SARS South African Revenue Service

BINDING GENERAL RULING (INCOME TAX): NO. 7

DATE: 11 April 2011

ACT : INCOME TAX ACT NO. 58 OF 1962 (the Act)
SECTION : SECTION 11(*e*)
SUBJECT : WEAR-AND-TEAR OR DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCE

Preamble

For the purposes of this ruling –

- **"allowance"** means the wear-and-tear or depreciation allowance granted under section 11(*e*);
- **"BGR"** means a binding general ruling issued under section 76P of the Act;
- **"Commissioner"** means the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service (SARS);
- **"qualifying asset"** means machinery, plant, implements, utensils and articles qualifying for the allowance;
- **"section'** means a section of the Act unless otherwise stated;
- **"the Note"** means Interpretation Note No. 47 (Issue 2);
- **"VAT"** means value-added tax levied under the VAT Act; and
- **"VAT Act"** means the Value-Added Tax Act No. 89 of 1991.

1. Purpose

This BGR reproduces the parts of Interpretation Note No. 47 (Issue 2) "Wear-and-Tear or Depreciation Allowance" dated 11 November 2009 that comprise a BGR under section 76P of the Act.

2. Background

The Note is a BGR on section 11(*e*) in as far as it relates to –

- the determination of the value of an asset for purposes of section 11(*e*) (paragraph **4.2** of the Note); and
- the determination of the amount that will qualify as an allowance (paragraph **4.3** and **Annexure A** of the Note).

3. Ruling

The following parts of the Note, which comprise a BGR, are reproduced in the **Annexure**:

- Paragraph **4.2** – Value of an asset for purposes of section 11(*e*).

ARCHIVED

- Paragraph **4.3 –** Policies on the determination of the amount of the allowance.
- **Annexure A** – Schedule of write-off periods acceptable to SARS.

4. Period for which this ruling is valid

This BGR applies to any asset brought into use during any year of assessment commencing on or after 1 March 2009.

Legal and Policy Division
SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE

ARCHIVED

ANNEXURE – PARAGRAPHS 4.2 AND 4.3, AND ANNEXURE A OF INTERPRETATION NOTE NO. 47 (ISSUE 2)

4.2 Value of an asset for purposes of section 11(*e*)

4.2.1 General rule

Although the term "value" is not defined in section 11(*e*), it has always been the policy of SARS to, unless otherwise prescribed, regard the value of assets for purposes of determining the allowance as the taxpayer's cost of acquisition of an asset (that is, the cash cost excluding finance charges).[1] The revaluation of an asset would, for example, have no effect on the value of an asset for purposes of the allowance. Examples of exceptions to this general rule are assets acquired by the taxpayer by way of donation, inheritance, distribution *in specie* or from a connected person.

Paragraph (vii) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) provides that when the value of an asset must be determined having regard to its cost, the cost would be the cost which in the opinion of the Commissioner a person would, if he or she had acquired such an asset in terms of a cash transaction concluded at arm's length on the date on which the transaction was in fact concluded, have incurred on the direct cost of the acquisition of the asset, including the direct cost of installation or erection thereof. This cost is also known as the market value of the asset.

Under section 23C(1), any VAT payable on acquisition or delivery of an asset must only be included in the cost for purposes of calculating the allowance if the taxpayer is –

- not a registered vendor; or
- a registered vendor that is not entitled to a deduction of input tax on the asset under section 16(3) of the VAT Act.

The cost pertaining to the acquisition of an asset could, therefore include –

- its original purchase price (including VAT incurred in the circumstances described above);
- shipping or delivery charges relating to the delivery of the asset;
- any costs incurred in moving the asset from one location to another; and
- costs directly relating to the installation or erection of the asset.

Financing costs do not form part of the cost of an asset.

4.2.2 Foundations or supporting structures on which assets are mounted or affixed to

Under paragraph (iiA) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) any concrete or other foundation or supporting structure on which a qualifying asset is mounted or affixed to is not

[1] In ITC 1546 (1992) 54 SATC 477 (C) a landlord acquired second-hand furniture and fittings at a bargain price from the liquidator of its tenant. The landlord attempted to claim the wear-and-tear allowance on a revalued amount, based on paragraph (vii) of the proviso to section 11(*e*). This was rejected by the court which held that the allowance was properly claimable on the cost of the articles.

