

PART 2—MERGER OR TRANSFER OF PLAN ASSETS
OR LIABILITIES**§ 1411. Mergers and transfers between multiemployer plans****(a) Authority of plan sponsor**

Unless otherwise provided in regulations prescribed by the corporation, a plan sponsor may not cause a multiemployer plan to merge with one or more multiemployer plans, or engage in a transfer of assets and liabilities to or from another multiemployer plan, unless such merger or transfer satisfies the requirements of subsection (b).

(b) Criteria

A merger or transfer satisfies the requirements of this section if—

(1) in accordance with regulations of the corporation, the plan sponsor of a multiemployer plan notifies the corporation of a merger with or transfer of plan assets or liabilities to another multiemployer plan at least 120 days before the effective date of the merger or transfer;

(2) no participant's or beneficiary's accrued benefit will be lower immediately after the effective date of the merger or transfer than the benefit immediately before that date;

(3) the benefits of participants and beneficiaries are not reasonably expected to be subject to suspension under section 1426 of this title; and

(4) an actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of each of the affected plans has been performed during the plan year preceding the effective date of the merger or transfer, based upon the most recent data available as of the day before the start of that plan year, or other valuation of such assets and liabilities performed under such standards and procedures as the corporation may prescribe by regulation.

(c) Actions not deemed violation of section 1106(a) or (b)(2) of this title

The merger of multiemployer plans or the transfer of assets or liabilities between multiemployer plans, shall be deemed not to constitute a violation of the provisions of section 1106(a) of this title or section 1106(b)(2) of this title if the corporation determines that the merger or transfer otherwise satisfies the requirements of this section.

(d) Nature of plan to which liabilities are transferred

A plan to which liabilities are transferred under this section is a successor plan for purposes of section 1322a(b)(2)(B) of this title.

(e) Facilitated mergers**(1) In general**

When requested to do so by the plan sponsors, the corporation may take such actions as it deems appropriate to promote and facilitate the merger of two or more multiemployer plans if it determines, after consultation with the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate selected under section 1304 of this title, that the transaction is in the interests of the partici-

pants and beneficiaries of at least one of the plans and is not reasonably expected to be adverse to the overall interests of the participants and beneficiaries of any of the plans. Such facilitation may include training, technical assistance, mediation, communication with stakeholders, and support with related requests to other government agencies.

(2) Financial assistance

In order to facilitate a merger which it determines is necessary to enable one or more of the plans involved to avoid or postpone insolvency, the corporation may provide financial assistance (within the meaning of section 1431 of this title) to the merged plan if—

(A) one or more of the multiemployer plans participating in the merger is in critical and declining status (as defined in section 1085(b)(4) of this title);

(B) the corporation reasonably expects that—

(i) such financial assistance will reduce the corporation's expected long-term loss with respect to the plans involved; and

(ii) such financial assistance is necessary for the merged plan to become or remain solvent;

(C) the corporation certifies that its ability to meet existing financial assistance obligations to other plans will not be impaired by such financial assistance; and

(D) such financial assistance is paid exclusively from the fund for basic benefits guaranteed for multiemployer plans.

Not later than 14 days after the provision of such financial assistance, the corporation shall provide notice of such financial assistance to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, § 4231, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, § 104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1244; amended Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, § 121(a), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2794.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 113-235 added subsec. (e).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Education and the Workforce of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Education and Labor of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, Jan. 9, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, § 121(b), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2794, provided that: "The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014."

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

§ 1412. Transfers between a multiemployer plan and a single-employer plan

(a) General authority

A transfer of assets or liabilities between, or a merger of, a multiemployer plan and a single-employer plan shall satisfy the requirements of this section.

(b) Accrued benefit of participant or beneficiary not lower immediately after effective date of transfer or merger

No accrued benefit of a participant or beneficiary may be lower immediately after the effective date of a transfer or merger described in subsection (a) than the benefit immediately before that date.

