

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 86, No. 74

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Parts 831 and 842

RIN 3206-AO07

Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees Retirement System; Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans' Pension Act

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing this final rule to implement the provisions of the "Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans' Pensions Act." This Act provides authority for agencies and OPM to pay, at their discretion, interest on certain deposits (post-1956 military service deposits and service credit deposits for voluntary service with the Peace Corps and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)) when additional interest is assessed due to administrative error. Agencies need to establish their own guidelines for waiver, subject to funding limitations that may prevent reimbursement by the agency. These regulations also pertain to payments made by OPM with regard to service credit deposits for volunteer service.

DATES: Effective April 20, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Bancroft, (202) 606-0299, Email: Comboxinternet@opm.gov. Include Docket No. or RIN in the subject line of the email.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 5, 2020, OPM issued a proposed rule at 85 FR 70502 for the purpose of proposing regulations meant to implement the provisions of Public Law 115-352, 132 Stat. 5067 (2018) (codified at 5 U.S.C. 101), also known as the "Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans' Pensions Act," which was

enacted on December 21, 2018. Under this law, if an employing agency makes an administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for post-1956 military service or certain volunteer service with the Peace Corps or Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the employing agency, or OPM in certain situations, may, at its discretion, pay on behalf of the employee any additional interest assessed due to its administrative error.

Agencies are responsible for establishing their own guidelines for what constitutes administrative error and whether a payment is made. OPM has no role or authority in the agency's decision. Also, OPM is responsible for establishing its own guidelines for what constitutes administrative error and whether a payment is made.

Employees covered under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) with post-1956 military service may pay a deposit plus interest to their employing agency for post-1956 military service. Payment of the deposit guarantees that the employee and survivors will continue to receive retirement credit for the post-1956 military service, regardless of entitlement to Social Security benefits at age 62. Interest on deposits for post-1956 military service accrues and compounds annually after a 2-year interest-free grace period after the individual first becomes an employee or Member.

Deposits for post-1956 military service are paid to the employing agency. The employing agency is responsible for counseling the employee regarding paying the deposit and the consequences of not paying the deposit, processing the application, calculating the deposit amount, billing the employee, and collecting the payment. Administrative error by the agency may result in an increase in the amount of interest due. If the administrative error results in an increase in interest due, then the employing agency may, at its discretion, pay on behalf of the employee any additional interest assessed due to its administrative error.

After a CSRS or FERS employee's retirement, OPM has a responsibility to ensure that retirement documents are not in conflict regarding payment of the deposit for post-1956 military service. If there is conflict, then it is OPM's

responsibility to resolve the deposit status with the agency. If the retiring employee's statements on the application are in conflict with the agency's certification of service or any other documents submitted by the agency regarding payment of the deposit for post-1956 military service, then it is OPM's responsibility to resolve the deposit status with the retiring employee. Administrative error by OPM may result in an increase in the amount of interest due. If additional interest was assessed due to administrative error on OPM's part, then OPM may pay on behalf of the employee any additional interest assessed due to its administrative error.

Full-time volunteer service as a volunteer or volunteer leader with the Peace Corps or VISTA that was performed at any time before separation from federal civilian service is generally creditable under CSRS or FERS with payment of a service credit deposit. Though considered civilian service, the treatment of Peace Corps and VISTA volunteer service is similar to that of military service (see 5 CFR part 831 and 842.307 and 842.308) in that the credit is tied to eligibility for Social Security benefits. Payment of the deposit guarantees that the employee and survivors will continue to receive retirement credit for the volunteer service, regardless of entitlement to Social Security benefits. Like the calculation of interest for military deposits, the interest on deposits for volunteer service accrues and compounds annually after a 2-year interest-free grace period. For both current and former employees, interest begins to accrue on deposits for volunteer service on October 1, 1995, or 2 years after the date on which the individual first becomes an employee or Member, whichever is later.

Deposits for Peace Corps and VISTA volunteer service are paid directly to OPM. The employing agency is responsible for counseling the employee regarding the deposit, and for verifying the earnings. OPM is responsible for processing the service credit deposit application, calculating the deposit, billing the employee, and collecting the payment.

