

# Limited-Scope Benefit Determinations

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## A. Introduction

PBGC issues benefit determinations that address an individual's entitlement to benefits. These benefit determinations are "full-scope." They cover all aspects of the person's benefit entitlement.

In some cases, it may be appropriate for PBGC to make a limited-scope benefit determination either before or after issuance of the full-scope benefit determination. These could include situations involving an individual (e.g., that a participant is not entitled to a disability benefit) and those involving a group of participants (e.g., that participants are not entitled to shutdown benefits).

With this second edition, PBGC expands the scope to cover limited-scope benefit determinations sent after an earlier benefit determination has been issued, includes conforming changes to Internal Guidance Benefit Corrections, and makes other minor clarifications.

## B. Scope and Effective Date

This internal guidance provides the rules on issuing limited-scope benefit determinations. It is effective upon issuance.

## C. Internal Guidance

A limited-scope benefit determination is a benefit determination that addresses one or more aspects of an individual's benefit entitlement, but not all aspects of that entitlement. It may be issued before or after a full scope benefit determination based on the facts and circumstance of a case. In some cases, a limited-scope benefit determination supplements an earlier benefit determination.

### 1. Limited-Scope Benefit Determinations for Individuals

PBGC may issue a limited-scope benefit determination to an individual upon review of the facts and circumstances with supervisory approval. Situations in which it may be appropriate to issue a limited-scope benefit determination to an individual include:

- Participant is not entitled to disability benefits,
- Surviving spouse is not entitled to survivor annuities,
- An earlier benefit determination was correct but omitted or did not address other significant information required to adequately describe the benefit entitlement, or
- Form of Benefit was not accurately reflected in the original benefit determination.

### 2. Limited-Scope Benefit Determinations for Groups of Participants

PBGC may issue limited-scope benefit determinations to a group of participants or other individuals upon review of the facts and circumstances with PSD Federal approval. Situations in which it may be appropriate to issue a limited-scope benefit determination to a group of participants or other individuals, for instance, may include:

- Shutdown benefits are determined not to be payable,
- Special payments or supplements are not payable, or
- Form of Benefit was not accurately reflected in the original benefit determination.

See Section D.7.a.2. of Internal Guidance Benefit Corrections for examples of the use of limited-scope benefit determinations in correcting previously issued benefit determinations