

cash out. On December 30, 2005, Jane, who has a vested benefit with a present value of less than \$5,000, leaves employment. Because of reasonable administrative delay in determining the amount of the benefit to be paid, the plan does not pay Jane the value of her benefit until January 9, 2006. Under the provisions of this section, Jane is treated as not having an accrued benefit on December 31, 2005 (the snapshot date for the 2006 premium), because Jane's benefit is treated as having been paid on December 30, 2005. Thus, Jane is not counted as a participant for purposes of computing the plan's 2006 premium.

Example 4. If the plan amendment had instead provided for cashouts as of the first of the month following termination of employment, and the plan paid Jane the value of her benefit on January 1, 2006, Jane would be treated under the provisions of this section as having an accrued benefit on December 31, 2005, and would thus be counted as a participant for purposes of computing the plan's 2006 premium.

PART 4007—PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS

5. The authority citation for part 4007 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1303(a), 1306, 1307.

6. In section 4007.8, a new paragraph (i) is added to read as follows:

§ 4007.8 Late payment penalty charges.

* * * * *

(i) *Safe harbor relief for certain plan amendments prospectively changing plan year.* This waiver applies in the case of a plan for which a reconciliation filing is required under § 4007.11(a)(2)(iii). The PBGC will waive the penalty on any underpayment of the flat-rate premium for the period that ends on the date the reconciliation filing is due if, by the date the flat-rate premium for the premium payment year is due under § 4007.11(a)(2)(i),—

(1) The plan has been amended to change its plan year and the amendment as in effect on that date makes the premium payment year a short year that will end after that date; and

(2) The plan administrator pays at least the lesser of—

(i) The amount determined under § 4007.8(g) based on the actual length of the premium payment year, or

(ii) The amount determined under § 4007.8(g) based on the length that the premium payment year would have if the new plan year cycle began as anticipated by the amendment.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of November, 2000.

Alexis M. Herman,

Chairman, Board of Directors, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Issued on the date set forth above pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors

authorizing its Chairman to issue this final rule.

James J. Keightley,

Secretary, Board of Directors, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-30322 Filed 11-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Parts 4011 and 4022

Disclosure to Participants; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the appendix to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulation on Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans by adding the maximum guaranteeable pension benefit that may be paid by the PBGC with respect to a plan participant in a single-employer pension plan that terminates in 2001. This rule also amends the PBGC's regulation on Disclosure to Participants by adding information on 2001 maximum guaranteed benefit amounts to Appendix B (and updating the Internet address for obtaining the PBGC booklet "Your Guaranteed Pension"). The amendment is necessary because the maximum guarantee amount changes each year, based on changes in the contribution and benefit base under section 230 of the Social Security Act. The effect of the amendment is to advise plan participants and beneficiaries of the increased maximum guarantee amount for 2001.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001.

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 20005-4026; 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4022(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 provides for certain limitations on benefits guaranteed by the PBGC in terminating single-employer pension plans covered under Title IV of ERISA. One of the limitations, set forth in section 4022(b)(3)(B), is a dollar ceiling on the amount of the monthly benefit that may be paid to a plan participant (in the

form of a life annuity beginning at age 65) by the PBGC. The ceiling is equal to "\$750 multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the contribution and benefit base (determined under section 230 of the Social Security Act) in effect at the time the plan terminates and the denominator of which is such contribution and benefit base in effect in calendar year 1974 [\$13,200]." This formula is also set forth in § 4022.22(b) of the PBGC's regulation on Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR Part 4022). The appendix to Part 4022 lists, for each year beginning with 1974, the maximum guaranteeable benefit payable by the PBGC to participants in single-employer plans that have terminated in that year.

Section 230(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 430(d)) provides special rules for determining the contribution and benefit base for purposes of ERISA section 4022(b)(3)(B). Each year the Social Security Administration determines, and notifies the PBGC of, the contribution and benefit base to be used by the PBGC under these provisions, and the PBGC publishes an amendment to the appendix to Part 4022 to add the guarantee limit for the coming year.

