

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate (the "required interest rate") in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The required interest rate is the "applicable percentage" (currently 100 percent) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). (Although the Treasury Department has ceased issuing 30-year securities, the Internal Revenue Service announces a surrogate yield figure each month—based on the 30-year Treasury bond maturing in February 2031—which the PBGC uses to determine the required interest rate.)

The required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in July 2003 is 4.37 percent.

The following table lists the required interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between August 2002 and July 2003.

For premium payment years beginning in—	The required interest rate is—
August 2002	5.39
September 2002	5.08
October 2002	4.76
November 2002	4.93
December 2002	4.96
January 2003	4.92
February 2003	4.94
March 2003	4.81
April 2003	4.80
May 2003	4.90
June 2003	4.53
July 2003	4.37

Late Premium Payments; Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability

Section 4007(b) of ERISA and 4007.7(a) of the PBGC's regulation on Payment of Premiums (29 CFR part 4007) require the payment of interest on late premium payments at the rate established under section 6601 of the Internal Revenue Code. Similarly, 4062.7 of the PBGC's regulation on Liability for Termination of Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4062) requires that interest be charged or credited at the section 6601 rate on underpayments and overpayments of employer liability under section 4062 of ERISA. The section 6601 rate is

established periodically (currently quarterly) by the Internal Revenue Service. The rate applicable to the third quarter (July through September) of 2003, as announced by the IRS, is 5 percent.

The following table lists the late payment interest rates for premiums and employer liability for the specified time periods:

From—	Through—	Interest rate (percent)
7/1/96	3/31/98	9
4/1/98	12/31/98	8
1/1/99	3/31/99	7
4/1/99	3/31/00	8
4/1/00	3/31/01	9
4/1/01	6/30/01	8
7/1/01	12/31/01	7
1/1/02	12/31/02	6
1/1/03	9/30/03	5

Underpayments and Overpayments of Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability

Section 4219.32(b) of the PBGC's regulation on Notice, Collection, and Redetermination of Withdrawal Liability (29 CFR part 4219) specifies the rate at which a multiemployer plan is to charge or credit interest on underpayments and overpayments of withdrawal liability under section 4219 of ERISA unless an applicable plan provision provides otherwise. For interest accruing during any calendar quarter, the specified rate is the average quoted prime rate on short-term commercial loans for the fifteenth day (or the next business day if the fifteenth day is not a business day) of the month preceding the beginning of the quarter, as reported by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Statistical Release H.15 ("Selected Interest Rates"). The rate for the third quarter (July through September) of 2003 (*i.e.*, the rate reported for June 16, 2003) is 4.25 percent.

The following table lists the withdrawal liability underpayment and overpayment interest rates for the specified time periods:

From—	Through—	Interest rate (percent)
7/1/97	12/31/98	8.50
1/1/99	9/30/99	7.75
10/1/99	12/31/99	8.25
1/1/00	3/31/00	8.50
4/1/00	6/30/00	8.75
7/1/00	3/31/01	9.50
4/1/01	6/30/01	8.50
7/1/01	9/30/01	7.00
10/1/01	12/31/01	6.50
1/1/02	12/31/02	4.75
1/1/03	9/30/03	4.25

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in August 2003 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 9th day of July, 2003.

Joseph H. Grant,

Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-17844 Filed 7-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48140; File No. SR-MSRB-2003-06]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board To Amend Rule A-14, on Annual Fees

July 8, 2003.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("the Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 3, 2003 the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("Board" or "MSRB") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Board. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The MSRB is proposing to amend Rule A-14, which provides for an annual fee paid by dealers to the MSRB. The MSRB requests the MSRB requests that the proposed rule change become effective prior to the beginning of the Board's fiscal year of 2004 (October 1,

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.