ARCHIVED

regarded as a structure or work of a permanent nature, but is treated as part of that qualifying asset provided the Commissioner is satisfied that –

- the foundation or supporting structure is designed for the qualifying asset and constructed in such manner that it is or should be regarded as being integrated with the qualifying asset; and
- the useful life of the foundation or supporting structure is or will be limited to the useful life of the qualifying asset mounted on it or affixed to it,

4.2.3 Moving costs

Paragraph (v) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) provides that the value of the asset must be increased by the amount of any expenditure which is proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been incurred by the taxpayer in moving such asset from one location to another. Moving costs must thus be written off over the remaining estimated useful life of the asset. For example, if an asset is being written off over five years and moving costs are incurred in year 4, those costs will be allowed as a deduction in years 4 and 5. If the asset has been written off in full the moving costs will be allowable in the year of assessment in which they are incurred.

4.2.4 Assets acquired by way of donation, inheritance or as a distribution *in specie*

The allowance is based on the market value of an asset acquired by a taxpayer by way of donation, inheritance or as a distribution *in specie*. This market value is determined under paragraph (vii) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) (see **4.2.1**).

The Commissioner's discretion in this regard will usually be exercised upon audit of the case. Taxpayers must ensure that they have the necessary information or documentation readily available when requested by the Commissioner to substantiate the arm's length price of an asset and the inclusion of any amount in the determination of the value of an asset.

4.2.5 Limitation of allowance granted on an asset previously held by a connected person (section 23J)

(a) Years of assessment ending before 1 January 2008

Before its deletion, paragraph (viii) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) provided that when a section 11(*e*) deduction or a deduction under section 11B(3), 11D(2), 12B(1), 12C(1), 12E or under section 27(2)(*d*) before its deletion by section 28(*b*) of the Income Tax Act, No. 129 of 1991, was previously claimed on any asset acquired on or after 21 June 1993, the allowance had to be calculated on an amount not exceeding the lesser of –

- the cost of the asset to the connected person; or
- its market value as determined on the date upon which it was acquired by the taxpayer.

The term "connected person" is defined in section 1.

The market value in this context is the price which a willing buyer would pay a willing seller at the time and place and under the conditions under which the applicable assets are offered for sale.

ARCHIVED

(b) Years of assessment ending on or after 1 January 2008

Section 23J was inserted into the Act by section 38 of the Revenue Laws Amendment Act, No. 35 of 2007, and replaced the connected person rule that previously resided in paragraph (viii) of the proviso to section 11(*e*).

Section 23J

23J. Limitation of allowances granted in respect of assets previously held by connected persons.—(1) Where a depreciable asset acquired by a taxpayer was held within a period of two years preceding the acquisition by a person who was a connected person in relation to that taxpayer at any time during that period, the cost or value of the depreciable asset for the purposes of this section and any deduction or allowance claimed by the taxpayer in respect of that asset shall not exceed an amount determined in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) The amount to be determined for purposes of subsection (1) is the sum of—

(*a*) the cost of the depreciable asset for purposes of any deductions allowable in respect of that asset to the most recent person contemplated in subsection (1) that previously held that asset (hereinafter referred to as the "connected person"), less the sum of—

(i) all deductions which have been allowed to the connected person in respect of the asset; and

(ii) all deductions that are deemed to have been allowed to the connected person in respect of the asset in terms of section 11(*e*)(ix), 12B(4B), 12C(4A), 12D(3A), 12DA(4), 12F(3A), 13(1A), 13*bis*(3A), 13*ter*(6A), 13*quin*(3) or 37B(4);

(*b*) any amount contemplated in paragraph (*n*) of the definition of "gross income" in section 1 that is required to be included in the income of the connected person that arises as a result of the disposal of the asset by the connected person; and

(*c*) the applicable percentage in paragraph 10 of the Eighth Schedule, of the capital gain of the connected person that arises as a result of the disposal of the asset by the connected person.

