

Office of Personnel Management

§ 890.108

(4) Within 90 days after receipt of the request for review, OPM will either:

(i) Give a written notice of its decision to the covered individual and the carrier; or

(ii) Notify the individual of the status of the review. If OPM does not receive requested evidence within 15 days after expiration of the applicable time limit in paragraph (e)(3) of this section, OPM may make its decision based solely on information available to it at that time and give a written notice of its decision to the covered individual and to the carrier.

(5) OPM, upon its own motion, may reopen its review if it receives evidence that was unavailable at the time of its original decision.

[61 FR 15178, Apr. 5, 1996]

§ 890.106 Delegation of authority for resolving certain contract disputes.

For the purpose of making findings of fact and to the extent that conclusions of law may be required under any proceeding conducted in accordance with the provisions of the disputes clause included in health benefits contracts, OPM delegates this function to the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

[40 FR 50023, Oct. 28, 1975; 40 FR 55829, Dec. 2, 1975. Redesignated at 44 FR 37895, June 29, 1979 and 45 FR 23637, Apr. 8, 1980]

§ 890.107 Court review.

(a) A suit to compel enrollment under § 890.102 must be brought against the employing office that made the enrollment decision.

(b) A suit to review the legality of OPM's regulations under this part must be brought against the Office of Personnel Management.

(c) Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) carriers resolve FEHB claims under authority of Federal statute (5 U.S.C. chapter 89). A covered individual may seek judicial review of OPM's final action on the denial of a health benefits claim. A legal action to review final action by OPM involving such denial of health benefits must be brought against OPM and not against the carrier or carrier's subcontractors. The recovery in such a suit shall be limited to a court order directing OPM

to require the carrier to pay the amount of benefits in dispute.

(d) An action under paragraph (c) of this section to recover on a claim for health benefits:

(1) May not be brought prior to exhaustion of the administrative remedies provided in § 890.105;

(2) May not be brought later than December 31 of the 3rd year after the year in which the care or service was provided; and

(3) Will be limited to the record that was before OPM when it rendered its decision affirming the carrier's denial of benefits.

[61 FR 15179, Apr. 5, 1996]

§ 890.108 Waiver of requirements for continued coverage during retirement.

(a) OPM may waive the eligibility requirements under 5 U.S.C. 8905(b) for health benefits coverage as an annuitant in the case of an individual who fails to satisfy such requirements if OPM, in its sole discretion, determines that, because of exceptional circumstances, it would be against equity and good conscience not to allow such individual to be enrolled as an annuitant in a health benefits plan under this part.

(b) OPM may grant a waiver as described in paragraph (a) of this section to an annuitant in rare and unusual circumstances if the annuitant shows by the preponderance of the evidence that—

(1) There is evidence demonstrating that the individual intended to be covered as an annuitant;

(2) The circumstance(s) that prevented the completion of the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 8905(b) was (were) essentially outside the individual's control; and

(3) The individual exercised due diligence in protecting the right to coverage as an annuitant.

(c) OPM will not grant a waiver solely because—

(1) An individual's retirement is based on disability or an involuntary separation; or

(2) An individual was misadvised (or not advised) by his or her employing office regarding the requirements for