

Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2017

Contents

Clause	Page
1. Short title.....	C227
2. Inland Revenue Ordinance amended	C227
3. Section 2 amended (interpretation).....	C227
4. Sections 14G to 14N added	C229
14G. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: interpretation	C229
14H. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: concession for qualifying aircraft lessor	C247
14I. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: calculation of net lease payments.....	C253
14J. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: concession for qualifying aircraft leasing manager	C255
14K. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: safe harbour rule	C261
14L. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: Commissioner's determination	C267
14M. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: anti- avoidance provisions	C269
14N. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: power to amend Schedule 17F	C273

Clause	Page
5. Section 15 amended (certain amounts deemed trading receipts).....	C275
6. Section 19CA amended (treatment of losses: concessionary trading receipts).....	C275
7. Section 20AA amended (persons not treated as agents).....	C281
8. Section 37 amended (initial and annual allowances, machinery or plant)	C281
9. Section 38 amended (balancing allowances and charges, machinery or plant)	C283
10. Section 39B amended (initial and annual allowances on machinery or plant under the pooling system)	C283
11. Section 39D amended (balancing allowances and charges under the pooling system).....	C285
12. Section 80D amended (offences of service provider)	C285
13. Section 89 amended (transitional provisions)	C287
14. Schedule 8 amended (rate of profits tax in respect of a corporation).....	C287
15. Schedule 17F added.....	C287
Schedule 17F Aircraft Leasing Tax Concessions	C289
16. Schedule 41 added	C295
Schedule 41 Transitional Provisions for Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2017	C295

A BILL

To

Amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance to give profits tax concessions to qualifying aircraft lessors and qualifying aircraft leasing managers; to make provisions for profits tax purposes about businesses in connection with aircraft; and to make consequential and minor textual amendments.

Enacted by the Legislative Council.

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2017.

2. Inland Revenue Ordinance amended

The Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 16.

3. Section 2 amended (interpretation)

(1) Section 2(1), definition of *lease*, before “in relation to any machinery”—

Add

“except in the aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions and Schedule 17F”.

(2) Section 2(1)—

Add in alphabetical order

“*aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions* (飛機租賃稅務寬減條文) means sections 14G, 14H, 14I, 14J, 14K, 14L, 14M and 14N;”.

4. Sections 14G to 14N added

After section 14F—

Add

“14G. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: interpretation

(1) In the aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions—

actual residual value (實際剩餘價值), in relation to an aircraft, means the actual fair market value of the aircraft at the end of the term of a lease or its useful economic life;

aircraft (飛機)—

- (a) includes an aeroplane, airframe, aircraft engine and helicopter; but
- (b) does not include an aircraft solely for military use, airship, spacecraft or satellite;

aircraft engine (飛機引擎) means an engine—

- (a) that is used or to be used in an aircraft; and
- (b) that—
 - (i) is powered by jet propulsion and has at least 1 750 lb of thrust or its equivalent; or
 - (ii) is powered by turbine or piston technology and has at least 550 rated take-off shaft horsepower or its equivalent,
 together with any aircraft engine component;

aircraft engine component (飛機引擎組件), in relation to an engine, means—

- (a) a module or other installed, incorporated or attached accessory, part or equipment of the engine; or
- (b) data, manual or record relating to the engine;

aircraft leasing activity (飛機租賃活動)—see section 1(1) of Schedule 17F;

aircraft leasing management activity (飛機租賃管理活動)—see section 1(1) of Schedule 17F;

aircraft leasing management asset (飛機租賃管理資產), in relation to a corporation, means an asset of the corporation used by it to carry out a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity;

aircraft leasing management profits (飛機租賃管理利潤), in relation to a corporation, means any profits of the corporation that are derived from a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity;

aircraft operation business (飛機營運業務)—

- (a) means a business of operating aircraft as an owner or a charterer for providing services for the carriage by air of passengers, cargo or mail; but
- (b) does not include dealing in aircraft or agency business in connection with air transport;

aircraft operator (飛機營運商) means a person carrying on an aircraft operation business;

associate (相聯者), in relation to a corporation, means—

- (a) a person who has control over the corporation;