(c) Liability of multiemployer plan to corporation where single-employer plan terminates within 60 months after effective date of transfer; amount of liability, exemption, etc.

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), a multiemployer plan which transfers liabilities to a single-employer plan shall be liable to the corporation if the single-employer plan terminates within 60 months after the effective date of the transfer. The amount of liability shall be the lesser of—

(A) the amount of the plan asset insufficiency of the terminated single-employer plan, less 30 percent of the net worth of the employer who maintained the single-employer plan, determined in accordance with section 1362 or 1364 of this title, or

(B) the value, on the effective date of the transfer, of the unfunded benefits transferred to the single-employer plan which are guaranteed under section 1322 of this title.

(2) A multiemployer plan shall be liable to the corporation as provided in paragraph (1) unless, within 180 days after the corporation receives an application (together with such information as the corporation may reasonably require for purposes of such application) from the multiemployer plan sponsor for a determination under this paragraph—

(A) the corporation determines that the interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries and of the corporation are adequately protected, or

(B) fails to make any determination regarding the adequacy with which such interests are protected with respect to such transfer of liabilities.

If, after the receipt of such application, the corporation requests from the plan sponsor additional information necessary for the determination, the running of the 180-day period shall be suspended from the date of such request until the receipt by the corporation of the additional information requested. The corporation may by regulation prescribe procedures and standards for the issuance of determinations under this paragraph. This paragraph shall not apply to any application submitted less than 180 days after September 26, 1980.

(3) A multiemployer plan shall not be liable to the corporation as provided in paragraph (1) in the case of a transfer from the multiemployer plan to a single-employer plan of liabilities

which accrued under a single-employer plan which merged with the multiemployer plan, if, the value of liabilities transferred to the single-employer plan does not exceed the value of the liabilities for benefits which accrued before the merger, and the value of the assets transferred to the single-employer plan is substantially equal to the value of the assets which would have been in the single-employer plan if the employer had maintained and funded it as a separate plan under which no benefits accrued after the date of the merger.

(4) The corporation may make equitable arrangements with multiemployer plans which are liable under this subsection for satisfaction of their liability.

(d) Guarantee of benefits under single-employer plan

Benefits under a single-employer plan to which liabilities are transferred in accordance with this section are guaranteed under section 1322 of this title to the extent provided in that section as of the effective date of the transfer and the plan is a successor plan.

(e) Transfer of liabilities by multiemployer plan to single-employer plan

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a multiemployer plan may not transfer liabilities to a single-employer plan unless the plan sponsor of the plan to which the liabilities would be transferred agrees to the transfer.

(2) In the case of a transfer described in subsection (c)(3), paragraph (1) of this subsection is satisfied by the advance agreement to the transfer by the employer who will be obligated to contribute to the single-employer plan.

(f) Additional requirements by corporation for protection of interests of plan participants, beneficiaries and corporation; approval by corporation of transfer of assets or liabilities to single-employer plan from plan in reorganization; covered transfers in connection with termination

(1) The corporation may prescribe by regulation such additional requirements with respect to the transfer of assets or liabilities as may be necessary to protect the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries and the corporation.

(2) Except as otherwise determined by the corporation, a transfer of assets or liabilities to a single-employer plan from a plan in reorganization under section 1421¹ of this title is not effective unless the corporation approves such transfer.

(3) No transfer to which this section applies, in connection with a termination described in section 1341a(a)(2) of this title shall be effective unless the transfer meets such requirements as may be established by the corporation to prevent an increase in the risk of loss to the corporation.

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, § 4232, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, § 104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1245.)

¹ See References in Text note below.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1421 of this title, referred to in subsec. (f)(2), was repealed by Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, § 108(a)(1), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2786.

§ 1413. Partitions of eligible multiemployer plans**(a) Authority of corporation**

(1) Upon the application by the plan sponsor of an eligible multiemployer plan for a partition of the plan, the corporation may order a partition of the plan in accordance with this section. The corporation shall make a determination regarding the application not later than 270 days after the date such application was filed (or, if later, the date such application was completed) in accordance with regulations promulgated by the corporation.

