Chapter V8: ESA transition

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Chapter V8: ESA transition

Introduction

V8001 This Chapter gives guidance on

1. when the provisions for claiming new style ESA apply (see V8020 et seq) and
2. what happens when the provisions for claiming new style ESA no longer apply (see V8100 et seq) and
3. reassessment of IB and SDA for new style ESA (see V8120 et seq) and
4. transition from old style ESA (see V8125 et seq) and
5. transition from new style ESA (see V8160 et seq) and
6. sanctions (see V8200 et seq).

V8002 The conditions for claiming new style ESA depend on whether

1. the claimant lives in a digital service (formerly known as Full Service) area and
2. any restrictions of claiming UC apply.

V8003 From 29.4.13, claims for UC could be made by people who satisfied specified conditions and lived in selected areas (the relevant districts). From 16.6.14 the specified conditions became the gateway conditions, and the relevant districts were known as the Live Service area.

V8004 Starting from 27.1.16, a phased conversion of postcode districts or part-districts in the Live Service area began, converting them to digital service areas referred to as the designated postcodes where the gateway conditions no longer apply. Since 12.12.18, all GB postcode districts and part-districts have been converted to digital service areas.

Note: See Appendix 1 to ADM Chapter M5 (Claims for UC – Digital service area) for details of the relevant districts and designated postcodes included in the digital service area.

V8005 - V8014

Definitions

Meaning of ESA

New style ESA
New style ESA is ESA as amended to remove ESA(IR), based on NI contributions only¹.

Old style ESA

Old style ESA is ESA as it applies before the amendments referred to in V8015. It includes ESA(Cont) and ESA(IR)¹ (see DMG Volumes 8 & 9 for detailed guidance).

Meaning of new claimant partner

Where

1. a person is entitled to UC as a single person and
2. the award terminates when they become a member of a couple and
3. the other member of the couple was not entitled to UC as a single claimant immediately before the formation of the couple and
4. the couple is treated as having made a claim for UC¹ and
5. the DM is satisfied that the claimants meet the UC basic conditions of entitlement (other than the acceptance of a claimant commitment)²

the other member of the couple is known as a new claimant partner³.

Note: See ADM Chapter A2 (Claims) for detailed guidance on claims.

When the provisions for new style ESA apply

Introduction

V8021 et seq gives guidance on when the provisions for claiming new style ESA apply. However, the new style ESA provisions apply only for as long as the award continues. On any subsequent claim, DMs will have to consider again whether the new style or old style provisions apply. Also, DMs should note that the new style ESA provisions may no longer apply if the claimant’s circumstances change (see V8100 et seq).
Note: Since 12.12.18, the new style ESA provisions apply to all claims made in GB, and on or after 1.2.19 to claims from people living outside GB, unless any restriction on claiming UC applies. See Chapter M5 (Claims for UC – Digital Service area) for further details.

Claims for new style ESA

V8021 The new style ESA provisions apply from

1. the first day of the period in respect of which the claim is made or treated as made¹ (for UC, only claims treated as made as in V8060 - V8064) or
2. the day after the day a new claimant partner and their former partner stopped being a couple² or
3. the day on which the person becomes entitled to UC³ as in V8066.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(3)(a); ² art 4(4) & (5); ³ art 4(3)(b) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]

V8022 Where V8021 1. applies and the time for making a claim is extended, the first day of the period for which the claim is made is the first day of the extended period¹.

Note: See DMG Chapter 02 and ADM Chapter A2 (Claims) for guidance on extending the time for claiming.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 5(8); UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs, reg 26(2); SS (C&P) Regs, reg 19 & Sch 4

V8023 For the purposes of when the new style ESA provisions apply, a claim for¹ or an award of² UC includes an award of ESA made following

1. a conversion decision where a conversion notice³ is issued
   1.1 to a single claimant or
   1.2 where there are joint claimants, either of them during the period in V8024 or
2. where 1. does not apply, a conversion decision made during the period in V8024 in relation to an award of IB or SDA to which
   2.1 a single claimant or
   2.2 where there are joint claimants, either of them is entitled⁵ or
3. where 1. and 2. do not apply, the effective date⁶ of a conversion decision in relation to an award of IB or SDA in the period in V8024⁷.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(2)(a) – (d); 2 art 4(2)(e) & (f) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]; 3 ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs, reg 4; 4 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(6)(a); 5 art 4(6)(b); 6 ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs, reg 2(1) & 13; 7 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(6)(c)
For the purposes of V8023, the period, known as the designated period, is any period

1. when a decision has not yet been made on a claim for UC or
2. when a decision has not yet been made on joint claimants’ entitlement to UC on a claim that is treated as made or
3. after the period in 1. or 2. when single claimants or joint claimants are entitled to UC or
4. when single claimants or joint claimants are entitled to an award of UC.

Claims for UC or ESA

The new style ESA provisions apply from the first day of the period of the claim where a person (including either of UC joint claimants)

1. makes a claim for UC or makes, or is treated as making, a claim for ESA for a period on or after a date detailed in Appendix 1 to Chapter M5 (Claims for UC – Digital service area) and
2. on the day on which the claim is made or treated as made lives in one of the relevant districts or the designated postcodes.