- (b) a partner of the person mentioned in paragraph (a);
- (c) if a person mentioned in paragraph (a) is a natural person, a relative of the person;
- (d) if a partner mentioned in paragraph (b) is a natural person, a relative of the partner;
- (e) a director or principal officer of—
 - (i) the corporation; or
 - (ii) an associated corporation of the corporation;
- (f) a relative of a director (if the director is a natural person) or principal officer mentioned in paragraph (e);
- (g) a partner of the corporation;
- (h) if a partner of the corporation is a natural person, a relative of the partner;
- (i) a partnership in which the corporation is a partner; or
- (j) an associated corporation of the corporation;

associated corporation (相聯法團), in relation to a corporation, means—

- (a) another corporation over which the corporation has control;
- (b) another corporation that has control over the corporation; or
- (c) another corporation that is under the control of the same person as is the corporation;

connected person (有關連者), in relation to a corporation, means—

- (a) an associated corporation of the corporation;
- (b) a person (other than a corporation)—
 - (i) over whom the corporation has control;
 - (ii) who has control over the corporation; or
 - (iii) who is under the control of the same person as is the corporation; or
- (c) a partnership in which the corporation or its associate is a partner;

control (控制), in relation to the definitions of **associate**, **associated corporation** and **connected person**—see subsection (2);

dry lease (淨租機租約) means an arrangement under which—

- (a) an aircraft is bona fide demised, let or hired out, or a right to use an aircraft is otherwise granted, by a person (**lessor**) to another person for a term exceeding 1 year;
- (b) the lessor is not responsible for ensuring the airworthiness of the aircraft; and
- (c) no member of the crew of the aircraft is employed by the lessor;

estimated residual value (估計剩餘價值), in relation to an aircraft, means an estimated fair market value of the aircraft at the end of the term of a lease or its useful economic life;

funding lease (融購租約) means a dry lease of an aircraft—

- (a) that satisfies one of the following conditions at its inception—

- (i) the dry lease is accounted for as a finance lease or loan by the lessor in accordance with—
 - (A) the Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, as in force from time to time; or
 - (B) the International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, as in force from time to time;
- (ii) the present value of the aggregate minimum lease payments (whether or not they are periodic payments and including any sum payable under a residual value guarantee) during the term of the dry lease is equal to or more than 80% of the fair market value of the aircraft;
- (iii) the term of the dry lease is equal to or more than 65% of the remaining useful economic life of the aircraft; and
- (b) under which the property in the aircraft will or may pass to the lessee at the end of its term, and includes an arrangement or agreement in connection with such a dry lease;

Note—

See also subsections (3) and (4).

lease (租約), when used as a noun—

- (a) means a dry lease; but

(b) does not include a dry lease that is a funding lease, hire-purchase agreement or conditional sale agreement,

and *lease* (租賃), when used as a verb, is to be construed accordingly;

Note—

See also subsection (5).

non-Hong Kong aircraft operator (非香港飛機營運商) means an aircraft operator who is not chargeable to profits tax under this Ordinance;

own (擁有) includes—

- (a) to hold as a lessee under a funding lease;
- (b) to hold as a bailee under a hire-purchase agreement; and
- (c) to hold as a buyer under a conditional sale agreement;

Note—

See also subsection (5).

permanent establishment (常設機構)—

- (a) means a branch, management or other place of business; but
- (b) does not include an agency unless the agent has, and habitually exercises, a general authority to negotiate and conclude contracts on behalf of the principal;

prescribed asset percentage (訂明資產百分率)—see section 4 of Schedule 17F;

prescribed profits percentage (訂明利潤百分率)—see section 3 of Schedule 17F;

principal officer (主要職員), in relation to a corporation, means—

- (a) a person employed by the corporation who, either alone or jointly with one or more other persons, is responsible under the immediate authority of the directors of the corporation for the conduct of the business of the corporation; or
- (b) a person employed by the corporation who, under the immediate authority of a director of the corporation or a person to whom paragraph (a) applies, exercises managerial functions in respect of the corporation;

qualifying aircraft leasing activity (合資格飛機租賃活動)—see subsection (6);

qualifying aircraft leasing management activity (合資格飛機租賃管理活動)—see subsection (7);

qualifying aircraft leasing manager (合資格飛機租賃管理商)—see section 14J(2);

qualifying aircraft lessor (合資格飛機出租商)—see section 14H(2);

relative (親屬), in relation to a person, means the spouse, parent, child, brother or sister of the person, and, in deducing such a relationship—

- (a) an adopted child is to be regarded as a child of both the natural parents and any adopting parent; and
- (b) a step child is to be regarded as a child of both the natural parents and any step parent;

residual value guarantee (剩餘價值擔保), in relation to an aircraft, means a financial commitment to pay a sum

by reference to the amount by which the estimated residual value of the aircraft exceeds the actual residual value of the aircraft.