Section 23J brought the various depreciable-asset-connected-person provisions in the Act under a single section. While the "connected person" rule in section 11(*e*) limited the cost to the purchaser to the lower of the cost to the connected person (seller) or the market value at the time of the disposal by the connected person, section 23J gives credit to intervening taxation arising from the disposal by the connected person. More specifically, the cost for the purchaser equals the sum of –

- the cost (taking into account any subsequent tax adjustments) of the depreciable asset to the connected person (seller); plus
- all inclusions in income by way of the recoupment of amounts allowed as a deduction upon the disposal by the connected person and any inclusion stemming from any capital gain triggered on the disposal.

ARCHIVED

Example 1 – Determination of the value on which the allowance is to be based when an asset is acquired from a connected person

Facts:

Company X owns 60% of the shares in company Y and company Z.

Company Y sells a motor vehicle to company Z for R110 000. Company Y initially purchased the vehicle for R100 000 and claimed allowances on it of R30 000. The following are triggered on disposal of the vehicle:

First, a recoupment is triggered under section 8(4)(*a*) of R30 000 which results in an inclusion in the gross income of company Y under paragraph (*n*) of the definition of "gross income".

Secondly, a taxable capital gain is triggered under section 26A of R5 000 which results in an inclusion in the taxable income of company Y determined as follows:

	R	R
Amount received on disposal	110 000	
Less: Recoupment	(30 000)	
Proceeds		80 000
Less: Base cost		(70 000)
Cost of asset	100 000	
Less: All amounts previously allowed under section 11(*e*)	(30 000)	
Capital gain		10 000
Inclusion rate		50%
Taxable capital gain		5 000

Result:

Company Z will base its future allowances on a cost of R105 000, determined as follows:

	R
Cost to company Y (section 23J(1))	100 000
Less: Allowances claimed by company Y (section 23J(1)(*a*))	(30 000)
Income tax value of asset to company Y	70 000
Recoupment in company Y (section 23J(1)(*b*))	30 000
Taxable capital gain in company Y (section 23J(1)(*c*))	5 000
Deemed cost to company Z for purposes of the allowance	105 000

Thus under section 23J the actual cost of the motor vehicle to company Z of R110 000 is limited to R105 000 for purposes of calculating the allowance.

A special rule in section 23J(1) applies to prevent taxpayers from artificially breaking the "connected person" chain. Under this rule an asset acquired from a non-connected person will be treated as having been acquired from a connected person if the asset was held by a connected person at any time during the two years before the date of acquisition.

ARCHIVED

4.2.6 Leased assets

The allowance granted to a lessor must be based on the cost of the asset less any residual value, as specified in the lease agreement. Many lease agreements, particularly those involving vehicles, provide for a residual value. This residual value is what the lessor expects the asset to be worth at the end of the lease. At the end of the lease the lessor will usually sell the asset to recover the residual. If the asset is not returned to the lessor in good condition or has exceeded agreed usage criteria (for example, a restriction of 100 000 kilometres over 54 months in the case of a vehicle), the lessee is required to reimburse the lessor. In this way the value of the asset at the end of the lease is assured. Section 11(*e*) permits a deduction for the amount by which the value of an asset has been diminished by reason of wear and tear or depreciation during the year of assessment. Since the portion of the cost of the asset representing the residual value is guaranteed (that is, it is not subject to diminution in value), there is no justification for granting the allowance on that portion of the cost.

If an asset with a cost of R100 is leased with an agreed residual of R20 this means that the value by which the asset is expected to depreciate over the period is R80. It is for this reason that lessors are required to reduce the cost of their leased assets by the residual value for the purposes of determining the allowance.

Should any initial amount paid by the lessee not form part of the income of the lessor for income tax purposes, it must be excluded from the lessor's cost of acquisition of the asset.

At the termination of the lease agreement the residual value is the value of the asset for income tax purposes and any further write-off or recoupment will depend on how the asset is dealt with. (As far as the lessee is concerned, the recoupment provisions of section 8(5) will apply.)

4.2.7 Assets acquired in a foreign currency

Section 25D provides that when any expenditure is incurred by a taxpayer in any currency other than the currency of the Republic, it must be translated to rand by applying the spot rate on the date on which the expenditure was so incurred.

