

Payment of Preliminary Corporation Tax

This manual replaces [Part 41-00-32](#)

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The purpose of this manual is to summarise the requirements for the payment of preliminary tax by companies.

This manual replaces [Part 41-00-32](#)

1 Large companies

A large company is a company whose Corporation Tax (CT) liability is above €200,000 in the previous accounting period. Where the previous accounting period is less than 12 months, this €200,000 limit is proportionally reduced.

Preliminary tax for large companies is due in two instalments. The first instalment is due on the 23rd of the sixth month of the accounting period. The amount due is either:

- 50% of the CT liability for the previous accounting period, or
- 45% of the CT liability for the current accounting period.

The second instalment is due 31 days before the accounting period end, or on the 23rd of that month if it would otherwise be later. The amount due is the balance that will bring the preliminary tax up to 90% of the final tax due for the current accounting period.

The company must pay 90% of the preliminary tax in one instalment if the accounting period is less than seven months.

2 Small companies

A small company is a company whose CT liability does not exceed €200,000 in the previous accounting period (excluding surcharges and Section 239 income tax). Where the previous accounting period is less than 12 months, this €200,000 limit is proportionally reduced.

Small companies make a single payment of preliminary tax. The amount due is either:

- 100% of their CT liability for the previous accounting period
- 90% of their CT liability for the current accounting period.

This must be paid 31 days before the end of their accounting period, or on the 23rd of that month if it would otherwise be later.

3 New or start-up companies

New or start-up companies do not have to pay preliminary tax for their first accounting period if the CT liability is less than €200,000. However, the company must pay the final CT liability for the first accounting period when submitting the CT return.

4 Balance of Corporation Tax (CT)

The balance of CT due must be paid by the return filing date, which is 9 months after the end of the accounting period, or the 23rd of that month.