- (2) For the purposes of the definitions of *associate*, *associated corporation* and *connected person* in subsection (1)—
 - (a) a person has control over a corporation if the person has the power to secure—
 - (i) by means of the holding of shares or the possession of voting power in or in relation to that or any other corporation; or
 - (ii) by virtue of any powers conferred by the articles of association or other document regulating that or any other corporation, that the affairs of the first-mentioned corporation are conducted in accordance with the wishes of that person; and
 - (b) a person (*first-mentioned person*) has control over another person (other than a corporation) (*second-mentioned person*) if the second-mentioned person is accustomed or under an obligation (whether express or implied, and whether or not enforceable or intended to be enforceable by legal proceedings) to act, in relation to the investment or business affairs of the second-mentioned person, in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the first-mentioned person.
- (3) For the purposes of the definition of *funding lease* in subsection (1), subsection (4) applies if, under 2 or more dry leases, an aircraft is demised, let or hired

out, or a right to use an aircraft is otherwise granted—

- (a) to a corporation; or
- (b) to a corporation and to its associate or associates,

unless, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the dry leases do not form part of a single arrangement.

- (4) Regardless of whether the term of one of the dry leases mentioned in subsection (3) is immediately followed by that of another, the dry leases are to be treated as one single dry lease—
 - (a) for computing the present value of the aggregate minimum lease payments under paragraph (a)(ii) of that definition; and
 - (b) for computing the term of the dry lease under paragraph (a)(iii) of that definition.
- (5) In the definitions of *lease* and *own* in subsection (1), a reference to a funding lease, hire-purchase agreement or conditional sale agreement does not include one under which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the property in the aircraft concerned would reasonably be expected not to pass to the lessee, bailee or buyer (as the case may be).
- (6) An aircraft leasing activity carried out by a corporation in respect of an aircraft is a qualifying aircraft leasing activity if—
 - (a) the activity is carried out in the ordinary course of the corporation's business carried on in Hong Kong; and

- (b) the aircraft is owned by the corporation, and is leased to a non-Hong Kong aircraft operator, when the activity is carried out.
- (7) An aircraft leasing management activity carried out by a corporation in respect of an aircraft is a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity if—
- (a) the activity is carried out in the ordinary course of the corporation's business carried on in Hong Kong;
 - (b) the activity is carried out for another corporation in the basis period of the other corporation for a year of assessment;
 - (c) the other corporation is a qualifying aircraft lessor for that year of assessment; and
 - (d) the aircraft is owned by the other corporation, and is leased to a non-Hong Kong aircraft operator, when the activity is carried out.
- (8) A note located in the text of this section is provided for information only and has no legislative effect.

14H. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: concession for qualifying aircraft lessor

- (1) For the purposes of this Part and subject to subsections (4), (6) and (7), the assessable profits of a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft lessor for a year of assessment are chargeable to tax under this Part at one-half of the rate specified in Schedule 8 to the extent to which those profits are assessable profits derived from its qualifying aircraft leasing activity.
- (2) A corporation is a qualifying aircraft lessor for a year of assessment if, in the basis period for that year of assessment—

- (a) it is not an aircraft operator;
 - (b) it has carried out in Hong Kong one or more qualifying aircraft leasing activities; and
 - (c) it has not carried out in Hong Kong any activity other than a qualifying aircraft leasing activity.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), in determining whether a corporation has carried out any activity other than a qualifying aircraft leasing activity, only activities that generate income to the corporation are to be taken into account.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies to a corporation for a year of assessment only if—
- (a) in that year of assessment—
 - (i) the central management and control of the corporation is exercised in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) the activities that produce its qualifying profits in that year are—
 - (A) carried out in Hong Kong by the corporation; or
 - (B) arranged by the corporation to be carried out in Hong Kong; and
 - (iii) those activities are not carried out by a permanent establishment outside Hong Kong; and
 - (b) the corporation has elected in writing that subsection (1) applies to it.
- (5) An election under subsection (4)(b), once made, is irrevocable.

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- (6) If subsection (1) does not apply to a corporation for a year of assessment (*cessation year*) while it did for the previous year of assessment—
- (a) the election made by the corporation under subsection (4)(b) ceases to be effective; and
 - (b) despite anything in this section, subsection (1) is not to apply to the corporation for the year of assessment that follows the cessation year.
- (7) In computing the qualifying profits of a corporation for the purposes of subsection (1), if a sum payable to the corporation by a person for the qualifying aircraft leasing activity is deductible under this Part, the amount of the qualifying profits attributable to that activity is to be deducted by reference to the amount of that sum.
- (8) An aircraft owned by a corporation is to be treated as a capital asset of the corporation for the purposes of this Part if—
- (a) the corporation uses the aircraft for carrying out a qualifying aircraft leasing activity for a continuous period of not less than 3 years immediately before it disposes of the aircraft; and
 - (b) subsection (1) applies in relation to that activity for any year of assessment.
- (9) In this section—
- qualifying profits*** (合資格利潤), in relation to a corporation, means the assessable profits of the corporation that fall within subsection (1).

14I. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: calculation of net lease payments

- (1) If section 14H(1) applies to a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft lessor for a year of assessment, then subsection (2) applies for computing the assessable profits of the corporation derived from its qualifying aircraft leasing activity in relation to a lease for that year of assessment.
- (2) The net lease payments for the right to use an aircraft under the lease are to be calculated in accordance with the following formula—

$$A = (B - C) \times D$$

where: A means the net lease payments;

B means the aggregate amount of the gross lease payments (whether or not they are periodic payments and including any sum payable under a residual value guarantee) earned by or accrued to the corporation under the lease during the basis period for the year of assessment;

C means the aggregate amount of any outgoings and expenses deductible under this Part to the extent to which they are incurred during the basis period for the year of assessment by the corporation in the production of those gross lease payments (*relevant outgoings and expenses*); and

D means the percentage prescribed in section 2 of Schedule 17F.

- (3) Despite subsection (1), subsection (2) does not apply to a corporation for a year of assessment if—

- (a) the corporation has not incurred capital expenditure on the provision of the aircraft concerned;
 - (b) allowances under Part 6 have been granted to a connected person of the corporation in respect of the capital expenditure on the provision of the aircraft concerned incurred before the aircraft is owned by the corporation; or
 - (c) capital allowances are granted to a connected person of the corporation, whether in Hong Kong or in a territory outside Hong Kong, for that year of assessment in respect of the capital expenditure on the provision of the aircraft concerned.
- (4) If an aircraft is leased to a non-Hong Kong aircraft operator together with other dealings in pursuance of one bargain, then for calculating the net lease payments under subsection (2), the Commissioner must, having regard to all the circumstances of the bargain, allocate an amount of gross lease payments for the right to use the aircraft under the lease.
- (5) If subsection (2) applies, the relevant outgoings and expenses may not be claimed for deduction under this Part otherwise than for calculating the net lease payments under that subsection.

14J. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: concession for qualifying aircraft leasing manager

- (1) For the purposes of this Part and subject to subsections (5), (7) and (8), the assessable profits of a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft leasing manager for a year of assessment are chargeable to tax under this Part at one-half of the rate specified

- in Schedule 8 to the extent to which those profits are assessable profits derived from its qualifying aircraft leasing management activity.
- (2) A corporation is a qualifying aircraft leasing manager for a year of assessment if—
 - (a) in the basis period for that year of assessment, it is not an aircraft operator; and
 - (b) for that year of assessment—
 - (i) it satisfies the conditions specified in subsection (3);
 - (ii) it satisfies the safe harbour rule under section 14K; or
 - (iii) it has obtained the Commissioner's determination under section 14L(1).
 - (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b)(i), the conditions are that, in the basis period for the year of assessment, the corporation—
 - (a) has carried out in Hong Kong one or more qualifying aircraft leasing management activities; and
 - (b) has not carried out in Hong Kong any activity other than a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity.
 - (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b), in determining whether a corporation has carried out any activity other than a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity, only activities that generate income to the corporation are to be taken into account.
 - (5) Subsection (1) applies to a corporation for a year of assessment only if—

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- (a) in that year of assessment—
 - (i) the central management and control of the corporation is exercised in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) the activities that produce its qualifying profits in that year are—
 - (A) carried out in Hong Kong by the corporation; or
 - (B) arranged by the corporation to be carried out in Hong Kong; and
 - (iii) those activities are not carried out by a permanent establishment outside Hong Kong; and
 - (b) the corporation has elected in writing that subsection (1) applies to it.
- (6) An election under subsection (5)(b), once made, is irrevocable.
- (7) If subsection (1) does not apply to a corporation for a year of assessment (*cessation year*) while it did for the previous year of assessment—
- (a) the election made by the corporation under subsection (5)(b) ceases to be effective; and
 - (b) despite anything in this section, subsection (1) is not to apply to the corporation for the year of assessment that follows the cessation year.
- (8) In computing the qualifying profits of a corporation for the purposes of subsection (1), if a sum payable to the corporation by a person for the qualifying aircraft leasing management activity is deductible under this Part, the amount of the qualifying profits attributable to that activity is to be deducted by reference to the amount of that sum.

- (9) Subsection (8) does not apply in relation to a sum payable to the corporation for a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity carried out by it.
- (10) In this section—
- qualifying profits* (合資格利潤), in relation to a corporation, means the assessable profits of the corporation that fall within subsection (1).

