disallowed and carried forward under IRC Section 163(j) for Iowa purposes in tax year 2019. This deduction shall be calculated and reported on the taxpayer's 2020 Iowa income tax return using form IA 163A. Excess business interest expense amounts carried over from tax year 2018 at the federal level shall not be deducted for Iowa tax purposes in tax year 2020.

EXAMPLE 5: In 2019, QRS, Inc. had \$100,000 in current-year business interest expense. QRS, Inc.'s business interest expense deduction was limited to \$50,000 for federal purposes and limited to \$30,000 for Iowa purposes due to Iowa's nonconformity with the CARES Act for that year. See paragraph 53.29(3) "a." In 2020, QRS, Inc. is again subject to an IRC Section 163(j) limitation and is not permitted to deduct any prior-year carryforward amounts for federal purposes. However, because Iowa does not conform to the IRC Section 163(j) limitation for 2020, QRS, Inc. may deduct all of the company's current-year business interest expense and all \$70,000 (\$100,000 - \$30,000) of QRS, Inc.'s disallowed Iowa interest expense carried over from 2019. QRS, Inc. must complete the IA 163 in order to calculate the company's current-year business interest expense deduction, and the IA 163A to determine the total amount of 2019 disallowed Iowa interest expense amounts, which may be deducted in full on QRS, Inc.'s 2020 Iowa return.

(2) Addition to income for prior-year federal carryforward amounts deducted in the current year. When current-year interest expense is limited at the federal level, the disallowed business interest expense is carried forward to be deducted in future years for federal purposes, when certain conditions are met. See Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-1(b)(10) for the definition of "disallowed business interest expense." Iowa law allows taxpayers to fully deduct current-year business interest expense, and no amounts are carried forward for Iowa purposes. Disallowed business interest expense carryforward amounts from prior years, including excess business interest expense allocated to a partner in a prior year, cannot be deducted for Iowa purposes except as described in subparagraph 53.29(4) "b"(1). All prior-year disallowed business interest expense carryforward amounts deductible under IRC Section 163(j) in the current year at the federal level, including excess business interest expense allocated to a partner in a prior year, must be added back in computing the taxpayer's Iowa income for the year.

EXAMPLE 6: In 2020, QRS, Inc. has \$100,000 in current-year business interest expense. For federal purposes, QRS, Inc. is subject to the IRC Section 163(j) limitation. QRS, Inc. deducts \$70,000 in business interest expense on QRS, Inc.'s 2020 federal return and carries the remaining \$30,000 forward to be deducted in future years. For Iowa purposes, QRS, Inc. deducts the full \$100,000 in current-year business interest expense in 2020.

In 2021, QRS, Inc. has \$50,000 in current-year business interest expense. For federal purposes, QRS, Inc. is permitted to deduct the full \$50,000 in interest expense generated in 2021, plus \$5,000 of the amount that was disallowed in 2020 for a total federal deduction of \$55,000 in 2021. QRS, Inc. must add the federal carryforward amount (\$5,000) back on the company's 2021 Iowa return, limiting QRS, Inc.'s 2021 Iowa deduction to the \$50,000 in current-year business interest expense.

c. Consolidated groups. Corporations that were included on a federal consolidated return but that either file separate returns for Iowa purposes or file an Iowa consolidated return that does not include all members of the federal consolidated group are required to recalculate their proper current-year business interest expense deduction as described in paragraph 53.29(4) "a," and the amount of any prior-year disallowed business interest expense carryforward which must be added back for Iowa purposes as described in paragraph 53.29(4) "b," for the separate entity or Iowa consolidated group by completing pro forma federal interest expense deduction forms for the separate entity or Iowa consolidated group. Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-4(d) and any other applicable federal regulations or guidance govern how Iowa consolidated groups should make this pro forma calculation. For more information about the election to file Iowa consolidated returns and group membership requirements, see rule 701—53.15(422).

(1) *Departure from group.* In the event that a member leaves the consolidated group, both the newly separated member and the remaining group shall be required to include any carryforward amounts allocated to them under Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-5(b)(3)(iii) in their respective Iowa incomes in the year or years the separate company or group actually deducts those amounts for federal purposes.

(2) *Carryforwards from separate return limitation years (SRLY).* A consolidated group is not permitted to deduct any disallowed business interest expense carryforward amount of a member arising in a SRLY for Iowa purposes and must add back such amounts on the Iowa return in the same year in which the consolidated group is permitted to deduct the SRLY carryforward amount for federal purposes. See 26 Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-5(d) for more information about the federal treatment of these carryforward amounts.

53.29(5) Partners and partnerships.

a. Partnership-level adjustments. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, partnerships that file an Iowa income tax return for a tax year in which the partnership is subject to the IRC Section 163(j) limitation for federal purposes are permitted to deduct all current-year business interest expense at the partnership level in that tax year. See 701—paragraph 40.85(5) "a" for more information about the calculation and reporting of partnership-level adjustments.

b. Partner-level adjustments.

(1) *Interest expense from Iowa partnerships.* Iowa adjustments related to excess business interest expense of an Iowa partnership are made at the entity level as described in 701—paragraph 40.85(5) "a" and are reported to partners on an IA 1065 Schedule K-1. Partners are not permitted to make any Iowa adjustment at the partner level to their federal interest expense deduction for amounts of excess business interest expense allocated from an Iowa partnership on the partner's federal Schedule K-1 related to that Iowa partnership. See Example 1 above.

(2) *Interest expense from non-Iowa partnerships.* For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, partners may include as part of their Iowa business interest expense deduction the total amount of current-year excess business interest expense deduction passed through to them from all non-Iowa partnerships as shown on the federal Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 13, code K. See Example 2 above.

(3) *Partnership basis.* A partner's basis is reduced (but not below zero) by the amount of excess business interest expense the partnership passes through to the partner each year. See Treas. Reg. Section 163(j)-6(h) for detailed information about how to make these basis adjustments. For federal purposes, immediately before disposition of the partnership interest, the partner's basis is then increased by the amount of any passed-through business interest expense which has not yet been treated as paid or accrued by the partner as described in Treas. Reg. Section 163(j)-6(h)(3). No basis increase at the time of disposition is allowed for Iowa purposes for passed-through business interest expense amounts that

were deducted for Iowa, but not for federal, purposes due to Iowa's nonconformity with IRC Section 163(j).

53.29(6) *S corporation adjustments.* For federal purposes, IRC Section 163(j) limitations are applied at the S corporation level. Unlike partnerships, disallowed business interest expense amounts are carried forward and deducted in future years at the entity level rather than being passed through to shareholders. S corporations should calculate their entity-level business interest expense deduction for Iowa purposes under the provisions of this rule. See also Treas. Reg. Section 1.163(j)-6(l) for more information about the application of IRC Section 163(j) to S corporations for federal purposes.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.35(27).
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