### Limitations on Contributions and Benefits

**For IRS Use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0601</td>
<td>Section __________ of the plan must define the term &quot;limitation year.&quot; If not, the plan's limitation year is the calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0602</td>
<td>Section __________ of the plan should be amended to define the term &quot;compensation&quot; in accordance with IRC § 415(c)(3) and § 1.415(c)-2 of the regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0603</td>
<td>Section __________ of the plan should be amended to define annual additions in accordance with the Code and regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0604</td>
<td>Section __________ of the plan must preclude the possibility that the annual additions to any participant's account for a limitation year will exceed the lesser of 100 percent of compensation or $40,000, as adjusted for cost-of-living increases pursuant to IRC § 415(c)(1), 415(d)(1), 415(d)(3), and 415(d)(4), and Regs. § 1.415(c)-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0605</td>
<td>Section __________ of the plan may provide for the use of one of the methods set forth in §1.415-6(b)(6) of the 1981 regulations only with respect to limitation years beginning before July 1, 2007, and only in situations where excess annual additions may result from contributions based on estimated annual compensation, the allocation of forfeitures, or a reasonable error in determining the amount of elective deferrals under § 402(g)(3).</td>
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<tr>
<td>0606</td>
<td>Where a defined contribution plan provides for an employer to continue to make contributions on behalf of an employee who is permanently and totally disabled (as defined in § 22(e)(3) of the Code), then the imputed compensation upon which contributions are made must be no greater than the rate at which the participant was paid immediately before becoming permanently and totally disabled. A plan may provide for the continuation of contributions on behalf of all such disabled participants for a fixed or determinable period or only on behalf of those employees who were nonhighly compensated when they became disabled. Such contributions must be nonforfeitable when made. Section __________ of the plan should be amended accordingly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0607</td>
<td>Except as provided in this paragraph with respect to multiemployer plans (as defined in § 414(f)), section __________ of the plan must provide that all defined contribution plans (including voluntary employee contribution accounts in a defined benefit plan, mandatory contributions to a defined benefit plan, individual medical benefit accounts under § 401(h), key employee accounts under a welfare benefit plan described in § 419, and simplified employee pensions under § 408(k)) of the employer or a predecessor employer, whether or not terminated, will be treated as one defined contribution plan for purposes of the limitations under § 415(c). Otherwise each of the defined contribution plans must contain provisions which limit each plan, without involving employer discretion, such that the possibility is precluded that the aggregated defined contribution plans may exceed the limitations of § 415(c). Where the employer is a member of a controlled group of corporations or commonly controlled trades or businesses, or a member of an affiliated service group, within the meaning of § § 414(b), (c) or (m) and 415(g) and (h), the plan must provide that all such employers are treated as a single employer for purposes of the plan's application of the § 415 limitations. Notwithstanding the preceding, multiemployer plans are not aggregated with other multiemployer plans for purposes of §415.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- IRC §§ 419, 415(f)(1) and (k)(4); Regs. §§ 1.415(a)-1(d), 1.415(c)-1, 1.415(f)(1), and 1.401(a)-1(b)(1)(iii)
III.a. Section ________ of the plan must provide that the annual benefit to which any participant may be entitled, in the form of a straight life annuity, shall not exceed the lesser of $160,000 or 100 percent of the participant's high three year average compensation (or fewer, if the employee does not have three consecutive years). The percentage of compensation limit does not apply, however, if the plan is a governmental plan (as defined in § 414(d)), a multiemployer plan (as defined in § 414(f)), or a collectively bargained plan that is described in § 415(b)(7), and does not apply to a participant in a plan maintained by a church described in § 3121(w)(3)(A) who has never been a § 414(q) highly compensated employee of the church. If a participant has distributions commencing at different times (i.e., multiple annuity starting dates), the limitations must be satisfied as of each annuity starting date, actuarially adjusting for past and future distributions.

*IRC §§ 415(b)(1) and (3), 415(d)(1); Regs. §§ 1.415-(a)-1(d)(3)(v), 1.415(b)-1(b), 1.415(b)-1(c)(5), 1.415(d)-1*

III.b. Section ________ of the plan must limit the compensation for a year that is used to determine a participant's high three-year average compensation for purposes of § 415 to the amount in effect for that year under § 401(a)(17).

*IRC § 401(a)(17); Regs. §§ 1.415(b)-1(a)(5)(i), 1.415(c)-2(f)*

III.c. Section ________ of the plan must provide that, for purposes of applying the limits of § 415, a retirement benefit that is payable in any form other than a straight life annuity and that is not subject to § 417(e)(3) must be adjusted to an actuarially equivalent straight life annuity that equals:

(i) for limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the greater of the annual amount of the straight life annuity (if any) payable under the plan at the same annuity starting date, and the annual amount of a straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the participant’s form of benefit computed using an interest rate of 5 percent and the applicable mortality table under § 417(e)(3).

