HMRC - CCM15020 - Compliance Issues Overview

The main compliance risks associated with partners are:-

an incorrect initial claim is made where someone claims to be single.

an incorrect initial claim is made and this is repeated in the end of year declaration.

the initial claim is correct but the customer fails to tell us within 1 month that a partner has joined their household.

the initial claim is correct but the customer fails to tell us within 1 month that a partner has joined their household and this is still not disclosed in the end of year declaration.

Before 6 April 2007 customers had 3 months to notify a change of circumstances.

Where the customer is

married to the undisclosed partner see CCM15035

not married to the undisclosed partner see CCM15040

of the same-sex as the undisclosed partner see CCM15290.

Where you establish that a partner joined the household you must notify the customer of your conclusion - see CCM15350. You must then terminate the claim as of the date they became a couple. This is because Section 3(4)(b) says that entitlement ceases from the point they were no longer eligible to claim as a single person. Where you establish the partner was always living with the customer you should terminate the claim as of the date it was made because it was never a valid claim. Although the claim must be terminated in this way we may decide not to recover all of the resulting overpayment - see CCM15500.

You might occasionally see the opposite situation where 2 people claim to be living as a couple when, in fact, they are only entitled to claim as single people. This is a much less common situation because there are fewer financial rewards. The criteria described in this chapter can still be used to decide whether they are single or a couple.

Previous page

Next page