(2) Not later than 30 days after submitting an application for partition of a plan under paragraph (1), the plan sponsor of the plan shall notify the participants and beneficiaries of such application, in the form and manner prescribed by regulations issued by the corporation.

(b) Eligible multiemployer plans

For purposes of this section, a multiemployer plan is an eligible multiemployer plan if—

(1) the plan is in critical and declining status (as defined in section 1085(b)(4) of this title);

(2) the corporation determines, after consultation with the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate selected under section 1304 of this title, that the plan sponsor has taken (or is taking concurrently with an application for partition) all reasonable measures to avoid insolvency, including the maximum benefit suspensions under section 1085(e)(9) of this title, if applicable;

(3) the corporation reasonably expects that—

(A) a partition of the plan will reduce the corporation's expected long-term loss with respect to the plan; and

(B) a partition of the plan is necessary for the plan to remain solvent;

(4) the corporation certifies to Congress that its ability to meet existing financial assistance obligations to other plans (including any liabilities associated with multiemployer plans that are insolvent or that are projected to become insolvent within 10 years) will not be impaired by such partition; and

(5) the cost to the corporation arising from such partition is paid exclusively from the fund for basic benefits guaranteed for multiemployer plans.

(c) Transfer of liabilities

The corporation's partition order shall provide for a transfer to the plan referenced in subsection (d)(1) of the minimum amount of the plan's liabilities necessary for the plan to remain solvent.

(d) Plans created by partition orders

(1) The plan created by the partition order is a successor plan to which section 1322a of this title applies.

(2) The plan sponsor of an eligible multiemployer plan prior to the partition and the ad-

ministrator of such plan shall be the plan sponsor and the administrator, respectively, of the plan created by the partition order.

(3) In the event an employer withdraws from the plan that was partitioned within ten years following the date of the partition order, withdrawal liability shall be computed under section 1381 of this title with respect to both the plan that was partitioned and the plan created by the partition order. If the withdrawal occurs more than ten years after the date of the partition order, withdrawal liability shall be computed under section 1381 of this title only with respect to the plan that was partitioned (and not with respect to the plan created by the partition order).

(e) Payment of benefits and premiums for beneficiaries of partitioned plans

(1) For each participant or beneficiary of the plan whose benefit was transferred to the plan created by the partition order pursuant to a partition, the plan that was partitioned shall pay a monthly benefit to such participant or beneficiary for each month in which such benefit is in pay status following the effective date of such partition in an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the monthly benefit that would be paid to such participant or beneficiary for such month under the terms of the plan (taking into account benefit suspensions under section 1085(e)(9) of this title and any plan amendments following the effective date of such partition) if the partition had not occurred, over

(B) the monthly benefit for such participant or beneficiary which is guaranteed under section 1322a of this title.

(2) In any case in which a plan provides a benefit improvement (as defined in section 1085(e)(9)(E)(vi) of this title) that takes effect after the effective date of the partition, the plan shall pay to the corporation for each year during the 10-year period following the partition effective date, an annual amount equal to the lesser of—

(A) the total value of the increase in benefit payments for such year that is attributable to the benefit improvement, or

(B) the total benefit payments from the plan created by the partition for such year.

Such payment shall be made at the time of, and in addition to, any other premium imposed by the corporation under this subchapter.

(3) The plan that was partitioned shall pay the premiums imposed by the corporation under this subchapter with respect to participants whose benefits were transferred to the plan created by the partition order for each year during the 10-year period following the partition effective date.

(f) Notice of partition orders to Congress

Not later than 14 days after the partition order, the corporation shall provide notice of such order to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and any affected participants or beneficiaries.