For the purposes of V8040

1. the guidance in DMG Chapter 02 applies for deciding
   1.1 whether a claim for ESA is made or treated as made and
   1.2 the day on which the claim is made or treated as made and
2. the guidance in ADM Chapter A2 (Claims) applies for deciding
   2.1 whether a claim for UC is made and
   2.2 the day on which the claim is made.

Claim for UC – claimant gives incorrect information

The new style ESA provisions apply from the first day of the period in respect of which the UC claim is made where
1. a person (including either or both UC joint claimants) makes a claim for UC for a period on or after a date detailed in Appendix 1 to Chapter M5 (Claims for UC – Digital service area) and

2. the person
   2.1 did not live in one of the relevant districts or the designated postcodes on the day on which the claim is made and
   2.2 gave incorrect information about live in one of the relevant districts or the designated postcodes and

3. after
   3.1 a decision has been made that the person is entitled to UC and
   3.2 one or more payments have been made

the DM discovers that the person gave incorrect information (and therefore the UC award continues because a payment has already been made).

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(2)(b) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]

V8051 For the purposes of V8050 the guidance in ADM Chapter A2 (Claims) applies¹ for deciding

1. whether a claim for UC is made and
2. the day on which the claim is made².

¹ UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs; ² WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 5(1)

V8052 - V8059

Couple treated as making UC claim

V8060 The new style ESA provisions apply from the first day of the period in respect of which the UC claim is treated as made, where¹

1. a UC claimant forms a couple and their UC award is ended and
2. the other member of the couple was not entitled to UC and
3. they are joint claimants and
4. the member of the couple who was not entitled to UC is not entitled to SPC².

Any old style ESA(Cont) becomes new style ESA and any old style ESA(IR) ends from the start of the first assessment period appropriate to the joint claim.

Note: This applies whether the UC claimant in 1. was a single claimant or a member of a different couple.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(1) & (2)(c) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]; UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs, reg 9(8); ² WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 3(7)
V8061 Where

1. a UC claim is treated as made by a couple as in V8060 and
2. the new claimant partner was entitled to old style ESA as part of a different couple during part of the period for which the UC claim is treated as made

the new style ESA provisions apply from the day after the day the new claimant partner and their former partner stopped being a couple¹.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(4) & (5) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]

V8062 For the purposes of V8060 the guidance in ADM Chapter A2 (Claims) applies¹ for deciding

1. whether a claim for UC is treated as made and
2. the day on which the claim is treated as made².

¹ UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs; ² WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 5(1)

V8063 – V8065

**UC claim not required – former single or joint claimants**

V8066 The new style ESA provisions apply from the day on which the person

1. becomes entitled to UC where¹

   1.1 a UC joint claim couple separates and they are awarded UC either as a single person or jointly with another person already entitled to UC² or

   1.2 awards of UC to two single claimants are terminated when they form a joint claim couple³ or

   1.3 a joint award has ended because of the death of the other member of the couple⁴ and

2. is not entitled to SPC⁵.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(1) & (2)(f) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]; ² UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs, reg 9(6); ³ reg 9 (7); ⁴ reg 9(10); ⁵ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 3(9)

**Claimant does not live in a relevant district or designated postcode**

V8067 The new style ESA provisions apply from the first day of the period in respect of which the UC claim was made, or treated as made, other than as in V8040 where

1. a claimant does not live in a relevant district or designated postcode and
2. a claim for new style ESA is made in the circumstances of V8068¹.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 4(1) & (2)(g) [see list in Appendix for other Orders]
For the purposes of V8067.2., the circumstances are that a claim for new style ESA is made or treated as made:\(^1\)

1. during the relevant period by
   
   1.1 a UC single claimant or
   
   1.2 either of joint UC claimants

   where their UC claim has been made, or treated as made, as in V8021 - V8062 or

2. during the relevant period by

   2.1 a UC single claimant or
   
   2.2 either of joint UC claimants

   who have been awarded UC without a claim being made as in V8066 above or

3. by a person who may be entitled to a UC award as in V8066 but there is no decision as to the person’s entitlement.

Note: See V8069 for guidance on the meaning of the relevant period.

V8069 For the purposes of V8068.1. and 2., the relevant period\(^1\) is

1. where V8021 - V8062 applies, any

   1.1 UC claim period and
   
   1.2 subsequent period in respect of which claimants have a UC award or

2. where V8066 applies, any period when claimants have a UC award.

Note: See V8070 for guidance on the UC claim period.
When deciding whether a claim is made in accordance with V8067 in the relevant period, it does not matter if the claim is treated as made prior to that period. However, the new style ESA provisions do not apply where the claimant

1. makes a defective claim or
2. gives notification of an intention to claim

prior to the relevant period and completes the claim during that period.

**Note:** See V8069 for guidance on the meaning of the relevant period.

Claim for UC not made: effect on claims for ESA

Unless V8081 applies, where

1. a claimant
   
   1.1 makes a claim for new style ESA and
   
   1.2 lives in one of the relevant districts or designated postcodes and
2. a claim for UC may not be made

the claim is treated as a claim for old style ESA.

