

are at least equivalent to those imposed on banks by Federal law.

(b)(1) The Secretary of Labor shall prescribe the amount of a bond under this section at the beginning of each fiscal year. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, such amount shall not be less than 10 percent of the amount of funds handled. In no case shall such bond be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$500,000, except that the Secretary of Labor, after due notice and opportunity for hearing to all interested parties, and other consideration of the record, may prescribe an amount in excess of \$500,000.

(2) For the purpose of prescribing the amount of a bond under paragraph (1), the amount of funds handled shall be determined by reference to the amount of the funds handled by the person, group, or class to be covered by such bond or by their predecessor or predecessors, if any, during the preceding fiscal year, or to the amount of funds to be handled during the current fiscal year by such person, group, or class, estimated as provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor.

(c) A bond required by subsection (a)—

(1) shall include such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Labor considers necessary to protect the Thrift Savings Fund against loss by reason of acts of fraud or dishonesty on the part of the bonded person directly or through connivance with others;

(2) shall have as surety thereon a corporate surety company which is an acceptable surety on Federal bonds under authority granted by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to sections 9304 through 9308 of title 31; and

(3) shall be in a form or of a type approved by the Secretary of Labor, including individual bonds or schedule or blanket forms of bonds which cover a group or class.

(d)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to whom subsection (a) applies, to receive, handle, disburse, or otherwise exercise custody or control of any of the funds or other property of the Thrift Savings Fund without being bonded as required by this section.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any fiduciary, or any other person having authority to direct the performance of functions described in paragraph (1), to permit any such function to be performed by any person to whom subsection (a) applies unless such person has met the requirements of such subsection.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who is required to be bonded as provided in subsection (a) shall be exempt from any other provision of law which would, but for this subsection, require such person to be bonded for the handling of the funds or other property of the Thrift Savings Fund.

(f) The Secretary of Labor shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including exempting a person or class of persons from the requirements of this section.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 586; amended Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §§108, 115, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3132, 3134; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(72), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1355.)

## Editorial Notes

### AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsec. (a)(2)(B)(iii). Pub. L. 102-378 struck out “Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance” before “Corporation”.

1986—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 99-556, §108, struck out “(other than a member of the Employee Thrift Advisory Council with respect to his duties as a member)” after “each fiduciary”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 99-556, §115, substituted “sections 9304 through 9308 of title 31” for “sections 6 through 13 of title 6”.

## Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

### INTERIM BONDING REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §113, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3133, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), until such time as the Secretary of Labor promulgates final regulations under section 8478 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Labor may, with respect to the Thrift Savings Fund, apply the temporary regulations under section 412 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 [29 U.S.C. 1112] that are set forth in section 2550.412-1, and subchapter I of chapter XXV, of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 23, 1986.

“(b) TERMINATION OF INTERIM AUTHORITY.—The authority to apply the temporary regulations referred to in subsection (a) with respect to the Thrift Savings Fund shall expire not later than December 31, 1989.”

## § 8478a. Investigative authority

Any authority available to the Secretary of Labor under section 504 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is hereby made available to the Secretary of Labor, and any officer designated by the Secretary of Labor, to determine whether any person has violated, or is about to violate, any provision of section 8477 or 8478.

(Added Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §110(a), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3132.)

## Editorial Notes

### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 504 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, referred to in text, is classified to section 1134 of Title 29, Labor.

## § 8479. Exculpatory provisions; insurance

(a) Any provision in an agreement or instrument which purports to relieve a fiduciary from responsibility or liability for any responsibility, obligation, or duty under this subchapter shall be void.

(b)(1) The Executive Director may require employing agencies to contribute an amount not to exceed 1 percent of the amount such agencies are required to contribute in accordance with section 8432(c) of this title to the Thrift Savings Fund.

(2) The sums credited to the Thrift Savings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available and may be used at the discretion of the Executive Director to purchase insurance to cover potential liability of persons who serve in a fiduciary capacity with respect to the Thrift Savings Fund, without regard to whether a policy of insurance permits recourse by the insurer against

the fiduciary in the case of a breach of a fiduciary obligation.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 588.)

#### § 8480. Subpoena authority

(a) In order to carry out the responsibilities specified in this subchapter and subchapter III of this chapter, the Executive Director may issue subpoenas commanding each person to whom the subpoena is directed to produce designated books, documents, records, electronically stored information, or tangible materials in the possession or control of that individual.

(b) Notwithstanding any Federal, State, or local law, any person, including officers, agents, and employees, receiving a subpoena under this section, who complies in good faith with the subpoena and thus produces the materials sought, shall not be liable in any court of any State or the United States to any individual, domestic or foreign corporation or upon a partnership or other unincorporated association for such production.

(c) When a person fails to obey a subpoena issued under this section, the district court of the United States for the district in which the investigation is conducted or in which the person failing to obey is found, shall on proper application issue an order directing that person to comply with the subpoena. The court may punish as contempt any disobedience of its order.

(d) The Executive Director shall prescribe regulations to carry out subsection (a).

(Added Pub. L. 111-31, div. B, title I, §107(a), June 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 1856.)

### CHAPTER 85—UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

#### SUBCHAPTER I—EMPLOYEES GENERALLY

Sec.	
8501.	Definitions.
8502.	Compensation under State agreement.
8503.	Compensation absent State agreement.
8504.	Assignment of Federal service and wages.
8505.	Payments to States.
8506.	Dissemination of information.
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8521.	Definitions; application.
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8525.	Effect on other statutes.

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-378, §2(73), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1355, added item 8509.

1975—Pub. L. 94-183, §2(42), Dec. 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 1059, substituted “Repealed” for “Accrued leave” in item 8524.

#### SUBCHAPTER I—EMPLOYEES GENERALLY

#### § 8501. Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) “Federal service” means service performed after 1952 in the employ of the United States or an instrumentality of the United States which is wholly or partially owned by the United States, but does not include service (except service to which subchapter II of this chapter applies) performed—

(A) by an elective official in the executive or legislative branch;

(B) as a member of the armed forces or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) by members of the Foreign Service for whom payments are provided under section 609(b)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980;

(D) outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands by an individual who is not a citizen of the United States;

(E) by an individual excluded by regulations of the Office of Personnel Management from the operation of subchapter III of chapter 83 of this title because he is paid on a contract or fee basis;

(F) by an individual receiving nominal pay and allowances of \$12 or less a year;

(G) in a hospital, home, or other institution of the United States by a patient or inmate thereof;

(H) by a student-employee as defined by section 5351 of this title;

(I) by an individual serving on a temporary basis in case of fire, storm, earthquake, flood, or other similar emergency;

(J) by an individual employed under a Federal relief program to relieve him from unemployment;

(K) as a member of a State, county, or community committee under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service or of any other board, council, committee, or other similar body, unless the board, council, committee, or other body is composed exclusively of individuals otherwise in the full-time employ of the United States; or

(L) by an officer or a member of the crew on or in connection with an American vessel—

(i) owned by or bareboat chartered to the United States; and

(ii) whose business is conducted by a general agent of the Secretary of Commerce;

if contributions on account of the service are required to be made to an unemployment fund under a State unemployment compensation law under section 3305(g) of title 26;

(2) “Federal wages” means all pay and allowances, in cash and in kind, for Federal service;

(3) “Federal employee” means an individual who has performed Federal service;

(4) “compensation” means cash benefits payable to an individual with respect to his unemployment including any portion thereof payable with respect to dependents;

(5) “benefit year” means the benefit year as defined by the applicable State unemployment compensation law, and if not so defined the term means the period prescribed in the agree-