14K. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: safe harbour rule

- (1) For the purposes of section 14J(2)(b)(ii), a corporation satisfies the safe harbour rule for a year of assessment (*subject year*) if the corporation falls within—
- (a) the 1-year safe harbour under subsection (2); or
 - (b) the multiple-year safe harbour under subsection (3).
- (2) A corporation falls within the 1-year safe harbour if, for the subject year—
- (a) its ALMP percentage is not lower than the prescribed profits percentage; and
 - (b) its ALMA percentage is not lower than the prescribed asset percentage.
- (3) A corporation falls within the multiple-year safe harbour if, for the specified years—
- (a) its average ALMP percentage is not lower than the prescribed profits percentage; and
 - (b) its average ALMA percentage is not lower than the prescribed asset percentage.
- (4) In this section, a reference to the specified years for a corporation is a reference to—

- (a) if the corporation has carried on a trade, profession or business in Hong Kong for less than 2 consecutive years of assessment immediately before the subject year—the subject year and the preceding year of assessment (*the 2 years*); or
- (b) if the corporation has carried on a trade, profession or business in Hong Kong for 2 or more consecutive years of assessment immediately before the subject year—the subject year and the preceding 2 years of assessment (*the 3 years*).
- (5) The ALMP percentage of a corporation for a year of assessment is calculated in accordance with the following formula—

$$\frac{\text{ALMP}}{\text{P}}$$

where: ALMP means the aggregate amount of the aircraft leasing management profits of the corporation in the basis period for the year of assessment; and

P means the aggregate amount of profits accruing to the corporation from all sources, whether in Hong Kong or not, in the basis period for the year of assessment.

- (6) The ALMA percentage of a corporation for a year of assessment is calculated in accordance with the following formula—

ALMA

A

where: ALMA means the aggregate value of the aircraft leasing management assets of the corporation as at the end of the basis period for the year of assessment; and

A means the aggregate value of all assets, whether in Hong Kong or not, of the corporation as at the end of the basis period for the year of assessment.

- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6), in computing the aggregate value of the aircraft leasing management assets of a corporation, if an aircraft leasing management asset is used partly to carry out a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity and partly for another purpose, only the part of the value of the asset that is proportionate to the extent to which the asset is used to carry out a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity is to be taken into account.
- (8) A reference to the average ALMP percentage of a corporation for the specified years is a reference to the percentage arrived at by—
- (a) if subsection (4)(a) applies—dividing the sum of the ALMP percentages of the corporation for the 2 years by 2; or
 - (b) if subsection (4)(b) applies—dividing the sum of the ALMP percentages of the corporation for the 3 years by 3.

- (9) A reference to the average ALMA percentage of a corporation for the specified years is a reference to the percentage arrived at by—
 - (a) if subsection (4)(a) applies—dividing the sum of the ALMA percentages of the corporation for the 2 years by 2; or
 - (b) if subsection (4)(b) applies—dividing the sum of the ALMA percentages of the corporation for the 3 years by 3.

14L. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: Commissioner's determination

- (1) For the purposes of section 14J(2)(b)(iii), the Commissioner may, on application by a corporation, determine that the corporation is a qualifying aircraft leasing manager for a year of assessment.
- (2) A corporation may apply for the Commissioner's determination under subsection (1) only if—
 - (a) it is not an aircraft operator; and
 - (b) for the year of assessment, it satisfies neither of the following—
 - (i) the conditions specified in section 14J(3);
 - (ii) the safe harbour rule under section 14K.
- (3) The Commissioner may make a determination under subsection (1) only if the Commissioner is of the opinion that the conditions specified in section 14J(3), or the safe harbour rule under section 14K, would, in the ordinary course of business of the corporation, have been satisfied for the year of assessment.

14M. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: anti-avoidance provisions

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
 - (a) conditions are made or imposed between a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft lessor and a person who is an associate of that corporation, in their commercial or financial relations in connection with a qualifying aircraft leasing activity; and
 - (b) the conditions differ from those that would be made if the person were not such an associate.
- (2) Any profits that, but for the conditions referred to in subsection (1)(a), would have accrued to the corporation or the person and, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, are to be included in the profits of the corporation or the person and taxed in accordance with this Part.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if—
 - (a) conditions are made or imposed between a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft leasing manager and a person who is an associate of that corporation, in their commercial or financial relations in connection with a qualifying aircraft leasing management activity; and
 - (b) the conditions differ from those that would be made if the person were not such an associate.
- (4) Any profits that, but for the conditions referred to in subsection (3)(a), would have accrued to the corporation or the person and, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, are to be included in the profits of the corporation or the person and taxed in accordance with this Part.

