

TABLE I-96.—SELECTION OF RETIREMENT RATE CATEGORY—Continued
 [For Plans with valuation dates after December 31, 1995, and before January 1, 1997]

Participant reaches NRA in year—	Participant's retirement rate category is—			High ³ if monthly benefit at NRA is greater than—
	Low ¹ if monthly benefit at NRA is less than—	Medium ² if monthly benefit at NRA is		
		From	To	
2006 or later	528	528	2,221	2,221

¹ Table II-A.
² Table II-B.
³ Table II-C.

Issued at Washington, DC this 11th day of December, 1995.
 Martin Slate,
Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.
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29 CFR Parts 2619 and 2676

Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal; Amendments Adopting Additional PBGC Rates

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's ("PBGC's") regulations on Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans and Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal. The former regulation contains the interest assumptions that the PBGC uses to value benefits under terminating single-employer plans. The latter regulation contains the interest assumptions for valuations of multiemployer plans that have undergone mass withdrawal. The amendments set out in this final rule adopt the interest assumptions applicable to single-employer plans with termination dates in January 1996, and to multiemployer plans with valuation dates in January 1996. The effect of these amendments is to advise the public of the adoption of these assumptions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024 (202-326-4179 for TTY and TDD). (These are not toll-free numbers.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule adopts the January 1996 interest assumptions to be used under the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's ("PBGC's") regulations on Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 2619, the "single-employer regulation") and Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 2676, the "multiemployer regulation").

Part 2619 sets forth the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered under title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). Under ERISA section 4041(c), all single-employer plans wishing to terminate in a distress termination must value guaranteed benefits and "benefit liabilities," *i.e.*, all benefits provided under the plan as of the plan termination date, using the formulas set forth in part 2619, subpart C. (Plans terminating in a standard termination may, for purposes of the Standard Termination Notice filed with PBGC, use these formulas to value benefit liabilities, although this is not required.) In addition, when the PBGC terminates an underfunded plan involuntarily pursuant to ERISA section 4042(a), it uses the subpart C formulas to determine the amount of the plan's underfunding. Part 2676 prescribes rules for valuing benefits and certain assets of multiemployer plans under sections 4219(c)(1)(D) and 4281(b) of ERISA.

Appendix B to part 2619 sets forth the interest rates and factors under the single-employer regulation. Appendix B to part 2676 sets forth the interest rates and factors under the multiemployer regulation. Because these rates and factors are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets, it is necessary to update the rates and factors periodically.

The PBGC issues two sets of interest rates and factors, one set to be used for the valuation of benefits to be paid as annuities and one set for the valuation

of benefits to be paid as lump sums. The same assumptions apply to terminating single-employer plans and to multiemployer plans that have undergone a mass withdrawal. This amendment adds to appendix B to parts 2619 and 2676 sets of interest rates and factors for valuing benefits in single-employer plans that have termination dates during January 1996 and multiemployer plans that have undergone mass withdrawal and have valuation dates during January 1996.

For annuity benefits, the interest rates will be 5.60% for the first 20 years following the valuation date and 4.75% thereafter. For benefits to be paid as lump sums, the interest assumptions to be used by the PBGC will be 4.50% for the period during which benefits are in pay status, and 4.0% during all years preceding the benefit's placement in pay status. The above annuity interest assumptions represent a decrease (from those in effect for December 1995) of .40 percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and of 1.00 percent thereafter. The lump sum interest assumptions are unchanged (from those in effect for December 1995).

Generally, the interest rates and factors under these regulations are in effect for at least one month. However, the PBGC publishes its interest assumptions each month regardless of whether they represent a change from the previous month's assumptions. The assumptions normally will be published in the Federal Register by the 15th of the preceding month or as close to that date as circumstances permit.

The PBGC has determined that notice and public comment on these amendments are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This finding is based on the need to determine and issue new interest rates and factors promptly so that the rates and factors can reflect, as accurately as possible, current market conditions.

Because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation of benefits in single-employer plans whose

termination dates fall during January 1996, and in multiemployer plans that have undergone mass withdrawal and have valuation dates during January 1996, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the rates and factors set forth in this amendment effective less than 30 days after publication.

The PBGC has determined that this action is not a "significant regulatory action" under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866, because it will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this amendment, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply. See 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

List of Subjects

29 CFR Part 2619

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, and Pensions.

29 CFR Part 2676

Employee benefit plans and Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, parts 2619 and 2676 of chapter XXVI, title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, are hereby amended as follows:

PART 2619—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 2619 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1301(a), 1302(b)(3), 1341, 1344, 1362.