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4233, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1246; amended Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, §122(a)(1), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2795.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113-235 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to partition of multiemployer plans.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Education and the Workforce of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Education and Labor of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, Jan. 9, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, §122(b), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2796, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.”

§ 1414. Asset transfer rules

(a) Applicability and scope

A transfer of assets from a multiemployer plan to another plan shall comply with asset-transfer rules which shall be adopted by the multiemployer plan and which—

- (1) do not unreasonably restrict the transfer of plan assets in connection with the transfer of plan liabilities, and
- (2) operate and are applied uniformly with respect to each proposed transfer, except that the rules may provide for reasonable variations taking into account the potential financial impact of a proposed transfer on the multiemployer plan.

Plan rules authorizing asset transfers consistent with the requirements of section 1412(c)(3) of this title shall be considered to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(b) Exemption of de minimis transfers

The corporation shall prescribe regulations which exempt de minimis transfers of assets from the requirements of this part.

(c) Written reciprocity agreements

This part shall not apply to transfers of assets pursuant to written reciprocity agreements, except to the extent provided in regulations prescribed by the corporation.

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4234, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1247.)

§ 1415. Transfers pursuant to change in bargaining representative

(a) Authority to transfer from old plan to new plan pursuant to employee participation in another multiemployer plan after certified change of representative

In any case in which an employer has completely or partially withdrawn from a multiemployer plan (hereafter in this section referred to

as the “old plan”) as a result of a certified change of collective bargaining representative occurring after September 25, 1980, if participants of the old plan who are employed by the employer will, as a result of that change, participate in another multiemployer plan (hereafter in this section referred to as the “new plan”), the old plan shall transfer assets and liabilities to the new plan in accordance with this section.

(b) Notification by employer of plan sponsor of old plan; notification by plan sponsor of old plan of employer and plan sponsor of new plan; appeal by new plan to prevent transfer; further proceedings

(1) The employer shall notify the plan sponsor of the old plan of a change in multiemployer plan participation described in subsection (a) no later than 30 days after the employer determines that the change will occur.

(2) The plan sponsor of the old plan shall—

(A) notify the employer of—

- (i) the amount of the employer’s withdrawal liability determined under part 1 of this subtitle with respect to the withdrawal,
- (ii) the old plan’s intent to transfer to the new plan the nonforfeitable benefits of the employees who are no longer working in covered service under the old plan as a result of the change of bargaining representative, and
- (iii) the amount of assets and liabilities which are to be transferred to the new plan, and

(B) notify the plan sponsor of the new plan of the benefits, assets, and liabilities which will be transferred to the new plan.

(3) Within 60 days after receipt of the notice described in paragraph (2)(B), the new plan may file an appeal with the corporation to prevent the transfer. The transfer shall not be made if the corporation determines that the new plan would suffer substantial financial harm as a result of the transfer. Upon notification described in paragraph (2), if—

(A) the employer fails to object to the transfer within 60 days after receipt of the notice described in paragraph (2)(A), or

(B) the new plan either—

- (i) fails to file such an appeal, or
- (ii) the corporation, pursuant to such an appeal, fails to find that the new plan would suffer substantial financial harm as a result of the transfer described in the notice under paragraph (2)(B) within 180 days after the date on which the appeal is filed,

then the plan sponsor of the old plan shall transfer the appropriate amount of assets and liabilities to the new plan.

(c) Reduction of amount of withdrawal liability of employer upon transfer of appropriate amount of assets and liabilities by plan sponsor of old plan to new plan

If the plan sponsor of the old plan transfers the appropriate amount of assets and liabilities under this section to the new plan, then the amount of the employer’s withdrawal liability (as determined under section 1381(b) of this title without regard to such transfer and this section)

with respect to the old plan shall be reduced by the amount by which—

(1) the value of the unfunded vested benefits allocable to the employer which were transferred by the plan sponsor of the old plan to the new plan, exceeds

(2) the value of the assets transferred.

