

To address the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (c), especially the requirement that the information be in writing, the Agency developed the OSHA-7 Form; this form standardized and simplified the hazard-reporting process. For paragraph (a), they may complete an OSHA-7 Form obtained from the Agency's website and then send it to OSHA on-line, or deliver a hardcopy of the form to the OSHA area office by mail or facsimile, or by hand. They may also write a letter containing the information and hand-deliver it to the area office, or sent it by mail or facsimile. In addition, they may provide the information orally to the OSHA area office or another party (e.g., a Federal safety and health committee for Federal employees), in which case the area office or other party completes the hardcopy version of the form. For the typical situation addressed by paragraph (c), an employee/employee representative informs an OSHA compliance officer orally of the alleged hazard during an inspection, and the compliance officer then completes the hardcopy version of the OSHA-7 Form; occasionally, the employee/employee representative provides the compliance officer with the information on the hardcopy version of the OSHA-7 Form.

The information in the hardcopy version of the OSHA-7 Form includes information about the employer and alleged hazards, including: The establishment's name, mailing address, and telephone and facsimile numbers; the site's address and telephone and facsimile numbers; the name and telephone number of the management official; the type of business; a description, and the specific location, of the hazards, including the approximate number of employees exposed or threatened by the hazards; and whether or not the employee/employee representative informed the employer or another government agency about the hazards (and the name of the agency if informed).

Additional information on the hardcopy version of the form addresses the complainant, including: Whether or not the complainant wants OSHA to reveal their name to the employer; whether the complainant is an employee or an employee representative, or, for information provided orally, a member of a Federal safety and health committee or another party (with space to specify the party); the complainant's name, telephone number, and address; and the complainant's signature attesting that they believe a violation of an OSHA standard exists at the named establishment; and the date of the

signature. An employee representative must also provide the name of the organization they represent and their title.

The information contained in the on-line version of the OSHA-7 Form is similar to the hardcopy version. However, the on-line version requests the establishment's county location and the complainant's e-mail address, and does not ask for the establishment's and site's telephone and facsimile numbers and the complainant's signature and signature date.

The Agency uses the information collected on the OSHA-7 Form to determine whether or not reasonable grounds exist to conduct an inspection of the workplace. The description of the hazards, including the number of exposed employees, allows the Agency to assess the severity of the hazards and the need to expedite the inspection. The completed form also provides an employer with notice of the complaint and may serve as the basis for obtaining a search warrant if an employer denies the Agency access to the workplace.

## II. Special Issues for Comment

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information-collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the Agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and cost) of the information-collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collection; and
- Ways to minimize the burden; for example, by using automated or other technological information-collection and -transmission techniques.

## III. Proposed Actions

OSHA is requesting an increase in the existing burden-hour estimate for, as well as an extension of OMB approval of, the OSHA-7 Form. Accordingly, the Agency is asking to increase the current total burden-hour estimate from 8,155 hours to 14,819 hours, an increase of 6,664 hours. This increase largely occurred because the number of complaints received each year by OSHA increased from 28,713 to 55,130. The Agency will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice, and will include this summary in its request to OMB to extend its approval of these information-collection requirements.

*Type of Review:* Extension of currently approved information-collection requirements.

*Title:* OSHA-7 Form ("Notice of Alleged Safety and Health Hazards").

*OMB Number:* 1218-0064 (2001).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 55,130.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Average Time per Response:* Varies from 15 minutes (.25 hours) to communicate the required information orally to the Agency to 25 minutes (.42 hour) to provide the information in writing and send it to OSHA.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 14,819.

*Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance):* \$882.

## IV. Authority and Signature

R. Davis Layne, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 3-2000 (65 FR 50017).

Signed at Washington, DC on July 31, 2001.

**R. Davis Layne,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor.*

[FR Doc. 01-19546 Filed 8-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

[Exemption Application No. D-10876, et al.]

### Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2001-23; Grant of Individual Exemptions; Retirement Plan of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 489 of Cumberland, MD (the Plan) et al.

**AGENCY:** Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Labor.

**ACTION:** Grant of individual exemptions.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains exemptions issued by the Department of Labor (the Department) from certain of the prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act) and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code).

Notices were published in the **Federal Register** of the pendency before the Department of proposals to grant such exemptions. The notices set forth a summary of facts and representations contained in each application for exemption and referred interested persons to the respective applications

for a complete statement of the facts and representations. The applications have been available for public inspection at the Department in Washington, DC. The notices also invited interested persons to submit comments on the requested exemptions to the Department. In addition the notices stated that any interested person might submit a written request that a public hearing be held (where appropriate). The applicants have represented that they have complied with the requirements of the notification to interested persons. No public comments and no requests for a hearing, unless otherwise stated, were received by the Department.

The notices of proposed exemption were issued and the exemptions are being granted solely by the Department because, effective December 31, 1978, section 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978, 5 U.S.C. App. 1 (1996), transferred the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue exemptions of the type proposed to the Secretary of Labor.