(ii) for limitation years beginning before July 1, 2007, the annual amount of a straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the participant’s form of benefit computed using whichever of the following produces the greater annual amount: (1) the interest rate and mortality table or other tabular factor specified in the plan for adjusting benefits in the same form; and (2) a 5 percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table.

The applicable mortality table is the mortality table within the meaning of § 417(e)(3)(B), which is based on mortality table under § 430(h)(3)(A).

*IRC §§ 415(b)(2)(B), 415(b)(2)(E), 417(e)(3), and 430(h)(3); Regs. § § 1.415(b)-1(a), (b) and (c), 1.417(e)-1(d); Rev. Rul. 98-1, 1998-1 C.B. 249, Rev. Rul. 2001-62, 2001-2 C.B. 632*
III.d.  
Section _______ of the plan must provide that, for purposes of applying the limits of § 415, a retirement benefit that is payable in any form other than a straight life annuity and that is subject to § 417(e)(3) must be adjusted to an actuarially equivalent straight life annuity that equals:

(i) if the annuity starting date is in a plan year beginning after 2005, the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the participant’s form of benefit, using whichever of the following produces the greatest annual amount: (1) the interest rate and the mortality table or other tabular factor specified in the plan for adjusting benefits in the same form; (2) a 5.5 percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table; and (3) the applicable interest rate under § 417(e)(3) and the applicable mortality table, divided by 1.05.

(ii) if the annuity starting date is in a plan year beginning in 2004 or 2005, the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the participant’s form of benefit payable, using whichever of the following produces the greater annual amount: (1) the interest rate and mortality table or other tabular factor specified in the plan for adjusting benefits in the same form; and (2) 5.5 percent interest and the applicable mortality table.

(iii) if the annuity starting date is on or after the first day of the first plan year beginning in 2004 and before December 31, 2004, and the plan applies the transition rule in § 101(d)(3) of PFEA ’04 in lieu of the rule in (ii), the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the participant’s form of benefit, determined in accordance with Notice 2004-78.

The applicable mortality table is the mortality table within the meaning of §417(e)(3)(B), which is based on mortality table under § 430((h)(3)(A).

IRC §§ 415(b)(2)(B), 415(b)(2)(E) and 417(e)(3), and 430(h)(3); Regs. §§ 1.415(b)-1(a), (b) and (c), 1.417(e)-1(d); Rev. Rul. 98-1, 1998-1 C.B. 249; Rev. Rul. 2001-62, 2001-2 C.B. 632; Notice 2004-78, 2004-2 C.B. 879

III.e.  
Section _______ of the plan must provide that where a retirement benefit is provided beginning before age 62, the benefit will be limited to:

(i) if the annuity starting date is in a limitation year beginning before July 1, 2007, the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the participant’s annuity starting date that is the actuarial equivalent of the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)), with actuarial equivalence computed using whichever of the following produces the smaller annual amount:

1) the interest rate and mortality table or other tabular factor specified in the plan for determining actuarial equivalence for early retirement purposes; or

2) a 5 percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table.

(ii) if the annuity starting date is in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the plan does not have an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age 62 and the age of benefit commencement, the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the participant’s annuity starting date that is the actuarial equivalent of the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)), with actuarial equivalence computed using a 5 percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table and expressing the participant’s age based on completed calendar months as of the annuity starting date.

(iii) if the annuity starting date is in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the plan has an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age 62 and the age of benefit commencement, the lesser of:

1) the adjusted dollar limitation determined in accordance with (ii); and

2) the product of the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)) multiplied by the ratio of the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the plan at the participant’s annuity starting date to the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the plan at age 62, both determined without applying the limitations of § 415.

The applicable mortality table is the mortality table within the meaning of § 417(e)(3)(B), which is based on mortality table under § 430((h)(3)(A).

IRC §§ 415(b)(2)(C) and 415(b)(2)(E)(i) and (v); Regs. §§ 1.415(b)-1(d); Rev. Rul. 2001-62, 2001-2 C.B. 632.
III.f.

If the benefit under the plan commences after age 65, the plan may provide that the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)) on such benefit is increased to:

(i) if the annuity starting date is in a limitation year beginning before July 1, 2007, the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the participant’s annuity starting date that is the actuarial equivalent of the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)), with actuarial equivalence computed using whichever of the following produces the smaller annual amount:
   1) the interest rate and mortality table or other tabular factor specified in the plan for determining actuarial equivalence for delayed retirement purposes; or
   2) a 5 percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table.

(ii) if the annuity starting date is in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the plan does not have an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age 65 and the age of benefit commencement, the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the participant’s annuity starting date that is the actuarial equivalent of the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)), with actuarial equivalence computed using a 5 percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table and expressing the participant’s age based on completed calendar months as of the annuity starting date.

(iii) if the annuity starting date is in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the plan has an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age 65 and the age of benefit commencement, the lesser of
   1) the adjusted dollar limitation determined in accordance with (ii); and
   2) the product of the dollar limitation under § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)) multiplied by the ratio of the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the plan at the participant’s annuity starting date to the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the plan at age 65, both determined without applying the limitations of § 415.