(d) Escrow payments by employer upon complete or partial withdrawal and prior to transfer

In any case in which there is a complete or partial withdrawal described in subsection (a), if—

(1) the new plan files an appeal with the corporation under subsection (b)(3), and

(2) the employer is required by section 1399 of this title to begin making payments of withdrawal liability before the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the corporation finds that the new plan would not suffer substantial financial harm as a result of the transfer, or

(B) the last day of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the new plan files its appeal,

then the employer shall make such payments into an escrow held by a bank or similar financial institution satisfactory to the old plan. If the transfer is made, the amounts paid into the escrow shall be returned to the employer. If the transfer is not made, the amounts paid into the escrow shall be paid to the old plan and credited against the employer's withdrawal liability.

(e) Prohibition on transfer of assets to new plan by plan sponsor of old plan; exemptions

(1) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the plan sponsor shall not transfer any assets to the new plan if—

(A) the old plan is in reorganization (within the meaning of section 1421(a)¹ of this title), or

(B) the transfer of assets would cause the old plan to go into reorganization (within the meaning of section 1421(a)¹ of this title).

(2) In any case in which a transfer of assets from the old plan to the new plan is prohibited by paragraph (1), the plan sponsor of the old plan shall transfer—

(A) all nonforfeitable benefits described in subsection (b)(2), if the value of such benefits does not exceed the withdrawal liability of the employer with respect to such withdrawal, or

(B) such nonforfeitable benefits having a value equal to the withdrawal liability of the employer, if the value of such benefits exceeds the withdrawal liability of the employer.

(f) Agreement between plan sponsors of old plan and new plan to transfer in compliance with other statutory provisions; reduction of withdrawal liability of employer from old plan; amount of withdrawal liability of employer to new plan

(1) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (e), the plan sponsors of the old plan and the new plan may agree to a transfer of assets and liabilities that complies with sections 1411 and 1414 of this title, rather than this section, except that

the employer's liability with respect to the withdrawal from the old plan shall be reduced under subsection (c) as if assets and liabilities had been transferred in accordance with this section.

(2) If the employer withdraws from the new plan within 240 months after the effective date of a transfer of assets and liabilities described in this section, the amount of the employer's withdrawal liability to the new plan shall be the greater of—

(A) the employer's withdrawal liability determined under part 1 of this subtitle with respect to the new plan, or

(B) the amount by which the employer's withdrawal liability to the old plan was reduced under subsection (c), reduced by 5 percent for each 12-month period following the effective date of the transfer and ending before the date of the withdrawal from the new plan.

(g) Definitions

For purposes of this section—

(1) "appropriate amount of assets" means the amount by which the value of the nonforfeitable benefits to be transferred exceeds the amount of the employer's withdrawal liability to the old plan (determined under part 1 of this subtitle without regard to section 1391(e) of this title), and

(2) "certified change of collective bargaining representative" means a change of collective bargaining representative certified under the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947 [29 U.S.C. 141 et seq.], or the Railway Labor Act [45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.].

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, § 4235, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, § 104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1247; amended Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title V, § 558(b)(1)(A), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 899.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1421 of this title, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), was repealed by Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, § 108(a)(1), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2786.

The Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, referred to in subsec. (g)(2), is act June 23, 1947, ch. 120, 61 Stat. 136, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 7 (§ 141 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 141 of this title and Tables.

The Railway Labor Act, referred to in subsec. (g)(2), is act May 20, 1926, ch. 347, 44 Stat. 577, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 8 (§ 151 et seq.) of Title 45, Railroads. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 151 of Title 45 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-369 substituted "September 25, 1980" for "April 28, 1980".

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 26, 1980, see section 1461(e)(4) of this title.

¹ See References in Text note below.

PART 3—INSOLVENT PLANS

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, §108(a)(3)(C), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2787, which directed amendment of part 3 of subtitle D of title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 by striking the heading and inserting “insolvent plans”, was executed in this part, which is part 3 of subtitle E of title IV of the Act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§§ 1421 to 1425. Repealed. Pub. L. 113-235, div. O, title I, § 108(a)(1), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2786

Section 1421, Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4241, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1249; amended Pub. L. 101-239, title VII, §7891(a)(1), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2445, related to reorganization status.

