

“(ii) the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation determines that the reduction of unfunded vested benefits under subparagraph (A) would not significantly increase the risk of loss to the corporation.”

PART 4—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**§ 1431. Assistance by corporation**

**(a) Authority; procedure applicable; amount**

If, upon receipt of an application for financial assistance under section 1426(f) of this title or section 1441(d) of this title, the corporation verifies that the plan is or will be insolvent and unable to pay basic benefits when due, the corporation shall provide the plan financial assistance in an amount sufficient to enable the plan to pay basic benefits under the plan.

**(b) Conditions; repayment terms**

(1) Financial assistance shall be provided under such conditions as the corporation determines are equitable and are appropriate to prevent unreasonable loss to the corporation with respect to the plan.

(2) A plan which has received financial assistance shall repay the amount of such assistance to the corporation on reasonable terms consistent with regulations prescribed by the corporation.

**(c) Assistance pending final determination of application**

Pending determination of the amount described in subsection (a) of this section, the corporation may provide financial assistance in such amounts as it considers appropriate in order to avoid undue hardship to plan participants and beneficiaries.

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4261, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1261.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Part effective Sept. 26, 1980, except as specifically provided, see section 1461(e) of this title.

PART 5—BENEFITS AFTER TERMINATION

**§ 1441. Benefits under certain terminated plans**

**(a) Amendment of plan by plan sponsor to reduce benefits, and suspension of benefit payments**

Notwithstanding sections 1053 and 1054 of this title, the plan sponsor of a terminated multiemployer plan to which section 1341a(d) of this title applies shall amend the plan to reduce benefits, and shall suspend benefit payments, as required by this section.

**(b) Determinations respecting value of nonforfeitable benefits under terminated plan and value of assets of plan**

(1) The value of nonforfeitable benefits under a terminated plan referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and the value of the plan's assets, shall be determined in writing, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the corporation, as of the end of the plan year during which section 1341a(d) of this title becomes applicable to the plan, and each plan year thereafter.

(2) For purposes of this section, plan assets include outstanding claims for withdrawal liabil-

ity (within the meaning of section 1301(a)(12) of this title).

**(c) Amendment of plan by plan sponsor to reduce benefits for conservation of assets; factors applicable**

(1) If, according to the determination made under subsection (b) of this section, the value of nonforfeitable benefits exceeds the value of the plan's assets, the plan sponsor shall amend the plan to reduce benefits under the plan to the extent necessary to ensure that the plan's assets are sufficient, as determined and certified in accordance with regulations prescribed by the corporation, to discharge when due all of the plan's obligations with respect to nonforfeitable benefits.

(2) Any plan amendment required by this subsection shall, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury—

(A) reduce benefits only to the extent necessary to comply with paragraph (1);

(B) reduce accrued benefits only to the extent that those benefits are not eligible for the corporation's guarantee under section 1322a(b) of this title;

(C) comply with the rules for and limitations on benefit reductions under a plan in reorganization, as prescribed in section 1425<sup>1</sup> of this title, except to the extent that the corporation prescribes other rules and limitations in regulations under this section; and

(D) take effect no later than 6 months after the end of the plan year for which it is determined that the value of nonforfeitable benefits exceeds the value of the plan's assets.

**(d) Suspension of benefit payments; determinative factors; powers and duties of plan sponsor; retroactive benefit payments**

(1) In any case in which benefit payments under a plan which is insolvent under paragraph (2)(A) exceed the resource benefit level, any such payments which are not basic benefits shall be suspended, in accordance with this subsection, to the extent necessary to reduce the sum of such payments and such basic benefits to the greater of the resource benefit level or the level of basic benefits, unless an alternative procedure is prescribed by the corporation in connection with a supplemental guarantee program established under section 1322a(g)(2) of this title.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, for a plan year—

(A) a plan is insolvent if—

(i) the plan has been amended to reduce benefits to the extent permitted by subsection (c) of this section, and

(ii) the plan's available resources are not sufficient to pay benefits under the plan when due for the plan year; and

(B) “resource benefit level” and “available resources” have the meanings set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 1426(b) of this title.

(3) The plan sponsor of a plan which is insolvent (within the meaning of paragraph (2)(A)) shall have the powers and duties of the plan sponsor of a plan in reorganization which is in-

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.