**Note:** See Chapter M5 (Claims for UC – Digital service area) for guidance on when claims for UC may not be made.

The exception to V8080 is where the claim for new style ESA is made or treated as made

1. during the relevant period as in V8069 where the ESA claimant has made, or is treated as having made, a claim for UC or
2. during the relevant period as in V8069 1. where
   
   2.1 the ESA claimant has made a claim for UC and
   
   2.2 V8040 - V8041 or V8050 apply or
3. at a time when the ESA claimant may be entitled to an award of UC without making a claim but a decision on the claimant’s entitlement has not been made.
For the purposes of V8080 - V8081 the guidance in DMG Chapter 02 applies for deciding

1. whether a claim for ESA is made or treated as made and
2. the day on which the claim is made or treated as made.

When the provisions for new style ESA no longer apply

Where

1. a person has or had a new style ESA award and
2. for any period of the new style ESA award the person
   2.1 makes a claim, or is treated as making a claim, for UC or
   2.2 applies for a supersession of the decision relating to the new style
       award on the grounds of a relevant change of circumstances that would
       have related to ESA(IR) and
3. the person would have been entitled to ESA(IR) and
4. the person does not have an award of UC for the period for which the
   application for supersession is made and
5. on the day on which the UC claim is made or the application for supersession
   of the new style ESA award is received any of the restrictions on claiming UC
   applies.

the new style ESA provisions no longer apply from the first day of the period of the
claim for UC or application for supersession of ESA. This means that, unless they
are awarded ESA(IR) following supersession, the person will need to claim an
existing benefit instead. See ADM Chapter M3 for the meaning of existing benefit.

Note: See ADM Chapter M5 (Claims for UC – Digital service area) for detailed
guidance on when UC claims can be made or treated as made, and when a claim
may not be made.

For the purposes of V8100

1. the period in respect of which the application for supersession is made begins
   with the day from which the superseding decision takes effect.
2. where the time for making a claim for UC is extended\(^2\) the first day of the period is the first day of the extended period\(^3\).

\(^1\)WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 6(4); SS Act 98, s 10(5);
\(^2\)UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (D&A) Regs, reg 35 & Sch 1; 2 UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs, reg 26(2); 3 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 6(5)

V8102 For the purposes of V8100 the guidance in ADM Chapter A2 (Claims) applies\(^1\) for deciding

1. whether a claim for UC is made or treated as made and

2. the day on which the claim is made or treated as made\(^2\).

\(^1\)UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs; \(^2\)WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 6(3)(a)

V8103 - V8109

**Claimant commitment and responsibilities**

**New style ESA awards**

V8110 Where

1. the new style ESA provisions apply as in V8020 et seq and

2. the claimant is entitled to an award of new style ESA

the requirements at V8111 - V8112 apply from the date from which 1. applies\(^1\).

\(^1\)WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 7(1)

V8111 In order to be entitled to ESA, the claimant must accept a claimant commitment\(^1\).

**Note:** See ADM Chapter U3 (ESA claimant responsibilities – the claimant commitment) for detailed guidance on the claimant commitment.

\(^1\)WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 7(1)(c); WR Act 12, s 54(1) & (2) & 57(1) & (2);
\(^2\)WR Act 07, s 1(3)(aa) & 11A

V8112 The claimant must also comply with the work-related requirements imposed by the Secretary of State, depending on which work-related requirements group the claimant falls into\(^1\). The claimant may be subject to

1. a work-focused interview requirement\(^2\) or

2. a work-focused interview and work preparation requirement\(^3\) or

3. no work-related requirements\(^4\).

**Note:** See ADM Chapter U4 (ESA claimant responsibilities – work-related requirements) for detailed guidance on work-related requirements groups, and Chapter U5 for guidance on work-related requirements.

\(^1\)WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 7(1)(d); WR Act 12, s 57(1), (2), (4), (5) & (9);
\(^2\)WR Act 07, s 11; 2 s 11B & 11E; 3 11B, 11C & 11F; 4 s 11D

V8113 - V8114
Old style ESA awards

V8115 Where

1. the provisions for new style ESA no longer apply as in V8100 and
2. the claimant is entitled to an award of old style ESA instead

the conditions in V8111 - V8112 no longer apply.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 7(3)

V8116 A claimant to whom V8115 applies may be subject to a requirement to take part in a WFI, and if so, to undertake WRA, as a condition of continuing to be entitled to old style ESA. See DMG Chapter 53 for detailed guidance.

1 WR Act 07, s 12 & 13

V8117 - V8119

Reassessment of IB and SDA

Introduction

V8120 From 11.10.10, the Secretary of State began to make decisions on whether the awards of claimants who, on or after that date, have an existing award of IB, SDA or IS, qualify for conversion to ESA. The process of conversion is known as IB reassessment. V8125 et seq gives guidance on the effect of reassessment of IB and SDA on new style ESA.

Note: See DMG Chapter 45 for detailed guidance on IB reassessment.