The decision to pay or not pay interest due to its administrative error on a deposit for post-1956 military service is made by the employing

agency or OPM, depending on who is making the administrative error determination. The decision to pay or not pay interest due to its administrative error for a service credit deposit for Peace Corps/VISTA volunteer service is up to the employing agency or OPM, whichever agency is making the decision regarding administrative error. OPM has no role or authority in another agency's decision.

Currently, employees interested in making service credit deposits for Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer service submit the service credit application to the employing agency for development and review. The agency then forwards the application to OPM for processing and billing. The employee pays the service credit deposit amount directly to OPM. This process will not change due to the implementation of Public Law 115–352. Since both the agency and OPM have a role in processing service credit deposits for Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer service, either the employing agency or OPM could make an administrative error. If an administrative error results in an increase in interest due, then the employing agency or OPM, may, at its discretion, pay on behalf of the employee any additional interest assessed due to its administrative error.

Public Law 115–352 specifies that if an employing agency makes an administrative error in processing deposits for post-1956 military service or full-time volunteer service as a volunteer or volunteer leader with the Peace Corps or VISTA that increases the amount of interest owed on the deposit, the employing agency or OPM (as described above) may pay on behalf of the employee any additional interest assessed due to the administrative error. Agencies are responsible for establishing their own guidelines for what constitutes administrative error and whether a payment is made. OPM has no role or authority in the decision.

Public Law 115–352 also provides that, for volunteer service deposits, if the administrative error is committed by OPM, then OPM may pay on behalf of the employee any additional interest assessed due to the administrative error. Any payment of additional interest OPM may make on behalf of the employee is paid from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

This rule is necessary to implement the authority so the employing agency or OPM, on behalf of an employee, may make interest payments on interest accrued due to administrative error. Until this legislation, there was no authority to permit payment by an agency or OPM of interest that accrued

due to its administrative error. The burden to pay the additional interest was on the employee. This legislation should be an incentive for agencies and OPM to perform better and, therefore, result in fewer findings of administrative error.

The public comment period on the proposed rule ended January 4, 2021. OPM received one written comment from a private citizen. The commenter questioned why this rule does not apply to redeposit miscalculations by OPM. Having considered the comment, OPM concluded that it may not adopt the commenter's suggestion. Because the retirement benefits afforded to parties in this circumstance are permitted by statute, OPM's rules implementing those provisions may not alter the statutory provisions enacted.

Regulatory Impact Analysis

OPM has examined the impact of this rule as required by Executive Order 12866 and Executive Order 13563, which directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public, health, and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity. This rule is not a "significant regulatory action," under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Office of Personnel Management certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Federalism

We have examined this rule in accordance with Executive Order 13132, Federalism, and have determined that this rule will not have any negative impact on the rights, roles, and responsibilities of State, local, or tribal governments.

Civil Justice Reform

This regulation meets the applicable standard set forth in Executive Order 12988.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule will not result in the expenditure by state, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any year and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Congressional Review Act

The Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*) requires rules to be submitted to Congress before taking effect. OPM will submit to Congress and the Comptroller General of the United States a report regarding the issuance of this rule before its effective date, as required by 5 U.S.C. 801. This rule is not a major rule as defined by the Congressional Review Act (CRA) (5 U.S.C. 804).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not impose any new reporting or record-keeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

List of Subjects

5 CFR Part 831

Firefighters, Government employees, Income taxes, Intergovernmental relations, Law enforcement officers, Pensions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Retirement.

5 CFR Part 842

Air traffic controllers, Alimony, Firefighters, Law enforcement officers, Pensions, Retirement.

Office of Personnel Management.

