

in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15. The PBGC publishes these rates in appendix B to the regulation.

The PBGC publishes these monthly interest rates in appendix B on a quarterly basis to coincide with the publication of the late payment interest rate set forth in appendix A. (The PBGC publishes the appendix A rates every quarter, regardless of whether the rate has changed.) Unlike the appendix A rate, which is determined prospectively, the appendix B rate is not known until a short time after the first of the month for which it applies. Accordingly, the PBGC is hereby amending appendix B to part 2610 to add the vested benefits valuation rates for plan years beginning in February through April of 1996.

The appendices to 29 CFR parts 2610 and 2622 do not prescribe the interest rates under these regulations. Under both regulations, the appendix A rates are the rates determined under section 6601(a) of the Code. The interest rates in appendix B to part 2610 are prescribed by ERISA section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) and § 2610.23(b)(1) of the regulation. These appendices merely collect and republish the interest rates in a convenient place. Thus, the interest rates in the appendices are informational only. Accordingly, the PBGC finds that notice of and public comment on these amendments would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. For the above reasons, the PBGC also believes that good cause exists for making these amendments effective immediately.

The PBGC has determined that none of these actions is a "significant regulatory action" under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for these amendments, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply. See 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

List of Subjects

29 CFR Part 2610

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

29 CFR Part 2622

Business and industry, Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Pensions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Small businesses.

In consideration of the foregoing, part 2610 and part 2622 of chapter XXVI of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, are hereby amended as follows:

**PART 2610—PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS**

1. The authority citation for part 2610 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1306, 1307.

2. Appendix A to part 2610 is amended by adding a new entry for the quarter beginning April 1, 1996, to read as follows. The introductory text is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix A to Part 2610—Late Payment Interest Rates

The following table lists the late payment interest rates under § 2610.7(a) for the specified time periods:

From—	Through—	Interest rate (percent)
* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *
April 1, 1996 . . .	June 30, 1996 ...	8.00

3. Appendix B to part 2610 is amended by adding to the table of interest rates new entries for premium payment years beginning in February through April of 1996, to read as follows. The introductory text is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix B to Part 2610—Interest Rates for Valuing Vested Benefits

The following table lists the required interest rates to be used in valuing a plan's vested benefits under § 2610.23(b) and in calculating a plan's adjusted vested benefits under § 2610.23(c)(1):

For premium payment years beginning in—	Required interest rate <sup>1</sup>
* * * * *	* * * * *
February 1996 .....	4.84
March 1996 .....	4.99
April 1996 .....	5.28

<sup>1</sup> The required interest rate listed above is equal to 80% of the annual yield for 30-year Treasury constant maturities, as reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Release G.13 and H.15 for the calendar month preceding the calendar month in which the premium payment year begins.

**PART 2622—EMPLOYER LIABILITY FOR WITHDRAWALS FROM AND TERMINATIONS OF SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS**

4. The authority citation for part 2622 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1362–1364, 1367–68.

5. Appendix A to part 2622 is amended by adding a new entry for the quarter beginning April 1, 1996, to read

as follows. The introductory text is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix A to Part 2622—Late Payment and Overpayment Interest Rates

The following table lists the late payment and overpayment interest rates under § 2622.7 for the specified time periods:

From	Through	Interest rate (percent)
* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *
April 1, 1996 ...	June 30, 1996 ..	8.00

Issued in Washington, DC, this 3d day of April 1996.

Martin Slate,  
Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 7708–01–P

**29 CFR Parts 2619 and 2676**

**Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal; Amendments Adopting Additional PBGC Rates**

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This final rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulations on Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans and Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal. The former regulation contains the interest assumptions that the PBGC uses to value benefits under terminating single-employer plans. The latter regulation contains the interest assumptions for valuations of multiemployer plans that have undergone mass withdrawal. The amendments set out in this final rule adopt the interest assumptions applicable to single-employer plans with termination dates in May 1996, and to multiemployer plans with valuation dates in May 1996. The effect of these amendments is to advise the public of the adoption of these assumptions.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 1, 1996.