V8121 Where V8123 applies, the normal rules for conversion are modified to

1. remove all references to ESA(IR) and IS and
2. replace all references to old style ESA rules with references to new style ESA.

Note: Where an award of UC is made to a claimant entitled to IS on the grounds of disability, the award of IS is terminated, and the claimant is referred for the WCA under UC rules. See ADM Chapter M6 (Effects of transition to UC – Digital Service area) for further details.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 9(1) & Sch 4; ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs; 2 ESA Regs 08; ESA Regs 13; 3 UC (TP) Regs, reg 22

V8122 The modifications include provisions which allow awards of IB or SDA to be

1. converted to an award of new style ESA where the existing award qualifies for conversion and
2. terminated where the existing award does not qualify for conversion and
3. reinstated where the claimant is found to have good cause for failure to return the questionnaire or to attend for or submit to medical examination².

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, Sch 4, para 13; ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs, reg 14; 2 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, Sch 4, para 14; ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs, reg 15

Claims for and awards of UC

V8123 Unless V8124 applies, from

1. the first day of the period of the claim made or treated as made¹ as in V8040 - V8062 or
2. the day on which the person becomes entitled to UC² as in V8066

the normal rules for conversion to ESA³ apply as modified in V8121 – V8122⁴.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 9(1) & 4(2)(a) – (g); 2 art 9(1) & 4(2)(e) – (f); 3 ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs; 4 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, Sch 4

Old style ESA provisions apply again

V8124 Where V8101 applies so that the old style ESA provisions apply again¹, the normal rules for conversion to ESA² apply without the modifications in V8121 – V8122³.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 9(2) & 6(2); 2 ESA Regs 13

V8126 V8125 applies where

1. a claimant makes, or is treated as making, a claim for new style ESA¹ and
2. V8126 is satisfied

the new style ESA provisions² are modified as in V8128 et seq.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1)(a); 2 ESA Regs 13

Transition from old style ESA

Introduction

V8125 Where

1. a claimant makes, or is treated as making, a claim for new style ESA¹ and
2. V8126 is satisfied

the new style ESA provisions² are modified as in V8128 et seq.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1)(a); 2 ESA Regs 13

V8126 V8125 applies where

1. the claimant
   1.1 had previously made or
   1.2 was treated as having made
   a claim for old style ESA¹ or
2. a conversion notice² was issued in respect of old style ESA³ or
3. the claimant previously had a new style ESA award but the old style ESA provisions applied again as in V81004.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1A)(a); 2 ESA (TP, HB & CTB) (EA) (No. 2) Regs, reg 4;
3 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1A)(b); 4 art 10(1A)(c)

V8127 V8129 et seq also applies where a claimant has an award of old style ESA(Cont) immediately before a UC

1. claim
   1.1 is made as in V8040 or
   1.2 is made and the claimant gives incorrect information as in V8050 or
   1.3 is treated as made by a couple in accordance with V8060 or
   1.4 is required from former joint claimants in accordance with V8063 or

2. award is made where a claim is not required in accordance with V80661

and the old style ESA award continues as a new style ESA award.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1)(b)

V8128 Modifications

V8129 Where V8125 or V8127 apply the new style ESA provisions1 are modified in accordance with V8130 - V8145.

1 ESA Regs 13

Definition – limited capability for work

V8130 The modifications mean that the definition of period of LCW includes a period (unless it is outside the prescribed time for claiming) throughout which the claimant has, or is treated as having, LCW for old style ESA1.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(a); ESA Regs 13, regs 2 & 3; ESA Regs 08;
UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs, reg 28; SS (C&P) Regs, reg 19 & Sch 4

Assessment phase – previous claimants

V8131 The modifications mean that, where the old style and new style awards link, then, in calculating the end of the assessment phase, the days of entitlement to old style ESA in the linked award are included in that calculation1.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(b);
ESA Regs 13, reg 6(2)(b)(v) & (c)(iii) & 26; ESA Regs 08, reg 30

Support component payable from first day of entitlement

V8132 The modifications mean that, where the old style and new style awards link, then, in determining whether the support component is payable from the first day of
entitlement, any “earlier period of LCW” in respect of which the claimant was entitled
to ESA includes the period of entitlement to old style ESA1.

Note: From 3.4.17 the WRAC is no longer included in an award of ESA for claims
made on or after that date. See ADM Chapter V6 (ESA: Assessment phase and
components) for further details, including where transitional provisions apply.

Condition relating to youth

V8133 The modifications mean that the conditions relating to youth include entitlement to
old style ESA1.

Determination of limited capability for work

V8134 The modifications mean that a determination of LCW can include

1. a determination of LCW for old style ESA1 and

2. being treated as having LCW for old style ESA2 where a person
   2.1 satisfies certain conditions3 or
   2.2 is a hospital in-patient4 or
   2.3 is receiving certain regular treatments5 or
   2.4 has exceptional circumstances6.

Treated as having limited capability for work

V8135 The modifications mean that for the purposes of whether a claimant can be treated
as having LCW until a determination of LCW has been made following a
determination that the claimant is treated as not having LCW because they failed
without good cause to

1. return the questionnaire or

2. attend for or submit to medical examination

the six months rule includes being treated as not having LCW for old style ESA1.

