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*Portions Open to the Public:*

Everything except the Executive (Closed) Session.

*Portions Closed to the Public:*

Executive (Closed) Session.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
 Jenna Sylvester, Paralegal, (202) 568-2560; [jsylvester@nw.org](mailto:jsylvester@nw.org).

**Jenna Sylvester,**

*Paralegal.*

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**BILLING CODE 7570-01-P**

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## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

### Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Special Financial Assistance Information

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for extension of OMB approval of information collection.

**SUMMARY:** The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is requesting that

the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of a collection of information contained in PBGC's regulation on special financial assistance. The purpose of the information collection is to gather information necessary for PBGC to operate this special financial assistance program. This notice informs the public of PBGC's request and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before April 29, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

All comments received will be posted without change to PBGC's website, <http://www.pbgc.gov>, including any personal information provided. Do not submit comments that include any personally identifiable information or confidential business information.

A copy of the request will be posted on PBGC's website at <https://www.pbgc.gov/prac/laws-and-regulation/federal-register-notices-open-for-comment>. It may also be obtained without charge by writing to the Disclosure Division ([disclosure@pbgc.gov](mailto:disclosure@pbgc.gov)), Office of the General Counsel of PBGC, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2101; or, calling 202-229-4040 during normal business hours. If you are deaf or hard of hearing or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Karen Levin ([levin.karen@pbgc.gov](mailto:levin.karen@pbgc.gov)), Attorney, Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2101; 202-229-3559. If you are deaf or hard of hearing or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 4262 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requires PBGC to provide special financial assistance (SFA) to certain financially troubled multiemployer plans upon application for assistance. Part 4262 of PBGC's regulations, "Special Financial Assistance by PBGC," provides guidance to multiemployer pension plan sponsors

on eligibility, determining the amount of SFA, content of an application for SFA, the process of applying, PBGC's review of applications, restrictions and conditions, and reporting and notice requirements.

To apply for SFA, a plan sponsor must file an application with PBGC and include information about the plan, plan documentation, and actuarial information, as specified in §§ 4262.6 through 4262.9. Also, if the plan is changing certain assumptions for purposes of demonstrating its requested amount of SFA, then the plan sponsor may use PBGC's SFA assumptions guidance. PBGC needs the application information to review a plan's eligibility for SFA and amount of requested SFA. PBGC estimates that over the next 3 years an annual average of 45 plan sponsors will file applications for SFA with an average annual hour burden of 540 (45 × 12) hours and an average annual cost burden of \$1,530,000 (45 × \$34,000).

Under § 4262.10(g), a plan sponsor may, but is not required to, file a lock-in application as a plan's initial application. The lock-in application contains basic information about the plan and a statement of intent to lock-in base data. PBGC needs the information in the lock-in application to ensure that a plan sponsor intends to lock-in the plan's data. PBGC estimates that over the next 3 years an annual average of 6 plan sponsors will file lock-in applications for SFA with an average annual hour burden of 6 (6 × 1) hours and an average annual cost burden of \$4,800 (6 × \$800).

Under § 4262.16(i), a plan sponsor of a plan that has received SFA must file an Annual Statement of Compliance with the restrictions and conditions under section 4262 of ERISA and part 4262 once every year through 2051. PBGC needs the information in the Annual Statement of Compliance to ensure that a plan is compliant with the imposed restrictions and conditions. PBGC is providing updated instructions for filers to use when entering the information for the Annual Statement of Compliance in PBGC's e-Filing portal. The instructions include a certification statement that must be manually signed and dated by a trustee who is a current member of the plan's board of trustees and authorized to sign on behalf of the board of trustees, or by another representative of the plan sponsor. PBGC estimates that over the next 3 years an annual average of 150 plan sponsors will file an Annual Statement of Compliance with an average annual hour burden of 300 (150 × 2) hours and

an average annual cost burden of \$360,000 (150 × \$2,400).

Under § 4262.15(c), a plan sponsor of a plan with benefits that were suspended under sections 305(e)(9) or 4245(a) of ERISA must issue notices of reinstatement to participants and beneficiaries whose benefits were suspended and are being reinstated. Participants and beneficiaries need the notice of reinstatement to better understand the calculation and timing of their reinstated benefits and, if applicable, make-up payments. PBGC estimates that over the next 3 years an average of 2 plans per year will be required to send notices to participants with suspended benefits. PBGC estimates that these notices will impose an average annual hour burden of 4 (2 × 2) hours and average annual cost burden of \$4,000 (2 × \$2,000).

