

Appendix B to Part 4011.—Table of Maximum Guaranteed Benefits

The maximum guaranteed benefit for an individual starting to receive benefits at the age listed below is the amount (monthly or annual) listed below:

If a plan terminates in—	Age 65		Age 62		Age 60		Age 55	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2002	\$3,579.55	\$42,954.60	\$2,827.84	\$33,934.08	\$2,326.71	\$27,920.52	\$1,610.80	\$19,329.60

PART 4022—BENEFITS PAYABLE IN TERMINATED SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

3. 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.

4. Appendix D to part 4022 is amended by adding a new entry to the table to read as follows. The introductory text is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix D to Part 4022—Maximum Guaranteeable Monthly Benefit

The following table lists by year the maximum guaranteeable monthly benefit payable in the form of a life annuity commencing at age 65 as described by § 4022.22(b) to a participant in a plan that terminated in that year:

Year	Maximum guaranteeable monthly benefit
*	*
2002	3,579.55

Issued in Washington, DC, this 26th day of November 2001.

Hazel Broadnax,
Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.
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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Part 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans by substituting a new table that applies to any plan being terminated either in a distress termination or involuntarily by the PBGC with a valuation date falling in 2002, and is used to determine expected retirement ages for plan participants. This table is needed in order to compute the value of early retirement benefits and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026; 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, 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 regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044) sets forth (in subpart B) the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered under Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Under ERISA section 4041(c), guaranteed benefits and benefit liabilities under a plan that is undergoing a distress termination must be valued in accordance with part 4044, subpart B. In addition, when the PBGC terminates an underfunded plan involuntarily pursuant to ERISA Section 4042(a), it uses the subpart B valuation rules to determine the amount of the plan’s underfunding.

Under § 4044.51(b), early retirement benefits are valued based on the annuity starting date, if a retirement date has been selected, or the expected retirement age, if the annuity starting date is not known on the valuation date. Sections 4044.55 through 4044.57 set forth rules for determining the expected retirement ages for plan participants entitled to early retirement benefits. Appendix D of part 4044 contains tables

to be used in determining the expected early retirement ages.

Table I in appendix D (Selection of Retirement Rate Category) is used to determine whether a participant has a low, medium, or high probability of retiring early. The determination is based on the year a participant would reach “unreduced retirement age” (i.e., the earlier of the normal retirement age or the age at which an unreduced benefit is first payable) and the participant’s monthly benefit at unreduced retirement age. The table applies only to plans with valuation dates in the current year and is updated annually by the PBGC to reflect changes in the cost of living, etc.

Tables II-A, II-B, and II-C (Expected Retirement Ages for Individuals in the Low, Medium, and High Categories respectively) are used to determine the expected retirement age after the probability of early retirement has been determined using Table I. These tables establish, by probability category, the expected retirement age based on both the earliest age a participant could retire under the plan and the unreduced retirement age. This expected retirement age is used to compute the value of the early retirement benefit and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

This document amends appendix D to replace Table I-01 with Table I-02 in order to provide an updated correlation, appropriate for calendar year 2002, between the amount of a participant’s benefit and the probability that the participant will elect early retirement. Table I-02 will be used to value benefits in plans with valuation dates during calendar year 2002.

The PBGC has determined that notice of and public comment on this rule are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Plan administrators need to be able to estimate accurately the value of plan benefits as early as possible before initiating the termination process. For that purpose, if a plan has a valuation date in 2002, the plan administrator needs the updated table being promulgated in this rule. Accordingly, the public interest is best served by

issuing this table expeditiously, without an opportunity for notice and comment, to allow as much time as possible to estimate the value of plan benefits with the proper table for plans with valuation dates in early 2002.

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

List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 4044

Pension insurance, Pensions.
In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR part 4044 is amended as follows:

PART 4044—[AMENDED]

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

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

2. Appendix D to part 4044 is amended by removing Table I-01 and adding in its place Table I-02 to read as follows:

Appendix D to Part 4044—Tables Used to Determine Expected Retirement Age

TABLE I-02—SELECTION OF RETIREMENT RATE CATEGORY

[For Plans with valuation dates after December 31, 2001, and before January 1, 2003]

Participant reaches URA in year—	Participant's retirement rate category is—			
	Low ¹ if monthly benefit at URA is less than—	Medium ² if monthly benefit at URA is		High ³ if monthly benefit at URA is greater than—
		From	To	
2003	458	458	1,936	1,936
2004	471	471	1,988	1,988
2005	483	483	2,042	2,042
2006	497	497	2,097	2,097
2007	510	510	2,154	2,154
2008	524	524	2,212	2,212
2009	538	538	2,272	2,272
2010	552	552	2,333	2,333
2011	567	567	2,396	2,396
2012 or later	583	583	2,461	2,461

¹ Table II-A.
² Table II-B.
³ Table II-C.

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Hazel Broadnax,

Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-01-204]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Jamaica Bay and Connecting Waterways, NY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operation regulations for the Beach Channel Railroad Bridge, mile 6.7, across Jamaica Bay in Queens County, New York. This temporary deviation will allow the bridge to remain in the closed position

at various times between December 1, 2001 and December 20, 2001. This temporary deviation is necessary to facilitate structural repairs at the bridge.

DATES: This deviation is effective from December 1, 2001 through December 20, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Schmied, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (212) 668-7195.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Beach Channel Railroad Bridge has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 26 feet at mean high water and 31 feet at mean low water. The existing regulations require the draw to open on signal at all times; however, a temporary final rule was published on May 31, 2001, (66 FR 29483) entitled Drawbridge Operation Regulations Jamaica Bay and connecting waterways, New York. Under this temporary final rule the bridge owner was allowed to require a twenty-four hours advance notice for openings from May 18, 2001 through November 30, 2001, to facilitate structural maintenance at the bridge.

The bridge owner, New York City Transit, has requested a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operating regulations to facilitate additional structural maintenance at the bridge.

Additional deteriorated structural components were discovered during the approved maintenance repairs authorized under the existing temporary final rulemaking in effect until November 30, 2001. The nature of the required additional structural repairs will require the bridge to be closed to navigation and rail traffic during the implementation of this work.

This deviation to the operating regulations will allow the bridge to remain in the closed position during the following time periods: 6 a.m. December 03 through 9 p.m. December 06, 2001, 6 a.m. December 10 through 9 p.m. December 13, 2001, 6 a.m. December 17 through 9 p.m. December 20, 2001.

This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35, and will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible.

Dated: November 2, 2001.

G. N. Naccara,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01-29760 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]

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