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Update on Changes to the Form 5500 Series: IRS Sets Filing Dates for New Form 8955-SSA

One of a number of changes made to the Form 5500 Series (used by employee benefit plans to satisfy certain annual reporting obligations) to accommodate electronic filing requirements, was the removal of Schedule SSA for plan administrators to report certain information relating to plan participants with deferred vested benefits. IRS [Announcement 2011-21](#) designates a new form to satisfy these reporting requirements and sets the due dates for filing this form for 2009 and subsequent plan years.

Form **5500**
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security
Administration
Pension Benefit
Guaranty Corporation

New Form 8955-SSA Form 8955-SSA, a stand-alone form to be filed with the IRS, has been developed as the successor to the Schedule SSA. For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, the Form 8955-SSA should be used to comply with these reporting requirements.

Required Filing Dates In general, as with Schedule SSA, 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 (plus extensions). However, in order to provide plan administrators with additional time to complete and file the new Form 8955-SSA, the due date for filing the Form 8955-SSA for the 2009 and the 2010 plan years is the later of:

- The due date that generally applies for filing the Form 8955-SSA for the 2010 plan year, and
- August 1, 2011.

For example, in the case of a 2009 plan year or a short 2010 plan year, the Form 8955-SSA is not required to be filed before August 1, 2011.

Availability of Form 8955-SSA Form 8955-SSA for the 2009 plan year is expected to be available for filing by plan administrators shortly. Form 8955-SSA for the 2010 plan year is being developed and is expected to be available for filing later this year. The IRS has also developed a voluntary electronic filing system for filing Form 8955-SSA for the 2009 plan year and subsequent plan years.

In order to reduce the burden on plan administrators, the IRS will treat a Schedule SSA that is filed with the IRS for the 2009 or 2010 plan year **no later than April 20, 2011** as satisfying the applicable reporting requirements (and no Form 8955-SSA is required to be filed for the 2009 or 2010 plan year if a Schedule SSA for the applicable plan year is filed with the IRS by this date).

Sincerely,

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