

Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Group



1920



1954



1959



1986

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 95-209

Date: March 8, 1995

SUBJECT: Waivers of the FEHB Participation Requirement

Purpose

This letter announces OPM's intention not to extend the automatic waiver procedures set forth in Insurance Officers Information Bulletin (IOIB) No. 296 beyond the termination of the statutory buyout period (March 31, 1995, for most agencies).

Background

In IOIB No. 296, OPM set in place streamlined procedures for waiver requests during the period that buyouts are authorized under Public Law 103-226. For agencies that lose the buyout authority under this legislation on March 31, 1995, the streamlined procedures also end on that date. For agencies whose buyout authority continues beyond March 31, IOIB No. 296 continues to apply until termination of the buyout authority.

Since we issued IOIB No. 296, OPM has extended early out authority beyond March 31, 1995, for agencies that have requested such extension. Many agencies have asked if we will also extend the automatic waiver procedures. We cannot extend the automatic waiver procedures because we lack the legislative authority to do so.

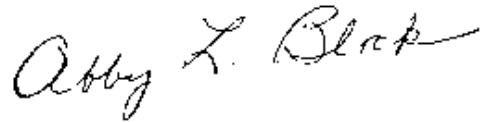
Future waivers

Our authority to create the automatic waiver procedures was based on the language of the Committee Report on H.R. 3345, now Public Law 103-226. We believe it would be inappropriate to extend the automatic procedures beyond the expiration date of the

buyout legislation.

After March 31, 1995, we will review all waiver requests on a case-by-case basis (except for employees of agencies whose buyout legislation expires at a later date). Agencies should make every effort to inform employees who are considering "early out" retirement and who do not meet the participation requirements for continuing their FEHB coverage of the procedures for requesting a waiver. Employees should send their requests to:

Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service
Retirement Services Division
P.O. Box 14172
Washington, DC 20044-4172



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