

§ 870.705 Amount and election of Option B and Option C.

(a) The number of multiples of Option B and Option C coverage an annuitant or compensationner can continue is the highest number of multiples in force during the applicable period of service required to continue Option B and Option C.

(b)(1)(i) At the time an employee retires or becomes insured as a compensationner, he/she must elect the number of allowable multiples he/she wishes to continue during retirement or while receiving compensation.

(ii) An employee who elects to continue fewer multiples than the number for which he/she is eligible is considered to have cancelled the multiples that are not continued.

(iii) Employees separating for retirement and employees becoming insured as compensationners on or after April 24, 1999, must also elect either Full Reduction or No Reduction for all of the multiples being continued.

(iv) An employee who does not make a reduction election is considered to have chosen Full Reduction.

(2)(i) Prior to reaching age 65, an annuitant or compensationner can change from No Reduction to Full Reduction at any time. Exception: If the individual has assigned his/her insurance as provided in subpart I of this part, only the assignee can change from No Reduction to Full Reduction for the Option B coverage.

(ii) Prior to reaching age 65, an annuitant or compensationner can change from Full Reduction to No Reduction at any time.

(3)(i) After reaching age 65, an annuitant or compensationner can change from No Reduction to Full Reduction at any time. Exception: If the individual has assigned his/her insurance as provided in subpart I of this part, only the assignee can change from No Reduction to Full Reduction for the Option B coverage. If an individual age 65 or over changes to Full Reduction, the amount of insurance in force is computed as if he/she had elected Full Reduction initially. There is no refund of premiums.

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, after reaching age 65, an annuitant or compensationner

cannot change from Full Reduction to No Reduction.

(4)(i) Shortly before an annuitant or compensationner's 65 birthday, the retirement system will send a reminder about the election he/she made and will offer the individual a chance to change the election. At that time, the annuitant or compensationner can choose to have some multiples of Option B and Option C reduce and some not reduce.

(ii) If the individual is already 65 or older at the time of retirement or becoming insured as a compensationner, the retirement system will send the reminder and give the opportunity to change the election as soon as the retirement processing or compensation transfer is complete.

(iii) If the individual assigned his/her insurance as provided in subpart I of this part, and if the employee elected No Reduction for Option B coverage at the time of retirement or becoming insured as a compensationner, the retirement system will send the reminder notice for Option B coverage to the assignee.

(iv) An annuitant or compensationner who wishes to change his/her reduction election must return the notice by the end of the month following the month in which the individual turns 65, or if already over age 65, by the end of the 4th month after the date of the letter. An annuitant or compensationner who does not return the election notice will keep his/her initial election.

(c)(1) For each multiple of Option B and/or Option C for which an individual elects Full Reduction, the coverage reduces by 2 percent of the original amount each month. This reduction starts at the beginning of the 2nd month after the date the insurance would otherwise have stopped or the beginning of the 2nd month after the insured's 65th birthday, whichever is later. At 12:00 noon on the day before the 50th reduction, the insurance stops, with no extension of coverage or conversion right.

(2) For each multiple of Option B and/or Option C for which an individual elects No Reduction, the coverage in force does not reduce. After age 65 the annuitant or compensationner continues to pay premiums appropriate to his/her age.

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(d)(1) Employees who were already retired or insured as compensationers on April 24, 1999, and who had Option B, were given an opportunity to make an election for Option B.

(i) Annuitants and compensationers who were under age 65 were notified of the option to elect No Reduction. The retirement system will send these individuals an actual election notice before their 65th birthday, as provided in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(ii) Annuitants and compensationers who were age 65 or older, and who still had some Option B coverage remaining, were given the opportunity to stop further reductions. These individuals had until October 24, 1999, to make the No Reduction election. The amount of Option B coverage retained was the amount in effect on April 24, 1999. Those annuitants and compensationers who elected No Reduction were required to pay premiums retroactive to April 24, 1999.

(2) Employees who were already retired or insured as compensationers on April 24, 1999, could not elect No Reduction for Option C.

[64 FR 72464, Dec. 28, 1999]

§ 870.706 Reinstatement of life insurance.

(a) An annuitant whose disability annuity terminates because he/she recovers from the disability or because his/her earning capacity returns, and whose disability annuity is later restored under 5 U.S.C. 8337(e) (after December 31, 1983), may elect to resume the Basic insurance held immediately before his/her disability annuity terminated. OPM must receive the election within 60 days after OPM mails a notice of insurance eligibility and an election form.

(b) An annuitant described in paragraph (a) of this section may elect to resume any Optional insurance held immediately before the annuity terminated if:

(1) He/she has made an election under paragraph (a) of this section; and

(2) OPM receives the election within 60 days after OPM mails a notice of insurance eligibility and an election form.

(c) Basic and Optional insurance reinstated under paragraphs (a) and (b) of

this section is effective on the 1st day of the month after the date OPM receives the election. Any applicable annuity withholdings are also reinstated on the 1st day of the month after OPM receives the election.

(d) The amounts of Basic and Optional insurance reinstated under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section are the amounts that would have been in force if the individual's annuity hadn't terminated.

[62 FR 48731, Sept. 17, 1997; 62 FR 52181, Oct. 6, 1997. Redesignated at 64 FR 72463, Dec. 28, 1999]

§ 870.707 Reemployed annuitants.

(a)(1) If an insured annuitant is appointed to a position in which he/she is eligible for insurance, the amount of his/her Basic life insurance as an annuitant (and any applicable annuity withholdings) is suspended on the day before the 1st day in pay status under the appointment, unless the reemployed annuitant waives all insurance coverage. The Basic insurance benefit payable upon the death of a reemployed annuitant who has Basic insurance in force as an employee can't be less than the benefit which would have been payable if the individual hadn't been reemployed.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the Basic insurance obtained as an employee stops with no 31-day extension of coverage or conversion right, on the date reemployment terminates. Any suspended Basic insurance (and any applicable annuity withholdings) is reinstated on the day following termination of the reemployment.

(b) Basic insurance obtained during reemployment can be continued after the reemployment terminates if:

(1) The annuitant qualifies for a supplemental annuity or receives a new retirement right;

(2) He/she has had Basic insurance as an employee for at least 5 years of service immediately before separation from reemployment or for the full period(s) during which such coverage was available to him/her, whichever is less; and