



## BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

### ***IRS Posts Retirement Plan FAQs Regarding Form 8955-SSA***

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The IRS has recently posted an additional question and answer to its *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding Form 8955-SSA* webpage located online at <http://www.irs.gov/retirement/article/0,,id=238940,00.html>. New FAQ 21 asks "What are the requirements for answering "yes" to question 8 on Form 8955-SSA?"

The FAQ notes Question 8 on Form 8955-SSA asks whether the plan administrator provided an "individual statement" to each participant required to receive a statement. The instructions add that the plan administrator must, before the end of the Form's filing period, furnish to each affected participant a "statement" containing the information required to be contained in the Form.

The particular question asked was:

"May the plan administrator satisfy this requirement by using other notices such as *benefit statements* and *distribution forms*? Also, does this mean that the plan administrator must furnish a notice that includes all of the information on the Form 8955-SSA?"

The answer explained that a *separate statement* specially designed to meet this "notice" requirement is *not required* if certain criteria are met. Accordingly, a plan administrator may answer "yes" to question 8 if the required information was timely furnished to participants in other documentation *such as benefit statements or distribution forms*, **if** the statements or other documentation distributed included the following information:

- Name of the plan,
- Name and address of the plan administrator,
- Name of the participant,
- Nature, amount, and form of the deferred vested benefit to which such participant is entitled.

The answer further stated that for purposes of completing Form 8955-SSA the plan administrator's "notice" to the plan participant does not need to include:

- The participant's social security number,
- The codes on page 2 of the Form 8955-SSA used to identify previously reported participants, or
- Any information regarding any benefits which are forfeitable if the participant dies before a certain date.

See [Special Bulletins 2011-14](#), [2011-37](#), and [2011-39](#) for more on Form 8955-SSA.

**Additional IRS Resources:**

- [Form 8955-SSA Resources](#)
- [FAQs](#) on Form 8955-SSA

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