Determination of LCWRA

V8136 The modifications mean that for the purposes of a fresh determination as to whether
a person has LCWRA, that determination can include a determination on LCWRA
for old style ESA1.
Exempt work

V8137 The modifications mean that for the purposes of exempt work, old style ESA is a relevant benefit\(^1\).

\[1\] WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(ga); ESA Regs 13, reg 39(6) & (7)(b)

Waiting days

V8138 The modifications mean that where

1. the claimant is entitled to an old style award of ESA from the first day of the PLCW without having to serve waiting days and
2. the award continues as a new style award of ESA as in V8127 from a day between the second and the seventh day of that PLCW

for the purposes of claimants not having to serve waiting days where their entitlement to new style ESA commences within 12 weeks of the end of an award of a specified benefit, that entitlement to ESA includes the period of entitlement to old style ESA\(^1\).

Note: See DMG Chapter 41 for guidance on when waiting days do not apply.

\[1\] WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1)(b) & (2)(gb); ESA Regs 13, reg 85(2)(a); ESA Regs 08, reg 144(2)(a)

Appeal against determination of no limited capability for work

V8139 The modifications mean that an appeal against a determination that a claimant does not have LCW includes such a determination for old style ESA\(^1\).

\[1\] WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(h); ESA Regs 13, reg 87(1)

Temporary absence

V8140 The modifications mean that where

1. a claimant had an old style ESA award immediately before a UC claim or award\(^1\) as in V8127 and
2. a period of temporary absence from GB began when the claimant was entitled to old style ESA\(^2\) and
3. the first four weeks of temporary absence had not ended immediately before the first day of entitlement to new style ESA

the period of four weeks for which the claimant continues to be entitled to ESA during a period of temporary absence includes both the period for which there was entitlement to old style ESA and the remainder of that four week period where there was entitlement to new style ESA\(^3\).

\[1\] WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1)(b); 2 ESA Regs 08, reg 152; 3 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(i); ESA Regs 13, reg 89
Temporary absence – receiving medical treatment

V8141 The modifications mean that where
1. a claimant had an old style ESA award immediately before a UC claim or award\(^1\) as in V8127 and
2. a period of temporary absence from GB to receive medical treatment began when the claimant was entitled to old style ESA\(^2\) and
3. the first 26 weeks of temporary absence had not ended immediately before the first day of entitlement to new style ESA

the period of 26 weeks for which the claimant continues to be entitled to ESA during a period of temporary absence to receive medical treatment includes both the period for which there was entitlement to old style ESA and the remainder of that 26 week period where there was entitlement to new style ESA\(^3\).

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(1)(b); 2 ESA Regs 08, reg 153; 3 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(j); ESA Regs 13, reg 90

Misconduct

V8142 The modifications mean that a claimant is to be disqualified for receiving new style ESA\(^1\) for a period decided by the DM for the purposes of old style ESA\(^2\) less any days of that period of disqualification already served. However, this does not apply if a claimant is

1. a person in hardship\(^3\) or
2. disqualified for receiving ESA under certain legislation\(^4\) (loss of benefit provisions).

Also, the DM should not disqualify a claimant for receiving new style ESA if the reason for the disqualification has already been decided for the purposes of old style ESA\(^5\).

Note: See ADM Chapter U6 (ESA disqualification) for the meaning of person in hardship.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(k); ESA Regs 13, reg 93(5); 2 ESA Regs 08, reg 157(2); 3 ESA Regs 13, reg 93(3)(a); 4 reg 93(3)(b); SS Fraud Act 01, s 6B & 7; 5 ESA Regs 13, reg 93(6)

Imprisonment or detention in legal custody

V8143 The modifications mean that a claimant is also to be treated as not having LCW if

1. they are disqualified for receiving old style ESA(Cont) during a period of imprisonment or detention in legal custody and
2. new style ESA has effect during the period of
   2.1 imprisonment or detention in legal custody and
   2.2 six weeks from the day on which they were first disqualified under 1. and
3. the total of the period of disqualification of

   3.1 old style ESA(Cont) and

   3.2 new style ESA

   is more than six weeks¹.

**Note 1:** See ADM Chapter U2 (ESA Limited capability for work and Limited capability for work-related activity) for guidance on being treated as not having LCW during a period of imprisonment or detention in legal custody. However, DMs should note that the relevant legislation has been modified².

**Note 2:** See ADM Chapter U6 (ESA disqualification) for guidance on disqualification for imprisonment or detention in legal custody.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(2)(l); ESA Regs 13, reg 95(2); 2 reg 95(1)

**Limitation to no more than 365 days**

V8144 The modifications mean that when entitlement to ESA(Cont) is limited to 365 days, days of entitlement to new style ESA as well as days of entitlement to old style ESA, where appropriate, are included in that limit¹.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(3) & (4); WR Act 07, s 1A & 1B

**Assessment phase**

V8145 The modifications mean that where

1. a claimant has an award of old style ESA(Cont) and

2. the award of old style ESA(Cont) had not been preceded by an award of new style ESA

the beginning of the assessment phase is the first day of entitlement to old style ESA¹.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 10(5); WR Act 07, s 24(2)

V8146 - V8159

**Transition from new style ESA**

**Introduction**

V8160 Where

1. a claimant makes, or is treated as making, a claim for old style ESA¹ and

2. V8161 is satisfied

the old style ESA provisions² are modified as in V8163 et seq.