**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, 202–326–4024 (202–326–4179 for TTY and TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This rule adopts the May 1996 interest assumptions to be used under the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulations on Valuation of Plan Benefits in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 2619, the "single-employer regulation") and Valuation of Plan Benefits and Plan Assets Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 2676, the "multiemployer regulation").

Part 2619 sets forth the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered under title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended. Under ERISA section 4041(c), all single-employer plans wishing to terminate in a distress termination must value guaranteed benefits and "benefit liabilities," *i.e.*, all benefits provided under the plan as of the plan termination date, using the formulas set forth in part 2619, subpart C. (Plans terminating in a standard termination may, for purposes of the Standard Termination Notice filed with PBGC, use these formulas to value benefit liabilities, although this is not required.) In addition, when the PBGC terminates an underfunded plan involuntarily pursuant to ERISA section 4042(a), it uses the subpart C formulas to determine the amount of the plan's underfunding. Part 2676 prescribes rules for valuing benefits and certain assets of multiemployer plans under sections 4219(c)(1)(D) and 4281(b) of ERISA.

Appendix B to part 2619 sets forth the interest rates and factors under the single-employer regulation. Appendix B to part 2676 sets forth the interest rates and factors under the multiemployer regulation. Because these rates and factors are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets, it is necessary to update the rates and factors periodically.

The PBGC issues two sets of interest rates and factors, one set to be used for the valuation of benefits to be paid as annuities and one set for the valuation of benefits to be paid as lump sums. The same assumptions apply to terminating single-employer plans and to multiemployer plans that have undergone a mass withdrawal. This amendment adds to appendix B to parts 2619 and 2676 sets of interest rates and factors for valuing benefits in single-employer plans that have termination dates during May 1996 and multiemployer plans that have

undergone mass withdrawal and have valuation dates during May 1996.

For annuity benefits, the interest rates will be 6.00% for the first 20 years following the valuation date and 4.75% thereafter. For benefits to be paid as lump sums, the interest assumptions to be used by the PBGC will be 5.00% for the period during which benefits are in pay status, 4.25% during the seven-year period directly preceding the benefit's placement in pay status, and 4.0% during any other years preceding the benefit's placement in pay status. The above annuity interest assumptions represent an increase (from those in effect for April 1996) of .20 percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and are otherwise unchanged. The lump sum interest assumptions represent an increase (from those in effect for April 1996) of .25 percent for the period during which benefits are in pay status and the seven years directly preceding that period; they are otherwise unchanged.

Generally, the interest rates and factors under these regulations are in effect for at least one month. However, the PBGC publishes its interest assumptions each month regardless of whether they represent a change from the previous month's assumptions. The assumptions normally will be published in the Federal Register by the 15th of the preceding month or as close to that date as circumstances permit.

The PBGC has determined that notice and public comment on these amendments are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This finding is based on the need to determine and issue new interest rates and factors promptly so that the rates and factors can reflect, as accurately as possible, current market conditions.

Because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation of benefits in single-employer plans whose termination dates fall during May 1996, and in multiemployer plans that have undergone mass withdrawal and have valuation dates during May 1996, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the rates and factors 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 2619

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, and Pensions.

### 29 CFR Part 2676

Employee benefit plans and Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, parts 2619 and 2676 of chapter XXVI, title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, are hereby amended as follows:

## PART 2619—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 2619 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In appendix B, Rate Set 31 is added to Table I, and a new entry is added to Table II, as set forth below. The introductory text of both tables is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

### Appendix B to Part 2619—Interest Rates Used To Value Lump Sums and Annuities

#### Lump Sum Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form  $v^{0 \leq n}$  (as defined in § 2619.49(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in § 2619.49 (b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor used in valuing benefits under this subpart to be paid as lump sums (including the return of accumulated employee contributions upon death), the PBGC shall employ the values of  $i_t$  set out in Table I hereof as follows:

(1) For benefits for which the participant or beneficiary is entitled to be in pay status on the valuation date, the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(2) For benefits for which the deferral period is  $y$  years ( $y$  is an integer and  $0 < y \leq n_1$ ), interest rate  $i_1$  shall apply from the valuation date for a period of  $y$  years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(3) For benefits for which the deferral period is  $y$  years ( $y$  is an integer and  $n_1 < y \leq n_1 + n_2$ ), interest rate  $i_2$  shall apply from the valuation date for a period of  $y - n_1$  years, interest rate  $i_1$  shall apply for the following  $n_1$  years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(4) For benefits for which the deferral period is  $y$  years ( $y$  is an integer and  $y > n_1 + n_2$ ), interest rate  $i_3$  shall apply from the valuation date for a period of  $y - n_1 - n_2$  years, interest rate  $i_2$  shall apply for the following  $n_2$  years, interest rate  $i_1$  shall apply for the following  $n_1$  years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

TABLE I  
[Lump Sum Valuations]

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		$i_1$	$i_2$	$i_3$	$n_1$	$n_2$
31	05-1-96	06-1-96	5.00	4.25	4.00	4.00	7	8

Annuity Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form  $v^{0:n}$  (as defined in §2619.49(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in §2619.49 (b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor used in valuing annuity benefits under this subpart, the plan administrator shall use the values of  $i_t$  prescribed in Table II hereof.

The following table tabulates, for each calendar month of valuation ending after the effective date of this part, the interest rates (denoted by  $i_1, i_2, \dots$ , and referred to generally as  $i_t$ ) assumed to be in effect between specified anniversaries of a valuation date that occurs within that calendar month; those anniversaries are specified in the columns adjacent to the rates. The last listed rate is assumed to be in effect after the last listed anniversary date.

TABLE II  
[Annuity Valuations]

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of $i_t$ are:					
	$i_t$	for $t =$	$i_t$	for $t =$	$i_t$	for $t =$
May 1996	.0600	1-20	.475	>20	N/A	N/A

**PART 2676—[AMENDED]**

3. The authority citation for part 2676 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1399(c)(1)(D), 1441(b)(1).

4. In appendix B, Rate Set 31 is added to Table I, and a new entry is added to Table II, as set forth below. The introductory text of both tables is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix B to Part 2676—Interest Rates Used To Value Lump Sums and Annuities

Lump Sum Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form  $v^{0:n}$  (as defined in §2676.13(b)(1))

for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in §2676.13(b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor used in valuing benefits under this subpart to be paid as lump sums, the PBGC shall use the values of  $i_t$  prescribed in Table I hereof. The interest rates set forth in Table I shall be used by the PBGC to calculate benefits payable as lump sum benefits as follows:

(1) For benefits for which the participant or beneficiary is entitled to be in pay status on the valuation date, the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(2) For benefits for which the deferral period is  $y$  years ( $y$  is an integer and  $0 < y < n_1$ ), interest rate  $i_t$  shall apply from the valuation date for a period of  $y$  years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(3) For benefits for which the deferral period is  $y$  years ( $y$  is an integer and  $n_1 < y$

$< n_1 + n_2$ ), interest rate  $i_2$  shall apply from the valuation date for a period of  $y - n_1$  years, interest rate  $i_1$  shall apply for the following  $n_1$  years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(4) For benefits for which the deferral period is  $y$  years ( $y$  is an integer and  $y > n_1 + n_2$ ), interest rate  $i_3$  shall apply from the valuation date for a period of  $y - n_1 - n_2$  years, interest rate  $i_2$  shall apply for the following  $n_2$  years, interest rate  $i_1$  shall apply for the following  $n_1$  years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

TABLE I  
[Lump Sum Valuations]

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		$i_1$	$i_2$	$i_3$	$n_1$	$n_2$
31	05-1-96	06-1-96	5.00	4.25	4.00	4.00	7	8

Annuity Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form  $v^{0:n}$  (as defined in §2676.13(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in §2676.13 (b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor used in valuing annuity benefits under this subpart, the plan administrator shall use the values of  $i_t$  prescribed in the table below.

