

## Internal Revenue Service

## Department of the Treasury

Plan Description: Prototype Standardized Defined Benefit Plan without Permitted Disparity  
 Washington, DC 20224  
 FFN: 502B5118502-004 Case: 200106685 EIN: 36-3592542  
 BPD: 02 Plan: 004 Letter Serial No: K238922a

Contact Person: Ms. Arrington 50-00197

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Telephone Number: (202) 283-8811

In Reference to: T:EP:RA:ICU

Date: 09/20/2001

Dear Applicant:

In our opinion, the form of the plan identified above is acceptable under section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code for use by employers for the benefit of their employees. This opinion relates only to the acceptability of the form of the plan under the Internal Revenue Code. It is not an opinion of the effect of other Federal or local statutes.

You must furnish a copy of this letter to each employer who adopts this plan. You are also required to send a copy of the approved form of the plan, any approved amendments and related documents to Employee Plans Determinations in Cincinnati at the address specified in section 9.11 of Rev. Proc. 2000-20, 2000-6 I.R.B. 553.

This letter considers the changes in qualifications requirements made by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (GATT), Pub. L. 103-465, the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-188, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-353, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-34, the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-206 and the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-554. These laws are referred to collectively as GUST.

Our opinion on the acceptability of the form of the plan is not a ruling or determination as to whether an employer's plan qualifies under Code section 401(a). However, an employer that adopts this plan may rely on this letter with respect to the qualification of its plan under Code section 401(a), except as provided below, provided the eligibility requirements and contribution or benefit provisions are not more favorable for highly compensated employees than for other employees and the plan satisfies Code section 401(a)(26) with respect to its prior benefit structure. The terms of the plan must be followed in operation. Except as stated below, Employee Plans Determinations will not issue a determination letter with respect to this plan.

Our opinion does not apply for purposes of Code section 401(a)(10)(B) and section 401(a)(16) if an employer ever maintained another qualified plan for one or more employees who are covered by this plan, other than a specified paired plan within the meaning of section 4.13 of Rev. Proc. 2000-20, 2000-6 I.R.B. 553. Our opinion does not apply for purposes of Code section 401(a)(16) if, after December 31, 1985, the employer maintains a welfare benefit fund defined in Code section 419(e), which provides postretirement medical benefits allocated to separate accounts for key employees as defined in Code section 419A(d)(3).

An employer that adopts this plan may not rely on this opinion letter with respect to: (1) whether any amendment or series of amendments to the plan satisfies the nondiscrimination requirements of section 1.401(a)(4)-5(a) of the regulations, except with respect to plan amendments granting past service that meet the safe harbor described in section 1.401(a)(4)-5(a)(5) and are not part of a pattern of amendments that significantly discriminates in favor of highly compensated employees; or (2) whether the plan satisfies the effective availability requirement of section 1.401(a)(4)-4(c) of the regulations with respect to any benefit, right or feature.

An employer that adopts this plan as an amendment to a plan other than a standardized plan may not rely on this opinion letter with respect to whether a benefit, right or other feature that is prospectively eliminated satisfies the current availability requirements of section 1.401(a)-4 of the regulations.

An employer that elects to continue to apply the pre-GUST family aggregation rules in years beginning after December 31, 1996, or the combined plan limit of section 415(e) in years beginning after December 31, 1999, will not be able to rely on the opinion letter without a determination letter.

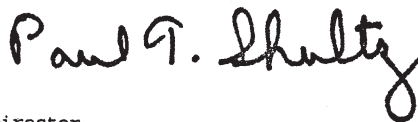
The employer may request a determination (1) as to whether the plan, considered with all related qualified plans and, if appropriate, welfare benefit funds, satisfies the requirements of Code section 401(a)(16) as to limitations on benefits and contributions in Code section 415 and the requirements of Code section 401(a)(10)(B) as to the top-heavy plan requirements in Code section 416; (2) regarding the nondiscriminatory effect of grants of past service; (3) with respect to whether a prospectively eliminated benefit, right or feature satisfies the current availability requirements; (4) with respect to the continued application of the preGUST family aggregation rules in years beginning after December 31, 1996, or the combined plan limit of section 415(e) in years beginning after December 31, 1999; and (5) as to whether its plan satisfies section 401(a)(26) with respect to its prior benefit structure. The employer may request a determination letter by filing an application with Employee Plans Determinations on Form 5307, Application for Determination for Adopters of Master or Prototype or Volume Submitter Plans.

If you, the master or prototype sponsor, have any questions concerning the IRS processing of this case, please call the above telephone number. This number is only for use of the sponsor. Individual participants and/or adopting employers with questions concerning the plan should contact the master or prototype sponsor. The plan's adoption agreement must include the sponsor's address and telephone number for inquiries by adopting employers.

If you write to the IRS regarding this plan, please provide your telephone number and the most convenient time for us to call in case we need more information. Whether you call or write, please refer to the Letter Serial Number and File Folder Number shown in the heading of this letter.

You should keep this letter as a permanent record. Please notify us if you modify or discontinue sponsorship of this plan.

Sincerely yours,



Director  
Employee Plans Rulings & Agreements