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Part XXXVII

**Pension Benefit
Guaranty
Corporation**

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION (PBGC)

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Ch. XXVI

Agenda of Regulations Under Development**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.**ACTION:** Agenda of regulations.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulatory agenda issued under Executive Order 12291 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The agenda lists regulations that are currently under development or that PBGC expects to have under development during the next twelve months. The effect of this agenda is to advise the public of PBGC's current and future regulatory activities.

ADDRESS: Office of the General Counsel, Code 22500, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 2020 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the agenda in general, contact J. Ronald Goldstein, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, 202-778-8850. For information about a specific regulation project listed on the agenda, contact the person designated in the agenda for that regulation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the President's Order on Federal Regulation, Executive Order 12291, 46 FR 13193, each agency is required to publish in April and October an agenda of regulations currently or soon to be under development. The Executive Order requires that the agenda also include those currently effective regulations that are being reviewed by the agency pursuant to the Executive

Order. The Regulatory Flexibility Act, Pub. L. 98-354, 5 U.S.C. 601, has a similar agenda requirement. Under that law, the agenda must list any regulation that is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The Office of Management and Budget has issued guidelines (OMB Bulletin No. 88-15) prescribing the form and content of the regulatory agenda. Under those guidelines, the agenda must list all regulatory activities being conducted or reviewed in the next twelve months and provide certain specified information on each regulation. All of the items on this agenda are current or projected rulemakings.

Kathleen P. Utgoff,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION (PBGC)
Proposed Rule Stage**3280. TRANSFERS FROM MULTIEMPLOYER PLANS TO SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS**

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1412; 29 USC 1414

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2678

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Sections 4232 and 4234 of ERISA prescribe rules governing the transfer of liabilities and assets from a multiemployer plan to a single-employer plan and prohibit certain transfers unless approved by PBGC. The regulation will establish procedures for requesting and criteria for PBGC approval of transfers which require approval and guidelines for satisfying the statutory requirements pertaining to other transfers. The regulation will also establish standards for the PBGC's waiver of a multiemployer plan's contingent liability arising from the transfer of unfunded vested benefits to a single-employer plan.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
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Next Action Undetermined

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: Publication of this proposed regulation was delayed because of the need to revise the portions dealing with waiver of a multiemployer plan's contingent liability to reflect certain changes in related statutory provisions made by the Single-Employer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1986. Work on this rule was subsequently deferred because the enactment of SEPPAA and the 1987 Pension Protection Act amendments required that staff be reassigned to work on higher priority regulations necessitated by those laws.

Agency Contact: Mr. John Foster, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA20

3281. PLAN RULES FOR REDUCTION OR WAIVER OF COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1387(b)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2647 (Amendment)

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Under section 4207(a) of ERISA, the PBGC has issued a regulation (29 CFR Part 2647) providing for the reduction or waiver of an employer's liability for complete withdrawal upon the employer's resumption of participation under the plan from which it withdrew. The statute also requires the PBGC to prescribe procedures and standards under which multiemployer plans may adopt their own rules abating complete withdrawal liability upon an employer's return to the plan (section 4207(b)).

The purpose of letting plans adopt their own abatement rules is obvious: a specific rule adopted by a plan may well work better under the facts and circumstances of that particular plan than the broad rules adopted by the PBGC. This regulation will permit a plan to fashion the rules it needs to encourage the return of withdrawn employers, while at the same time protecting the plan from the loss of withdrawal liability payments without a compensating resumption of contributions to the plan by a formerly withdrawn employer. The PBGC is unable to (cont)

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Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/00/89	
NPRM Comment	03/00/89	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT CONT: quantify the benefits and costs of this regulation because it cannot predict how many plans will exercise the authority conferred by this regulation.