- (5) Subsection (6) applies if—
- (a) a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft lessor enters into an arrangement—
 - (i) under which the corporation leases an aircraft to a non-Hong Kong aircraft operator who in turn grants a right to use the aircraft to an aircraft operator chargeable to profits tax under this Ordinance (*end-user*); or
 - (ii) under which—
 - (A) the corporation leases an aircraft to a non-Hong Kong aircraft operator;
 - (B) the non-Hong Kong aircraft operator in turn grants a right to use the aircraft to an intermediary; and
 - (C) an intermediary (whether or not the same intermediary mentioned in sub-subparagraph (B)) grants a right to use the aircraft to an aircraft operator chargeable to profits tax under this Ordinance (*end-user*); and
 - (b) the Commissioner is satisfied that the main purpose, or one of the main purposes, of the arrangement is to avoid, postpone or reduce any liability of any person (*taxpayer*) to profits tax under this Ordinance.
- (6) The aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions are to have effect in relation to the assessment of the profits tax on the taxpayer as if the corporation—
- (a) had not leased the aircraft to the non-Hong Kong aircraft operator; and

(b) had directly granted a right to use the aircraft to the end-user.

(7) If—

(a) an aircraft is owned by a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft lessor under an arrangement (*ownership arrangement*); and

(b) the corporation enters into an arrangement (*release arrangement*) under which—

(i) it is released from the primary obligation under the ownership arrangement; and

(ii) that obligation is assumed by another person,

the aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions are to have effect as if the corporation had ceased to own the aircraft during the time when the release arrangement is in force.

(8) In this section—

intermediary (中介人), in relation to an aircraft, means a person—

(a) to whom a right to use the aircraft is granted; and

(b) who in turn grants a right to use the aircraft to another person.

14N. Aircraft leasing tax concessions: power to amend Schedule 17F

The Commissioner may by order published in the Gazette amend Schedule 17F.”.

- 5. Section 15 amended (certain amounts deemed trading receipts)**
- (1) Section 15(1)(la)(ii)—
Repeal
“and”.
- (2) Section 15(1)(m)—
Repeal
“15A.”
Substitute
“15A; and”.
- (3) After section 15(1)(m)—
Add
“(n) sums, not otherwise chargeable to tax under this Part, received by or accrued to a corporation by way of gains or profits (other than those arising from the sale of capital assets) arising through or from the carrying on in Hong Kong by the corporation of—
- (i) its business of granting a right to use an aircraft to another person (*aircraft business*), even if the aircraft is used outside Hong Kong; or
 - (ii) its business of managing a corporation carrying on an aircraft business or of managing an aircraft business, even if the aircraft concerned is used outside Hong Kong.”.
- 6. Section 19CA amended (treatment of losses: concessionary trading receipts)**
- (1) Section 19CA(4)—
Repeal
“section 14A, 14B or 14D, as the case may be,”

Substitute

“the relevant concession provision”.

- (2) Section 19CA(5), definition of *chargeable concessionary trading receipts*, paragraph (a)—

Repeal

“section 14A”

Substitute

“a concession provision (other than section 14B)”.

- (3) Section 19CA(5), definition of *chargeable concessionary trading receipts*—

Repeal paragraph (c).

- (4) Section 19CA(5), definition of *concessionary trading receipts*—

Repeal

“section 14A, 14B or 14D”

Substitute

“a concession provision”.

- (5) Section 19CA(5), definition of *unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts*, paragraph (a)—

Repeal

“section 14A”

Substitute

“a concession provision (other than section 14B)”.

- (6) Section 19CA(5), Chinese text, definition of *關於獲特惠的營業收入的未吸納虧損*, paragraph (b)—

Repeal the semicolon

Substitute a full stop.

- (7) Section 19CA(5), definition of *unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts*—

Repeal paragraph (c).

- (8) Section 19CA(5)—

Add in alphabetical order

“*concession provision* (寬減條文) means one of the following provisions—

- (a) section 14A;

- (b) section 14B;
- (c) section 14D;
- (d) section 14H;
- (e) section 14J;”.

7. Section 20AA amended (persons not treated as agents)

Section 20AA(6), English text, definition of *control*—

Repeal paragraph (b)

Substitute

“(b) by virtue of any powers conferred by the articles of association or other document regulating that or any other corporation,
that the affairs of the first-mentioned corporation are conducted in accordance with the wishes of that person;”.

8. Section 37 amended (initial and annual allowances, machinery or plant)

After section 37(2A)—

Add

“(2B) Subsection (2C) applies if an aircraft was owned and used by a corporation for carrying out a qualifying aircraft leasing activity before the corporation uses it in another trade, profession or business to produce profits chargeable to tax under Part 4.

(2C) For the purposes of subsection (2), the cost of the asset, in relation to the aircraft, is the sum computed by deducting from the actual cost the notional amount of annual allowances that would have been made under that subsection to the corporation if

such annual allowances had been available to the corporation since it acquired the aircraft.

(2D) In subsections (2B) and (2C)—

aircraft (飛機) has the meaning given by section 14G(1);

qualifying aircraft leasing activity (合資格飛機租賃活動) has the meaning given by section 14G(6).”.

9. Section 38 amended (balancing allowances and charges, machinery or plant)

(1) Section 38(2), after “section 37(2A)”—

Add

“or (2C)”.