Alexys Stanley,

Regulatory Affairs Analyst.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Office of Personnel Management amends 5 CFR parts 831 and 842 as follows:

PART 831—RETIREMENT

■ 1. Revise the authority citation for part 831 to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8347; Sec. 831.102 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8334; Sec. 831.106 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a; Sec. 831.108 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8336(d)(2); Sec. 831.114 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8336(d)(2) and Sec. 1313(b)(5) of Pub. L. 107–296, 116 Stat. 2135; Sec. 831.201(b)(1) also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8347(g); Sec. 831.201(b)(6) also issued under 5 U.S.C. 7701(b)(2); Sec. 831.201(g) also issued under Secs. 11202(f), 11232(e), and 11246(b) of Pub. L. 105–33, 111 Stat. 251; Sec. 831.201(g) also issued under Secs. 7(b) and (e) of Pub. L. 105–274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 831.201(i) also issued under Secs. 3 and 7(c) of Pub. L. 105–274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 831.202 also issued under Sec. 111 of Pub. L. 99–500, 100 Stat. 1783, and Sec. 111 of Pub. L. 99–591, 100 Stat. 3341–348, and also Sec. 1 of Pub. L. 110–279, 122 Stat. 2602, as amended by Sec. 1(a) of Pub. L. 116–21, 133 Stat. 903; Sec. 831.204 also issued under Sec. 102(e) of Pub. L. 104–8, 109 Stat. 102, as amended by Sec. 153 of Pub. L. 104–134, 110 Stat. 1321; Sec. 831.205 also issued

under Sec. 2207 of Pub. L. 106–265, 114 Stat. 784; Sec. 831.206 also issued under Sec. 1622(b) of Pub. L. 104–106, 110 Stat. 515; Sec. 831.301 also issued under Sec. 2203 of Pub. L. 106–265, 114 Stat. 780; Sec. 831.303 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8334(d)(2) and Sec. 2203 of Pub. L. 106–235, 114 Stat. 780; Sec. 831.502 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8337, and under Sec. 1(3), E.O. 11228, 3 CFR 1965–1965 Comp. p. 317; Sec. 831.663 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8339(j) and (k)(2); Secs. 831.663 and 831.664 also issued under Sec. 11004(c)(2) of Pub. L. 103–66, 107 Stat. 412; Sec. 831.682 also issued under Sec. 201(d) of Pub. L. 99–251, 100 Stat. 23; Sec. 831.912 also issued under Sec. 636 of Appendix C to Pub. L. 106–554, 114 Stat. 2763A–164; Subpart P also issued under Sec. 535(d) of Title V of Division E of Pub. L. 110–161, 121 Stat. 2042; Subpart Q also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8336a; Subpart V also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8343a and Sec. 6001 of Pub. L. 100–203, 101 Stat. 1330–275; Sec. 831.2203 also issued under Sec. 7001(a)(4) of Pub. L. 101–508, 104 Stat. 1388–328; Pub. L. 115–352, 132 Stat. 5067 (5 U.S.C. 101).

Subpart A—Administration and General Provisions

■ 2. Amend § 831.105 by adding paragraph (k) to read as follows:

§ 831.105 Computation of interest.

(k) If OPM determines that additional interest was assessed on a deposit for full-time volunteer service as a volunteer or a volunteer leader with the Peace Corps or Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) due to its own administrative error, OPM may pay, on behalf of the employee, Member, or annuitant, any additional interest assessed due to the administrative error.

Subpart U—Deposits for Military Service

■ 3. Amend § 831.2107 by adding paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 831.2107 Payments on deposits.

(c)(1) When an administrative error occurs by the employing agency in calculating or processing a military service deposit, interest assessed as a result of the administrative error may be paid by the agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate on behalf of the employee. The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate will determine if administrative error occurred.

(2) When an administrative error occurs by OPM in calculating or processing a military service deposit, interest assessed as a result of the administrative error may be paid by OPM on behalf of the employee. OPM

will determine if administrative error occurred. Any payment of additional interest of behalf of the employee is paid from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

■ 4. Add subpart X to read as follows:

Subpart X—Peace Corps

Sec.

831.2401 Purpose.
831.2402 Allowable service.
831.2403 Deposits for service.
831.2404 Additional interest due to administrative error.

§ 831.2401 Purpose.

This subpart contains regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to supplement chapter 34 of title 22, United States Code, concerning CSRS retirement service credit eligibility for satisfactory Peace Corps volunteer and volunteer leader service.

§ 831.2402 Allowable service.

(a) Service credit deposits are not allowed for training periods prior to actual enrollment.

(b) Service credit deposits can only be made for satisfactory volunteer and volunteer leader service.