Agency Contact: Mr. John Foster, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA38

3282. ALLOCATING UNFUNDED VESTED BENEFITS: FULLY FUNDED PLANS

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1341(c)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2642

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: In a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on December 31, 1986 (51 FR 47342), the PBGC issued its interpretation that ERISA section 4211 does not permit the assessment of withdrawal liability against an employer by a multiemployer plan that had no unfunded vested benefits as of the end of the plan year preceding the employer's withdrawal. This interpretation raises certain questions as to the proper manner of applying the allocation methods prescribed in section 4211(b) and (c)(2) by a plan that at one time was fully funded, but is no longer. The PBGC plans to issue a proposed amendment to its regulation on allocating unfunded vested benefits dealing with this issue.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/88	
NPRM Comment	02/00/89	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Ms. Deborah Murphy, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General

Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA51

3283. PAYMENT OF BENEFITS IN PBGC-TRUSTEED PLANS

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1322; 29 USC 1342

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2624

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: When the PBGC assumes trusteeship of a terminated pension plan pursuant to sections 4041 and 4042 of ERISA, it pays benefits to participants pursuant to plan provisions and section 4022 of ERISA. This regulation will contain rules and policies relating to the payment of such benefits. The regulation will enable the PBGC to process and administer PBGC-trusted plans more efficiently with resultant cost savings. It also will reduce costs to the public and the PBGC by providing payment rules, thereby reducing the number of requests for administrative review.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/00/89	
NPRM Comment	04/00/89	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Mrs. Renae R. Hubbard, Special Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA35

3284. EMPLOYER LIABILITY FOR WITHDRAWALS FROM AND TERMINATIONS OF SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS: INTEREST RATE

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b); 29 USC 1362 to 1364; 29 USC 1367 to 1368

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2622

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The PBGC's employer liability regulation incorporates by reference the interest rate charged under section 6601 of the Internal Revenue Code as the interest rate charged, or credited, on late payments, or overpayments, of employer liability. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 significantly changed the way in

which the section 6601 rate is established and creates two interest rates: one for underpayments and another, lower rate for overpayments. Because of these changes, the PBGC plans to conduct a new rulemaking proceeding to determine whether it should continue to use the section 6601 interest rates under the employer liability regulation or whether it should adopt a new rate(s) for this purpose.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/00/89	
NPRM Comment	05/00/89	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Ms. Therese Cleary, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8823

RIN: 1212-AA48

3285. PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1306; 29 USC 1307; PL 100-203, Sec 9331

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2610

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Pension Protection Act substantially altered the rules pertaining to single-employer plan premiums that are paid to the PBGC. Under the Act, there is a flat per capita charge (increased from that under prior law) plus a new variable rate charge tied to the value of a plan's unfunded vested benefits. The new premium rules are effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1987.

On June 30, 1988, the PBGC issued an interim regulation implementing these rules. Because of the need to issue the regulation quickly to provide guidance for 1988 premium payments, the PBGC did not solicit public comment before issuing the regulation. For the same reason, the interim regulation did not address certain relevant, but secondary, issues pertaining to the new rules. Therefore, on October 5, 1988, the PBGC issued a notice of proposed rulemaking in order to permit public comment on the interim regulation. The NPRM also addressed problems or

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questions raised by the public in response to the interim regulation. The PBGC hopes to issue the final regulation early in 1989 so that it will govern the 1989 (and subsequent) (cont)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/30/88	53 FR 24906
NPRM	10/05/88	53 FR 39200
NPRM Comment Period End	12/05/88	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: (ABSTRACT CONT) premium payment years.

Agency Contact: Mr. Harold Ashner, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, 202 778-8823

RIN: 1212-AA53

3286. ● PAYMENTS BY PBGC OF UNFUNDED NONGUARANTEED BENEFITS

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: PL 100-203, Sec 9312(b)(3)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR Not yet determined

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract:

The Pension Protection Act repealed ERISA section 4049 and 4062(c). Those provisions established new employer liability to plan participants and beneficiaries in the event of a distress termination or involuntary termination by the PBGC of a plan without sufficient assets to pay all benefit commitments; the section 4049 trust was the vehicle for collecting and distributing these liability amounts. This system proved flawed in several respects, however, and Congress therefore created a new scheme by which to channel employer liability recoveries to plan participants and beneficiaries, amended ERISA section 4022(c).

Under section 4022(c), participants no longer have a direct claim for employer liability. Instead, the PBGC's claim covers both its shortfall (unfunded guaranteed benefits) and participants' losses (unfunded benefit liabilities in excess of guaranteed benefits). In turn, the PBGC is to pay a portion of its employer liability recovery to participants and beneficiaries. The amount to be paid is based on the PBGC "recovery ratio" (as defined in amended sec. 4022(c)(3)).(cont)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/89	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/89	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information:

This new statutory rule contains several ambiguities and also leaves to the PBGC the development of specific rules and procedures necessary to make this system work. The regulation will, for example, contain rules on how the PBGC will value its employer liability recoveries for purposes of computing the recovery ratio, whether the allocation of amounts payable under this provision will be done as part of the regular section 4044 asset allocation, and whether the PBGC will pay these benefits by increasing the amount of annuity payments it is making to participants or making lump sum payments.