#### Statutory Findings

In accordance with section 408(a) of the Act and/or section 4975(c)(2) of the Code and the procedures set forth in 29 CFR Part 2570, Subpart B (55 FR 32836, 32847, August 10, 1990) and based upon the entire record, the Department makes the following findings:

(a) The exemptions are administratively feasible;

(b) They are in the interests of the plans and their participants and beneficiaries; and

(c) They are protective of the rights of the participants and beneficiaries of the plans.

#### Retirement Plan of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 489 of Cumberland, Maryland (the Plan) Located in Cumberland, Maryland

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption No. 2001-23; [Application No. D-10876]

#### Exemption

The restrictions of sections 406(a) and 406(b)(1) and (b)(2) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (E) of the Code, shall not apply to the sale (the Sale) of certain real property (the Property) to the Plan by the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 489 (the Union), a party in interest with respect to the Plan. This exemption is conditioned upon the adherence to the material facts and representations described herein and upon the satisfaction of the following requirements:

(a) The terms and conditions of the transaction are no less favorable to the Plan than those which the Plan would receive in an arm's-length transaction with an unrelated party;

(b) The Sale is a one-time transaction for cash;

(c) The Plan incurs no expenses from the Sale;

(d) The Plan pays the lesser of \$100 or the fair market value of the Property; and

(e) An independent fiduciary will approve and enforce the terms of the transaction.

For a more complete statement of the facts and representations supporting the Department's decision to grant this exemption, refer to the Notice of Proposed Exemption published on April 16, 2001 at 66 FR 19532.

*For Further Information Contact:* Khalif Ford of the Department, telephone (202) 219-8883 (this is not a toll-free number).

#### ATGI 401(k) Plan (the Plan) Located in Houston, Texas

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption No. 2001-24; [Application No. D-10970]

#### Exemption

The restrictions of sections 406(a) and 406(b)(1) and (b)(2) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (E) of the Code, shall not apply effective November 30, 2000 to: (1) The acquisition of Stock Rights (the Stock Rights) by the Plan in connection with a Stock Rights offering by Alpha Technologies Group, Inc. (ATGI); (2) the holding of the Stock Rights by the Plan during the subscription period of the offering; and (3) the disposition or exercise of the Stock Rights by the Plan. This exemption is conditioned upon the adherence to the material facts and representations described herein and upon the satisfaction of the following requirements:

(a) The Stock Rights were acquired pursuant to Plan provisions for individually-directed investment of such accounts;

(b) The Plan's receipt of the Stock Rights occurred in connection with a Stock Rights offering made available to all shareholders of common stock of ATGI;

(c) All decisions regarding the holding and disposition of the Stock Rights by the Plan were made, in accordance with the Plan provisions for individually-directed investment of participant accounts, by the individual Plan participants whose accounts in the Plan

received Stock Rights in connection with the offering;

(d) The Plan's acquisition of the Stock Rights resulted from an independent act of ATGI as a corporate entity, and all holders of the Stock Rights, including the Plan, were treated in the same manner with respect to the acquisition; and

(e) The price received by the Plan for the Stock Rights was no less than the fair market value of the Stock Rights on the date of the offering.

*Effective Date:* This exemption is effective as of November 30, 2000.

For a more complete statement of the facts and representations supporting the Department's decision to grant this exemption, refer to the Notice of Proposed Exemption published on June 4, 2001 at 66 FR 30014.

*For Further Information Contact:* Khalif Ford of the Department, telephone (202) 219-8883 (this is not a toll-free number).

#### The Joliet Medical Group, Ltd. Employees Retirement Plan & Trust (the Plan) Located in Joliet, Illinois

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption No. 2001-25; [Application D-10990]

#### Exemption

The restrictions of sections 406(a), 406(b)(1) and (b)(2) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (E) of the Code, will not apply effective November 1, 1999 to the past and continued leasing of a medical clinic (the Property) located at 2100 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, Illinois, from the Plan to Joliet Medical Group, Ltd. (the Employer). This exemption is conditioned upon the adherence to the material facts and representations described herein and upon the satisfaction of the following requirements:

(a) The independent fiduciary has determined that the transaction is feasible, in the interest of, and protective of the Plan;

(b) The fair market value of the Property has not exceeded and will not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the value of the total assets of the Plan;

(c) The independent fiduciary has negotiated, reviewed, and approved the terms of the lease of the Property with the Employer;

(d) The terms and conditions of the lease of the Property with the Employer have been and will continue to be no less favorable to the Plan than those obtainable by the Plan under similar circumstances when negotiated at arm's length with unrelated third parties;

(e) An independent qualified appraiser has determined the fair market rental value of the Property;

(f) The independent fiduciary has monitored and will continue to monitor compliance with the terms of the lease of the Property to the Employer throughout the duration of such lease and is responsible for legally enforcing the payment of the rent and the proper performance of all other obligations of the Employer under the terms of the lease on the Property; and

(g) The Plan has not incurred and will not incur any fees, costs, commissions, or other charges or expenses as a result of its participation in the transaction, other than the fee payable to the independent fiduciary.