(2) Section 38(2)—

Repeal

“that subsection” (wherever appearing)

Substitute

“that section”.

10. Section 39B amended (initial and annual allowances on machinery or plant under the pooling system)

(1) Section 39B(4), after “(6)”—

Add

“, (6B)”.

(2) After section 39B(6)—

Add

“(6A) Subsection (6B) applies if an aircraft was owned and used by a corporation for carrying out a qualifying aircraft leasing activity before the corporation uses it

in another trade, profession or business to produce profits chargeable to tax under Part 4.

(6B) For the purposes of subsection (4), the capital expenditure incurred on the provision of the aircraft is to be computed by deducting from the actual cost the notional amount of annual allowances that would have been made under section 37(2) to the corporation if such annual allowances had been available to the corporation since it acquired the aircraft.

(6C) In subsections (6A) and (6B)—

aircraft (飛機) has the meaning given by section 14G(1);

qualifying aircraft leasing activity (合資格飛機租賃活動) has the meaning given by section 14G(6).”.

11. Section 39D amended (balancing allowances and charges under the pooling system)

(1) Section 39D(7)(a), after “section 37(2A)”—

Add

“or (2C)”.

(2) Section 39D(7)(b), after “section 39B(6)”—

Add

“or (6B)”.

12. Section 80D amended (offences of service provider)

Section 80D(4)(a), Chinese text—

Repeal

“而在報表中提供”

Substitute

“而在報表中提供”。

13. Section 89 amended (transitional provisions)

Section 89—

Add

“(19) Schedule 41 sets out transitional provisions that have effect for the purposes of amendments to this Ordinance made by the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2017 (of 2017).”.

14. Schedule 8 amended (rate of profits tax in respect of a corporation)

Schedule 8, after “14D(1),”—

Add

“14H(1), 14J(1),”.

15. Schedule 17F added

After Schedule 17E—

Add

“Schedule 17F

[ss. 2, 14G, 14I &
14N]

Aircraft Leasing Tax Concessions

Part 1

Aircraft Leasing Activity and Aircraft Leasing Management Activity

1. **Meaning of *aircraft leasing activity* and *aircraft leasing management activity***

(1) In this section and the aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions—

aircraft leasing activity (飛機租賃活動), in relation to a corporation, means leasing an aircraft by the corporation to an aircraft operator;

aircraft leasing management activity (飛機租賃管理活動), in relation to a corporation, means any of the following activities—

- (a) managing another corporation that is a relevant qualifying aircraft lessor;
- (b) establishment or administration of a special purpose entity for the purpose of owning an aircraft by that entity;
- (c) providing finance in obtaining the ownership of an aircraft by a special purpose entity wholly or partly owned by the corporation or its associated corporation;

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- (d) providing a guarantee in respect of a financial or performance obligation as regards the aircraft leasing business of a special purpose entity wholly or partly owned by the corporation or its associated corporation, or granting security in respect of that business;
 - (e) managing leases;
 - (f) arranging for the procurement or leasing of aircraft;
 - (g) arranging for the operation, maintenance, repair, insurance, storage, scrapping or modification of aircraft;
 - (h) arranging for the evaluation, appraisal, provision or inspection of aircraft, airline facilities or maintenance facilities for aircraft;
 - (i) arranging for the assessment of the aviation and aircraft market conditions;
 - (j) marketing of leases that are operating leases;
 - (k) providing finance in obtaining the ownership of an aircraft by an airline enterprise from another corporation that is a relevant qualifying aircraft lessor;
 - (l) providing a residual value guarantee or contingent purchase arrangement;
 - (m) providing services in relation to an aircraft leasing activity for or to another corporation that is a relevant qualifying aircraft lessor.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (a), (k) or (m) of the definition of *aircraft leasing management activity* in subsection (1), a corporation is a relevant qualifying aircraft lessor if—

- (a) the activity mentioned in that paragraph is carried out in the basis period of the corporation for a year of assessment; and
 - (b) the corporation is a qualifying aircraft lessor for that year of assessment.
- (3) In paragraph (1) of the definition of *aircraft leasing management activity* in subsection (1)—
- contingent purchase arrangement* (待確定購買安排) means an arrangement under which a person is required to purchase an aircraft at a pre-determined amount if the actual residual value falls below the estimated residual value.
- (4) The words and expressions used in this section and defined in section 14G for the purposes of the aircraft leasing tax concessions provisions have the same meaning as in those provisions.

Part 2

Prescribed Percentage for Calculation of Net Lease Payments

2. Prescribed percentage for calculation of net lease payments

For the purposes of section 14I, the prescribed percentage is 20%.