Finally, under § 4262.16(d), (f), (g) and (h) a plan sponsor must file a request for a determination from PBGC for approval for an exception under certain circumstances for SFA conditions under § 4262.16 relating to reductions in contributions, transfers or mergers, and withdrawal liability. PBGC needs the information required for a request for a determination to evaluate whether to approve an exception from the specified condition of receiving SFA. PBGC estimates that over the next 3 years, PBGC will receive an average of 4.2 requests per year for determinations. PBGC estimates an average annual hour burden of 13.6 hours and average annual cost burden of \$33,000 ((0.2 × \$25,000) + (2 × \$12,000) + (2 × \$2,000)).

The estimated aggregate average annual hour burden for the next 3 years for the information collection in part 4262 is 863.6 (540 + 6 + 300 + 4 + 13.6) hours for employer and fund office administrative, clerical, and supervisory time. The estimated aggregate average annual cost burden for the next 3 years for the information collection request in part 4262 is \$1,931,800 (\$1,530,000 + \$4,800 + \$360,000 + \$4,000 + \$33,000) for approximately 4,830 contract hours assuming an average hourly rate of \$400 for work done by outside actuaries and attorneys. The actual hour burden and cost burden per plan will vary depending on plan size and other factors.

The existing collection of information under the regulation has been approved by OMB under control number 1212-0074 (expires May 31, 2024). On December 20, 2023, PBGC published in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 88138) a notice informing the public of its intent to request an extension of this collection of information. No comments were received. PBGC is requesting that OMB

extend approval of the collection of information for 3 years. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Gregory Katz,**

*Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*

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**BILLING CODE 7709-02-P**

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. PI2024-2; Order No. 7017]

### Public Inquiry on Zone 10 Packages Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is initiating a public inquiry proceeding and appoint a presiding officer to serve as an investigator to explore the appropriate classification of Zone 10 packages pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642. This notice informs the public of the filing and takes other administrative steps.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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#### I. Introduction

In Order No. 7016, the Commission stated that it would initiate a public inquiry proceeding and appoint a presiding officer to serve as an investigator to explore the appropriate classification of Zone 10 packages pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and whether the implementation of Zone 10 prices raises a material issue of fact concerning whether a violation of 39 U.S.C. 403(c) has occurred if the Postal Service elects to implement the Zone 10 prices.<sup>1</sup> The

Commission establishes this docket to facilitate examination of those issues.

#### II. Background

On November 22, 2023, the Postal Service filed notice with the Commission of its intent to establish a new Zone 10 for Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage and proposed associated Zone 10 rates.<sup>2</sup> The Postal Service states that the changes will take effect no earlier than July 1, 2024, with a specific date to be determined by the Postal Service in the future. Docket No. CP2024-72 Notice at 1.

Currently, Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage packages are charged prices based on weight and zone. For packages mailed within the United States, a package is assigned Zone 1-8 based on the distance the package must travel to reach its destination. The proposed new Zone 10 and associated prices will apply to (1) packages originating in the Lower 48 States and destined to Alaska, Hawaii, or the U.S. Territories (which include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and territories in the Pacific, including Guam and American Samoa); (2) packages originating in Alaska and destined to Hawaii or the U.S. Territories; (3) packages originating in Hawaii or a territory in the Pacific Ocean and destined to Alaska, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands; and (4) packages originating in Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands and destined to Alaska, Hawaii, or a territory in the Pacific Ocean. *Id.* at 2-3. The proposed Zone 10 does not apply to packages that originate in Alaska, Hawaii, or the U.S. Territories and are destined to the Lower 48 States. *Id.* at 4.

To explain the rationale for its proposal, the Postal Service states that the new Zone 10 and associated prices "will better align with the zoning practices of [its] competitors, who currently have separate zones for offshore destinations." *Id.* at 3. The Postal Service states that its "competitors charge significantly more for shipments from the Lower 48 states to offshore locations than for shipments in the reverse direction."<sup>3</sup> The Postal Service also states that its decision to establish Zone 10 is "cost-based in

<sup>1</sup> Domestic Competitive Products, March 22, 2024, at 3, 28, 29-31 (Order No. 7016).

<sup>2</sup> Docket No. CP2024-72, USPS Notice of Changes in Rates and Classifications of General Applicability for Competitive Products, November 22, 2023 (Docket No. CP2024-72 Notice).

<sup>3</sup> Docket No. CP2024-72, USPS Response to Chairman's Information Request No. 1, With Portions Filed Under Seal, December 20, 2023, question 2.c.

<sup>1</sup> Docket No. CP2024-72, Order Approving Price Adjustments and Classification Changes for