



BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

PBGC 2010 Premium Rates, DOL COBRA Subsidy FAQs and DOL Withdrawal of Investment Advice Regulations

PBGC Announces 2010 Premium Rates

The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) announced the 2010 flat premium rates for its two insurance programs as \$35.00 per participant for single-employer plans and \$9.00 per participant for multiemployer plans. The PBGC also announced that beginning in 2010 it will no longer publish annual flat premium rate notices in the *Federal Register*, since these rates are published by PBGC on its web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>). The PBGC Notice is available by "[clicking here](#)" or at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-28640.pdf>.

DOL Posts Two New FAQs on COBRA Subsidy Eligibility

The Department of Labor (DOL) published two new COBRA subsidy FAQs on its COBRA web page at: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-cobra-arra.html>. Excerpts of the new FAQs answers are below. Refer to the web page for complete answers.

Q1: If an employee is involuntarily terminated no later than December 31, 2009, but the qualified beneficiary is not eligible for COBRA until on or after January 1, 2010, is the qualified beneficiary eligible for ARRA premium assistance?

Answer: No.

Q2: My plan has told me that ARRA expires or stops on December 31, 2009. If I am an assistance eligible individual who was involuntarily terminated no later than December 31, 2009 and became eligible for COBRA no later than December 31, 2009, can I still receive the full 9 months of ARRA premium assistance?

Answer: Yes.

DOL Withdraws Investment Advice Regulations

In [Benefit News Briefs 2009-62](#) we reported on the DOL delay of the investment regulations until May 17, 2010. Well, the wait is over as the DOL announced the withdrawal of the regulations on November 20. The DOL Notice is available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-27889.pdf> or by "[clicking here](#)."

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