The following table tabulates, for each calendar month of valuation ending after the effective date of this part, the interest rates (denoted by  $i_1, i_2, \dots$ , and referred to generally as  $i_t$ ) assumed to be in effect between specified anniversaries of a valuation date

that occurs within that calendar month; those anniversaries are specified in the columns adjacent to the rates. The last listed rate is assumed to be in effect after the last listed anniversary date.

TABLE II  
[Annuity Valuations]

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of $i_t$ are:					
	$i_t$	for $t =$	$i_t$	for $t =$	$i_t$	for $t =$
May 1996 .....	.0600	1–20	.0475	>20	N/A	N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 3d day of April 1996.  
Martin Slate,  
*Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*  
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BILLING CODE 7708–01–P

**29 CFR Part 2644**

**Notice and Collection of Withdrawal Liability; Adoption of New Interest Rate**

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

**SUMMARY:** This is an amendment to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s regulation on Notice and Collection of Withdrawal Liability. That regulation incorporates certain interest rates published by another Federal agency. This amendment adds to the appendix of that regulation a new interest rate to be effective from April 1, 1996, to June 30, 1996. The effect of the amendment is to advise the public of the new rate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1996.

**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; telephone 202–326–4024 (202–326–4179 for TTY and TDD). These are not toll-free numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under section 4219(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation promulgated a final regulation on Notice and Collection of Withdrawal Liability. That regulation, codified at 29 CFR part 2644, deals with the rate of interest to be charged by multiemployer pension plans on withdrawal liability payments that are overdue or in default, or to be credited by plans on overpayments of withdrawal liability. The regulation allows plans to set rates, subject to certain restrictions. Where a plan does not set the interest rate, § 2644.3(b) of

the regulation provides that the rate to be charged or credited for any calendar quarter is the average quoted prime rate on short-term commercial loans for the fifteenth day (or the next business day if the fifteenth day is not a business day) of the month preceding the beginning of the quarter, as reported by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Statistical Release H.15 (“Selected Interest Rates”).

Because the regulation incorporates interest rates published in Statistical Release H.15, that release is the authoritative source for the rates that are to be applied under the regulation. As a convenience to persons using the regulation, however, the PBGC collects the applicable rates and republishes them in an appendix to part 2644. This amendment adds to this appendix the interest rate of 8.25 percent, which will be effective from April 1, 1996, through June 30, 1996. This rate represents a decrease of 0.50 percent from the rate in effect for the first quarter of 1996. This rate is based on the prime rate in effect on March 15, 1996.

The appendix to 29 CFR part 2644 does not prescribe interest rates under the regulation; the rates prescribed in the regulation are those published in Statistical Release H.15. The appendix merely collects and republishes the rates in a convenient place. Thus, the interest rates in the appendix are informational only. Accordingly, the PBGC finds that notice of and public comment on this amendment would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. For the above reasons, the PBGC also believes that good cause exists for making this amendment effective immediately.

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 in 29 CFR Part 2644

Employee benefit plans, Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, part 2644 of subchapter F of chapter XXVI of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

**PART 2644—NOTICE AND COLLECTION OF WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY**

1. The authority citation for part 2644 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302(b)(3), 1399(c)(6).

2. Appendix A to part 2644 is amended by adding to the end of the table a new entry to read as follows:

Appendix A to Part 2644—Table of Interest Rates

From	To	Date of quotation	Rate (percent)
04/01/96	6/30/96	3/15/96	8.25

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 3d day of April 1996.  
Martin Slate,  
*Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*  
[FR Doc. 96–8810 Filed 4–12–96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7708–01–P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 80**

[FRL–5457–5]

**Approval of Colorado’s Petition To Relax the Federal Gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard for 1996 and 1997**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Direct final rulemaking.