



BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

DOL Posts 45 FAQs on the EFAST2 Filing System

Background

EFAST is a system designed to expedite the receipt and processing of Forms 5500 and 5500-EZ. These forms are filed each year by more than one million pension, welfare and other employee benefit plans to satisfy annual reporting requirements under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. The DOL EFAST homepage is: <http://www.efast.dol.gov/>. Some plans have opted to electronically file under current EFAST procedures, although it is not yet required.

As reported in [Special Bulletin 2006-44](#), in July 2006, the DOL announced a Final Rule requiring ERISA pension and welfare benefit plans and other affected entities to e-file Form 5500. **These e-file requirements were pushed back to the 2009 plan year filings, as noted in [Special Bulletin 2007-67](#).** The 2009 Form 5500 and Schedules are available for download at the DOL 5500 website: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/5500main.html>. Since the Form 5500 report must be filed by the last day of the seventh month after the end of the plan year, calendar year plans will first e-file Form 5500 by the end of July 2010. For more information, including the DOL EFAST2 implementation timeline, see [Benefits News Briefs 2009-39](#). **The new filing system is called EFAST2.**

DOL Posts 45 FAQs on EFAST2

The Department of Labor (DOL) recently redesigned its website and has added 45 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about EFAST2. The FAQs address nine major subject areas: (1) *General*; (2) *Filing Preparation Software*; (3) *Registering For EFAST2 Credentials*; (4) *Completing An Annual Return/Report (Form 5500 or Form 5500-SF)*; (5) *Attachments*; (6) *Signing A Return/Report*; (7) *Submitting An Annual Return/Report (Form 5500 or Form 5500-SF) and Checking Its Status*; (8) *Online Disclosure*; and (9) *Troubleshooting Problems With EFAST2*.

A copy of the 45 FAQs with a specially prepared table of contents is available by "[clicking here](#)." The FAQs are posted on the DOL website at: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-EFAST2.html>.

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