

## § 550.708

part, where the firefighter has a recurring cycle of variable workweeks within his or her regular tour of duty (as defined in § 550.1302), compute the weekly average of hours in the regular tour of duty and determine the weekly rate of basic pay based on the average workweek and the rate of basic pay in effect at separation.

(c) *Age adjustment allowance.* The basic severance pay allowance is augmented by an age adjustment allowance consisting of 2.5 percent of the basic severance pay allowance for each full 3 months of age over 40 years.

(d) *Lifetime limitation.* The severance pay fund is limited to that amount which would provide 52 weeks of severance pay (taking into account weeks of severance pay previously received, as provided in § 550.712).

[55 FR 6593, Feb. 26, 1990, as amended at 63 FR 64593, Nov. 23, 1998; 64 FR 69177, Dec. 10, 1999]

## § 550.708 Creditable service.

The following types of service are creditable for computing an employee's severance pay under § 550.707:

(a) Civilian service as an employee (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2105), excluding time during a period of nonpay status that is not creditable for annual leave accrual purposes under 5 U.S.C. 6303(a);

(b) Service performed with the United States Postal Service or the Postal Rate Commission;

(c) Military service, including active or inactive training with the National Guard, when performed by an employee who returns to civilian service through the exercise of a restoration right provided by law, Executive order, or regulation;

(d) Service performed by an employee of a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2105(c), who moves to a position within the civil service employment system of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard, respectively, without a break in service of more than 3 days; and

(e) Service performed with the government of the District of Columbia by an individual first employed by that government before October 1, 1987, excluding service as a teacher or librarian

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of the public schools of the District of Columbia.

[55 FR 6593, Feb. 26, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 12405, Apr. 10, 1992; 58 FR 33499, June 18, 1993; 64 FR 69177, Dec. 10, 1999]

## § 550.709 Accrual and payment of severance pay.

(a) Severance pay accrues on a day-to-day basis following the recipient's separation from Federal employment. If severance pay begins in the middle of a pay period, 1 day of severance pay accrues for each workday or applicable holiday left in the pay period at the same rate at which basic pay would have accrued if the recipient were still employed. Thereafter, accrual is based on days from Monday through Friday, with each day worth one-fifth of 1 week's severance pay. Accrual ceases when the severance pay entitlement is suspended or terminated, as provided in §§ 550.710 and 550.711. If severance pay is suspended during a nonqualifying time-limited appointment as provided in § 550.710, accrual will resume following separation from that appointment.

(b) Severance payments must be made at the same pay period intervals that salary payments would be made if the recipient were still employed. The amount of the severance payment is computed using the recipient's rate of basic pay in effect immediately before separation, with credit for each day of severance pay accrual during the pay period corresponding to the payment date. A severance payment is subject to appropriate deductions for income and Social Security taxes. Severance payments are the responsibility of the agency employing the recipient at the time of the involuntary separation that triggered the current entitlement to severance pay.

(c) When an individual receives severance pay as the result of an involuntary separation from a qualifying time-limited appointment, the severance payment is based on the rate of basic pay received at the time of that separation. Severance payments are the responsibility of the agency that employed the individual under the qualifying time-limited appointment.

(d) When an individual is in a nonpay status immediately before separation,

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the amount of the severance payment is determined using the basic pay that he or she would have received if he or she had been in a pay status at the time of separation.

(e) When an individual's severance pay fund is computed under § 550.707(b) using an average rate of basic pay, that average rate is used to determine the amount of the severance payment. Exception: In the case of a seasonal employee, the agency may choose instead to use the employee's rate of basic pay at separation (as computed based on the employee's work schedule during the established seasonal work period) and then authorize severance payments only during that seasonal work period.

(f) In the case of individuals who become employed by a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard under the conditions described in 5 U.S.C. 5595(h)(4), payment of severance pay may be suspended consistent with the rules in 5 U.S.C. 5595(h) and any supplemental regulations issued by the Department of Defense.

(g) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, an agency may pay severance pay in a single lump sum if expressly authorized by law.

[64 FR 69177, Dec. 10, 1999]

### § 550.710 Suspension of severance pay.

When an individual entitled to severance pay is employed by the Government of the United States or the government of the District of Columbia under a nonqualifying time-limited appointment, severance pay must be suspended during the life of the appointment. Severance pay resumes, without any recomputation, when the employee separates from the nonqualifying time-limited appointment. The resumed severance payments are the responsibility of the agency that originally triggered the individual's severance pay entitlement by separating the individual while he or she was serving under a qualifying appointment.

[64 FR 69178, Dec. 10, 1999]

### § 550.711 Termination of severance pay entitlement.

Entitlement to severance pay ends when—

(a) The individual entitled to severance pay is employed by the Government of the United States or the government of the District of Columbia, unless employed under a nonqualifying time-limited appointment as described in § 550.710; or

(b) The severance pay fund is exhausted.

[64 FR 69178, Dec. 10, 1999]

### § 550.712 Reemployment; recredit of service.

(a) When a former employee is reemployed, the employing agency shall record on the appointment document the number of weeks of severance pay received (including partial weeks).

(b) If an employee again becomes entitled to severance pay, the agency in which entitlement arises shall recompute the severance pay allowance on the basis of all creditable service and current age and deduct from the number of weeks it would take to exhaust the allowance the number of weeks for which severance pay previously was received.

### § 550.713 Records.

Agencies shall maintain records, by fiscal year, of the number of employees who receive severance pay and the total amount of severance pay paid. The Office of Personnel Management may require agencies to report such information to the Office.

[55 FR 6593, Feb. 26, 1990, as amended at 64 FR 69178, Dec. 10, 1999]

### § 550.714 Panama Canal Commission employees.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subpart, an employee separated from employment with the Panama Canal Commission as a result of the implementation of any provision of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements shall not be entitled to severance pay if he or she—

(1) Receives a written offer of reasonably comparable employment when such offer is made before separation from Commission employment;

(2) Accepts reasonably comparable employment within 30 days after separation from Commission employment; or