A natural person or trust (other than a trust which carries on a trade) may, however, elect that all amounts of expenditure incurred in a foreign currency be translated into rand by applying the average exchange rate for the relevant year of assessment (section 25D(3)).

4.2.8 Repaired assets

Under paragraph (i) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) when a deduction has been allowed for repairs under section 11(*d*), the Commissioner must take into consideration the sum allowed under section 11(*d*) in determining the amount of the allowance. Thus the Commissioner may increase the write-off period of an existing asset whose useful life has been extended to an appreciable extent through extraordinary repairs.

ARCHIVED

4.2.9 Assets that were damaged or destroyed and replaced

Paragraph (iv) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) has been superseded by the phased-recoupment provisions of section 8(4)(*e*A) to (*e*E) which came into operation on 22 December 2003 and apply to the disposal of any asset on or after that date.

The provision applied to certain assets which were disposed of through damage or destruction before 22 December 2003. In such event, section 8(4)(*e*) permitted a taxpayer to elect that any recoupment of allowances arising under section 8(4)(*a*) (for example, from insurance proceeds) be excluded from the taxpayer's income provided that the assets were replaced with qualifying assets and certain other conditions were met. The *quid pro quo* for the exclusion from income was that the depreciable value of the qualifying replacement assets had to be reduced under paragraph (iv) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) by the amount of the recoupment excluded under section 8(4)(*e*).

4.3 Policies on the determination of the amount of the allowance

4.3.1 Withdrawal of permission to use the debtor accounting system

Previously it was SARS's policy to allow a qualifying lessor to adopt the "debtor accounting system" for income tax purposes. The lessor was required to satisfy the Commissioner that, for purposes of claiming the allowance, the volume of the lessor's leasing business rendered it impracticable to maintain a separate asset account for each article let.

Under the "debtor accounting system", only the finance charges earned by the lessor during a year of assessment are to be reflected as "gross income". It follows that in such a case a lessor will not be allowed the allowances for leased assets.

This policy is, however, withdrawn for any asset let under an agreement entered into during any year of assessment commencing on or after 1 March 2010.

4.3.2 Methods for determining the allowance

In determining the allowance taxpayers may elect between –

- the diminishing-value method (under this method the allowance for a year of assessment is calculated on the value remaining after the deduction of the allowances for previous years of assessment); or
- the straight-line method (under this method the allowance is claimed in equal instalments over the expected useful life of the asset).

A taxpayer using the diminishing-value method that wishes to adopt the straight-line method must write off the income tax value of existing assets in equal instalments over their remaining estimated useful lives.

ARCHIVED

Example 2 – Change from the diminishing-value method to the straight-line method

Facts:

A taxpayer purchased an asset having an estimated useful life of five years at the beginning of year 1 at a cost of R5 400. For the first two years the taxpayer claimed the allowance using the diminishing-value method. At the beginning of year 3 the taxpayer changed to the straight-line method. Determine the wear-and–tear allowance for each of the five years.

Result:

	R
Original cost	5 400
Allowance for year 1 R5 400 x 20%	(1 080)
Income tax value at end of year 1	4 320
Allowance for year 2 R4 320 x 20%	(864)
Income tax value at end of year 2	3 456

Under the straight-line method, for years 3 to 5 the income tax value at the end of year 2 is written off in three equal instalments, that is, R3 456/3 = R1 152 per year.

It is unnecessary for a taxpayer to notify the Commissioner when changing the method for determining the allowance. Taxpayers must ensure that they have the necessary records supporting the write-off of all assets readily available, should these be requested by the Commissioner.

4.3.3 Write-off periods

Under the straight-line method an asset must be written off in equal annual instalments over its estimated useful life. Under the diminishing-value method, the allowance must be determined on the income tax value of the asset during each year of assessment in which the asset is used for the purposes of trade.

(a) Assets for which write-off periods have been listed in Annexure A

Annexure A contains a schedule of write-off periods that are acceptable to the Commissioner for assets that are written off on the straight-line method. These write-off periods are acceptable for assets that are used for purposes of trade, including a trade of leasing, and are applicable to any asset brought into use during a year of assessment commencing on or after 1 March 2009.

