

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044

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

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulations on Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans and Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans prescribe interest assumptions for valuing and paying benefits under terminating single-employer plans. This final rule amends the regulations to adopt interest assumptions for plans with valuation dates in August 2006. Interest assumptions are also published on the PBGC's Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: Effective August 1, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catherine B. Klion, Attorney, 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: The PBGC's regulations prescribe actuarial assumptions—including interest assumptions—for valuing and paying plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered by title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The interest assumptions are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets.

Three sets of interest assumptions are prescribed: (1) A set for the valuation of benefits for allocation purposes under section 4044 (found in Appendix B to Part 4044), (2) a set for the PBGC to use to determine whether a benefit is payable as a lump sum and to determine lump-sum amounts to be paid by the PBGC (found in Appendix B to Part 4022), and (3) a set for private-sector

pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using the PBGC's historical methodology (found in Appendix C to Part 4022).

This amendment (1) Adds to Appendix B to Part 4044 the interest assumptions for valuing benefits for allocation purposes in plans with valuation dates during August 2006, (2) adds to Appendix B to Part 4022 the interest assumptions for the PBGC to use for its own lump-sum payments in plans with valuation dates during August 2006, and (3) adds to Appendix C to Part 4022 the interest assumptions for private-sector pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using the PBGC's historical methodology for valuation dates during August 2006.

For valuation of benefits for allocation purposes, the interest assumptions that the PBGC will use (set forth in Appendix B to part 4044) will be 6.40 percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and 4.75 percent thereafter. These interest assumptions represent an increase (from those in effect for July 2006) of 0.10 percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and are otherwise unchanged. These interest assumptions reflect the PBGC's recently updated mortality assumptions, which are effective for terminations on or after January 1, 2006. See the PBGC's final rule published December 2, 2005 (70 FR 72205), which is available at <http://www.pbgc.gov/docs/05-23554.pdf>. Because the updated mortality assumptions reflect improvements in mortality, these interest assumptions are higher than they would have been using the old mortality assumptions.

The interest assumptions that the PBGC will use for its own lump-sum payments (set forth in Appendix B to part 4022) will be 3.50 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. These interest assumptions represent no change from those in effect for July 2006. For private-sector payments, the interest assumptions (set forth in Appendix C to part 4022) will be the same as those used by the PBGC

for determining and paying lump sums (set forth in Appendix B to part 4022).

The 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 in plans with valuation dates during August 2006, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the assumptions set forth in this amendment effective less than 30 days after publication.

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 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 154, 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
* 154	* 8-1-06	* 9-1-06	* 3.50	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 7	* 8

■ 3. In appendix C to part 4022, Rate Set 154, as set forth below, is added to the table.

Appendix C to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates for Private-Sector 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
154	8-1-06	9-1-06	3.50	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 August 2006, as set forth below, is added to the table.

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

* * * * *

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:					
	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$
August 2006	.0640	1-20	.0475	>20	N/A	N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 7th day of July 2006.

Vincent K. Snowbarger,

Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[CGD07-06-108]

RIN 1625-AA08

Special Local Regulation; Annual Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament; Jacksonville, FL

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule temporarily suspends the current special local regulations, established for the Annual Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, Jacksonville, Florida, and adds a temporary final rule for the event due to changes in the tournament this year. This special local regulation is necessary to reflect the changes made to the tournament by the sponsor and to ensure the safety of participating vessels and spectators within the regulated area.

DATES: This rule is effective from July 17, 2006 to July 22, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket [CGD 07-06-108] and are available for inspection and copying at Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville Prevention Department, 7820 Arlington Expressway, Suite 400, Jacksonville, Florida, 32211, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ensign Kira Peterson at Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville Prevention Department, Florida, tel: (904) 232-2640, ext. 108.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

We did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a NPRM. The changes to this event were not relayed to the Coast Guard with enough time to allow for public comment. Publishing a NPRM with a comment period would delay the rule's effective date and is contrary to public interest because immediate action is necessary to protect the public and waters of the United States.

For the same reasons, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. The

Coast Guard will issue a broadcast notice to mariners and Coast Guard or local law enforcement vessels will be in the vicinity of this zone to advise mariners of the restriction.

Background and Purpose

The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament is held annually the second full week of July along the waters of the St. Johns River and the Atlantic Ocean. This regulation will temporarily change the eastern boundary of the regulated area found in paragraph (a) of Section 100.710 from Lighted Buoy 7 (LLNR 7145) in approximate position 30-23.56N, 081-23.04W, and Lighted Buoy 8 (LLNR 7150) in position 30-24.03N, 081-23.01W, to Lighted Buoy 10 (LLNR 2190) at approximate position 30-24.376N, 081-24.998W. Changes are also being made to the effective dates found in paragraph (c) of Section 100.710 as the tournament will now take place the second full week after July 4th. Additionally, a new paragraph (b) is being added to define "Minimum Safe Speed" and existing paragraphs (b) and (c) are being redesignated (c) and (d) accordingly. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville will issue a Local Notice to Mariners announcing times and dates the regulated area is in effect. Vessels transiting within the regulated area must travel at a Minimum Safe Speed.

Discussion of Rule

This temporary rule is necessary to accommodate the changes by the