Section 1422, Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4242, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1251, related to notice of reorganization and funding requirements.

Section 1423, Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4243, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1252; amended Pub. L. 101-239, title VII, §7891(a)(1), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2445; Pub. L. 109-280, title I, §108(b)(6)-(9), formerly §107(b)(6)-(9), Aug. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 820, renumbered Pub. L. 111-192, title II, §202(a), June 25, 2010, 124 Stat. 1297, related to minimum contribution requirement.

Section 1424, Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4244, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1255, related to overburden credit against minimum contribution requirement.

Section 1425, Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4244A, as added Pub. L. 96-364, title I, §104(2), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1257; amended Pub. L. 101-239, title VII, §7891(a)(1), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2445, related to adjustments in accrued benefits.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal applicable with respect to plan years beginning after Dec. 31, 2014, see section 108(c) of div. O of Pub. L. 113-235, set out as a note under section 418 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

§ 1426. Insolvent plans**(a) Suspension of payments of benefits; conditions, amount, etc.**

Notwithstanding sections 1053 and 1054 of this title, in any case in which benefit payments under an insolvent multiemployer plan exceed the resource benefit level, any such payments of benefits which are not basic benefits shall be suspended, in accordance with this section, to the extent necessary to reduce the sum of such payments and the payments of 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 under section 1322a(g)(5) of this title.

(b) Determination of insolvency status for plan year; definitions

For purposes of this section, for a plan year—

(1) a multiemployer plan is insolvent if the plan’s available resources are not sufficient to pay benefits under the plan when due for the plan year, or if the plan is determined to be insolvent under subsection (d);

(2) “resource benefit level” means the level of monthly benefits determined under sub-

sections (c)(1) and (3) and (d)(3) to be the highest level which can be paid out of the plan’s available resources;

(3) “available resources” means the plan’s cash, marketable assets, contributions, withdrawal liability payments, and earnings, less reasonable administrative expenses and amounts owed for such plan year to the corporation under section 1431(b)(2) of this title; and

(4) “insolvency year” means a plan year in which a plan is insolvent.

(c) Determination by plan sponsor of plan in critical status of resource benefit level of plan for each insolvency year; uniform application of suspension of benefits; adjustments of benefit payments

(1) The plan sponsor of a plan in critical status, as described in subsection¹ 1085(b)(2) of this title, shall determine in writing the plan’s resource benefit level for each insolvency year, based on the plan sponsor’s reasonable projection of the plan’s available resources and the benefits payable under the plan.

(2)(A) The suspension of benefit payments under this section shall, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, apply in substantially uniform proportions to the benefits of all persons in pay status under the plan, except that the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe rules under which benefit suspensions for different participant groups may be varied equitably to reflect variations in contribution rates and other relevant factors including differences in negotiated levels of financial support for plan benefit obligations.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph—

(i) the term “person in pay status” means—

(I) a participant or beneficiary on the last day of the base plan year who, at any time during such year, was paid an early, late, normal, or disability retirement benefit (or a death benefit related to a retirement benefit), and

(II) to the extent provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, any other person who is entitled to such a benefit under the plan.

(ii) the base plan year for any plan year is—

(I) if there is a relevant collective bargaining agreement, the last plan year ending at least 6 months before the relevant effective date, or

(II) if there is no relevant collective bargaining agreement, the last plan year ending at least 12 months before the beginning of the plan year.

(iii) a relevant collective bargaining agreement is a collective bargaining agreement—

(I) which is in effect for at least 6 months during the plan year, and

(II) which has not been in effect for more than 36 months as of the end of the plan year.

(iv) the relevant effective date is the earliest of the effective dates for the relevant collective bargaining agreements.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “section”.