Any application to write off an asset over a shorter period than that reflected in the schedule must be fully motivated and submitted to the SARS office where the taxpayer is on register for income tax purposes. The application must be lodged before submission of the return of income in which the relevant allowance is claimed.

An asset which is let for a period exceeding that prescribed in the schedule must be written off over the period of the lease.

(b) Assets for which write-off periods have not been listed in Annexure A

The period of write-off of any asset not included in the schedule must be determined by its expected life.

ARCHIVED

The following factors must be taken into account in determining the expected life of an asset:

- How long the taxpayer expects the asset to last.
- How the taxpayer expects to use it.
- Whether the asset is likely to become obsolete.
- Whether the effective life of the asset is limited to the life of a particular project.

The kind of information that could be useful in determining the expected useful life of an asset includes –

- manufacturer's specifications;
- independent engineering information;
- the taxpayer's own past experience with similar assets;
- the accounting write-off period; and
- the past experience of other users of similar assets.

The Commissioner's discretion in this regard will be exercised upon assessment or audit of the case. Taxpayers must ensure that they have the necessary information or documentation pertaining to the period of write-off readily available when requested by the Commissioner.

A request to include the write-off period of an asset which does not appear on the schedule may be sent by e-mail to **policycomments@sars.gov.za**. In order to be included on the schedule, the asset must not be unique or be used in a unique manner.

4.3.4 Used assets

A used or second-hand asset must be written off over its expected useful life, taking into account its condition.

4.3.5 "Small" items

The cost of "small" items such as loose tools may be written off in full in the year of assessment in which they are acquired and brought into use. A "small" item in this context is one which normally functions in its own right, does not form part of a set and is acquired at a cost of less than R7 000 per item.[2] The amount of R7 000 applies to any asset acquired on or after 1 March 2009.

A table and six chairs which plainly form part of a set can, for example, not be divided into individual independent items costing less than the specified amount. The cost of such a set amounting to R7 000 or more cannot be written off in full during the year of assessment in which the set was acquired and brought into use.

ARCHIVED

[2] The previous limit of R5 000 applied to assets acquired on or after 1 March 2006.

Furthermore, the “small items” write-off does not apply to assets acquired by lessors for the purpose of letting.[3] Thus lessors that let small items such as DVDs, clothing, machinery, pallets or gas cylinders must depreciate these assets over their useful lives.

4.3.6 Assets previously used to produce amounts that were not included in the taxpayer’s income

Paragraph (ix) of the proviso to section 11(*e*) applies when –

- a qualifying asset was used by the taxpayer during any previous year of assessment or years of assessment for the purposes of any trade carried on by that taxpayer, and
- the receipts and accruals of that trade were not included in the taxpayer’s income during those year or years.

This could occur, for example, when –

- an asset was used by a public benefit organisation (PBO) in a previous year of assessment during which its receipts and accruals were fully exempt from income tax, and the PBO becomes taxable on its trading activities in the current year of assessment because its income from such activities exceeds the threshold in section 10(1)(*c*N);
- an asset was used before the introduction of the residence basis of taxation for purposes of a foreign trade; or
- an asset was used in a “micro business” contemplated in the Sixth Schedule to the Act and the taxpayer becomes subject to normal tax because the turnover of the micro business has exceeded the maximum threshold for such a business.

In these circumstances the Commissioner must take into account the period of use of the relevant qualifying asset during that previous year or years in determining the amount by which its value has been diminished.

Example 3 – Asset used to produce exempt income in previous years of assessment

Facts:

A taxpayer acquires a motor vehicle with an expected useful life of five years at a cost of R100 000. The vehicle was used for three years of assessment to generate exempt income, after which it was brought into use for purposes of the taxpayer’s trade.

ARCHIVED

[3] Interpretation Note No. 47 (Issue 1) dated 28 July 2009 did not prevent lessors from claiming the small items write-off of R7 000 for years of assessment commencing on or after 1 January 2009. Interpretation Note No. 47 (Issue 2) confirms that the small items write-off no longer applies to lessors and this modification takes effect on the date of issue of that Note, namely, 11 November 2009 and applies to any asset acquired on or after that date.