*Effective Date:* This exemption is effective as of November 1, 1999.

For a more complete statement of the facts and representations supporting the Department's decision to grant this exemption, refer to the Notice of Proposed Exemption published on June 4, 2001 at 66 FR 30018.

*For Further Information Contact:* Khalif Ford of the Department, telephone (202) 219-8883 (this is not a toll-free number).

#### **ACE Business Travel Accident Plan (the Plan) Located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2001-26; Exemption Application No. L-10955]

#### *Exemption*

The restrictions of sections 406(a) and (b) of the Act shall not apply to the reinsurance of risks and the receipt of premiums therefrom by ACE American Insurance Company (ACE USA) from the insurance contracts sold by Life Insurance Company of North America (CIGNA) or any successor company to CIGNA which is unrelated to ACE INA Holdings, Inc. (ACE INA), to provide accidental death and dismemberment benefits to participants in the Plan, provided the following conditions are met:

(a) ACE USA—

(1) Is a party in interest with respect to the Plan by reason of a stock or partnership affiliation with ACE INA that is described in section 3(14)(E) or (G) of the Act,

(2) Is licensed to sell insurance or conduct reinsurance operations in at least one State as defined in section 3(10) of the Act,

(3) Has obtained a Certificate of Authority from the Insurance

Commissioner of its domiciliary state which has neither been revoked nor suspended, and

(4)(A) Has undergone an examination by an independent certified public accountant for its last completed taxable year immediately prior to the taxable year of the reinsurance transaction; or

(B) Has undergone a financial examination (within the meaning of the law of its domiciliary State, Pennsylvania) by the Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania within 5 years prior to the end of the year preceding the year in which the reinsurance transaction occurred.

(b) The Plan pays no more than adequate consideration for the insurance contracts;

(c) No commissions are paid with respect to the direct sale of such contracts or the reinsurance thereof;

(d) The Plan only contracts with insurers with a rating of A or better from A.M. Best Company. The reinsurance arrangement between the insurers and ACE USA will be indemnity insurance only, i.e., the insurer will not be relieved of liability to the Plan should ACE USA be unable or unwilling to cover any liability arising from the reinsurance arrangement; and

(e) For each taxable year of ACE USA, the gross premiums and annuity considerations received in that taxable year by ACE USA for life and health insurance or annuity contracts for all employee benefit plans (and their employers) with respect to which ACE USA is a party in interest by reason of a relationship to such employer described in section 3(14)(E) or (G) of the Act does not exceed 50% of the gross premiums and annuity considerations received for all lines of insurance (whether direct insurance or reinsurance) in that taxable year by ACE USA. For purposes of this condition (e):

(1) The term "gross premiums and annuity considerations received" means as to the numerator the total of premiums and annuity considerations received, both for the subject reinsurance transactions as well as for any direct sale or other reinsurance of life insurance, health insurance or annuity contracts to such plans (and their employers) by ACE USA. This total is to be reduced (in both the numerator and the denominator of the fraction) by experience refunds paid or credited in that taxable year by ACE USA; and

(2) All premium and annuity considerations written by ACE USA for

plans which it alone maintains are to be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator of the fraction.

For a more complete statement of the facts and representations supporting the Department's decision to grant this exemption, refer to the notice of proposed exemption published on June 4, 2001 at 66 FR 30019.

*For Further Information Contact:* Gary H. Lefkowitz of the Department, telephone (202) 219-8881. (This is not a toll-free number.)

#### **General Information**

The attention of interested persons is directed to the following:

(1) The fact that a transaction is the subject of an exemption under section 408(a) of the Act and/or section 4975(c)(2) of the Code does not relieve a fiduciary or other party in interest or disqualified person from certain other provisions to which the exemptions does not apply and the general fiduciary responsibility provisions of section 404 of the Act, which among other things require a fiduciary to discharge his duties respecting the plan solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries of the plan and in a prudent fashion in accordance with section 404(a)(1)(B) of the Act; nor does it affect the requirement of section 401(a) of the Code that the plan must operate for the exclusive benefit of the employees of the employer maintaining the plan and their beneficiaries;

(2) These exemptions are supplemental to and not in derogation of, any other provisions of the Act and/or the Code, including statutory or administrative exemptions and transactional rules. Furthermore, the fact that a transaction is subject to an administrative or statutory exemption is not dispositive of whether the transaction is in fact a prohibited transaction; and

(3) The availability of these exemptions is subject to the express condition that the material facts and representations contained in each application accurately describes all material terms of the transaction which is the subject of the exemption.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 31st day of July, 2001.

**Ivan Strasfeld,**

*Director of Exemption Determinations, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.*

[FR Doc. 01-19490 Filed 8-2-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-29-P**