

Protecting international wealth from US tax



Do you own US investments?

Many international investors hold US-listed shares, ETFs or portfolios without realising these assets may create a US Estate Tax issue on death.

For non-US individuals, this can mean unexpected tax, additional reporting and delays for beneficiaries. The right structure may help reduce these risks.

The challenge

If you own US assets directly, your estate may be exposed to US Estate Tax.

Examples of US-situs assets include:

- Shares listed on US stock exchanges.
- Certain US-domiciled funds and ETFs.
- Investments held through brokerage platforms that own US securities.

In many cases, estates with more than US\$60,000 of US-situs assets may need to file a US Estate Tax return. Depending on personal circumstances and treaty arrangements, tax can be significant and may reduce what is passed to loved ones.

US\$60,000

Estates holding US-situs assets above this level may need to file a US Estate Tax return.

A potential solution: an insurance-based investment product

Friends Provident International (FPI) offers open architecture insurance-based investment products designed for high-net-worth and internationally mobile investors.

Eligible investments can be held within an insurance wrapper rather than owned directly by the investor.

How an insurance wrapper changes ownership

When assets are transferred into an eligible FPI product:

- The legal ownership of the underlying investments moves to the insurance company.
- You continue to benefit from the performance of those investments through your policy.
- The underlying US assets are no longer held in your personal name.

This change in ownership can help reduce US Estate Tax exposure and make estate administration simpler.

How FPI's products may help

1 Mitigate US Estate tax exposure

By placing eligible US assets inside an appropriate FPI product, the policyholder no longer owns those assets directly.

2 Simplify estate administration

Direct ownership of US assets can leave executors dealing with US reporting and probate requirements.

Holding investments within an insurance structure may reduce these burdens.

3 Enhance wealth transfer planning

A structured plan can help ensure more wealth reaches your chosen beneficiaries efficiently.

Beyond Estate Tax planning

FPI's open architecture products can also support wider wealth planning through:

- Access to thousands of investment opportunities.
- Multiple currency options.
- Choice of adviser, platform or discretionary manager.
- Ability to adapt investments as your circumstances change.
- A structure designed with internationally mobile investors in mind.

It can support capital growth, wealth preservation, succession planning and international portability as part of a long-term strategy.



Are FPI's products right for you?

An FPI open architecture product could be suitable for you if you:

- Hold substantial US-listed investments.
- Use international brokerage platforms.
- Are concerned about Estate Tax exposure.
- Want to pass wealth efficiently to your family.
- Require a flexible international investment structure.

If you hold US investments and want to understand your potential Estate Tax exposure, speak to your financial adviser.

A simple review today could help preserve more of your wealth for the people who matter most tomorrow.

Important notes

Tax treatment depends on your individual circumstances and may change in the future. The availability and suitability of investments, currencies and product features may vary between Friends Provident International products and jurisdictions.

Friends Provident International does not provide tax or legal advice. You should always seek suitable financial, legal and tax advice before making any decisions.

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