Result:

The allowance will only be allowed during the remaining two years of assessment in which the asset was used for purposes of trade. The taxpayer will therefore only be entitled to claim an allowance of R100 000 / 5 = R20 000 per year during years 4 and 5.

4.3.7 Assets used for both private and business purposes

The allowance must be reduced proportionately when an asset is used for private and business purposes, since the deduction is only allowable to the extent that the asset is used for the purposes of trade.

4.3.8 Assets not used for the whole year of assessment

The allowance must be apportioned for an asset that has not been used for the purposes of trade throughout the year of assessment, for example, when –

- an asset is acquired and brought into use during a year of assessment;
- an asset is disposed of during the year of assessment; or
- a natural person is carrying on a trade in his or her own name and becomes insolvent or dies during the year of assessment.

The allowance must be apportioned regardless of whether the straight-line method or diminishing-value method is used.

Sequestration

Before sequestration

Under section 25C the estate of a person before sequestration and that person's insolvent estate are deemed to be one and the same person for purposes of determining the amount of any allowance or deduction to which the insolvent estate may be entitled. The natural person before sequestration will therefore only be allowed a *pro rata* share of the allowance calculated up to and including the day before the date of sequestration.

On or after sequestration

An insolvent estate that continues to trade in the year of assessment in which sequestration commences will be allowed a *pro rata* share of the annual allowance calculated from the date of sequestration until the end of the year of assessment or until the date of disposal of the asset if earlier. See Interpretation Note No. 8 (Issue 2) "Insolvent Estates" dated 22 March 2006.

Death

Up to and including date of death

A deceased person will be entitled to a *pro rata* portion of the allowance calculated up to and including the date of death.[4] Unlike an insolvent estate, section 25 does not deem the deceased person and the deceased estate to be "one and the same person".

ARCHIVED

[4] Under section 66(13)(*a*) a person who dies is required to submit a return of income for the period commencing on the first day of the relevant year of assessment and ending on the date of death.

After date of death

If there is no ascertainable heir or legatee and the estate continues to use the asset in a trade, the allowance will be based on the market value of the asset on the day following the date of death and must be calculated from that date until the end of the estate's first year of assessment (or up to the date of disposal of the asset to a third party if earlier). An heir who continues to use the asset in a trade will be entitled to a *pro rata* portion of the allowance in the year of acquisition based on its market value calculated from the date of death or, if later, the date on which the asset is first used by the heir for the purposes of trade. If the executor carries on the trade for the benefit of the heir, the heir will claim the allowance (section 25(2)). See also Interpretation Note No.12 "Recoupments: Assets in a Deceased Estate" dated 27 March 2003.

4.3.9 Assets not yet brought into use for purposes of trade

It often happens that a taxpayer acquires an asset during one year of assessment, but only brings it into use in a subsequent year of assessment. In these circumstances the taxpayer will only be entitled to claim an allowance once the asset is brought into use for purposes of trade.

ANNEXURE A: SCHEDULE OF WRITE-OFF PERIODS ACCEPTABLE TO SARS

Asset	**Proposed write-off period (in years)**
Adding machines	6
Air conditioners:	
Window type	6
Mobile	5
Room unit	10
Air conditioning assets (excluding pipes, ducting and vents):	
Air handling units	20
Cooling towers	15
Condensing sets	15
Chillers:	
Absorption type	25
Centrifugal	20
Aircraft: Light passenger or commercial helicopters	4
Arc welding equipment	6
Artefacts	25
Balers	6
Battery chargers	5
Bicycles	4
Boilers	4

ARCHIVED

Asset	Proposed write-off period (in years)
Bulldozers	3
Bumping flaking	4
Carports	5
Cash registers	5
Cell phone antennae	6
Cell phone masts	10
Cellular telephones	2
Cheque writing machines	6
Cinema equipment	5
Cold drink dispensers	6
Communication systems	5
Compressors	4
Computers	
Main frame / servers[5]	5
Personal	3
Computer software (main frames)	
Purchased	3
Self-developed	1
Computer software (personal computers)	2
Concrete mixers (portable)	4
Concrete transit mixers	3
Containers (large metal type used for transporting freight)	10
Crop sprayers	6
Curtains	5
Debarking equipment	4
Delivery vehicles	4
Demountable partitions	6
Dental and doctors equipment	5
Dictaphones	3
Drilling equipment (water)	5
Drills	6

ARCHIVED

[5] The word "servers" was added in Interpretation Note No. 47 (Issue 2) and comes into operation on the date of issue thereof, namely, 11 November 2009 and applies to any server acquired on or after that date.