Part 3

Prescribed Percentages for Safe Harbour Rule

3. Prescribed profits percentage

For the purposes of section 14K, the prescribed profits percentage is 75%.

4. Prescribed asset percentage

For the purposes of section 14K, the prescribed asset percentage is 75%.”.

16. Schedule 41 added

The Ordinance—

Add

“Schedule 41

[s. 89(19)]

Transitional Provisions for Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2017

1. In computing the qualifying profits in relation to a corporation for the purposes of section 14H(1), sums received by or accrued to the corporation before 1 April 2017 are not to be taken into account.
2. In computing the qualifying profits in relation to a corporation for the purposes of section 14J(1), sums received by or accrued to the corporation before 1 April 2017 are not to be taken into account.

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3. Section 15(1)(n) does not apply to sums received or accrued before the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2017 (of 2017) comes into operation.”.
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Explanatory Memorandum

The main object of this Bill is to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (*principal Ordinance*) to give profits tax concessions to corporations carrying on certain businesses in connection with aircraft and to make provisions for profits tax purposes about such businesses.

2. Clause 4 adds new sections 14G to 14N to the principal Ordinance.
3. The new section 14G provides for the interpretation of terms used in the new provisions for the profits tax concessions, including the definitions of *qualifying aircraft leasing activity* and *qualifying aircraft leasing management activity*.
4. The new section 14H provides that a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft lessor for a year of assessment is entitled to have its profits derived from its qualifying aircraft leasing activity for that year of assessment charged at one-half the profits tax rate specified in Schedule 8 to the principal Ordinance (*concessionary rate*) (new section 14H(1)). That section also provides for how a corporation may be a qualifying aircraft lessor (new section 14H(2)) and how it can be entitled to the concessionary rate (new section 14H(4)).
5. The new section 14I provides that if the profits tax concession under the new section 14H applies to a corporation for a year of assessment, the net lease payments derived from its qualifying aircraft leasing activity are to be calculated in accordance with the formula set out in the new section 14I(2). The effect is that the taxable amount of the lease payments is to be equal to 20% of the tax base.

6. The new section 14J provides that a corporation that is a qualifying aircraft leasing manager for a year of assessment is entitled to have its profits derived from its qualifying aircraft leasing management activity for that year of assessment charged at the concessionary rate (new section 14J(1)). The new section 14J(2) provides for how a corporation may be a qualifying aircraft leasing manager, namely—
- (a) by satisfying the conditions specified in the new section 14J(3);
 - (b) by satisfying the safe harbour rule under the new section 14K; or
 - (c) by obtaining the determination of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue (*Commissioner*) under the new section 14L.

The new section 14J(5) provides for certain conditions for the entitlement to the concessionary rate.

7. The new section 14K provides for how a corporation may satisfy the safe harbour rule. There are 2 alternative safe harbours as follows—
- (a) the “1-year safe harbour” which requires the corporation to satisfy certain conditions regarding its aircraft leasing management profits and aircraft leasing management assets for the year of assessment concerned (new section 14K(2));
 - (b) the “multiple-year safe harbour” which requires the corporation to satisfy similar conditions for the year of assessment concerned and the preceding 1 or 2 years of assessment (new section 14K(3)).

8. The new section 14L provides for the Commissioner's discretion to make a determination that a corporation, which is not otherwise qualified, is a qualifying aircraft leasing manager.
9. The new section 14M contains certain provisions for preventing avoidance of profits tax by means of the new profits tax concessions.
10. The new section 14N empowers the Commissioner to amend, by order published in the Gazette, the new Schedule 17F to the principal Ordinance (added by clause 15) which contains the definitions of *aircraft leasing activity* and *aircraft leasing management activity* and specifies the prescribed percentages relating to the calculation of net lease payments and the safe harbour rule.
11. Clause 5 amends section 15 of the principal Ordinance to add a new section 15(1)(n) to deem sums received by or accrued to a corporation from carrying on certain businesses in connection with aircraft as having a Hong Kong source, even if the aircraft are used outside Hong Kong.
12. Clause 6 consequentially amends section 19CA of the principal Ordinance so as to cover the trading receipts in respect of which assessable profits are chargeable to tax at the concessionary rate under the new section 14H or 14J.
13. Clause 7 makes a minor textual amendment to the English text of section 20AA of the principal Ordinance.
14. Clauses 8, 9, 10 and 11 amend sections 37, 38, 39B and 39D of the principal Ordinance respectively to deal with computation of the cost and capital expenditure in relation to an aircraft that is used by a corporation for carrying out a qualifying

aircraft leasing activity before being used in another trade, profession or business.

15. Clause 12 makes a minor textual amendment to the Chinese text of section 80D of the principal Ordinance.
16. Clause 16 adds a new Schedule 41 to the principal Ordinance to deal with transitional matters.