¹ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(1)(a); 2 ESA Regs 08
V8161 V8160 applies where

1. the claimant
   1.1 had previously made or
   1.2 was treated as having made
   a claim for new style ESA or

2. a conversion notice was issued in respect of new style ESA or

3. the claimant previously had an award of old style ESA(Cont) immediately before a UC

3.1 claim
   3.1.a is made in accordance with V8040 or
   3.1.b is made and the claimant gives incorrect information in accordance with V8050 or
   3.1.c is treated as made by a couple in accordance with V8060 or
   3.1.d is required from former joint claimants in accordance with V8063 or

3.2 award is made where a claim is not required in accordance with V8065 (Live Service only) or V8066.

V8162 V8163 et seq also applies where a person had a new style ESA award but the old style ESA provisions apply again as in V81001.

Modifications

V8163 Where V8160 or V8162 apply the old style ESA provisions1 are modified in accordance with V8164 - V8181.

Definition – limited capability for work

V8164 The modifications mean that the definition of period of LCW includes a period (unless it is outside the prescribed time for claiming) throughout which the claimant has, or is treated as having, LCW for new style ESA1.
Assessment phase – previous claimants

The modifications mean that, where the new style and old style awards link, then, in calculating the end of the assessment phase, the days of entitlement to new style ESA in the linked award are included in that calculation.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(b); ESA Regs 08, reg 5; ESA Regs 13, reg 26

Support component payable from first day of entitlement

The modifications mean that, where the new style and old style awards link, then, in determining whether the support component is payable from the first day of entitlement, any "earlier period of LCW" in respect of which the claimant was entitled to ESA includes the period of entitlement to new style ESA.

Note: From 3.4.17 the WRAC is no longer included in an award of ESA for claims made on or after that date. See ADM Chapter V6 (ESA: Assessment phase and components) for further details, including where transitional provisions apply.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(c); ESA Regs 08, reg 7; ESA Regs 13, reg 26

Condition relating to youth

The modifications mean that the conditions relating to youth include entitlement to new style ESA.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(d); ESA Regs 08, reg 10

Determination of limited capability for work

The modifications mean that a determination of LCW can include

1. a determination of LCW for new style ESA and
2. being treated as having LCW for new style ESA where a person
   2.1 satisfies certain conditions or
   2.2. is a hospital patient or
   2.3 is receiving certain regular treatments or
   2.4 has exceptional circumstances

for the purposes of determining afresh whether the claimant has or is treated as having LCW.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(e)(i); ESA Regs 08, regs 19(7)(a); ESA Regs 13, Part 4; 2 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(e)(ii); ESA Regs 08, regs 19(7)(b); 3 ESA Regs 13, reg 16; 4 reg 21; 5 reg 22; 6 reg 25

Treated as having limited capability for work

The modifications mean that for the purposes of whether a claimant can be treated as having LCW until a determination of LCW has been made following a
determination that the claimant is treated as not having LCW because they failed without good cause to

1. return the questionnaire or
2. attend for or submit to medical examination

the six months rule includes being treated as not having LCW for new style ESA¹.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(f); ESA Regs 08, reg 22, 23 & 30(2)(b) & (2)(h)(iii); ESA Regs 13, regs 18, 19 & 26(2)(b)

Determination of LCWRA

V8170 The modifications mean that for the purposes of a fresh determination as to whether a person has LCWRA, that determination can include a determination on LCWRA for new style ESA¹.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(g); ESA Regs 08, reg 34(4); ESA Regs 13, Part 5

Exempt work

V8171 The modifications mean that for the purposes of exempt work, new style ESA is a relevant benefit¹.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(ga); ESA Regs 08, reg 45(4)(a)(ii) & (10)

Waiting days

V8172 The modifications mean that, where

1. the claimant is entitled to a new style award of ESA from the first day of the PLCW without having to serve waiting days and
2. the award continues as an old style award of ESA as in V8161 from a day between the second and the seventh day of that PLCW

for the purposes of claimants not having to serve waiting days where their entitlement to old style ESA commences within 12 weeks of the end of an award of a specified benefit, that entitlement to ESA includes the period of entitlement to new style ESA¹.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(1)(b) & (2)(gb); ESA Regs 08, reg 144(2)(a); ESA Regs 13, reg 85(2)(a)

Appeal against determination of no limited capability for work

V8173 The modifications mean that an appeal against a decision which embodies a determination that a claimant does not have LCW includes such a determination for new style ESA¹.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(h); ESA Regs 08, reg 147A(1)
Temporary absence

V8174 The modifications mean that where

1. a claimant had a new style ESA award immediately before a UC claim or award1 as in V8162 and