(c) Annuitants enrolling as a volunteer or volunteer leader are not deemed reemployed annuitants. Service as a volunteer or volunteer leader performed after retiring under a CSRS or FERS retirement is not creditable service for retirement purposes.

§ 831.2403 Deposits for service.

(a) An employee or Member subject to CSRS may make a deposit for volunteer and volunteer leader service by filing an application in a form prescribed by OPM.

(b) The deposit is based upon the amount of the stipend that was received. If an educational award was elected in lieu of the stipend, then the deposit is based on the amount of the stipend that would have been received.

(c) An application to make a deposit is filed with the appropriate office in the employing agency, or, for Members and Congressional employees, with the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

(d) Upon receipt and review of the application from the employee, the agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate will submit the application to OPM for processing.

(e) Interest begins to accrue on deposits for volunteer service on October 1, 1995, or 2 years after the date on which the individual first becomes an employee or Member, whichever is later.

(f) After becoming federally employed, there is a 2-year interest-free grace period on Peace Corps volunteer and volunteer leader service deposits. After the 2-year period, interest is accrued and compounded annually at the variable rate beginning on the date of the expiration of the 2-year period.

§ 831.2404 Additional interest due to administrative error.

(a) The employing agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for volunteer or volunteer leader service as a result of its administrative error. OPM may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for Peace Corps service as a result of its administrative error.

(b) The employing agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall set their own procedures for employees or Members to claim there was administrative error. OPM shall set its own procedures for claims of administrative error on its part.

(c) The employing agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount. OPM shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount.

(d) OPM's final determination regarding a claim of administrative error on its part is not subject to the due process procedures described in 5 U.S.C. 8461(e).

■ 5. Add subpart Y to read as follows:

Subpart Y—Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

Sec.

831.2501 Purpose.
831.2502 Allowable service.
831.2503 Deposits for service.
831.2504 Additional interest due to administrative error.

§ 831.2501 Purpose.

This subpart contains regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to supplement chapter 66, title 42, United States Code, concerning CSRS retirement service credit eligibility for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteers.

§ 831.2502 Allowable service.

(a) Service credit deposits are not allowed for training periods prior to actual enrollment.

(b) Service credit deposits can only be made for satisfactory volunteer service.

(c) Annuitants enrolling as VISTA volunteers are not deemed reemployed annuitants. Service as a volunteer or volunteer leader performed after retiring under a CSRS or FERS retirement is not creditable serviced for retirement purposes.

(d) Retirement credit is not allowable for training period(s) prior to actual enrollment.

§ 831.2503 Deposits for service.

(a) An employee or Member subject to CSRS may make a deposit for volunteer service by filing an application in a form prescribed by OPM.

(b) The deposit is based upon the amount of the stipend that was received. If an educational award was elected in lieu of the stipend, then the deposit is based on the amount of the stipend that would have been received.

(c) An application to make a deposit is filed with the appropriate office in the employing agency, or, for Members and Congressional employees, with the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

(d) Upon receipt and review of the application, the agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate will submit the application to OPM for processing.

(e) Interest begins to accrue on deposits for volunteer service on October 1, 1995, or 2 years after the date on which the individual first becomes an employee or Member, whichever is later.

(f) After becoming federally employed, there is a 2-year interest-free grace period on VISTA volunteer service deposits. After the 2-year period, interest is accrued and compounded annually at the variable rate beginning on the date of the expiration of the 2-year period.

(g) A deposit is required in order to obtain service credit for VISTA volunteer service for which the volunteer chose to receive an educational award in lieu of a stipend. The deposit is based upon the amount of the stipend that would have been received if he/she had elected to receive the stipend rather than an educational award.

§ 831.2504 Additional interest due to administrative error.

(a) The employing agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for volunteer or volunteer leader service as a result of its administrative error. OPM may pay any additional interest due on the deposit

for VISTA service as a result of its administrative error.

(b) The employing agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall set their own procedures for employees or Members to claim there was administrative error. OPM shall set its own procedures for claims of administrative error on its part.

(c) The employing agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount for their employees. OPM shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount.