2. In appendix B, Rate Set 27 is added to Table I, and a new entry is added to Table II, as set forth below. The introductory text of both tables is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix B to Part 2619—Interest Rates Used To Value Lump Sums and Annuities

Lump Sum Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form v^{0n} : (as defined in § 2619.49 (b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in § 2619.49(b) through (i) and in

determining the value of any interest factor used in valuing benefits under this subpart to be paid as lump sums (including the return of accumulated employee contributions upon death), the PBGC shall employ the values of i_t set out in Table I hereof as follows:

(1) For benefits for which the participant or beneficiary is entitled to be in pay status on the valuation date, the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(2) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $0 < y \leq n_1$), interest rate i_1 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of y years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(3) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $n_1 < y \leq n_1 + n_2$), interest rate i_2 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1$ years, interest rate i_1 shall apply for the following n_1 years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(4) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $y > n_1 + n_2$), interest rate i_3 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1 - n_2$ years, interest rate i_2 shall apply for the following n_2 years, interest rate i_1 shall apply for the following n_1 years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

TABLE I
[Lump sum valuations]

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)					
	On or after	Before		i_1	i_2	i_3	n_1	n_2	
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
27	1-1-96	2-1-96	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	7	8	

Annuity Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form v^{0n} : (as defined in § 2619.49(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in § 2619.49 (b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor

used in valuing annuity benefits under this subpart, the plan administrator shall use the values of i_t prescribed in Table II hereof.

The following table tabulates, for each calendar month of valuation ending after the effective date of this part, the interest rates (denoted by $i_1, i_2, * * *$, and referred to

generally as i_t) assumed to be in effect between specified anniversaries of a valuation date that occurs within that calendar month; those anniversaries are specified in the columns adjacent to the rates. The last listed rate is assumed to be in effect after the last listed anniversary date.

TABLE II
[Annuity valuations]

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:					
	i_t	for t =	i_t	for t =	i_t	for t =
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
January 19960560	1-20	.0475	>20	N/A	... N/A

PART 2676—[AMENDED]

3. The authority citation for part 2676 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1399(c)(1)(D), 1441(b)(1).

4. In appendix B, Rate Set 27 is added to Table I, and a new entry is added to Table II, as set forth below. The introductory text of both tables is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix B to Part 2676—Interest Rates Used To Value Lump Sums and Annuities

Lump Sum Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form v^{0n} : (as defined in § 2676.13(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in § 2676.13 (b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor used in valuing benefits under this subpart to be paid as lump sums, the PBGC shall use the values of i_t prescribed in Table I hereof. The interest rates set forth in Table I shall be used by the PBGC to calculate benefits payable as lump sum benefits as follows:

(1) For benefits for which the participant or beneficiary is entitled to be in pay status on the valuation date, the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(2) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $0 < y \pm n_1$), interest rate i_1 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of y years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(3) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $n_1 < y \leq n_1 + n_2$), interest rate i_2 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1$ years, interest rate i_1 shall apply for the following n_1 years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(4) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $y > n_1 + n_2$), interest rate i_3 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1 - n_2$ years, interest rate i_2 shall apply for the following n_2 years, interest rate i_1 shall apply for the following n_1 years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

TABLE I
[Lump sum valuations]

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)					
	On or after	Before		i_1	i_2	i_3	n_1	n_2	
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
27	1-1-96	2-1-96	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	7	8	

Annuity Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form v^{0n} : (as defined in § 2676.13(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in § 2676.13(b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor

used in valuing annuity benefits under this subpart, the plan administrator shall use the values of i_t prescribed in the table below.

The following table tabulates, for each calendar month of valuation ending after the effective date of this part, the interest rates (denoted by $i_1, i_2, * * *$, and referred to

generally as i_t) assumed to be in effect between specified anniversaries of a valuation date that occurs within that calendar month; those anniversaries are specified in the columns adjacent to the rates. The last listed rate is assumed to be in effect after the last listed anniversary date.

TABLE II
[Annuity valuations]

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:			
	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$
*	*	*	*	*
January 19960560	1-20	.0475	>20 N/A ... N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 11th day of December 1995.

Martin Slate,
Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 60

[FRL-5346-7]

Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources; Supplemental Delegation of Authority to Mississippi

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Informational notice.

SUMMARY: On September 29, 1995, the state of Mississippi, through the Department of Environmental Quality, requested that EPA delegate authority for implementation and enforcement of

an amended category of the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). Since EPA's review of Mississippi's pertinent laws, rules, and regulations showed them to be adequate and effective procedures for the implementation and enforcement of these Federal standards, EPA has made the delegation as requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of the delegation of authority is October 30, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the request for delegation of authority and EPA's letter of delegation are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations.