

“(2)(A) has been employed continuously by the Government Accountability Office for at least the 31-day period immediately preceding the start of the period referred to in subparagraph (D);

“(B) is serving under an appointment that is not time limited;

“(C) has not received a notice of involuntary separation, for misconduct or unacceptable performance, with respect to which final action remains pending; and

“(D) is separated from the service voluntarily during a period with respect to which the Comptroller General determines that the application of this subsection is necessary and appropriate for the purpose of—

“(i) realigning the Government Accountability Office's workforce in order to meet budgetary constraints or mission needs;

“(ii) correcting skill imbalances; or

“(iii) reducing high-grade, managerial, or supervisory positions;”

“(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Effective October 13, 2000, subparagraph (B) of section 8414(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, shall, with respect to officers and employees of the Government Accountability Office, be applied as if it had been amended to read as follows:

“(B)(i) has been employed continuously by the Government Accountability Office for at least the 31-day period immediately preceding the start of the period referred to in clause (iv);

“(ii) is serving under an appointment that is not time limited;

“(iii) has not received a notice of involuntary separation, for misconduct or unacceptable performance, with respect to which final action remains pending; and

“(iv) is separated from the service voluntarily during a period with respect to which the Comptroller General determines that the application of this subsection is necessary and appropriate for the purpose of—

“(I) realigning the Government Accountability Office's workforce in order to meet budgetary constraints or mission needs;

“(II) correcting skill imbalances; or

“(III) reducing high-grade, managerial, or supervisory positions;”

“(c) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Not to exceed 10 percent of the Government Accountability Office's workforce (as of the start of a fiscal year) shall be permitted to take voluntary early retirement in such fiscal year pursuant to this section.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—The Comptroller General shall prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this section, including regulations under which an early retirement offer may be made to any employee or group of employees based on—

“(1) geographic area, organizational unit, or occupational series or level;

“(2) skills, knowledge, or performance; or

“(3) such other similar factors (or combination of factors described in this or any other paragraph of this subsection) as the Comptroller General considers necessary and appropriate in order to achieve the purpose involved.

“(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the implementation of this section is intended to reshape the Government Accountability Office workforce and not downsize the Government Accountability Office workforce.”

APPLICATION OF SUBSECTION (d)(2)

Pub. L. 105-174, title III, §7001(a), May 1, 1998, 112 Stat. 91, as amended by Pub. L. 106-58, title VI, §651(a), Sept. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 480, which provided that, effective May 1, 1998, subsec. (d)(2) of this section was to be applied as if it read as specified in Pub. L. 105-174,

§7001(a), was repealed by Pub. L. 107-296, title XIII, §1313(b)(4), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2296.

INDIAN PREFERENCE LAWS APPLICABLE TO BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE POSITIONS

Nonapplicability of annuity provisions of subsec. (j) of this section to individuals accepting waiver of Indian preference laws with respect to personnel actions, see section 472a(c)(2) of Title 25, Indians.

INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO ANNUITY PAYMENTS FOR PERIOD PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 1979

Section 1241(b)(2) of Pub. L. 96-70 provided that: “Effective October 1, 1979, any individual who, but for paragraph (1) of this subsection [set out as an Effective Date of 1979 Amendment note above], would have been entitled to one or more annuity payments pursuant to the amendments made by this section [amending this section] for periods before October 1, 1979, shall be entitled, to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts, to a lump sum payment equal to the total amount of all such annuity payments.”

§ 8337. Disability retirement

(a) An employee who completes 5 years of civilian service and has become disabled shall be retired on the employee's own application or on application by the employee's agency. Any employee shall be considered to be disabled only if the employee is found by the Office of Personnel Management to be unable, because of disease or injury, to render useful and efficient service in the employee's position and is not qualified for reassignment, under procedures prescribed by the Office, to a vacant position which is in the agency at the same grade or level and in which the employee would be able to render useful and efficient service. For the purpose of the preceding sentence, an employee of the United States Postal Service shall be considered not qualified for a reassignment described in that sentence if the reassignment is to a position in a different craft or is inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement covering the employee. A judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces who completes 5 years of civilian service and who is found by the Office to be disabled for useful and efficient service as a judge of such court or who is removed for mental or physical disability under section 942(c) of title 10 shall be retired on the judge's own application or upon such removal. A Member who completes 5 years of Member service and is found by the Office to be disabled for useful and efficient service as a Member because of disease or injury shall be retired on the Member's own application. An annuity authorized by this section is computed under section 8339(g) of this title, unless the employee or Member is eligible for a higher annuity computed under section 8339(a) through (e), (n), (q), (r), or (s).

(b) A claim may be allowed under this section only if the application is filed with the Office before the employee or Member is separated from the service or within 1 year thereafter. This time limitation may be waived by the Office for an employee or Member who at the date of separation from service or within 1 year thereafter is mentally incompetent, if the application is filed with the Office within 1 year from the date of restoration of the employee or Mem-

ber to competency or the appointment of a fiduciary, whichever is earlier.

(c) An annuitant receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund shall be examined under the direction of the Office—

- (1) at the end of 1 year from the date of the disability retirement; and
- (2) annually thereafter until he becomes 60 years of age;

unless his disability is permanent in character. If the annuitant fails to submit to examination as required by this section, payment of the annuity shall be suspended until continuance of the disability is satisfactorily established.

(d) If an annuitant receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund, before becoming 60 years of age, recovers from his disability, payment of the annuity terminates on reemployment by the Government or 1 year after the date of the medical examination showing the recovery, whichever is earlier. If an annuitant receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund, before becoming 60 years of age, is restored to an earning capacity fairly comparable to the current rate of pay of the position occupied at the time of retirement, payment of the annuity terminates on reemployment by the Government or 180 days after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is so restored, whichever is earlier. Earning capacity is deemed restored if in any calendar year the income of the annuitant from wages or self-employment or both equals at least 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement.

(e) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated under subsection (d) of this section is not reemployed in a position in which he is subject to this subchapter, he is deemed, except for service credit, to have been involuntarily separated from the service for the purpose of this subchapter as of the date of termination of the disability annuity, and after that termination is entitled to annuity under the applicable provisions of this subchapter. If an annuitant whose annuity is heretofore or hereafter terminated because of an earning capacity provision of this subchapter or an earlier statute—

- (1) is not reemployed in a position in which he is subject to this subchapter; and
- (2) has not recovered from the disability for which he was retired;

his annuity shall be restored at the same rate effective the first of the year following any calendar year in which his income from wages or self-employment or both is less than 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement. If an annuitant whose annuity is heretofore or hereafter terminated because of a medical finding that he has recovered from disability is not reemployed in a position in which he is subject to this subchapter, his annuity shall be restored at the same rate effective from the date of medical examination showing a recurrence of the disability. The second and third sentences of this subsection do not apply to an individual who has become 62 years of age and is receiving or is eligible to receive annuity under the first sentence of this subsection.

- (f)(1) An individual is not entitled to receive—
 - (A) an annuity under this subchapter, and
 - (B) compensation for injury to, or disability of, such individual under subchapter I of chapter 81, other than compensation payable under section 8107,

covering the same period of time.

(2) An individual is not entitled to receive an annuity under this subchapter and a concurrent benefit under subchapter I of chapter 81 on account of the death of the same person.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) do not bar the right of a claimant to the greater benefit conferred by either this subchapter or subchapter I of chapter 81.

(g) If an individual is entitled to an annuity under this subchapter, and the individual receives a lump-sum payment for compensation under section 8135 based on the disability or death of the same person, so much of the compensation as has been paid for a period extended beyond the date payment of the annuity commences, as determined by the Department of Labor, shall be refunded to that Department for credit to the Employees' Compensation Fund. Before the individual may receive the annuity, the individual shall—

- (1) refund to the Department of Labor the amount representing the commuted compensation payments for the extended period; or
- (2) authorize the deduction of the amount from the annuity.

Deductions from the annuity may be made from accrued or accruing payments. The amounts deducted and withheld from the annuity shall be transmitted to the Department of Labor for reimbursement to the Employees' Compensation Fund. When the Department of Labor finds that the financial circumstances of an individual entitled to an annuity under this subchapter warrant deferred refunding, deductions from the annuity may be prorated against and paid from accruing payments in such manner as the Department determines appropriate.

(h)(1) As used in this subsection, the term "technician" means an individual employed under section 709(a) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10 who, as a condition of the employment, is required under section 709(b) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10, respectively, to be a member of the Selected Reserve.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, an individual shall be retired under this section if the individual—

(i) is separated from employment as a technician under section 709(e)(1) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10 by reason of a disability that disqualifies the individual from membership in the Selected Reserve;

(ii) is not considered to be disabled under the second sentence of subsection (a) of this section;

(iii) is not appointed to a position in the Government (whether under paragraph (3) of this subsection or otherwise); and

(iv) has not declined an offer of an appointment to a position in the Government under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(B) Payment of any annuity for an individual pursuant to this subsection terminates—

(i) on the date the individual is appointed to a position in the Government (whether pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection or otherwise);

(ii) on the date the individual declines an offer of appointment to a position in the Government under paragraph (3); or

(iii) as provided under subsection (d).

(3) Any individual applying for or receiving any annuity pursuant to this subsection shall, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office, be considered by any agency of the Government before any vacant position in the agency is filled if—

(A) the position is located within the commuting area of the individual's former position;

(B) the individual is qualified to serve in such position, as determined by the head of the agency; and

(C) the position is at the same grade or equivalent level as the position from which the individual was separated under section 709(e)(1) of title 32 or section 10216 of title 10.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 572; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(76), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 214; Pub. L. 95-454, title IX, §906(a)(2), (3), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1224; Pub. L. 96-499, title IV, §403(a), Dec. 5, 1980, 94 Stat. 2605; Pub. L. 97-253, title III, §302(a), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 792; Pub. L. 98-94, title XII, §1256(c), Sept. 24, 1983, 97 Stat. 701; Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(a)(1)(A), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1755; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XIII, §1304(b)(2), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1577; Pub. L. 101-428, §2(d)(1), Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 929; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(61), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1354; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title IX, §924(d)(1)(A), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2832; Pub. L. 105-61, title V, §516(a)(2), Oct. 10, 1997, 111 Stat. 1306; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title V, §522(d), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 597; Pub. L. 106-553, §1(a)(2) [title III, §308(h)(1)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2762, 2762A-88.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
1966 ACT

Derivation	U.S. Code	Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large
.....	5 U.S.C. 2257.	July 31, 1956, ch. 804, §401 "Sec. 7", 70 Stat. 750. Oct. 4, 1961, Pub. L. 87-350, §4(a), 75 Stat. 771.

In subsection (c), the words "receiving disability retirement annuity from the Fund" are coextensive with and substituted for "retired under this section or under section 6 of the Act of May 29, 1930, as amended".

In subsection (g), the words "Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary" are omitted as unnecessary. The words "Employees' Compensation Fund" are substituted for "Federal Employees' Compensation Fund" to conform to the title of that Fund as set forth in section 8147.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

1967 ACT

This section amends 5 U.S.C. 8337(e) for consistency within the subchapter and to reflect that it is the individual, rather than the position, that is subject to the subchapter.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-553 substituted "8339(a) through (e), (n), (q), (r), or (s)" for "8339(a)-(e), (n), (q), or (r)" in last sentence.

1999—Subsec. (h)(1). Pub. L. 106-65, §522(d)(1), inserted "or section 10216 of title 10" after "title 32" and substituted "title 32 or section 10216 of title 10, respectively, to be a member of the Selected Reserve." for "such title to be a member of the National Guard and to hold a specified military grade."

Subsec. (h)(2)(A)(i). Pub. L. 106-65, §522(d)(2), inserted "or section 10216 of title 10" after "title 32" and substituted "Selected Reserve" for "National Guard or from holding the military grade required for such employment".

Subsec. (h)(3)(C). Pub. L. 106-65, §522(d)(3), inserted "or section 10216 of title 10" after "title 32".

1997—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-61 substituted "(q), or (r)" for "or (q)".

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-337 substituted "Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces" for "Court of Military Appeals".

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-378 substituted "if" for "is" after "employee" in second sentence.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-428 substituted "8339(a)-(e), (n), or (q)" for "8339(a)-(e) or (n)".

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-189 substituted "section 942(c) of title 10" for "section 867(a)(2) of title 10".

1988—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 100-238 added subsec. (f) and struck out former subsec. (f) which read as follows: "An individual is not entitled to receive an annuity under this subchapter and compensation for injury or disability to himself under subchapter I of chapter 81 of this title covering the same period of time. This provision does not bar the right of a claimant to the greater benefit conferred by either subchapter for any part of the same period of time. Neither this provision nor any provision of subchapter I of chapter 81 of this title denies to an individual an annuity accruing to him under this subchapter on account of service performed by him, or denies any concurrent benefit to him under subchapter I of chapter 81 of this title on account of the death of another individual."

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 100-238 added subsec. (g) and struck out former subsec. (g) which read as follows: "The right of an individual entitled to an annuity under this subchapter is not affected because he has received a lump-sum payment for compensation under section 8135 of this title. However, if the annuity is payable on account of the same disability for which compensation under section 8135 of this title has been paid, so much of the compensation as has been paid for a period extended beyond the date the annuity becomes effective, as determined by the Department of Labor, shall be refunded to that Department to be covered into the Employees' Compensation Fund. Before the individual may receive the annuity he shall—

"(1) refund to the Department of Labor the amount representing the commuted compensation payments for the extended period; or

"(2) authorize the deduction of that amount from the annuity payable to him under this subchapter, which amount shall be transmitted to the Department of Labor for reimbursement to the Employees' Compensation Fund.

Deductions from the annuity may be made from accrued and accruing payments. When the Department of Labor finds that the financial circumstances of the annuitant warrant deferred refunding, deductions from the annuity may be prorated against and paid from accruing payments in such manner as that Department determines."

1983—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-94 inserted provision that a judge of the United States Court of Military Appeals who completes 5 years of civilian service and who is found by the Office to be disabled for useful and efficient service as a judge of such court or who is removed for mental or physical disability under section 867(a)(2) of title 10 shall be retired on the judge's own application or upon such removal.

1982—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 97-253, §302(a)(1), (2), substituted “180 days” for “1 year” in provision relating to restoration of an annuitant to an earning capacity fairly comparable to the current rate of pay of the position occupied at the time of retirement, and “any calendar year” for “each of 2 succeeding calendar years”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 97-253, §302(a)(3), added subsec. (h).

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-499 provided that an employee was to be considered disabled only if the employee were found by the Office of Personnel Management to be unable to render useful and efficient service in the employee’s position and was not qualified for reassignment to a vacant position in the agency at the same grade or level and provided that an employee in the Postal Service was to be considered not qualified for such reassignment if such reassignment were to a position in a different craft or were inconsistent with the terms of the appropriate collective bargaining agreement.

1978—Subsecs. (a) to (c). Pub. L. 95-454 substituted “Office of Personnel Management” and “Office” for “Civil Service Commission” and “Commission”, respectively, wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-553 effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period that begins on Dec. 21, 2000, and applicable only to an individual who is employed as a member of the Supreme Court Police after Dec. 21, 2000, see section 1(a)(2) [title III, §308(l), (j)] of Pub. L. 106-553, set out in a Supreme Court Police Retirement note under section 8331 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-61 applicable to any annuity commencing before, on, or after Oct. 10, 1997, and effective with regard to any payment made after the first month following Oct. 10, 1997, see section 516(b) of Pub. L. 105-61, set out as a note under section 8334 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Section 124(c) of Pub. L. 100-238 provided that:
 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section [enacting section 8464a of this title, amending this section, renumbering section 8457 of this title as section 8456, and repealing former section 8456 of this title] shall be effective as of January 1, 1987, and shall apply with respect to benefits payable based on a death or disability occurring on or after that date.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(A) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 8, 1988] and shall apply with respect to benefits payable based on a death or disability occurring on or after that date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Section 302(c) of Pub. L. 97-253, as amended by Pub. L. 97-346, §3(i), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1649, provided that:

“(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [amending this section and section 8347 of this title] shall take effect October 1, 1982.

“(2) The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect with respect to income earned after December 31, 1982.

“(3) Subsection (h) of section 8337 of title 5, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)) shall apply to any technician (as defined in paragraph (1) of such subsection (h)) who is separated from employment as a technician on or after October 1, 1982. Such subsection (h) shall also apply to any technician separated from employment as a technician on or after December 31, 1979, and before October 1, 1982, if application therefor is made to the Office of Personnel Management within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act

[Sept. 8, 1982]. Any annuity resulting from such application shall commence as of the day after the date such application is received by the Office.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-499 effective on 90th day after Dec. 5, 1980, see section 403(c) of Pub. L. 96-499, set out as a note under section 8331 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-454 effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

§ 8338. Deferred retirement

(a) An employee who is separated from the service or transferred to a position in which he does not continue subject to this subchapter after completing 5 years of civilian service is entitled to an annuity beginning at the age of 62 years.

(b) A Member who, after December 31, 1955, is separated from the service as a Member after completing 5 years of civilian service is entitled to an annuity beginning at the age of 62 years. A Member who is separated from the service after completing 10 or more years of Member service is entitled to an annuity beginning at the age of 60 years. A Member who is separated from the service after completing 20 or more years of service, including 10 or more years of Member service, is entitled to a reduced annuity beginning at the age of 50 years.

(c) A judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces who is separated from the service after completing 5 years of civilian service is entitled to an annuity beginning at the age of 62 years. A judge of such court who is separated from the service after completing the term of service for which he was appointed is entitled to an annuity. If an annuity is elected before the judge becomes 60 years of age, it shall be a reduced annuity.

(d) An annuity or reduced annuity authorized by this section is computed under section 8339 of this title.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 574; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(77), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 214; Pub. L. 98-94, title XII, §1256(d), Sept. 24, 1983, 97 Stat. 702; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title IX, §924(d)(1)(A), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2832.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
1966 ACT

Derivation	U.S. Code	Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large
.....	5 U.S.C. 2258.	July 31, 1956, ch. 804, §401 “Sec. 8”, 70 Stat. 751. July 7, 1960, Pub. L. 86-604, §1(c), 74 Stat. 358. July 12, 1960, Pub. L. 86-622, §2(a), 74 Stat. 410.

In subsection (b), the words “after December 31, 1955” are substituted for “on or after January 1, 1956”. The word “hereafter” is omitted as unnecessary.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

1967 ACT

This section amends 5 U.S.C. 8338(a) for consistency within the subchapter and to reflect that it is the indi-

“(I) the amount of the disability insurance benefit to which the annuitant would have been entitled under section 223 of the Social Security Act for the month in which the annuity under this subchapter commenced, or was restored, determined as if such annuitant had then satisfied all requirements for entitlement to a benefit under such section, adjusted by

“(II) all adjustments made under section 8462(b) between the date on which the annuity commenced, or was restored, and the start of the month involved (without regard to whether the annuitant’s annuity was affected by any of those adjustments).

For purposes of computing the assumed disability insurance benefit, the month in which the annuitant’s disability began (as determined under section 216(i)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act) shall be the month in which the annuity commenced or, if earlier (and if a determination was actually made) the month determined under such section.”

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(c)(2)(B), added par. (3).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(b), amended subsec. (b) generally, substituting pars. (1) and (2) for former pars. (1) to (4).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-238, §122(c)(1), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1986—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 99-556, §106, substituted “(a)(1)(A)(i)” for “(a)(1)(A)” in second sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99-556, §104, inserted “(after the reduction under subsection (a)(2), if applicable, has been made)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-176 effective on 60th day after Dec. 12, 2003, and applicable with respect to any annuity entitlement based on an individual’s separation from service occurring on or after such effective date, and any service performed by any such individual before, on, or after such effective date, subject to special rule relating to deposit requirement, see section 226(c) of Pub. L. 108-176, set out as a note under section 8401 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Section 122(d) of Pub. L. 100-238 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall be effective as of January 1, 1987, as if they had been enacted as part of the Federal Employees’ Retirement System Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 514 and following).”

§ 8453. Application

A claim may be allowed under this subchapter only if application is filed with the Office before the employee or Member is separated from the service or within 1 year thereafter. This time limitation may be waived by the Office for an employee or Member who, at the date of separation from service or within 1 year thereafter, is mentally incompetent if the application is filed with the Office within 1 year from the date of restoration of the employee or Member to competency or the appointment of a fiduciary, whichever is earlier.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 568.)

§ 8454. Medical examination

An annuitant receiving a disability retirement annuity from the Fund shall be examined under the direction of the Office—

- (1) at the end of 1 year from the date of the disability retirement; and
- (2) annually thereafter until becoming 60 years of age;

unless the disability is permanent in character. If the annuitant fails to submit to examination as required by this section, payment of the annuity shall be suspended until continuance of the disability is satisfactorily established.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 568.)

§ 8455. Recovery; restoration of earning capacity

(a)(1) If an annuitant receiving a disability retirement annuity from the Fund recovers from the disability before becoming 60 years of age, payment of the annuity terminates on reemployment by the Government or 1 year after the date on which the Office determines that the annuitant has recovered, whichever is earlier.

(2) If an annuitant receiving a disability annuity from the Fund, before becoming 60 years of age, is restored to an earning capacity fairly comparable to the current rate of pay of the position occupied at the time of retirement, payment of the annuity terminates 180 days after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is so restored. Earning capacity is deemed restored if in any calendar year the income of the annuitant from wages or self-employment or both equals at least 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement.

(b)(1) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated under subsection (a) is not reemployed in a position in which that individual is subject to this chapter, such individual is deemed, except for service credit, to have been involuntarily separated from the service for the purpose of subchapter II of this chapter as of the date of termination of the disability annuity, and after that termination is entitled to annuity under the applicable provisions of such subchapter.

(2) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated under subsection (a)(2)—

- (A) is not reemployed in a position subject to this chapter; and
- (B) has not recovered from the disability for which that individual was retired;

the annuity of such individual shall be restored at the applicable rate under section 8452 effective the first of the year following any calendar year in which such individual’s income from wages or self-employment or both is less than 80 percent of the current rate of pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement.

(3) If an annuitant whose annuity is terminated because of a medical finding that the individual has recovered from disability is not reemployed in a position in which such individual is subject to this chapter, the annuity of such individual shall be restored at the applicable rate under section 8452 effective from the date on which the Office determines that there has been a recurrence of the disability.

(4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not apply in the case of an annuitant receiving an annuity from the Fund under subchapter II of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 568.)

§ 8456. Military reserve technicians

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), an individual shall be retired under this subchapter if the individual—

(A) is separated from employment as a military reserve technician by reason of a disability that disqualifies the individual from membership in a reserve component of the Armed Forces specified in section 10101 of title 10 or from holding the military grade required for such employment;

(B) is not considered to be disabled under section 8451(a)(1)(B);

(C) is not appointed to a position in the Government (whether under subsection (b) or otherwise); and

(D) has not declined an offer of an appointment to a position in the Government under subsection (b).

(2) Payment of any annuity for an individual pursuant to this section terminates—

(A) on the date the individual is appointed to a position in the Government (whether pursuant to subsection (b) or otherwise);

(B) on the date the individual declines an offer of appointment to a position in the Government under subsection (b); or

(C) as provided under section 8455(a).

(3) An individual eligible to retire under section 8414(c) shall not be eligible to retire under this section.

(b) Any individual applying for or receiving any annuity pursuant to this section shall, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office, be considered by any agency of the Government before any vacant position in the agency is filled if—

(1) the position is located within the commuting area of the individual's former position;

(2) the individual is qualified to serve in such position, as determined by the head of the agency; and

(3) the position is at the same grade or equivalent level as the position from which the individual was separated.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 570, §8457; amended Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §118, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3134; renumbered §8456, Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(b)(1)(B), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1756; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §1677(a)(4), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 3019.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8456, added Pub. L. 99-355, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 569, related to relationship between annuity and workers' compensation, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(b)(1)(A), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1756. See section 8464a of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 103-337 substituted "section 10101" for "section 261(a)".

1988—Pub. L. 100-238 renumbered section 8457 of this title as this section.

1986—Subsec. (a)(1)(C), (D), (2)(A), (B). Pub. L. 99-556 substituted "subsection (b)" for "subsection (c)".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-337 effective Dec. 1, 1994, except as otherwise provided, see section 1691 of Pub. L. 103-337, set out as an Effective Date note under section 10001 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

[§ 8457. Renumbered § 8456]

SUBCHAPTER VI—GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

§ 8461. Authority of the Office of Personnel Management

(a) The Office shall pay all benefits that are payable under subchapter II, IV, V, or VI of this chapter from the Fund.

(b) The Office shall administer all provisions of this chapter not specifically required to be administered by the Board, the Executive Director, the Secretary of Labor, or any other officer or agency.

(c) The Office shall adjudicate all claims under the provisions of this chapter administered by the Office.

(d) The Office shall determine questions of disability and dependency arising under the provisions of this chapter administered by the Office. Except to the extent provided under subsection (e), the decisions of the Office concerning these matters are final and conclusive and are not subject to review. The Office may direct at any time such medical or other examinations as it considers necessary to determine the facts concerning disability or dependency of an individual receiving or applying for annuity under the provisions of this chapter administered by the Office. The Office may suspend or deny annuity for failure to submit to examination.

(e)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), an administrative action or order affecting the rights or interests of an individual or of the United States under the provisions of this chapter administered by the Office may be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board under procedures prescribed by the Board.

(2) In the case of any individual found by the Office to be disabled in whole or in part on the basis of the individual's mental condition, and that finding was made pursuant to an application by an agency for purposes of disability retirement under section 8451, the procedures under section 7701 shall apply and the decision of the Board shall be subject to judicial review under section 7703.

(f) The Office shall fix the fees for examinations made under subchapter V of this chapter by physicians or surgeons who are not medical officers of the United States. The fees and reasonable traveling and other expenses incurred in connection with the examinations are paid from appropriations for the cost of administering the provisions of this chapter administered by the Office.

(g) The Office may prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter administered by the Office.

(h)(1) Each Government agency shall furnish the Director with such information as the Director determines necessary in order to administer this chapter.

(2) The Director, in consultation with the officials from whom such information is requested, shall establish (by regulation or otherwise) such safeguards as are necessary to ensure that information made available under this subsection is used only for the purpose authorized.

(i) In making a determination of "actuarial equivalence" under this chapter, the economic

(C) an annuity payable from the Fund commences on the day after separation from the service or the day after pay ceases and the requirements for title to an annuity are met in the case of an employee or Member retiring under section 8451.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)(i), an annuity payable from the Fund commences on the day after separation from the service in the case of an employee or Member—

(A) who retires under section 8412; and
 (B) whose separation occurs upon the expiration of a term (or other period) for which the individual was appointed or elected.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the annuity of an annuitant under subchapter II or V of this chapter terminates on the date death or other terminating event occurs.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 574; amended Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title XI, §1109(c)(2), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2145; Pub. L. 106-58, title VI, §651(b), Sept. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 480; Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. A], title XI, §1152(c)(2)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-323; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1048(f)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1228.)

AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (a)(1)(A)(i). Pub. L. 107-107 amended directory language of Pub. L. 106-398. See 2000 Amendment note below.

2000—Subsec. (a)(1)(A)(i). Pub. L. 106-398, as amended by Pub. L. 107-107, substituted “, (b)(1)(B), or (d)” for “or (b)(1)(B)”.

1999—Subsec. (a)(1)(A)(i). Pub. L. 106-58 repealed Pub. L. 106-261, §1109(c)(2). See 1998 Amendment note below.

1998—Subsec. (a)(1)(A)(i). Pub. L. 106-261, §1109(c)(2), which directed substitution of “, (b)(1)(B), or (d)” for “or (b)(1)(B)”, was repealed by Pub. L. 106-58.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1048(f), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1228, provided that the amendment made by section 1048(f)(2) is effective as of Oct. 30, 2000, and as if included in the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, as enacted into law by Pub. L. 106-398.

§ 8464a. Relationship between annuity and workers' compensation

(a)(1) An individual is not entitled to receive—
 (A) an annuity under subchapter II or V, and
 (B) compensation for injury to, or disability of, such individual under subchapter I of chapter 81, other than compensation payable under section 8107,

covering the same period of time.

(2) An individual is not entitled to receive an annuity under subchapter IV and a concurrent benefit under subchapter I of chapter 81 on account of the death of the same person.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) do not bar the right of a claimant to the greater benefit conferred by either this chapter or subchapter I of chapter 81.

(b) If an individual is entitled to an annuity under subchapter II, IV, or V, and the individual receives a lump-sum payment for compensation under section 8135 based on the disability or death of the same person, so much of the compensation as has been paid for a period extended beyond the date payment of the annuity com-

mences, as determined by the Department of Labor, shall be refunded to that Department for credit to the Employees' Compensation Fund. Before the individual may receive the annuity, the individual shall—

(1) refund to the Department of Labor the amount representing the commuted compensation payments for the extended period; or

(2) authorize the deduction of the amount from the annuity.

Deductions from the annuity may be made from accrued or accruing payments. The amounts deducted and withheld from the annuity shall be transmitted to the Department of Labor for reimbursement to the Employees' Compensation Fund. When the Department of Labor finds that the financial circumstances of an individual entitled to an annuity under subchapter II, IV, or V warrant deferred refunding, deductions from the annuity may be prorated against and paid from accruing payments in such manner as the Department determines appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(a)(1)(B), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1755.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 8456 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-238.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 1987, and applicable with respect to benefits payable based on a death or disability occurring on or after that date, see section 124(c) of Pub. L. 100-238 set out as an Effective Date of 1988 Amendment note under section 8337 of this title.

§ 8465. Waiver, allotment, and assignment of benefits

(a) An individual entitled to an annuity payable from the Fund may decline to accept all or any part of the amount of the annuity by a waiver signed and filed with the Office. The waiver may be revoked in writing at any time. Payment of the annuity waived may not be made for the period during which the waiver is in effect.

(b) An individual entitled to an annuity payable from the Fund may make allotments or assignments of amounts from the annuity for such purposes as the Office considers appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 575.)

§ 8466. Application for benefits

(a) No payment of benefits based on the service of an employee or Member shall be made from the Fund unless an application for payment of the benefits is received by the Office before the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the birth of the employee or Member.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), after the death of an employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, a benefit based on the service of such employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, shall not be paid under subchapter II or IV of this chapter unless an application therefor is received by the Office within 30 years after the death or other event which establishes the entitlement to the benefit.

Office of Personnel Management

§ 831.1206

§ 831.1205 Agency-filed disability retirement applications.

(a) *Basis for filing an application for an employee.* An agency must file an application for disability retirement of an employee who has 5 years of civilian Federal service when all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The agency has issued a decision to remove the employee;
- (2) The agency concludes, after its review of medical documentation, that the cause for unacceptable performance, attendance, or conduct is disease or injury;
- (3) The employee is institutionalized, or the agency concludes, based on a review of medical and other information, that the employee is incapable of making a decision to file an application for disability retirement;
- (4) The employee has no personal representative or guardian; and
- (5) The employee has no immediate family member who is willing to file an application on his or her behalf.

(b) *Agency procedures.* (1) When an agency issues a decision to remove an employee and not all of the conditions described in paragraph (a) of this section have been satisfied, but the removal is based on reasons apparently caused by a medical condition, the agency must advise the employee in writing of his or her possible eligibility for disability retirement.

(2) If the agency is filing a disability retirement application on the employee's behalf, the agency must inform the employee in writing at the same time it informs the employee of its removal decision, or at any time before the separation is effected, that—

- (i) The agency is submitting a disability retirement application on the employee's behalf to OPM;
- (ii) The employee may review any medical information in accordance with the criteria in § 294.106(d) of this chapter; and
- (iii) The action does not affect the employee's right to submit a voluntary application for retirement under this part.

(3) When an agency submits an application for disability retirement to OPM on behalf of an employee, it must provide OPM with copies of the decision to remove, the medical docu-

mentation, and any other documents needed to show that the cause for removal is due to a medical condition. Following separation, the agency must provide OPM with a copy of the documentation of the separation.

(c) *OPM procedures.* (1) OPM will not act on any application for disability retirement filed by an agency on behalf of an employee until it receives the appropriate documentation of the separation. When OPM receives a complete application for disability retirement under this section, it will notify the former employee that it has received the application, and that he or she may submit medical documentation. OPM will determine entitlement to disability benefits under § 831.1206.

(2) OPM will cancel any disability retirement when a final decision of an administrative authority or court reverses the removal action and orders the reinstatement of an employee to the agency rolls.

§ 831.1206 Evidence supporting entitlement to disability benefits.

(a) *Evidence to support disability retirement application.* (1) Before OPM determines whether an individual meets the basic requirements for disability retirement under § 831.1203, an applicant for disability retirement or the employing agency must submit to OPM the following forms included in Standard Form 2824, "Documentation in Support of Disability Retirement Application:"

- (i) Standard Form 2824A—"Applicant's Statement;"
- (ii) Standard Form 2824B—"Supervisor's Statement;"
- (iii) Standard Form 2824D—"Agency Certification or Reassignment and Accommodation Efforts;" and
- (iv) Standard Form 2824E—"Disability Retirement Application Checklist."

(2) Standard Form 2824C—"Physician's Statement" and the supporting medical documentation may be submitted directly to OPM.

(3) The applicant, or the employing agency, must also obtain and submit additional documentation as may be required by OPM to determine entitlement to the disability retirement benefit.

(4) Refusal by the applicant, physician, or employing agency to submit the documentation OPM has determined is necessary to decide eligibility for disability retirement is grounds for disallowance of the application.

(b) *OPM procedures for processing a disability retirement application.* (1) OPM will review the documentation submitted under paragraph (a) of this section in support of an application for disability retirement to determine whether the applicant has met the conditions stated in § 831.1203 of this part. OPM will issue its decision in writing to the applicant and to the employing agency. The decision will include a statement of the findings and conclusions, and an explanation of the right to request consideration under § 831.109 of this part.

(2) OPM may rescind a decision to allow an application for disability retirement at any time if there is an indication of error in the original decision, such as fraud or misstatement of fact, or if additional medical documentation is needed. The written notification will include a statement of the findings and conclusions, and an explanation of the right to request reconsideration under § 831.109 of this part.

(c) *Medical examination.* OPM may offer the applicant a medical examination when it determines that additional medical evidence is necessary to make a decision on an application. The medical evaluation will be conducted by a medical officer of the United States or a qualified physician or board of physicians designated by OPM. The applicant's refusal to submit to an examination is grounds for disallowance of the application.

(d) *Responsibility for providing evidence.* It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain and submit documentation that is sufficient for OPM to determine whether there is a service deficiency, caused by disease or injury, of sufficient degree to preclude useful and efficient service, or a medical condition that warrants restriction from the critical task or duties of the position held. It is also the responsibility of the disability annuitant to obtain and submit evidence OPM requires to show continuing entitlement to disability benefits.

§ 831.1207 Withdrawal of disability retirement applications.

(a) OPM will honor, without question, an applicant's request to withdraw an employee-filed disability retirement application if it receives the withdrawal request before the employing agency has separated the current employee, or, if the employee has already separated from the service, the withdrawal request is received before the official notice of approval has been issued by OPM. Similarly, OPM will honor, without question, an agency's request to withdraw an agency-filed disability retirement application if it receives the withdrawal request before the employee has separated from the service. Once the request to withdraw the application is accepted, an applicant must reapply to receive any further consideration.

(b) Withdrawal of a disability retirement application does not ensure the individual's continued employment. It is the employing agency's responsibility to determine whether it is appropriate to continue to employ the individual.

(c) OPM considers voluntary acceptance of a permanent position in which the employee has civil service retirement coverage, including a position at a lower grade or pay level, to be a withdrawal of the employee's disability retirement application. The employing agency must notify OPM immediately when an applicant for disability retirement accepts a position of this type.

(d) OPM also considers a disability retirement application to be withdrawn when the agency reports to OPM that it has reassigned an applicant or an employee has refused a reassignment to a vacant position, or the agency reports to OPM that it has successfully accommodated the medical condition in the employee's current position. Placement consideration is limited only by agency authority and can occur after OPM's allowance of the application up to the date of separation for disability retirement. The employing agency must notify OPM immediately if any of these events occur.

(e) After OPM allows a disability retirement application and the employee is separated, the application cannot be

withdrawn. However, an individual entitled to a disability annuity may decline to accept all or any part of the annuity under the waiver provisions of 5 U.S.C. 8345(d) or request to be found medically recovered under § 831.1208(e) of this part.

§ 831.1208 Termination of disability annuity because of recovery.

(a) Each annuitant receiving disability annuity from the Fund shall be examined under the direction of OPM at the end of 1 year from the date of disability retirement and annually thereafter until the annuitant becomes 60 years of age unless the disability is found by OPM to be permanent in character. OPM may order a medical or other examination at any time to determine the facts relative to the nature and degree of disability of the annuitant. Failure to submit to reexamination shall result in suspension of annuity.

(b) A disability annuitant may request medical reevaluation under the provisions of this section at any time. OPM will reevaluate the medical condition of disability annuitants age 60 or over only on their own request.

(c) Recovery based on medical documentation. When an examination or reevaluation shows that a disability annuitant has medically recovered from the disability, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the first day of the month beginning 1 year after the date of the medical examination showing recovery.

(d) Recovery based on reemployment by the Federal Government. Reemployment by an agency at any time before age 60 is evidence of recovery if the reemployment is in a permanent position at the same or higher grade or pay level as the position from which the disability annuitant retired. The permanent position must be full-time unless the position the disability annuitant occupied immediately before retirement was less than full-time, in which case the permanent position must have a work schedule of no less time than that of the position from which the disability annuitant retired. In this instance, OPM needs no medical documentation to find the annuitant recovered. Disability annuity pay-

ments will terminate effective on the first day of the month following the month in which the recovery finding is made under this paragraph.

(e) Recovery based on a voluntary request. OPM will honor a written and signed statement of medical recovery voluntarily filed by a disability annuitant when the medical documentation on file does not demonstrate that the annuitant is mentally incompetent. OPM needs no other documentation to find the annuitant recovered. Disability annuity payments will terminate effective on the first day of the month beginning 1 year after the date of the statement. A disability annuitant can withdraw the statement only if the withdrawal is received by OPM before annuity payments terminate.

(f) When an agency reemploys a recovered disability annuitant at any grade or rate of pay within the 1-year period pending termination of the disability retirement benefit under paragraph (c), (d), or (e) of this section, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the date of reemployment.

§ 831.1209 Termination of disability annuity because of restoration to earning capacity.

(a) *Restoration to earning capacity.* If a disability annuitant is under age 60 on December 31 of any calendar year and his or her income from wages or self-employment or both during that calendar year equal at least 80 percent of the current rate of basic pay of the position occupied immediately before retirement, the annuitant's earning capacity is considered to be restored. The disability annuity will terminate on the June 30 after the end of the calendar year in which earning capacity is restored. When an agency reemploys a restored disability annuitant at any grade or rate of pay within the 180-day waiting period pending termination of the disability retirement benefit, OPM will terminate the annuity effective on the date of reemployment.

(b) *Current rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement.* (1) A disability annuitant's income for a calendar year is compared to the gross annual rate of basic pay in effect on December 31 of that year for

the position occupied immediately before retirement. The income for most disability annuitants is based on the rate for the grade and step which reflects the total amount of basic pay (both the grade and step and any additional basic pay) in effect on the date of separation from the agency for disability retirement. Additional basic pay is included subject to the premium pay restrictions of 5 U.S.C. 5545 (c)(1) and (c)(2). A higher grade and step will be established if it results from using either the date of application for disability retirement or the date of reasonable accommodation, as adjusted by any increases in basic pay that would have been effected between each respective date and the date of final separation. Use of these two alternative pay setting methods is subject to paragraph (b)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section. The highest grade and step established as a result of setting pay under the normal method and the two alternative methods is designated as the rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement and applies only to restoration to earning capacity decisions. In cases involving use of either of the two alternative pay setting methods, the determination of the rate of basic pay for the position occupied immediately before retirement is made by the employing agency at the time the disability retirement is allowed. OPM must review the rate so determined to establish whether the correct rate has been established, and will inform the employee of the proper rate at the time the disability annuity is awarded. This rate of basic pay becomes the basis for all future earning capacity determinations.

(i) The "date of application for disability retirement" is the date the application is signed by the authorized official of the employing agency immediately before forwarding the application to OPM.

(ii) The "date of reasonable accommodation" is the date of the employing agency's notice of reasonable accommodation to an employee's medical condition (as a result of its review of medical documentation) which results in a reduction in the rate of basic pay. The use of the date of reasonable accommodation to establish the rate of

basic pay for the position held at retirement is subject to the following conditions:

(A) The date of the employing agency's notice to provide accommodation is no more than 1 year before the date the disability retirement application is signed by the authorized official in the employing agency immediately before forwarding it to OPM; and

(B) A complete record of the date of the personnel decision, the medical documentation substantiating the existence of the medical condition, and the justification for the accommodation is established in writing and included at the time the agency submits the application for disability retirement. OPM will review the record to determine whether the medical documentation demonstrates that the medical condition existed at the time of the accommodation and warranted the accommodation made.

(2) In the case of an annuitant whose basic pay rate on the date determined under paragraph (b)(1) of this section did not match a specific grade and step in a pay schedule:

(i) For those retiring from a merit pay position, a position for which a special pay rate is authorized (except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section), or any other position in which the rate of basic pay is not equal to a grade and step in a pay schedule, the grade and step will be established for this purpose at the lowest step in the pay schedule grade that is equal to or greater than the actual rate of basic pay payable. This rule will not be applied when the rate exceeds that of the schedule applicable to the organization from which the individual retired, when there is no existing apposite schedule with grades and steps, or in other organizations which are excluded from coverage of schedules with grades and steps, as in the case of pay systems using pay bands.

(ii) For those retiring with a retained rate of basic pay or from a position for which a special pay rate is in effect but whose rate of basic pay exceeds the highest rate payable in the pay schedule grade applicable to the position held, the grade and step is established for this purpose in the grade in the schedule that is closest to the grade of

the position held and within which the amount of the retained pay falls. The step is established for this purpose at the lowest step in that grade which equals or exceeds the actual rate of pay payable.

(iii) When the pay system under which an annuitant retired has been either modified or eliminated since the individual retired, the individual will be treated as if he or she had been employed at their retirement grade and step at the time of the system change, and will be deemed to have been placed under the new system using whatever rules would have been applicable at that time. This will only apply when a pay system has been abolished or modified, and not when the grade and step of a position has been modified subsequent to retirement by reclassification or other action, in which case the grade and step in effect at the time of retirement will control.

(iv) If using the above rules it is not possible to set a grade and step for computing the current rate of pay, then if possible the current rate of pay will be set using the relative position in the range of pay applicable to the position from which the individual retired. For example, if at the time of retirement the rate of pay was \$75,000 in a range from \$70,000 to \$90,000, for all future determinations, the current rate of pay would be 25% up the new pay range from the bottom. If the new range was \$96,000 to \$120,000, then the new current rate of pay would be \$102,000 (\$96,000 plus 0.25 times \$24,000 (\$120,000 minus \$96,000)).

(v) In those cases, such as of some former Congressional staff employees and others whose pay is not set under a formal system, where none of the above guidelines will yield a current rate of pay, OPM will ascertain the current rate of pay after consultation with the former employing organization, or successor organization.

(3) For annuitants retiring from the United States Postal Service, only cost-of-living allowances subject to civil service retirement deductions are included in determining the current rate of basic pay of the position held at retirement.

(c) *Income.* Earning capacity for the purposes of this section is dem-

onstrated by an annuitant's ability to earn post-retirement income in a calendar year through personal work efforts or services. The total amount of income from all sources is used to determine earning capacity. This includes income received as gross wages from one or more employers, net earnings from one or more self-employment endeavors, and deferred income that is earned in a calendar year. In determining an annuitant's income for a calendar year, the following considerations apply:

(1) There are two sources of income: wages and self-employment income. All income which is subject to Federal employment taxes (i.e., social security or Medicare taxes) or self-employment taxes constitutes earned income. In addition, any other income as described in this section also constitutes earned income. The determination of whether a disability annuitant earns wages as an employee of an organization or earns income as a self-employed person is based on the usual common law rules applicable in determining the existence of an employer-employee relationship. Whether the relationship exists under the usual common law rules will be determined by OPM after the examination of the particular facts of each case.

(2) Income earned from one source is not offset by losses from another source. Income earned as wages is not reduced by a net loss from self-employment. The net income from each self-employment endeavor is calculated separately, and the income earned as net earnings from one self-employment endeavor is not reduced by a net loss from another self-employment endeavor. The net incomes from each separate self-employment endeavor are added together to determine the total amount of income from self-employment for a calendar year.

(3) Only income earned from personal work efforts or services is considered in determining earning capacity. All forms of non-work-related unearned income are excluded. Paragraph (f) of this section includes a representative list of the types of unearned income that are not considered.

(4) Income earned in a calendar year may only be reduced by certain self-

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payment of expenses incurred in developing improved methods of collection and deposit and the expenses incurred in carrying out collections and deposits using such methods, including the costs of personal services and the costs of the lease or purchase of equipment and operating facilities.

(d) In addition to all reports required by law and regulation, for each fiscal year during which there is a balance in Fund, the Service will prepare and publish, by the 60th day following the close of the fiscal year, a full report on payments, receipts, disbursements, balances of the Fund, and full disclosure on projects financed by the Fund.

**PART 208—MANAGEMENT OF
FEDERAL AGENCY DISBURSEMENTS**

- Sec.
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- 208.2 Definitions.
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SOURCE: 63 FR 51502, Sept. 25, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 208.1 Scope and application.

This part applies to all Federal payments made by an agency and, except as specified in § 208.4, requires such payments to be made by electronic funds transfer. This part does not apply to payments under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.).

§ 208.2 Definitions.

(a) *Agency* means any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, or a corporation owned or controlled by the Government of the United States.

(b) *Authorized payment agent* means any individual or entity that is appointed or otherwise selected as a representative payee or fiduciary, under

regulations of the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Railroad Retirement Board, or other agency making Federal payments, to act on behalf of an individual entitled to a Federal payment.

(c) *Direct Express[®] card* means the prepaid debit card issued to recipients of Federal benefits by a Financial Agent pursuant to requirements established by Treasury.

(d) *Disbursement* means, in the context of electronic benefits transfer, the performance of the following duties by a Financial Agent acting as agent of the United States:

(1) The establishment of an account for the recipient that meets the requirements of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration Board for deposit or share insurance;

(2) The maintenance of such an account;

(3) The receipt of Federal payments through the Automated Clearing House system or other electronic means and crediting of Federal payments to the account; and

(4) The provision of access to funds in the account on the terms specified by Treasury.

(e) *Electronic benefits transfer (EBT)* means the provision of Federal benefit, wage, salary, and retirement payments electronically, through disbursement by a financial institution acting as a Financial Agent. For purposes of this part, EBT includes, but is not limited to, disbursement through an ETASM, a Federal/State EBT program, or a Direct Express[®] card account.

(f) *Electronic funds transfer* means any transfer of funds, other than a transaction originated by cash, check, or similar paper instrument, that is initiated through an electronic terminal, telephone, computer, or magnetic tape, for the purpose of ordering, instructing, or authorizing a financial institution to debit or credit an account. The term includes, but is not limited to, Automated Clearing House transfers, Fedwire transfers, and transfers made at automated teller machines and point-of-sale terminals. For purposes of this part only, the term electronic funds transfer includes a credit card transaction.

(g) *ETASM* means the Treasury-designated electronic transfer account made available by a Federally-insured financial institution acting as a Financial Agent in accordance with § 208.5 of this part.

(h) *Federal payment* means any payment made by an agency.

(1) The term includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Federal wage, salary, and retirement payments;

(ii) Vendor and expense reimbursement payments;

(iii) Benefit payments; and

(iv) Miscellaneous payments including, but not limited to: interagency payments; grants; loans; fees; principal, interest, and other payments related to U.S. marketable and non-marketable securities; overpayment reimbursements; and payments under Federal insurance or guarantee programs for loans.

(2) For purposes of this part only, the term "Federal payment" does not apply to payments under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.).

(i) *Federal/State EBT program* means any program that provides access to Federal benefit, wage, salary, and retirement payments and to State-administered benefits through a single delivery system and in which Treasury designates a Financial Agent to disburse the Federal payments.

(j) *Federally-insured financial institution* means any financial institution, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation under 12 U.S.C. Chapter 16 or, in the case of a credit union, the member accounts of which are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund under 12 U.S.C. Chapter 14, Subchapter II.

(k) *Financial Agent* means a financial institution that has been designated by Treasury as a Financial Agent for the provision of EBT services under any provision of Federal law, including 12 U.S.C. 90, 265, 266, 1767, and 1789a, and 31 U.S.C. 3122 and 3303, as amended by the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, Section 664, Public Law 104-208.

