

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulations on Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans and Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans to prescribe interest assumptions under the benefit payments regulation for valuation dates in July 2012 and interest assumptions under the asset allocation regulation for valuation dates in the third quarter of 2012. The interest assumptions are used for valuing and paying benefits under terminating single-employer plans covered by the pension insurance system administered by PBGC.

DATES: Effective July 1, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine B. Klion (Klion.Catherine@PBGC.gov), Manager, Regulatory and Policy Division, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024. (TTY/TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: PBGC's regulations on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044) and Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4022) prescribe actuarial assumptions—including interest assumptions—for valuing and paying plan benefits under terminating single-employer plans covered by title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The interest assumptions in the regulations are also

published on PBGC's Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

The interest assumptions in Appendix B to Part 4044 are used to value benefits for allocation purposes under ERISA section 4044. PBGC uses the interest assumptions in Appendix B to Part 4022 to determine whether a benefit is payable as a lump sum and to determine the amount to pay. Appendix C to Part 4022 contains interest assumptions for private-sector pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using PBGC's historical methodology. Currently, the rates in Appendices B and C of the benefit payment regulation are the same.

The interest assumptions are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets. Assumptions under the asset allocation regulation are updated quarterly; assumptions under the benefit payments regulation are updated monthly. This final rule updates the benefit payments interest assumptions for July 2012 and updates the asset allocation interest assumptions for the third quarter (July through September) of 2012.

The third quarter 2012 interest assumptions under the allocation regulation will be 2.95 percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and 3.66 percent thereafter. In comparison with the interest assumptions in effect for the second quarter of 2012, these interest assumptions represent no change in the select period (the period during which the select rate (the initial rate) applies), a decrease of 0.16 percent in the select rate, and an increase of 0.30 percent in the ultimate rate (the final rate).

The July 2012 interest assumptions under the benefit payments regulation will be 1.00 percent for the period during which a benefit is in pay status and 4.00 percent during any years preceding the benefit's placement in pay status. In comparison with the interest assumptions in effect for June 2011, these interest assumptions represent a decrease of 0.25 percent in the immediate annuity rate and are otherwise unchanged.

PBGC has determined that notice and public comment on this amendment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This finding is based on the need to determine and issue new interest assumptions promptly so that the assumptions can reflect current market conditions as accurately as possible.

Because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation and payment of benefits under plans with valuation dates during July 2012, PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the assumptions set forth in this amendment effective less than 30 days after publication.

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 amendment, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply. See 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

List of Subjects

29 CFR Part 4022

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

29 CFR Part 4044

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR parts 4022 and 4044 are amended as follows:

PART 4022—BENEFITS PAYABLE IN TERMINATED SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

■ 1. 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.

■ 2. In appendix B to part 4022, Rate Set 225, as set forth below, is added to the table.

Appendix B to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates for PBGC Payments

* * * * *

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	
*	*		*	*	*	*		*	
225	7-1-12	8-1-12	1.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7	8	

■ 3. In appendix C to part 4022, Rate Set 225, as set forth below, is added to the table.

Appendix C to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates for Private-Sector Payments

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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
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
225	7–1–12	8–1–12	1.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	7	8

PART 4044—ALLOCATION OF ASSETS IN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

■ 4. The authority citation for part 4044 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 5. In appendix B to part 4044, a new entry for July–September 2012, as set forth below, is added to the table.

Appendix B to Part 4044—Interest Rates Used To Value Benefits

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For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:					
	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
July–September 2012	0.0295	1–20	0.0366	>20	N/A	N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 11th day of June 2012.

John H. Hanley,

Director, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2012–14722 Filed 6–14–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7709–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 100 and 165

[Docket No. USCG–2012–0100]

RIN 1625–AA00; 1625–AA08

Special Local Regulation and Security Zone: War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration, Port of Boston, MA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary special local regulation and temporary security zones during and after the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration events in the Port of Boston, Massachusetts, to be held between June 28, 2012 and July 6, 2012. These regulations are necessary to promote the safe navigation of vessels and the safety of life and property

during the heavy volume of vessel traffic expected during this event.

DATES: This rule is effective and will be enforced from 9 a.m. on June 29, 2012 to 6 p.m. on July 6, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in this preamble are part of docket USCG–2012–0100. To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type the docket number in the “SEARCH” Box and click “SEARCH.” Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with the rulemaking. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation, West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary final rule, call or email Mr. Mark Cutter, Coast Guard Sector Boston Waterways Management Division, telephone 617–223–4000, email Mark.E.Cutter@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202–366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Acronyms

DHS Department of Homeland Security
FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

A. Regulatory History and Information

On April 3, 2012, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled: Special Local Regulation and Security Zone: War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration, Port of Boston, Massachusetts; in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 19963). Two comments were received in the proposed rule’s docket:

- One comment was accidentally misfiled from an unrelated FAA regulation and did not pertain to our proposed rulemaking. It has since been removed from the docket for this rule by the Docket Management System.
- One comment asked simply “Will there be any provisions for Press Boats for the event? If so how should the vessel be flagged or identified as such?” The Coast Guard recommends that a boat with members of the media onboard, display something with the word “MEDIA” that is visible to other vessels.

No public meeting was requested of the Coast Guard, and none was held.

The event sponsor hosted a planning and coordination meeting that was open to the public on October 12, 2011 and held an Initial Planning Conference on February 14–15, 2012 and a mid-term planning conference on May 8, 2012 in