

Subpart C—Deduction From Monthly Benefits

§ 408.40 Deduction from monthly benefits: Basic rules.

(a) *Deduction from monthly benefits.* (1) Enrollees who are receiving monthly benefits do not have the option of paying by direct remittance to avoid deduction.

(2) If the enrollee is entitled to more than one type of monthly benefit, the order of priority for deduction is as follows:

- (i) Railroad retirement benefits.
- (ii) Social security benefits.
- (iii) Civil service annuities.

(b) *Deduction from initial or reinstated benefits.* When an enrollee receives a monthly benefit check after an initial award or after a period of suspension, that check is, if administratively feasible, reduced or increased to deduct unpaid premiums or refund premiums paid in advance by direct remittance.

(c) *Ongoing deductions.* The premium for each month is deducted from the cash benefit for the preceding month, e.g., the premium for March is deducted from the benefit for February, which is paid at the beginning of March.

§ 408.42 Deduction from railroad retirement benefits.

(a) *Responsibility for deductions.* If an enrollee is entitled to railroad retirement benefits, his or her SMI premiums are deducted from those benefits by the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) even though he or she is also entitled to social security benefits or a civil service annuity, or both.

(b) *Action when benefits are suspended.* If the railroad retirement benefits are suspended, the RRB sends premium notices requesting direct remittance, to be made in accordance with the rules set forth in Subpart D of this part.

§ 408.43 Deduction from social security benefits.

SSA, acting as CMS's agent, deducts the premiums from the monthly social security benefits if the enrollee is not entitled to railroad retirement benefits. (If the benefit is less than the monthly premium, the benefit is withheld and the enrollee is required to pay

the balance through direct remittance.)

§ 408.44 Deduction from civil service annuities.

(a) *Responsibility for deductions.* If an enrollee is not entitled to railroad retirement benefits or social security benefits, and is receiving a civil service annuity, the premiums are deducted from that annuity by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on the basis of a notice from SSA indicating that the annuitant is entitled to SMI.

(b) *Deduction of spouse's premiums.* If the annuitant's spouse is also enrolled for SMI and is not entitled to a civil service annuity or to social security or railroad retirement benefits, and the annuitant gives written consent, OPM also deducts the spouse's premium from the annuitant's monthly check.

(c) *Withdrawal of annuitant's consent.* (1) If an annuitant wishes to withdraw consent for deduction of the spouse's premium, he or she must send written notice of withdrawal to OPM.

(2) The withdrawal notice is effective with the third month after the month in which it is received, or with the month specified in the notice, whichever is later.

§ 408.45 Deduction from age 72 special payments.

(a) *Deduction of premiums.* SMI premiums are deducted from age 72 special payments made under section 228 of the Act or the payments are withheld under procedures that correspond to the rules set forth in §§ 408.40 and 408.43.

(b) *Collection of premiums while age 72 special payments are suspended.* If the age 72 special payments are suspended, CMS or its agent notifies the enrollee to pay premiums by direct remittance, in accordance with the rules set forth in § 408.60.

(c) *Grace period.* The grace period ends with the last day of the third month after the billing month.

(d) *Resumption of age 72 special payments.* (1) If age 72 special payments are resumed before the end of the grace period and all premium arrears can be deducted from those special payments, SMI coverage continues and the enrollee need not pay by direct remittance.

(2) Subsequent special payments are reduced by the amount of the premium for as long as the enrollee receives special payments.

§ 408.46 Effect of suspension of social security benefits.

(a) *Benefit payments to be resumed during the taxable year.* (1) If social security benefit payments are scheduled to be resumed during the enrollee's current taxable year, the enrollee is not billed.

(2) The enrollee may, if he or she wishes, pay the premiums during suspension of benefits.

(b) *Benefit payments not to be resumed during the enrollee's current taxable year.*

(1) If social security benefits are suspended for a period that will not permit collection of all premiums due from monthly benefits payable in the enrollee's current taxable year, CMS or its agents bill the enrollee and require direct remittance in accordance with subpart D of this part.

(2) The first billing is for whatever premiums are necessary to place the enrollee in a quarterly cycle.

(3) Thereafter, the billing is on a quarterly basis. (Quarters for different enrollees are staggered throughout the year.)

(4) The enrollee has the option of paying premiums for more than one quarter at the same time.

§ 408.47 [Reserved]

§ 408.50 When premiums are considered paid.

(a) *Actual deduction.* A premium is considered paid if it is actually deducted from a monthly benefit check. Therefore—

(1) The premium is "paid" even if SSA later finds that the benefit was paid in error; but

(2) A finding that a monthly benefit was erroneously withheld does not constitute payment of the premium for that month. Since there was no payment, there was no deduction. The enrollee is billed and continuance of coverage depends on payment of premiums before the end of the grace period or extended grace period.

(b) *Payment within the grace period.* Overdue premiums are considered paid

within the grace period in the following situations:

(1) *Benefits are resumed during the grace period.* (i) Monthly cash benefit payments are payable for the last month of the initial grace period or for earlier months on the basis of a notice filed by the enrollee before the initial grace period ends; and

(ii) Those payments are sufficient to permit deduction of all overdue premiums.

(2) *Annual earnings report or other report submitted during the grace period shows a benefit is due.* (i) Before the end of the grace period, the enrollee submits a report clearly showing that monthly cash benefits, previously withheld, are payable; and

(ii) Those benefits are sufficient to permit deduction of the full amount of the overdue premiums.

(3) *Premium arrears are paid by direct remittance.* The enrollee makes a direct remittance payment of all overdue premiums before the end of the grace period.

[52 FR 48115, Dec. 18, 1987; 53 FR 4159, Feb. 12, 1988; 56 FR 48112, Sept. 24, 1991]

§ 408.52 Change from direct remittance to deduction.

If a direct remittance enrollee becomes entitled to monthly benefits—

(a) The SMI premiums are deducted from those benefits; and

(b) The enrollee is notified of the deduction and of any adjustment of the initial benefit check that is required to collect overdue premiums or refund premiums paid in advance.

§ 408.53 Change from partial direct remittance to full deduction.

If a benefit that was less than the premium (and therefore required direct remittance of the difference) is increased to an amount equal to, or greater than, the premium—

(a) The full premium is paid from the benefit; and

(b) Any amounts the enrollee had paid toward premiums not yet due are refunded.