(l) *Financial institution* means:

(1) Any insured bank as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insur-

ance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813) or any bank which is eligible to make application to become an insured bank under section 5 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1815);

(2) Any mutual savings bank as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813) or any bank which is eligible to make application to become an insured bank under section 5 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1815);

(3) Any savings bank as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813) or any bank which is eligible to make application to become an insured bank under section 5 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1815);

(4) Any insured credit union as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752) or any credit union which is eligible to make application to become an insured credit union under section 201 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1781);

(5) Any savings association as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813) which is an insured depository institution (as defined in such Act) (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.) or is eligible to apply to become an insured depository institution under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.); and

(6) Any agency or branch of a foreign bank as defined in section 1(b) of the International Banking Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 3101).

(m) *Individual* means a natural person.

(n) *Recipient* means an individual, corporation, or other public or private entity that is authorized to receive a Federal payment from an agency.

(o) *Secretary* means Secretary of the Treasury.

(p) *Treasury* means the United States Department of the Treasury.

[63 FR 51502, Sept. 25, 1998, as amended at 75 FR 80334, Dec. 22, 2010]

§ 208.3 Payment by electronic funds transfer.

Subject to § 208.4, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective January 2, 1999, all Federal payments made by an agency shall be made by electronic funds transfer.

§ 208.4

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§ 208.4 Waivers.

(a) Payment by electronic funds transfer is not required in the following cases:

(1) Where an individual:

(i) Is receiving a Federal payment by check prior to May 1, 2011. In such cases, the individual may continue to receive those payments by check through February 28, 2013;

(ii) Files a claim for a Federal payment prior to May 1, 2011, and requests payment by check at the time he or she files the claim. In such cases, the individual may receive those payments by check through February 28, 2013;

(iii) Was born prior to May 1, 1921, and is receiving payment by check on March 1, 2013;

(iv) Receives a type of payment that is not eligible for deposit to a Direct Express® card account. In such cases, those payments are not required to be made by electronic funds transfer, unless and until such payments become eligible for deposit to a Direct Express® card account;

(v) Is ineligible for a Direct Express® card because of suspension or cancellation of the individual's card by the Financial Agent;

(vi) Has filed a waiver request with Treasury certifying that payment by electronic funds transfer would impose a hardship because of the individual's inability to manage an account at a financial institution or a Direct Express® card account due to a mental impairment, and Treasury has not rejected the request; or

(vii) Has filed a waiver request with Treasury certifying that payment by electronic funds transfer would impose a hardship because of the individual's inability to manage an account at a financial institution or a Direct Express® card account due to the individual living in a remote geographic location lacking the infrastructure to support electronic financial transactions, and Treasury has not rejected the request.

(2) Where the political, financial, or communications infrastructure in a foreign country does not support payment by electronic funds transfer;

(3) Where the payment is to a recipient within an area designated by the President or an authorized agency ad-

ministrators as a disaster area. This waiver is limited to payments made within 120 days after the disaster is declared;

(4) Where either:

(i) A military operation is designated by the Secretary of Defense in which uniformed services undertake military actions against an enemy, or

(ii) A call or order to, or retention on, active duty of members of the uniformed services is made during a war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress;

(5) Where a threat may be posed to national security, the life or physical safety of any individual may be endangered, or a law enforcement action may be compromised;

(6) Where the agency does not expect to make payments to the same recipient within a one-year period on a regular, recurring basis and remittance data explaining the purpose of the payment is not readily available from the recipient's financial institution receiving the payment by electronic funds transfer; and

(7) Where an agency's need for goods and services is of such unusual and compelling urgency that the Government would be seriously injured unless payment is made by a method other than electronic funds transfer; or, where there is only one source for goods or services and the Government would be seriously injured unless payment is made by a method other than electronic funds transfer.

(b) An individual who requests a waiver under paragraphs (a)(1)(vi) and (vii) of this section shall provide, in writing, to Treasury a certification supporting that request, in such form that Treasury may prescribe. The individual shall attest to the certification before a notary public, or otherwise file the certification in such form that Treasury may prescribe.

[63 FR 51502, Sept. 25, 1998, as amended at 75 FR 80334, Dec. 22, 2010]

§ 208.5 Availability of the ETASM.

An individual who receives a Federal benefit, wage, salary, or retirement payment shall be eligible to open an ETASM at any Federally-insured financial institution that offers ETAsSM.

Any Federally-insured financial institution shall be eligible, but not required, to offer ETAsSM as Treasury's Financial Agent. A Federally-insured financial institution that elects to offer ETAsSM shall, upon entering into an ETASM Financial Agency Agreement with the Treasury, be designated as Treasury's Financial Agent for the offering of the account pursuant to Public Law 104-208. Treasury shall make publicly available required attributes for ETAsSM and any ETASM offered by a Federally-insured financial institution shall comply with such requirements. The offering of an ETASM shall constitute the provision of EBT services within the meaning of Public Law 104-208.

§ 208.6 Availability of the Direct Express[®] Card.

An individual who receives a Federal benefit, wage, salary, or retirement payment shall be eligible to open a Direct Express[®] card account. The offering of a Direct Express[®] card account shall constitute the provision of EBT services within the meaning of Public Law 104-208.

[75 FR 80335, Dec. 22, 2010]

§ 208.7 Agency responsibilities.

An agency shall put into place procedures that allow recipients to provide the information necessary for the delivery of payments to the recipient by electronic funds transfer to an account at the recipient's financial institution or a Direct Express[®] card account.

[75 FR 80335, Dec. 22, 2010]

§ 208.8 Recipient responsibilities.

Each recipient who is required to receive payment by electronic funds transfer shall provide the information necessary to effect payment by electronic funds transfer.

[75 FR 80335, Dec. 22, 2010]

§ 208.9 Compliance.

(a) Treasury will monitor agencies' compliance with this part. Treasury may require agencies to provide information about their progress in converting payments to electronic funds transfer.

(b) If an agency fails to make payment by electronic funds transfer, as prescribed under this part, Treasury may assess a charge to the agency pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3335.

§ 208.10 Reservation of rights.

The Secretary reserves the right, in the Secretary's discretion, to waive any provision(s) of this regulation in any case or class of cases.

§ 208.11 Accounts for disaster victims.

Treasury may establish and administer accounts at any financial institution designated as a financial agent for disaster victims in order to allow for the delivery by electronic funds transfer of one or more Federal payments. Such accounts may be established upon terms and conditions that the Secretary considers appropriate or necessary in light of the circumstances. Treasury may deliver payments to these accounts notwithstanding any other payment instructions from the recipient and without regard to the requirements of §§ 208.4 and 208.7 of this part and § 210.5 of this chapter. For purposes of this section, "disaster victim" means an individual or entity located within an emergency area, or an individual or entity that has relocated or been displaced from an emergency area as a result of a major disaster or emergency. "Emergency area" means a geographical area in which there exists an emergency or disaster declared by the President pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.). The maintenance of accounts and the provision of account-related services under this section shall constitute reasonable duties of a financial agent of the United States.

[71 FR 44585, Aug. 7, 2006, as amended at 75 FR 80335, Dec. 22, 2010]

PART 210—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE

Sec.

- 210.1 Scope; relation to other regulations.
- 210.2 Definitions.
- 210.3 Governing law.