

September 25, 2013


U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
200 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Re: Critical Status Notice –Cement Mason Local 524 Pension Fund
EIN-31-0235930

ES&A/PUBLIC/HR/ST
2013 SEP 30 PM 1:14

Please find enclosed the Critical Status Notice for the 2013 Plan year.

Sincerely,



Jill Huber
Assistant Administrator

CEMENT MASONS LOCAL NO. 524 PENSION PLAN
2013 NOTICE OF CRITICAL STATUS
September 2013

On August 26, 2013 the actuary for the Cement Masons Local No. 524 Pension Plan ("Plan") certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Plan Sponsor ("Board of Trustees") that the Plan will be in critical status for the 2013 Plan Year. The 2013 Plan Year began on June 1, 2013 and will end on May 31, 2014. Federal law requires that you receive this Notice.

Critical Status

The Cement Masons Local No. 524 Pension Plan is considered to be in critical status because the Plan has funding or liquidity problems, or both. The 2013 Plan Year is the first year that the Plan will be certified as being in critical status. This is because as of the Plan's 2013 PPA certification date, the Plan's funded percentage was less than 65% and the Plan was projected to have a funding deficiency for the 2017 Plan Year. A funding deficiency means that expected contributions to the Plan will not be sufficient to meet the government's minimum contribution requirements for funding purposes. It does not mean that the Plan is insolvent.

Rehabilitation Plan

Federal law requires that pension plans in critical status adopt a rehabilitation plan aimed at improving the plan's funding status. A rehabilitation plan may include: (1) the reduction or even the elimination of future benefit accruals, (2) the reduction or elimination of "adjustable benefits", and/or (3) increases in the hourly contribution rate. If the Trustees of the Plan determine that benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate Notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions. However, any reduction in adjustable benefits would not reduce the amount of your basic benefit payable at your Normal Retirement Age, which is generally age 62. In addition, any reduction in adjustable benefits would only apply to a participant or beneficiary whose benefit commencement date is on or after September 25, 2013.

Whether or not the rehabilitation adopted by the Trustees includes the reduction of any adjustable benefits, federal pension law prohibits the Plan from paying any lump sum benefits or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity while it is in critical status. Therefore, as of September 25, 2013, the Plan's lump sum death benefit and the lump sum disability benefit will no longer be available.

The Plan will also no longer be able to offer the option of back payments plus interest to participants who commence receipt of retirement benefits after their Normal Retirement Age. In addition, participants who are not in pay status as of September 25, 2013 will not be able eligible to receive the fully subsidized pop-up. Participants who are already in pay status as of September 25, 2013 and who have elected to receive a Qualified Joint & 50% Survivor Annuity with the pop-up will continue to be eligible for the pop-up.

Adjustable Benefits

The Plan offers the following adjustable benefits which could be reduced or eliminated as part of a rehabilitation plan adopted by the Board of Trustees:

- Early Retirement benefits or retirement-type subsidies;
- Disability benefits (if not yet in pay status);
- Death benefits;
- Qualified Pre-Retirement Survivor Annuity (QPSA); and
- Benefit payment options other than a qualified joint and survivor annuity ("QJSA").

If the Trustees of the Plan determine that any benefit reductions are necessary to improve the Plan's funded status, you will receive a separate Notice in the future identifying the type of the reduction and the effect of those reductions.

Employer Surcharge

Federal pension law requires that all contributing employers pay to the Plan a surcharge to help correct the Plan's financial situation. The amount of the surcharge is equal to a percentage of the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the Plan under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. With some exceptions, a 5% surcharge is applicable in the initial critical year and a 10% surcharge is applicable for each succeeding Plan Year thereafter in which the Plan is in critical status.

If a rehabilitation plan is not adopted by October 25, 2013, employers will be required to add 5% to their Pension Plan remittances for all hours worked beginning in November 2013. The 5% surcharge would also be required each month after November 2013 and increase to 10% for all hours worked beginning in June 2014. Please note that if the Board of Trustees adopts a rehabilitation plan and the rehabilitation plan is ratified by the bargaining parties by October 25, 2013, then the employer surcharge would not be applicable. The Plan's contributing employers will be notified in a separate mailing if a surcharge is required.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this Notice, you can contact the Cement Masons Local No. 524 Pension Plan at 205 West Fourth Street, Suite 225, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or by calling 513-381-6886. For identification purposes, the official Plan Number is 001 and the Plan Sponsor's Employer Identification Number, or "EIN", is 31-0235930.