(d) OPM's final determination regarding a claim of administrative error on its part is not subject to the due process procedures described in 5 U.S.C. 8461(e).

PART 842—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM-BASIC ANNUITY

■ 6. Revise the authority citation for part 842 to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8461(g); Secs. 842.104 and 842.106 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8461(n); Sec. 842.104 also issued under Secs. 3 and 7(c) of Pub. L. 105–274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 842.105 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8402(c)(1) and 7701(b)(2); Sec. 842.106 also issued under Sec. 102(e) of Pub. L. 104–8, 109 Stat. 102, as amended by Sec. 153 of Pub. L. 104–134, 110 Stat. 1321–102; Sec. 842.107 also issued under Secs. 11202(f), 11232(e), and 11246(b) of Pub. L. 105–33, 111 Stat. 251, and Sec. 7(b) of Pub. L. 105–274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 842.108 also issued under Sec. 7(e) of Pub. L. 105–274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 842.109 also issued under Sec. 1622(b) of Pub. L. 104–106, 110 Stat. 515; Sec. 842.110 also issued under Sec. 111 of Pub. L. 99–500, 100 Stat. 1783, and Sec. 111 of Pub. L. 99–591, 100 Stat. 3341–348, and also Sec. 1 of Pub. L. 110–279, 122 Stat. 2602, as amended by Sec. 1(a) of Pub. L. 116–21, 133 Stat. 903; Sec. 842.208 also issued under Sec. 535(d) of Title V of Division E of Pub. L. 110–161, 121 Stat. 2042; Sec. 842.213 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8414(b)(1)(B) and Sec. 1313(b)(5) of Pub. L. 107–296, 116 Stat. 2135; Secs. 842.304 and 842.305 also issued under Sec. 321(f) of Pub. L. 107–228, 116 Stat. 1383; Secs. 842.604 and 842.611 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8417; Sec. 842.607 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8416 and 8417; Sec. 842.614 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8419; Sec. 842.615 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8418; Sec. 842.703 also issued under Sec. 7001(a)(4) of Pub. L. 101–508, 104 Stat. 1388; Sec. 842.707 also issued under Sec. 6001 of Pub. L. 100–203, 101 Stat. 1300; Sec. 842.708 also issued under Sec. 4005 of Pub. L. 101–239, 103 Stat. 2106, and Sec. 7001 of Pub. L. 101–508, 104 Stat. 1388; Subpart H also issued under 5 U.S.C. 1104; Sec. 842.810 also issued under Sec. 636 of

Appendix C to Pub. L. 106–554 at 114 Stat. 2763A–164; Sec. 842.811 also issued under Sec. 226(c)(2) of Pub. Law 108–176, 117 Stat. 2529; Subpart J also issued under Sec. 535(d) of Title V of Division E of Pub. L. 110–161, 121 Stat. 2042; Pub. L. 115–352, 132 Stat. 5067 (5 U.S.C. 101).

Subpart C—Credit for Service

■ 7. Amend § 842.305 by adding paragraph (k) to read as follows:

§ 842.305 Deposits for civilian service.

* * * * *

(k) *Administrative error.* If OPM determines that additional interest was assessed on a deposit for full-time volunteer service as a volunteer or a volunteer leader with the Peace Corps or Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) due to its own administrative error, OPM may pay, on behalf of the employee, Member, or annuitant, any additional interest assessed due to the administrative error.

■ 8. Amend § 842.307 by adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 842.307 Deposits for military service.

* * * * *

(e) *Administrative error.* (1) When an administrative error occurs by the employing Agency in calculating or processing a military service deposit, interest assessed as a result of the administrative error may be paid by the agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate on behalf of the employee. The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate will determine if administrative error occurred.

(2) When an administrative error occurs by OPM in calculating or processing a military service deposit, interest assessed as a result of the administrative error may be paid by OPM on behalf of the employee. OPM will determine if administrative error occurred. Any payment of additional interest of behalf of the employee is paid from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

■ 9. Add subpart K to read as follows:

Subpart K—Peace Corps

Sec.
842.1101 Purpose.
842.1102 Allowable service.
842.1103 Deposits for service.
842.1104 Additional interest due to administrative error.

§ 842.1101 Purpose.