The applicable mortality table is the mortality table within the meaning of § 417(e)(3)(B), which is based on mortality table under § 430((h)(3)(A).

IRC §§ 415(b)(2)(D) and 415(b)(2)(E)(iii); Regs. § 1.415(b)-1(e); Final Regulations under § 430(h)(3), 73 FR 44632, Rev. Rul. 2001-62, 2001-2 C.B. 632

III.g.

Because the plan’s normal retirement age (NRA) is less than 65, the plan must coordinate the requirements for actuarial increase for delayed retirement and nonforfeitability of benefits with the limits of § 415 so that post-NRA actuarial increases do not cause the benefit to exceed those limits. One way to satisfy these requirements is to suspend the participant’s benefits as permitted under § 411(a)(3)(B). However, the prohibition on amending a plan to place greater restrictions or conditions on § 411(d)(6) protected benefits by adding or modifying a suspension of benefits provision may eliminate suspension as an option. In this case, the plan must provide for the in-service payment of the participant’s benefit if the participant has reached NRA and the benefit cannot be actuarially increased without violating § 415.

IRC § 411(a)(3); Regs. §§ 1.411(d)-3(a)(3), 1.411(d)-3(j)(3); Rev. Rul. 2001-51, 2001-2 C.B. 427, Q&A-4

III.h.

The plan may provide that the otherwise applicable limitations on benefits of § 415(b) of the Code do not apply where the total employer-derived retirement benefits payable to a participant under this defined benefit plan and all other qualified defined benefit plans of the employer do not exceed $10,000 in the aggregate. Where a plan provides the $10,000 minimum benefit limitation, the plan must provide that the minimum benefit limitation is not applicable for a participant whose employer maintains or has maintained a defined contribution plan in which such employee participated. In the case of a multiemployer plan, the $10,000 minimum benefit limitation applies regardless of whether the participant ever participated in another plan of the employer, provided that no such other plan was maintained as a result of collective bargaining with the same employee representative as the multiemployer plan.

IRC § 415(b)(4) and Regs. § 1.415(b)-1(f)
### III.i.

Section _________ of the plan must provide that the percentage of compensation limitation of § 415(b)(1)(B) and the $10,000 minimum benefit limitation of § 415(b)(4), if provided, must be reduced where a participant has less than 10 years of service with the employer at the time the participant begins to receive retirement benefits under the plan. The reduction is made by multiplying the applicable limitation by the following fraction: Years of service with the employer as of, and including, the current limitation year, divided by 10.

*IRC § 415(b)(5)(B) , Regs. § 1.415(b)-1(g)(2)*

### III.j.

Section _________ of the plan must provide that the dollar limitation of § 415(b)(1)(A) (as adjusted under § 415(d)) must be reduced where a participant has less than 10 years of participation when retirement benefits under the plan commence. The reduction is made by multiplying the dollar limitation by the following fraction: Years of participation with the employer as of, and including, the current limitation year, divided by 10.

*IRC § 415(b)(5)(A), Regs. § 1.415(b)-1(g)(1)*

### III.k.

Except as provided in the following paragraph with respect to multiemployer plans (as defined in § 414(f)), section _________ of the plan must provide that all defined benefit plans of the employer (or a predecessor employer), whether or not terminated, will be treated as one defined benefit plan for purposes of the limitations under IRC § 415(b). (For this purpose, if the employer maintains a plan that provides a benefit which the participant accrued while performing services for a former employer, the former employer is a predecessor employer with respect to the participant in the plan. A former entity that antedates the employer is also a predecessor employer with respect to a participant if, under the facts and circumstances, the employer constitutes a continuation of all or a portion of the trade or business of the former entity.) Each of the defined benefit plans must contain provisions which limit each so that the possibility is precluded that the aggregate defined benefit plan may exceed the limitations of § 415(b). Where the employer is a member of a controlled group of corporations or commonly controlled trades or businesses, or a member of an affiliated service group within the meaning of sections 414(b), (c) or (m) and 415(g) and (h), the plan must provide that all such employers are treated as a single employer for purposes of the plan's application of the §415 limitations. See §1.415(f)-1 for rules regarding the benefits required to be taken into account when plans are aggregated.

Multiemployer plans are not aggregated with other multiemployer plans for purposes of § 415. In addition, if the employer maintains a multiemployer plan and that plan so provides, only the benefits under the multiemployer plan that are provided by the employer are treated as benefits provided under the employer’s plans that are not multiemployer plans. Finally, a multiemployer plan is disregarded for purposes of applying the percentage of compensation limitation under §415(b)(1)(B) to a plan which is not a multiemployer plan.

*IRC §§ 415(f)(1)(A) and 414(m)(4), and Regs. §§ 1.415-8(a)(1) and 1.401(a)-1(b)(1)(ii)*