2. a period of temporary absence from GB began when the claimant was entitled to new style ESA2 and

3. the first four weeks of temporary absence had not ended immediately before the first day of entitlement to old style ESA

the period of four weeks for which the claimant continues to be entitled to ESA during a period of temporary absence includes both the period for which there was entitlement to new style ESA and the remainder of that four week period where there was entitlement to old style ESA3.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(1)(b); 2 ESA Regs 13, reg 89; 3 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(i); ESA Regs 08, reg 152

Temporary absence – receiving medical treatment

V8175 The modifications mean that where

1. a claimant had a new style ESA award immediately before a UC claim or award1 as in V8162 and

2. a period of temporary absence from GB to receive medical treatment began when the claimant was entitled to new style ESA2 and

3. the first 26 weeks of temporary absence had not ended immediately before the first day of entitlement to old style ESA

the period of 26 weeks for which the claimant continues to be entitled to ESA during a period of temporary absence to receive medical treatment includes both the period for which there was entitlement to new style ESA and the remainder of that 26 week period where there was entitlement to old style ESA3.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(1)(b); 2 ESA Regs 13, reg 90; 3 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(j); ESA Regs 08, reg 153

Misconduct

V8176 The modifications mean that a claimant is to be disqualified for receiving old style ESA1 for a period of not more than six weeks decided by the DM for the purposes of new style ESA2 less any days of that period of disqualification already served3. However, this does not apply if a claimant is

1. disqualified for receiving ESA under certain legislation4 (loss of benefit provisions) or

2. a person in hardship5.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(k); ESA Regs 08, reg 157(1); 2 ESA Regs 13, reg 93(2); 3 ESA Regs 08, reg 157(4); 4 reg 157(3)(a); SS Fraud Act 01, s 6B & 7; 5 ESA Regs 08, reg 157(3)(b)
Where V8176 applies, the DM should not disqualify a claimant for receiving old style ESA if the reason for the disqualification has already been decided for the purposes of new style ESA.

**Note:** See DMG Chapter 53 for the meaning of person in hardship for old style ESA.

1 ESA Regs 08, reg 157(5)

### Imprisonment or detention in legal custody

The modifications mean that a claimant is also to be treated as not having LCW if

1. they are disqualified for receiving new style ESA during a period of imprisonment or detention in legal custody **and**
2. old style ESA(Cont) has effect during the period of
   2.1 imprisonment or detention in legal custody **and**
   2.2 six weeks from the day on which they were first disqualified under 1. **and**
3. the total of the period of disqualification of
   3.1 new style ESA **and**
   3.2 old style ESA(Cont)

is more than six weeks.

**Note 1:** See DMG Chapter 42 for guidance on when a claimant is treated as not having LCW for old style ESA during a period of imprisonment or detention in legal custody. However, DMs should note that the relevant legislation has been modified.

**Note 2:** See DMG Chapter 53 for guidance on disqualification for old style ESA for imprisonment or detention in legal custody.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(i); ESA Regs 08, reg 159(2); 2 reg 159(1)

### Housing costs

The modifications mean that, when calculating the period of entitlement to old style ESA for the purposes of whether new or existing housing costs can be met, periods of new style ESA are included.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(2)(m); ESA Regs 08, Sch 6, para 8(1) & 9(1)

### Limitation to no more than 365 days

The modifications mean that when entitlement to ESA(Cont) is limited to 365 days, days of entitlement to new style ESA as well as days of entitlement to old style ESA, where appropriate, are included in that limit.

**Note:** This includes awards of IB or SDA converted to an award of new style ESA.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(3); WR Act 07, s 1A & 1B;
2 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(4)
Assessment phase

V8181 The modifications mean that where
1. a claimant has an award of new style ESA and
2. the award of new style ESA had not been preceded by an award of old style ESA
the beginning of the assessment phase is the first day of entitlement to new style ESA.1

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 11(5); WR Act 07, s 24(2)

Sanctions

Introduction

V8200 There are modifications to sanctions provisions for transition from old style ESA to new style ESA:
1. V8210 et seq gives guidance where there is a new award
2. V8220 et seq gives guidance where there is a continuing award and
3. V8230 et seq gives guidance on escalation of sanctions and
4. V8151 gives guidance on termination of new style ESA sanctions.

Meaning of relevant failure

V8201 Relevant failure means the failure which led to an old style ESA sanction1. For new style ESA2 the relevant failure is treated as sanctionable3.