This subpart contains regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to supplement chapter 34 of title 22, United States Code, concerning

FERS retirement service credit eligibility for satisfactory Peace Corps volunteer and volunteer leader service.

§ 842.1102 Allowable service.

(a) Service credit deposits are not allowed for training periods prior to actual enrollment.

(b) Service credit deposits can only be made for satisfactory volunteer and volunteer leader service.

(c) Annuitants enrolling as a volunteer or volunteer leader are not to be deemed reemployed annuitants. Service as a volunteer or volunteer leader performed after retiring under a CSRS or FERS retirement is not creditable serviced for retirement purposes.

§ 842.1103 Deposits for service.

(a) An employee or Member subject to FERS may make a deposit for volunteer and volunteer leader service by filing an application in a form prescribed by OPM.

(b) The deposit is based upon the amount of the stipend that was received. If an educational award was elected in lieu of the stipend, then the deposit is based on the amount of the stipend that would have been received.

(c) An application to make a deposit is filed with the appropriate office in the employing agency, or, for Members and Congressional employees, with the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

(d) Upon receipt and review of the application, the agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate will submit the application to OPM for processing.

(e) Interest begins to accrue on deposits for volunteer service on October 1, 1995, or 2 years after the date on which the individual first becomes an employee or Member, whichever is later.

(f) After becoming federally employed, there is a 2-year interest-free grace period on Peace Corps volunteer and volunteer leader service deposits. After the 2-year period, interest is accrued and compounded annually at the variable rate beginning on the date of the expiration of the 2-year period.

§ 842.1104 Additional interest due to administrative error.

(a) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for volunteer or volunteer leader service as a result of its administrative error. OPM may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for Peace Corps

service as a result of its administrative error.

(b) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall set their own procedures for employees or Members to claim there was administrative error. OPM shall set its own procedures for claims of administrative error on its part.

(c) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount. OPM shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount.

(d) OPM's final determination regarding a claim of administrative error on its part is not subject to the due process procedures described in 5 U.S.C. 8461(e).

■ 10. Add subpart L to read as follows:

Subpart L—Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

Sec.

842.1201 Purpose.

842.1202 Allowable service.

842.1203 Deposits for service.

842.1204 Additional interest due to administrative error.

§ 842.1201 Purpose.

This subpart contains regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to supplement chapter 66, title 42, United States Code, concerning CSRS retirement service credit eligibility for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteers.

§ 842.1202 Allowable service.

(a) Service credit deposits are not allowed for training periods prior to actual enrollment.

(b) Service credit deposits can only be made for satisfactory volunteer service.

(c) Annuitants enrolling as VISTA volunteers are not deemed reemployed annuitants. Service as a volunteer or volunteer leader performed after retiring under a CSRS or FERS retirement is not creditable serviced for retirement purposes.

(d) Retirement credit is not allowable for training period(s) prior to actual enrollment.

§ 842.1203 Deposits for service.

(a) An employee or Member subject to CSRS may make a deposit for volunteer service by filing an application in a form prescribed by OPM.

(b) The deposit is based upon the amount of the stipend that was received. If an educational award was elected in

lieu of the stipend, then the deposit is based on the amount of the stipend that would have been received.

(c) An application to make a deposit is filed with the appropriate office in the employing agency, or, for Members and Congressional employees, with the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

(d) Upon receipt and review of the application, the agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate will submit the application to OPM for processing.

(e) Interest begins to accrue on deposits for volunteer service on October 1, 1995, or 2 years after the date on which the individual first becomes an employee or Member, whichever is later.

(f) After becoming federally employed, there is a 2-year interest-free grace period on VISTA volunteer service deposits. After the 2-year period, interest is accrued and compounded annually at the variable rate beginning on the date of the expiration of the 2-year period.

(g) A deposit is required in order to obtain service credit for VISTA volunteer service for which the volunteer chose to receive an educational award in lieu of a stipend. The deposit is based upon the amount of the stipend that would have been received if he/she had elected to receive the stipend rather than an educational award.

§ 842.1204 Additional interest due to administrative error.

