

increased by the disallowed loss. For more details on wash sales, see Pub. 550.

Report a wash sale transaction on line 1 or 8. Enter the full amount of the (loss) in column (f). Directly below the line on which you reported the loss, enter "Wash Sale" in column (a), and enter as a positive amount in column (f) the amount of the loss not allowed.

Special Rules for Traders in Securities

You are a **trader in securities** if you are engaged in the **business** of buying and selling securities for your own account. To be engaged in business as a trader in securities:

- You must seek to **profit from daily market movements** in the prices of securities and not from dividends, interest, or capital appreciation.

- Your activity must be **substantial**.

- You must carry on the activity with **continuity and regularity**.

The following facts and circumstances should be considered in determining if your activity is a business.

- Typical holding periods for securities bought and sold.

- The frequency and dollar amount of your trades during the year.

- The extent to which you pursue the activity to produce income for a livelihood.

- The amount of time you devote to the activity.

You are considered an investor, and not a trader, if your activity does not meet the above definition of a business. It does not matter whether you call yourself a trader or a "day trader."

Like an investor, a trader must report each sale of securities (taking into account commissions and any other costs of acquiring or disposing of the securities) on Schedule D or D-1 or on an attached statement containing all the same information for each sale in a similar format. However, if a trader previously made the mark-to-market election (see below), each transaction is reported in Part II of Form 4797 instead of Schedules D and D-1. Regardless of whether a trader reports his or her gains and losses on Schedules D and D-1 or Form 4797, the gain or loss from the disposition of securities is **not** taken into account when figuring net earnings from self-employment on Schedule SE. See the Instructions for Schedule SE for an exception that applies to section 1256 contracts.

The limitation on investment interest expense that applies to investors does not apply to interest paid or incurred in a trading business. A trader reports interest expense and other expenses (excluding commissions and other costs of acquiring or disposing of

securities) from a trading business on Schedule C (instead of Schedule A).

A trader also may hold securities for investment. The rules for investors generally will apply to those securities. Allocate interest and other expenses between your trading business and your investment securities.

Mark-To-Market Election for Traders

A trader may make an election under section 475(f) to report all gains and losses from securities held in connection with a trading business as ordinary income (or loss), including securities held at the end of the year. Securities held at the end of the year are "marked to market" by treating them as if they were sold (and reacquired) for fair market value on the last business day of the year. Generally, the election must be made by the due date (**not** including extensions) of the tax return for the year **prior** to the year for which the election becomes effective. To be effective for 2000, the election must have been made by April 17, **2000**.

Starting with the year the election becomes effective, a trader reports all gains and losses from securities held in connection with the trading business, including securities held at the end of the year, in Part II of Form 4797. If you previously made the election, see the instructions for Form 4797. For details on making the mark-to-market election for 2001, see Pub. 550 or Rev. Proc. 99-17, 1999-7 I.R.B. 52.

If you hold securities for investment, they must be identified as such in your records on the day they are acquired (for example, by holding the securities in a separate brokerage account). Securities held for investment are not marked-to-market.

Short Sales

A short sale is a contract to sell property you borrowed for delivery to a buyer. At a later date, you either buy substantially identical property and deliver it to the lender or deliver property that you held but did not want to transfer at the time of the sale. Usually, your holding period is the amount of time you actually held the property eventually delivered to the lender to close the short sale. However, your gain when closing a short sale is short term if you (a) held substantially identical property for 1 year or less on the date of the short sale or (b) acquired property substantially identical to the property sold short after the short sale but on or before the date you close the short sale.

If you held substantially identical property for more than 1 year on the date of a short sale, any loss realized on the short sale is a long-term capital loss, even if the property used to close the short sale was held 1 year or less.

Constructive Sale Treatment for Certain Appreciated Positions

Generally, you must recognize gain (but not loss) on the date you enter into a constructive sale of any appreciated position in stock, a partnership interest, or certain debt instruments as if the position were disposed of at fair market value on that date.

You are treated as making a constructive sale of an appreciated position when you (or a related person, in some cases) do one of the following.

- Enter into a short sale of the same or substantially identical property (that is, a "short sale against the box").

- Enter into an offsetting notional principal contract relating to the same or substantially identical property.

- Enter into a futures or forward contract to deliver the same or substantially identical property.

- Acquire the same or substantially identical property (if the appreciated position is a short sale, offsetting notional principal contract, or a futures or forward contract).

Exception. Generally, constructive sale treatment **does not** apply if:

- You closed the transaction before the end of the 30th day after the end of the year in which it was entered into,

- You held the appreciated position to which the transaction relates throughout the 60-day period starting on the date the transaction was closed, **and**

- At no time during that 60-day period was your risk of loss reduced by holding certain other positions.

For details and other exceptions to these rules, see Pub. 550.

Gain or Loss From Options

Report on Schedule D gain or loss from the closing or expiration of an option that is not a section 1256 contract but is a capital asset in your hands. If an option you purchased expired, enter the expiration date in column (c) and enter "**EXPIRED**" in column (d). If an option that was granted (written) expired, enter the expiration date in column (b) and enter "**EXPIRED**" in column (e). Fill in the other columns as appropriate. See Pub. 550 for more details.

Undistributed Capital Gains

Include on line 11, column (f), the amount from box 1a of **Form 2439**. This represents your share of the undistributed long-term capital gains of the regulated investment company (including a mutual fund) or real estate investment trust.

Include on line 11, column (g), the amount, if any, from box 1b of Form 2439.