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Denmark: Wage guarantee in case of insolvency



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Native name: Bekendtgørelse af lov om Lønmodtagernes Garantifond (LBK nr 686 af

20/06/2011)

English name: Danish Act on the Employees' Guarantee Fund (Consolidation Act no 686 of

20/06/2011)

Article

Whole legislation

Description

Employees can apply to the Employees' Guarantee Fund (*Lønmodtagernes Garantifond*, LG) for wage and holiday compensation, indemnification for interruption of the employment relationship and compensation in connection with discharge from employment.

The claims have to arise in the period of four months after bankruptcy or six months after notice of suspension of payments or the death of the employer.

LG is an independent national institution governed by the social partners and regulated by law. All private employers pay a quarterly contributions based on company size to the fund.

Support is provided in case of bankruptcy, the employer's death where the court declares the company is insolvent, the termination of the business while it is proven that the employer is unable to pay the employees' claims or during the employer's court-supervised suspension of payments according to the provisions of the bankruptcy law.

All employees are eligible, including part-time and fixed-term workers, except for family members and close associates of the insolvent employer.

There is no minimum duration for the employment relationship in order for workers to qualify for the guarantee. An employee's claim is usually paid 4 weeks after the fund has received the application from the employee.

The maximum compensation from the fund is DKK 160,000 (€ 21,300).

Comments

During the COVID-19 crisis the fund had an increased number of requests and applications. However, there is no official figure yet (September 2020).

In 2018, LG paid DKK 531 million (€ 71 million as at 31 December 2018) to 16,960 employees as a consequence of 1,945 bankruptcies.

In 2017, LG paid DKK 483 million (€ 65 million as at 31 December 2017) to 14,771 employees as a consequence of 1,854 bankruptcies.

In 2016, LG paid DKK 435 million (€ 58 million as at 31 December 2016) to 14,486 employees as a consequence of 1,968 bankruptcies.

In 2015, LG paid DKK 488 million (€ 65 million as at 31 December 2015) to 16,217 employees as a consequence of 1,838 bankruptcies.

In 2014, LG paid DKK 531 million (€ 71 million as at 31 December 2014) to 20,280 employees as a consequence of 1,615 bankruptcies.

Cost covered by

Companies

Involved actors other than national government

Employer organisation Trade union Other

Involvement others

Employees' Guarantee Fund

Thresholds

No, applicable in all circumstances

Sources

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- Sargant, M. (2007). Implementation Report Directive 80/987 EEC amended by Directive 2002/74/EC [protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer], Human European Consultancy/Middlesex University Business School
- ERM Database on restructuring related legislation Employees' Guarantee Fund
- Lønmodtagernes Garantifond Årsrapport 2018.

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