

BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

IRS Publishes Proposed Regulations For Form 8955-SSA

Since the enactment of *ERISA*, the Schedule SSA, a schedule to the Form 5500, "Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan," had been the form used by plan administrators to comply with the reporting requirements of Code Section 6057. However, after the switch to electronic filing of the Form 5500, the Schedule SSA was replaced with the Form 8955-SSA, "Annual Registration Statement Identifying Separated Participants With Deferred Vested Benefits," an IRS-only standalone form. See [Special Bulletins 2011-14](#), [2011-37](#) and [2011-39](#) for background.

In general, *if* a Form 8955-SSA must be filed for a plan year, it must be filed by the last day of the 7th month following the last day of that plan year, unless extended.

The [proposed regulations](#) would amend the rules relating to automatic extensions of time for filing certain employee plan returns, by adding the Form 8955-SSA to the list of forms that are covered by the automatic 2-1/2 month extension that is available by filing Form 5558. This change will permit a plan administrator to receive an automatic extension of 2-1/2 months by submitting, on or before the general due date of the Form 8955-SSA, a Form 5558 indicating that an extension is being requested for filing the Form 8955-SSA.

In addition, the proposed regulations would amend the rules so that a signature would not be required to request an extension of time to a Form 8955-SSA. These changes would bring the rules for an extension for a Form 8955-SSA into sync with the rules that apply to extensions of time to file the Form 5500.

These regulations are generally proposed to be effective on or after June 21, 2012 and may be relied upon pending the issuance of final regulations.

See <http://www.irs.gov/retirement/article/0,,id=238959,00.html> for Form 8955-SSA resources – such as Forms 8955-SSA and Form 5558, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), published guidance and information for e-file providers.

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