1 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 14(2)(a) & 15(2)(a); 2 ESA Regs 13, Part 8; 3 WR Act 07, s 11J

New award

V8210 V8211 applies where
1. a claimant
   1.1 is entitled to new style ESA
   1.2 was previously entitled to old style ESA that was not in existence immediately before the start of the new style ESA award1 and
2. immediately before entitlement to old style ESA ended, payments were reduced because of a sanction.

\[1\text{ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 14(1)(a); 2 art 14(1)(b); ESA Regs 08, reg 63}\]

V8211 Where V8210 applies

1. the relevant failure is treated as a sanctionable failure for new style ESA and
2. the new style ESA award is reduced because of the relevant failure and
3. the reduction for new style ESA is treated as a sanctionable failure.

\[1\text{ WR Act 12, s 11J; 2 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 14(2)(a); 3 art 14(2)(b); ESA Regs 13, Part 8; 4 ESA Regs 13; 5 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 14(2)(c); WR Act 12, s 11J}\]

Reduction period

V8212 The reduction period for the new style ESA sanction is the length of the fixed period for the relevant failure less

1. the number of days, if any, that the amount of old style ESA was reduced and
2. the number of days, if any, between the end of the old style ESA award and the start of the new style ESA award.

\[1\text{ ESA Regs 08, reg 63; 2 WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 15(3) & (4); ESA Regs 13, reg 51(1) & (3)}\]

V8213 - V8219

Continuing award

V8220 V8221 applies where

1. a UC

   1.1 claim

      1.1.a is made and the claimant gives incorrect information in accordance with V8050 or

      1.1.b is treated as made by a couple in accordance with V8060 or

      1.1.c is required from former joint claimants in accordance with V8063 or

   1.2 award is made where a claim is not required in accordance with V8066 and

2. immediately before the date on which the conditions at 1. are satisfied, the claimant had an award of old style ESA(Cont) and

3. immediately before the date on which the conditions at 1. are satisfied, payments were reduced because of a sanction.

\[1\text{ WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 15(1); 2 ESA Regs 08, reg 63}\]
V8221 Where V8220 applies

1. the relevant failure is treated as a sanctionable failure\(^1\) for new style ESA\(^2\) and
2. the new style ESA award is reduced because of the relevant failure\(^3\) and
3. the reduction for new style ESA\(^4\) is treated as a sanctionable failure\(^5\).

\(^1\) WR Act 12, s 11J; \(^2\) WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 15(2)(a); \(^3\) art 15(2)(b); ESA Regs 13, Part 8; \(^4\) ESA Regs 13; \(^5\) WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 15(2)(c); WR Act 12, s 11J

**Reduction period**

V8222 The reduction period for the new style ESA sanction is the length of the fixed period for the relevant failure\(^1\) less the number of days, if any, that the old style ESA was reduced\(^2\).

\(^1\) ESA Regs 08, reg 63; \(^2\) WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 15(3) & (4); ESA Regs 13, reg 51(1) & (3)

V8223 - V8229

**Escalation of sanctions**

V8230 V8231 - V8232 applies\(^1\)

1. a new style ESA award as in V8210 or
2. an old style ESA award at any time before the new style award.

\(^1\) WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 16(1)

V8231 Unless V8232 applies, for the purposes of determining the period of a low-level sanction\(^1\), for a person to whom V8230 applies

1. a reduction of ESA for a new award or a continuing award and
2. any reduction of old style ESA for which there is no reduction for a new award or a continuing award

is to be treated as a sanctionable failure for which the reduction period is the same as an old style ESA fixed period\(^2\).

**Note 1:** This does not apply in relation to a failure which is treated as sanctionable\(^3\) for a new award or a continuing award.

**Note 2:** See V8210 et seq for guidance on new awards and V8220 et seq for guidance on continuing awards.

\(^1\) ESA Regs 13, reg 52; \(^2\) WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 16(2); ESA Regs 08, reg 63; \(^3\) WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9 etc.) Order, art 14 & 15

V8232 When determining the period of the sanction in V8231, DMs should not take account of
1. a reduction from a new award or continuing award if, at any time after that reduction, a person was entitled to
   1.1 old style ESA or
   1.2 old style JSA or
   1.3 IS¹ or
2. a reduction of old style ESA if, at any time after that reduction, a person was entitled to
   2.1 UC or
   2.2 new style ESA or
   2.3 new style JSA
   and was subsequently entitled to old style ESA, old style JSA or IS².

V8233 - V8234

Termination of new style ESA sanctions

V8235 V8236 applies where
1. a new style ESA award ends while there is an outstanding reduction period¹ and during that period the claimant becomes entitled to an old style ESA award or IS² or
2. a new style ESA award continues as an old style ESA award as in V8101 and there is an outstanding reduction period on the last day of entitlement to new style ESA³.

V8236 For the purposes of V8235 the new style ESA reduction period¹ will
1. no longer apply and
2. end on the first day of
   2.1 an old style ESA award or
   2.2 entitlement to IS².

V8237 - V8999
Appendix: WR Act 12 Commencement etc. Orders

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 11 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2013

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 13 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2013

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 14 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2013

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 16 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2014

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 17 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2014

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 19 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2014

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 20 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2014

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 21 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 22 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 23 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2015

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 25 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 26 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2016
WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 27 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2016

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2016

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2016

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 11, 13, 16, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2017

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2017

WR Act 12 (Commencement No 29 and Commencement No. 17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2017

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2017

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 9, 21 and 23 (Amendment), Commencement No. 11, 13, 17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 (Modification), Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2018

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2018

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification) No. 2)) Order 2018

WR Act 12 (Commencement No. 32 and Savings and Transitional Provisions) Order 2019

The content of the examples in this document (including use of imagery) is for illustrative purposes only