

(2) ending on the date of payment of such premium or installment.

**(d) Limitations on amount of penalty**

**(1) In general**

No penalty shall be imposed by subsection (a) on any failure during any period for which it is established to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that none of the persons responsible for such failure knew, or exercising reasonable diligence would have known, that such failure existed.

**(2) Corrections**

No penalty shall be imposed by subsection (a) on any failure if—

(A) such failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, and

(B) such failure is corrected during the 30-day period beginning on the 1st date that any of the persons responsible for such failure knew, or exercising reasonable diligence would have known, that such failure existed.

**(3) Waiver**

In the case of a failure that is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, the Secretary of the Treasury may waive all or part of the penalty imposed by subsection (a) for failures to the extent that the Secretary determines, in his sole discretion, that the payment of such penalty would be excessive relative to the failure involved.

**(e) Liability for penalty**

The person failing to meet the requirements of section 9704 shall be liable for the penalty imposed by subsection (a).

**(f) Treatment**

For purposes of this title, the penalty imposed by this section shall be treated in the same manner as the tax imposed by section 4980B.

(Added Pub. L. 102-486, title XIX, §19143(a), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3050; amended Pub. L. 104-188, title I, §1704(t)(65), Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1890; Pub. L. 109-432, div. C, title II, §213(b)(1), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3027.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is classified to section 1232 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-432 amended heading and text of subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There is hereby imposed a penalty on the failure of any assigned operator to pay any premium required to be paid under section 9704 with respect to any eligible beneficiary.”

1996—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 104-188 struck out comma after “diligence”.

PART IV—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec.  
9708. Effect on pending claims or obligations.

**§ 9708. Effect on pending claims or obligations**

All liability for contributions to the Combined Fund that arises on and after February 1, 1993, shall be determined exclusively under this chap-

ter, including all liability for contributions to the 1950 UMWA Benefit Plan and the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan for coal production on and after February 1, 1993. However, nothing in this chapter is intended to have any effect on any claims or obligations arising in connection with the 1950 UMWA Benefit Plan and the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan as of February 1, 1993, including claims or obligations based on the “evergreen” clause found in the language of the 1950 UMWA Benefit Plan and the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan. This chapter shall not be construed to affect any rights of subrogation of any 1988 agreement operator with respect to contributions due to the 1950 UMWA Benefit Plan or the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan as of February 1, 1993.

(Added Pub. L. 102-486, title XIX, §19143(a), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3051.)

**Subchapter C—Health Benefits of Certain Miners**

Part  
I. Individual employer plans.  
II. 1992 UMWA benefit plan.

PART I—INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYER PLANS

Sec.  
9711. Continued obligations of individual employer plans.

**§ 9711. Continued obligations of individual employer plans**

**(a) Coverage of current recipients**

The last signatory operator of any individual who, as of February 1, 1993, is receiving retiree health benefits from an individual employer plan maintained pursuant to a 1978 or subsequent coal wage agreement shall continue to provide health benefits coverage to such individual and the individual's eligible beneficiaries which is substantially the same as (and subject to all the limitations of) the coverage provided by such plan as of January 1, 1992. Such coverage shall continue to be provided for as long as the last signatory operator (and any related person) remains in business.

**(b) Coverage of eligible recipients**

**(1) In general**

The last signatory operator of any individual who, as of February 1, 1993, is not receiving retiree health benefits under the individual employer plan maintained by the last signatory operator pursuant to a 1978 or subsequent coal wage agreement, but has met the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive benefits under such plan as of such date, shall, at such time as such individual becomes eligible to receive benefits under such plan, provide health benefits coverage to such individual and the individual's eligible beneficiaries which is described in paragraph (2). This paragraph shall not apply to any individual who retired from the coal industry after September 30, 1994, or any eligible beneficiary of such individual.

**(2) Coverage**

Subject to the provisions of subsection (d), health benefits coverage is described in this