Asset	Proposed write-off period (in years)
Electric saws	6
Electrostatic copiers	6
Engraving equipment	5
Escalators	20
Excavators	4
Fax machines	3
Fertiliser spreaders	6
Firearms	6
Fire extinguishers (loose units)	5
Fire detection systems	3
Fishing vessels	12
Fitted carpets	6
Food bins	4
Food-conveying systems	4
Fork-lift trucks	4
Front-end loaders	4
Furniture and fittings	6
Gantry cranes	6
Garden irrigation equipment (movable)	5
Gas cutting equipment	6
Gas heaters and cookers	6
Gearboxes	4
Gear shapers	6
Generators (portable)	5
Generators (standby)	15
Graders	4
Grinding machines	6
Guillotines	6
Gymnasium equipment:	
Cardiovascular equipment	2
Health testing equipment	5
Weights and strength equipment	4
Spinning equipment	1

ARCHIVED

Asset	Proposed write-off period (in years)
Other	10
Hairdressers' equipment	5
Harvesters	6
Heat dryers	6
Heating equipment	6
Hot water systems	5
Incubators	6
Ironing and pressing equipment	6
Kitchen equipment	6
Knitting machines	6
Laboratory research equipment	5
Lathes	6
Laundromat equipment	5
Law reports: Sets (Legal practitioners)	5
Lift installations (goods/passengers)	12
Medical theatre equipment	6
Milling machines	6
Mobile caravans	5
Mobile cranes	4
Mobile refrigeration units	4
Motors	4
Motorcycles	4
Motorised chainsaws	4
Motorised concrete mixers	3
Motor mowers	5
Musical instruments	5
Navigation systems	10
Neon signs and advertising boards	10
Office equipment – electronic	3
Office equipment – mechanical	5
Oxygen concentrators	3
Ovens and heating devices	6
Ovens for heating food	6

ARCHIVED

Asset	**Proposed write-off period (in years)**
Packaging and related equipment	4
Paintings (valuable)	25
Pallets	4
Passenger cars	5
Patterns, tooling and dies	3
Pellet mills	4
Perforating equipment	6
Photocopying equipment	5
Photographic equipment	6
Planers	6
Pleasure craft etc.	12
Ploughs	6
Portable safes	25
Power tools (hand-operated)	5
Power supply	5
Public address systems	5
Pumps	4
Race horses	4
Radar systems	5
Radio communication equipment	5
Refrigerated milk-tankers	4
Refrigeration equipment	6
Refrigerators	6
Runway lights	5
Sanders	6
Scales	5
Security systems (removable)	5
Seed separators	6
Sewing machines	6
Shakers	4
Shop fittings	6
Solar energy units	5
Special patterns and tooling	2

ARCHIVED

Asset	**Proposed write-off period (in years)**
Spin dryers	6
Spot welding equipment	6
Staff training equipment	5
Surge bins	4
Surveyors:	
Instruments	10
Field equipment	5
Tape-recorders	5
Telephone equipment	5
Television and advertising films	4
Television sets, video machines and decoders	6
Textbooks	3
Tractors	4
Trailers	5
Traxcavators	4
Trolleys	3
Trucks (heavy duty)	3
Trucks (other)	4
Truck-mounted cranes	4
Typewriters	6
Vending machines (including video game machines)	6
Video cassettes	2
Warehouse racking	10
Washing machines	5
Water distillation and purification plant	12
Water tankers	4
Water tanks	6
Weighbridges (movable parts)	10
Wire line rods	1
Workshop equipment	5
X-ray equipment	5

ARCHIVED