Agency Contact: J. Ronald Goldstein, Senior Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA54

3287. RETIREMENT EQUITY ACT AMENDMENTS - VALUATION OF PLAN BENEFITS

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1341

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2619

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Retirement Equity Act of 1984 ("REA") requires plans to provide certain benefits, prohibits the elimination of benefit options and certain early retirement benefits and retirement-type subsidies, and mandates the range of interest rates that may be used in calculating the amount of a non-consensual lump sum benefit. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 ("TRA '86") slightly modified the interest rate restrictions and extended them to the calculation of all lump sum benefits.

These rules necessitate several amendments to the PBGC's valuation of benefits regulation (29 CFR Part 2619). The major changes will address the rules on determining the form of benefit to be valued on plan termination and the interest rate rules for lump sum payments in standard terminations.

Because the valuation of benefits is an essential part of the plan termination process, the PBGC plans to issue these amendments both as a notice of proposed rulemaking and as an interim final rule at or about the same time it issues the final distress termination and standard termination regulations. (cont)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/88	
Interim Final Rule	12/00/88	
NPRM Comment Period End	02/00/89	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Ms. Deborah Murphy, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8824

RIN: 1212-AA55

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION (PBGC)

Final Rule Stage

3288. RULES UNDER SECTIONS 4041A AND 4281 FOR PLANS TERMINATED BY MASS WITHDRAWAL

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3) ERISA; 29 USC 1341A ERISA; 29 USC 1441 ERISA

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2675

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Section 4041A of ERISA provides rules with respect to the termination of multiemployer plans and the payment of benefits under those plans. Under section 4041A(f)(2), PBGC is authorized to prescribe rules for the administration of those plans that are appropriate to protect the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries or to prevent unreasonable loss to the insurance system. Under section 4281(b), the plan sponsor of a plan that has terminated by mass withdrawal is required annually to determine the value of the plan's nonforfeitable benefits and assets. If the value of the benefits exceeds the value of the assets, the sponsor must amend the plan to eliminate benefits not eligible for PBGC's guarantee under section 4022A(b), to the extent necessary to insure that the plan assets are sufficient to pay all nonforfeitable benefits. This determination of sufficiency is to be made in accordance with rules prescribed by PBGC. This regulation would establish the rules for administering plans that have terminated by mass withdrawal, including the rules for determining sufficiency in the circumstances described above. The primary purpose (cont)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/07/86	51 FR 24536
NPRM Comment Period End	09/05/86	
Final Action	10/00/88	
Final Action Effective	11/00/88	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT CONT: and benefit of this regulation will be to establish rules that encourage the efficient administration of these plans. By thus helping to preserve plan assets, these rules will, in the first instance, benefit plan participants and beneficiaries and secondarily, the

multiemployer insurance system and premium payers. PBGC lacks adequate data to be able to quantify these benefits.

Agency Contact: J. Ronald Goldstein, Senior Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA19

3289. REDUCTION OR WAIVER OF PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1388(e)(3)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2646

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Section 4208 of ERISA provides for the reduction or elimination under certain circumstances of an employer's partial withdrawal liability arising from a 70 percent reduction in contribution base units. That section also authorizes the PBGC to prescribe rules for the reduction or elimination of partial withdrawal liability under other conditions. The regulation will provide for the abatement of partial withdrawal liability arising from the cessation of the obligation to contribute under a collective bargaining agreement or with respect to a facility. Section 4208 also requires the PBGC to issue a regulation under which a multiemployer plan may adopt rules for the reduction or elimination of partial withdrawal liability. This regulation will allow plans to ease the statutory partial withdrawal liability rules where, for example, the rules are harmful to the plan because they discourage an employer from increasing its participation under the plan, or where the statutory rules create administrative burdens which outweigh the protections afforded by the rules.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/05/87	52 FR 21319
NPRM Comment Period End	08/04/87	
Final Action	11/00/88	
Final Action Effective	12/00/88	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Ms. Debra Bisco, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8824

RIN: 1212-AA22

3290. ADJUSTMENT OF WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY FOR A WITHDRAWAL SUBSEQUENT TO A PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1386(b)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2649

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Under section 4206(b) of ERISA, if an employer partially or completely withdraws from a multiemployer plan subsequent to an earlier partial withdrawal from that plan, the employer's liability for the second withdrawal must be reduced by the amount of its liability for the earlier partial withdrawal. The purpose of this credit is to avoid plans double-charging employers for the same unfunded liabilities. Section 4206(b) also requires the PBGC to prescribe regulations adjusting this credit to ensure that the employer's liability for its second withdrawal properly reflects the employer's share of liability with respect to the plan.

The need for this adjustment to the credit can be seen from the following example. In a plan that uses the rolling-5 allocation method, an employer's withdrawal liability is based on its last five years' participation in the plan. If an employer's second withdrawal occurs more than five years after its partial withdrawal, the liability for the second withdrawal is based solely on plan participation subsequent to the partial (cont)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/06/87	52 FR 37329
NPRM Comment Period End	12/07/87	
Final Action	11/00/88	
Final Action Effective	12/00/88	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT CONT: withdrawal. Thus, there is no double-charging with respect to the old

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liabilities and no reason to give the employer a credit against its liability for the second withdrawal. However, without this regulation, the employer would get that credit under the statute. There are many other possible situations in which the employer's credit should similarly be reduced in order to ensure equitable treatment of the withdrawing employer vis-a-vis the other employers still contributing to the plan.

This regulation will result in some shifting of liabilities among employers contributing to a multiemployer plan. An employer that has another withdrawal following a partial withdrawal may incur greater liability for the second withdrawal because of the reduction in the credit for the prior partial withdrawal. However, this increase in liability would reduce the unfunded vested benefits allocable to other employers that withdraw thereafter. In the aggregate, the regulation will impose no new costs.

Agency Contact: Ms. Debra Bisco, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8824

RIN: 1212-AA37

3291. DETERMINATION OF WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY FOLLOWING A MERGER

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b)(3); 29 USC 1391(f)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2642 (Amendment)

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The merger of two multiemployer plans creates a problem as to how the successor plan's unfunded vested benefits are to be allocated in order to determine withdrawal liability for post-merger withdrawals. Frequently, the two plans will have been using different allocation methods prior to the merger. Even if they were using the same method, if they had different plan years, that would create different allocations.

For this reason, section 4211(f) of ERISA requires the PBGC to issue regulations prescribing rules for the post-merger allocation of unfunded vested benefits. The PBGC proposes to

establish rules that parallel the statutory allocation methods: i.e., there would be a presumptive allocation method that would apply to plans unless they chose otherwise, and plans would be permitted to adopt certain modifications to this presumptive method without the PBGC's approval and other more significant modifications with the PBGC's approval. (cont)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/09/87	52 FR 43082
NPRM Comment	01/08/88	
Period End		
Final Action	12/00/88	
Final Action	01/00/89	
Effective		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT
CONT: This regulation will remove a significant impediment to multiemployer plan mergers by eliminating employers' concern and confusion over how their withdrawal liability would be calculated after a merger. Plan mergers are generally to be encouraged since a larger plan is typically a stronger plan because of its broader contribution base, and because portability of benefits is increased. This regulation will impose no new costs.

Agency Contact: Mr. John Foster, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA39

3292. DISTRESS TERMINATIONS OF SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: PL 99-272, Sec 11007; PL 99-272, Sec 11009; PL 100-203, Sec 9312(c) to 9312(d); PL 100-203, Sec. 9313(b) to 9313(c); PL 100-203, Sec 9314(a)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2616

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Single-Employer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1986 substantially revised ERISA section 4041 dealing with the voluntary termination of single-employer pension plans. Under amended section 4041, a plan may voluntarily terminate only if

the termination satisfies the statutory conditions for a standard or distress termination. These rules were further modified by the 1987 Pension Protection Act, which increased the benefits that must be provided, or for which the employer maintaining the plan is liable, upon plan termination. Thus, under current law, unless a plan has sufficient assets to satisfy all plan benefit liabilities, it may voluntarily terminate only in a "distress" termination; i.e., a termination in which the plan sponsor and all members of its controlled group are able to demonstrate either such financial hardship or unduly burdensome pension costs that, as a practical matter, they are unable to continue to maintain the plan. CONT.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/02/87	52 FR 33318
NPRM Comment	11/02/87	
Period End		
Final Action	12/00/88	
Final Action	01/00/89	
Effective		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT
CONT:

The statutory rules and procedures for distress terminations are substantially different from the prior rules and procedures for terminating insufficient plans. Therefore, it is necessary to revise the PBGC's plan termination regulations to reflect these new rules and procedures. This regulation covering distress terminations and a companion rule covering standard terminations (to be codified in Part 2617) will replace the PBGC's principal termination regulations on notices of intent to terminate and termination of sufficient plans (existing Parts 2616 and 2617).

Although the notice of proposed rulemaking for this regulation was issued prior to enactment of the Pension Protection Act, the final rule will reflect the relevant statutory changes from that Act.

Agency Contact: J. Ronald Goldstein, Senior Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St.,

PBGC

Final Rule Stage

NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA41

3293. STANDARD TERMINATIONS OF SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: PL 99-272, Sec 11007; PL 99-272, Sec 11008; PL 100-203, Sec 9311; PL 100-203, Sec 9313(a); PL 100-203, Sec 9313(c); PL 100-203, Sec 9314(a)

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2617

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Under ERISA Section 4041, as amended by the Single-Employer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1986 and the Pension Protection Act, absent a showing of financial hardship or unduly burdensome pension costs that would satisfy the requirements for a distress termination, a single-employer plan may be voluntarily terminated only if it is sufficient for all benefit liabilities (i.e., all benefits provided under the plan on the termination date, whether or not vested). This is referred to as a "standard" termination. SEPPAA also modified many of the termination rules and procedures that applied under prior law, both to increase the protections afforded plan participants and beneficiaries and to simplify and expedite the PBGC's processing of these sufficient plan terminations. It is, therefore, necessary to promulgate this new regulation implementing the new rules and procedures for standard terminations. This regulation and its companion regulation covering distress terminations (to be codified in Part 2616) will replace the PBGC's principal termination regulations on notices of intent to terminate and termination of sufficient plans (existing Parts 2616 and 2617) (CONT)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/02/87	52 FR 33318
NPRM Comment	11/02/87	
Period End		
Final Action	12/00/88	
Final Action Effective	01/00/89	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT CONT:

Although the notice of proposed rulemaking for this regulation was issued prior to enactment of the Pension Protection Act, the final rule will reflect the relevant statutory changes from that Act.

Agency Contact: J. Ronald Goldstein, Senior Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8850

RIN: 1212-AA47

3294. MISCELLANEOUS SEPPAA AMENDMENTS

Significance: Regulatory Program

Legal Authority: 29 USC 1302(b); 29 USC 1322; 29 USC 1343; 29 USC 1344; 29 USC 1362 to 1364; 29 USC 1367 to 1368; PL 99-272, Sec 11008 to 11011; PL 99-272, Sec 11016; PL 100-203, Sec 9311 to 9314; PL 100-203, Sec 9331

CFR Citation: 29 CFR 2606; 29 CFR 2615; 29 CFR 2622; 29 CFR 2623

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Single-Employer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1986 ("SEPPAA") and the Pension Protection Act ("PPA") made several changes in Title IV rules and procedures that affect and, in some cases, override portions of several PBGC regulations. For this

reason, these regulations - administrative review of agency decisions, benefit reductions in terminated plans, reportable events and employer liability - must be amended to conform them to the current law. For example, because SEPPAA altered the determinations that the PBGC may make with respect to voluntary plan terminations, the list in 29 CFR 2606.1(b) of determinations subject to agency review must be amended.

Similarly, SEPPAA contained, for distress terminations, specific benefit cutback rules. These rules differ somewhat from those set forth in 29 CFR Part 2623 and, therefore, conforming amendments to Part 2623 are required. SEPPAA and the PPA significantly changed the rules on employer liability to the PBGC in distress and involuntary terminations. Now, an employer is liable to the PBGC for the total plan underfunding. (CONT)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	03/00/89	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: ABSTRACT CONT: i.e., for all unfunded benefit liabilities. Further, the 30 percent of net worth limitation is now relevant only in determining the amount subject to PBGC's statutory lien and the status of PBGC's claim in bankruptcy. The employer liability regulation needs to be amended to reflect these changes.

Agency Contact: Mr. Stephen Schreiber, Attorney, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, (22500), 2020 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202 778-8824

RIN: 1212-AA50

[FR Doc. 88-20677 Filed 10-21-88; 8:45 am]

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