(a) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for volunteer or volunteer leader service as a result of its administrative error. OPM may pay any additional interest due on the deposit for VISTA service as a result of its administrative error.

(b) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall set their own procedures for employees or Members to claim there was administrative error. OPM shall set its own procedures for claims of administrative error on its part.

(c) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount. OPM shall determine if administrative error on its part caused an increase in interest due on the deposit amount.

(d) OPM's final determination regarding a claim of administrative error on its part is not subject to the due process procedures described in 5 U.S.C. 8461(e).

[FR Doc. 2021-07545 Filed 4-19-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-38-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2021-0307; Project Identifier AD-2021-00407-T; Amendment 39-21513; AD 2021-08-19]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FAA is superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2021-02-19, which applied to certain The Boeing Company Model 787-8, -9, and -10 airplanes. AD 2021-02-19 required repetitive general visual inspections for disengaged or damaged decompression panels of the bilge barriers located in the forward and aft cargo compartments, reinstallation of disengaged but undamaged panels, and replacement of damaged panels. This AD was prompted by reports of multiple incidents of torn decompression panels found in the bilge area, and the determination that additional airplanes are subject to the unsafe condition. This AD retains the requirements of AD 2021-02-19 and revises the applicability by including additional airplanes. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective May 5, 2021.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by June 4, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5

p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0307; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations is listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brandon Lucero, Aerospace Engineer, Cabin Safety and Environmental Systems Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206-231-3569; email: Brandon.Lucero@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued AD 2021-02-19, Amendment 39-21402 (86 FR 10171, February 19, 2021) (AD 2021-02-19), for certain Boeing Model 787-8, -9, and -10 airplanes. AD 2021-02-19 required repetitive general visual inspections for disengaged or damaged decompression panels of the bilge barriers located in the forward and aft cargo compartments, reinstallation of disengaged but undamaged panels, and replacement of damaged panels. AD 2021-02-19 was prompted by reports of multiple incidents of torn decompression panels found in the bilge area. The FAA issued AD 2021-02-19 to address the possibility of leakage in the bilge area, which could, in the event of a cargo fire, result in insufficient Halon concentrations to adequately control the fire. This condition, if not addressed, could result in the loss of continued safe flight and landing of the airplane.

Actions Since AD 2021-02-19 Was Issued

Since the FAA issued AD 2021-02-19, the agency received new information indicating that additional airplanes may be subject to the unsafe condition. The applicability of AD 2021-02-19 was limited to airplanes having bilge assemblies with certain decompression panels. Certain other decompression panels were inadvertently omitted from the applicability. The FAA determined that all of the decompression panel part numbers may be subject to damage (tearing) or becoming disengaged.

FAA's Determination

The FAA is issuing this AD because the agency determined the unsafe

condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

AD Requirements

This AD retains all requirements of AD 2021-02-19 and revises the applicability to include all Model 787-8, -9, and -10 airplanes.

Explanation of Serviceable Part

This AD requires replacing damaged decompression panels with new or serviceable parts. For purposes of this AD, a serviceable part is airworthy and eligible for installation. While the part does not need to be new, it must conform to type design and be in condition for safe operation. A decompression panel repaired using an approved maintenance program is considered serviceable.

MEL Provision

Paragraph (h) of this AD specifies that if any decompression panel is disengaged or damaged, the airplane may be operated as specified in the operator's existing FAA-approved minimum equipment list (MEL), provided provisions that address the damaged or disengaged decompression panels are included in the MEL.

Explanation of Revised Repetitive Interval

The repetitive inspection interval required by AD 2021-02-19 was 120 days. This repetitive interval has been changed in this AD to 4 calendar months to better align the interval with routine operator maintenance scheduling. This change will continue to provide an adequate level of safety.

Interim Action

The FAA considers this AD to be an interim action. The manufacturer is currently developing a modification that will address the unsafe condition identified in this AD. Once this modification is developed, approved, and available, the FAA might consider additional rulemaking.

Justification for Immediate Adoption and Determination of the Effective Date

Section 553(b)(3)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) authorizes agencies to dispense with notice and comment procedures for rules when the agency, for "good cause," finds that those procedures are "impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a final rule without providing notice and seeking comment prior to issuance.