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on the part of the employee to file within the 31 days prescribed in this paragraph shall be deemed a declination of additional optional insurance.

[49 FR 3042, Jan. 25, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 26689, June 28, 1985; 51 FR 21497, June 13, 1986; 54 FR 13665, Apr. 5, 1989, and 54 FR 37093, Sept. 7, 1989; 58 FR 11954, Mar. 2, 1993; 58 FR 45415, Aug. 30, 1993]

Subpart C—Amount of Insurance

§ 872.301 Amount of employee's insurance.

An eligible employee may elect additional optional insurance of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 multiples of his/her annual pay. For this purpose, each multiple is equal to the lowest multiple of $1,000 which is not less than the current rate of the employee's annual pay as determined under § 870.302 of this chapter. A multiple shall not exceed the annual rate of basic pay payable for positions at level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, rounded to the next higher multiple of $1,000.

Subpart D—Withholdings

§ 872.401 Withholdings.

(a) During any period in any part of which an insured employee is in a pay status, the employing agency shall withhold the full cost of additional optional insurance from his/her pay.

(b)(1) Subject to the provisions of § 872.604, the full cost of additional optional insurance shall be withheld from the annuity of an annuitant or from the compensation of a compensationer, except that there is no withholding for an annuitant or compensationer for coverage after the end of the calendar month in which he/she becomes 65 years of age.

(2) Withholdings are not required for the period between the end of the pay period in which an individual separates from service and the beginning of the annuity or compensation payments, if later.

(c) The biweekly full cost per $1,000 of additional optional insurance in force, until determined by OPM on the basis of experience to be otherwise, is—

For persons under age 35.....$0.04
For persons ages 35 through 39.....0.05
For persons ages 40 through 44.....0.07
For persons ages 45 through 49.....0.11
For persons ages 50 through 54.....0.18
For persons ages 55 through 59.....0.30
For persons age 60 or over.....0.70

The amount withheld from pay, annuity, or compensation paid on other than a biweekly period shall be determined at a proportionate rate, adjusted to the nearest one-tenth of one cent.

(d) For the purposes of this section, a person is deemed to attain 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, or 60 years of age on the first day of his/her pay period beginning on or after January 1 of the year following the one in which his/her corresponding birthday occurs.

(e) The amount withheld from the pay of an insured person whose annual pay is paid during a period shorter than 52 workweeks is the sum obtained by converting the biweekly rate for his/her age group to an annual rate and prorating the annual rate over the number of installments of pay regularly paid during the year.

(f) The amount withheld from the pay of an insured employee whose amount of insurance changes during a pay period is based on the last amount of insurance in force during the pay period.

(g) When an agency withholds less than or none of the proper cost of additional optional life insurance from an individual's pay, annuity, or compensation, the agency must submit an amount equal to the uncollected deductions required under section 8714b of title 5, United States Code, to OPM for deposit to the Employees' Life Insurance Fund.

(h) The deposit to OPM as described in paragraph (g) of this section must be made as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the date the employing office determines the amount of the underdeduction that has occurred, regardless of whether or when the underdeduction is recovered by the agency. A subsequent agency determination whether to waive collection of an overpayment of pay caused by failure to properly withhold life insurance deductions shall be made in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5584 as implemented by 4 CFR chapter I, subchapter G, unless the agency involved is excluded from application of 5 U.S.C.

5584, in which case any applicable authority to waive the collection may be used.

(i) *Direct premium payments under 5 U.S.C. chapter 84.*

(1) If the annuity received under 5 U.S.C. chapter 84 (Federal Employees' Retirement System), excluding subchapter III of chapter 84 (Thrift Savings Plan), is too low to cover the additional optional insurance premium, the retirement system will notify the annuitant of the opportunity to pay the premium directly to the retirement system.

(2) The retirement system shall establish a method for accepting direct payment for additional optional insurance premiums from annuitants retiring under 5 U.S.C. chapter 84 whose annuities are too low to cover their premiums. The retirement system will provide the annuitant with a premium payment schedule and statement of the requirements for continued enrollment. The annuitant must continue to make direct payment of the premium even if the annuity increases to the extent that it covers the premium.

(3) The annuitant must remit to the retirement system the premium for additional optional insurance for every pay period during which the coverage continues, exclusive of the 31-day temporary extension of coverage for conversion provided in §872.501. Payment must be made after the pay period in which the individual is covered in accordance with a schedule established by the retirement system. If the retirement system does not receive payment by the date due, the retirement system will notify the annuitant by certified mail return receipt requested that continuation of coverage rests upon payment being made within 15 days after receipt of the notice. The additional optional insurance coverage of an annuitant who fails to remit payment within the specified time frame will be terminated. An individual whose coverage is terminated because of nonpayment of premium may not re-elect or reinstate coverage, except as provided in paragraph (i)(4).

(4) If the individual was prevented by circumstances beyond his or her control from making payment within 15 days after receipt of the notice, he or she may request reinstatement of coverage by writing to the retirement system. Such a request must be filed within 30 calendar days from the date of termination and must be accompanied by verification that the individual was prevented by circumstances beyond his or her control from paying within the time limit. The retirement system will determine if the individual is eligible for reinstatement of coverage; and, when the determination is affirmative, the individual's coverage may be reinstated retroactively to the date of termination. If the determination is negative, the individual may request a review of the decision from OPM.

(5) Termination of enrollment for failure to pay premiums within the time frame established in accordance with subparagraph (i)(3) of this section is retroactive to the end of the last pay period for which payment has been timely received.

(6) The retirement system will submit all direct premium payments along with its regular life insurance premiums to OPM in accordance with procedures established by that Office.

[49 FR 3042, Jan. 25, 1984, as amended at 49 FR 19287, May 7, 1984; 51 FR 25849, July 17, 1986; 51 FR 43337, Dec. 2, 1986; 52 FR 3398, Feb. 4, 1987; 52 FR 39495, Oct. 22, 1987; 53 FR 32368, Aug. 25, 1988; 58 FR 11954, Mar. 2, 1993]

Subpart E—Termination and Conversion

§872.501 Termination and conversion of insurance.

(a) The additional optional insurance of an insured person stops when his/her basic insurance stops as provided in §870.501 of this chapter, subject to a 31-day extension of additional optional insurance coverage, except when the basic insurance stops due to a full Living Benefits election, in which case the additional optional insurance will continue unless voluntarily cancelled by the insured.

(b) If, because of a declination or waiver, an insured employee has not had additional optional insurance during either:

(1) The full period(s) of service during which it was available to him/her; or

(2) The five years of service immediately preceding the date on which