The PBGC has been notified by the Social Security Administration that, under section 230 of the Social Security Act, \$59,700 is the contribution and benefit base that is to be used to calculate the PBGC maximum guaranteeable benefit for 2001. Accordingly, the formula under section 4022(b)(3)(B) of ERISA and 29 CFR § 4022.22(b) is: \$750 multiplied by \$59,700/\$13,200. Thus, the maximum monthly benefit guaranteeable by the PBGC in 2001 is \$3,392.05 per month in the form of a life annuity beginning at age 65. This amendment updates the appendix to Part 4022 to add this maximum guaranteeable amount for plans that terminate in 2001. (If a benefit is payable in a different form or begins at a different age, the maximum guaranteeable amount is the actuarial equivalent of \$3,392.05 per month.)

Section 4011 of ERISA requires plan administrators of certain underfunded plans to provide notice to plan participants and beneficiaries of the plan's funding status and the limits of the PBGC's guarantee. The PBGC's regulation on Disclosure to Participants (29 CFR Part 4011) implements the statutory notice requirement. This rule amends Appendix B to the regulation on Disclosure to Participants by adding information on 2001 maximum guaranteed benefit amounts. Plan administrators may, subject to the requirements of that regulation, include

this information in participant notices. Participant notices may also include the Internet address for obtaining the PBGC booklet "Your Guaranteed Pension." This rule updates that address.

General notice of proposed rulemaking is unnecessary. The maximum guaranteeable benefit is determined according to the formula in section 4022(b)(3)(B) of ERISA, and these amendments make no change in its method of calculation but simply list 2001 maximum guaranteeable benefit amounts for the information of the public.

The PBGC has determined that this action is not a "significant regulatory action" under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this regulation, the Regulatory Flexibility

Act of 1980 does not apply (5 U.S.C. 601(2)).

List of Subjects

29 CFR Part 4011

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

29 CFR Part 4022

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR parts 4011 and 4022 are amended as follows:

PART 4011—DISCLOSURE TO PARTICIPANTS

1. The authority citation for part 4011 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1311.

§ 4011.10 [Amended]

2. Section 4011.10 is amended by removing the Internet address "http://www.pbgc.gov/ygp.htm" from the second sentence of paragraph (b)(9) and adding in its place the address "http://www.pbgc.gov".

Appendix A to Part 4011 [Amended]

3. Appendix A to part 4011 is amended by removing the Internet address "http://www.pbgc.gov/ygp.htm" under the heading "WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION" and adding in its place the address "http://www.pbgc.gov".

4. Appendix B to part 4011 is amended by adding a new entry in numerical order to the table to read as follows:

Appendix B to Part 4011—Table of Maximum Guaranteed Benefits

The maximum guaranteed benefit for an individual starting to receive benefits at the age listed below is the amount (monthly or annual) listed below:

If a plan terminates in—	Age 65		Age 62		Age 60		Age 55	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
2001	\$3,392.05	\$40,704.60	\$2,679.72	\$32,156.64	\$2,204.83	\$26,457.96	\$1,526.42	\$18,317.04

PART 4022—BENEFITS PAYABLE IN TERMINATED SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

5. The authority citation for part 4022 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302, 1322, 1322b, 1341(c)(3)(D), and 1344.

6. Appendix D to part 4022 is amended by adding a new entry in numerical order to the table to read as follows. The introductory text is reproduced for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix D to Part 4022—Maximum Guaranteeable Monthly Benefit

The following table lists by year the maximum guaranteeable monthly benefit payable in the form of a life annuity commencing at age 65 as described by § 4022.22(b) to a participant in a plan that terminated in that year:

Year	Maximum guaranteeable monthly benefit
2001	3,392.05

Issued in Washington, D.C., this 17th day of November, 2000.

David M. Strauss,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-30323 Filed 11-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Part 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulation on Allocation of Assets in

Single-Employer Plans by substituting a new table that applies to any plan being terminated either in a distress termination or involuntarily by the PBGC with a valuation date falling in 2001, and is used to determine expected retirement ages for plan participants. This table is needed in order to compute the value of early retirement benefits and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001.

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 20005-4026; 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044) sets forth (in subpart B) the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered under Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Under ERISA section 4041(c), guaranteed benefits and benefit