

Railroad Retirement Board

§ 345.405

employer to the employee in the base year;

(2) In all other cases, benefits will be charged in the same ratio as the compensation paid to such employee by the employer bears to the total of such compensation paid to such employee by all such employers in the base year; benefit charging in accordance with this method shall apply whether the base year employment was with successive employers or with concurrent employers.

(b) *Excess benefit payments.* If, in applying the rule in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, there remain benefit payments, in whole or in part, that cannot be charged to any base year employer, the amount of benefits paid in excess of those chargeable under paragraph (a)(1) shall be charged to the system unallocated charge balance.

(c) *Board records as basis for charging multiple base year employers.* Where an employee has more than one base year employer, the Board will use records compiled on the basis of employer reports filed under §345.110 of this part for the purpose of determining whether the employer at the time of the claim for benefits is the last employer in the base year and for other purposes related to benefit charging under this subpart. If, in a particular case, such records do not contain all the data necessary to determine the charge, the Board will request the necessary data from the base year employers who may be liable for the charge.

§ 345.404 Adjustments.

(a) *Recovery of benefits charged to base year employer.* Where the Board recovers a benefit payment that it had previously charged, in whole or in part, to one or more base year employers, the Board will subtract the amount of the recovery from the cumulative benefit balances of the employers of the employee to whom such amount was paid as a benefit in proportion to the amount by which each such employer's cumulative benefit balance was increased as a result of the payment of the benefit.

(b) *Recovery of other benefit payments.* Where the Board recovers a benefit payment that was not charged, in whole or in part, to any base year em-

ployer, or was made before January 1, 1990, the Board will treat the amount of the recovery as a subtraction from the system unallocated charge balance.

(c) *Payment of interest or other debt collection-related charges.* The Board will not adjust a base year employer's cumulative benefit balance to reflect payment by a debtor of interest or other charges assessed by the Board under §200.7 of this chapter with respect to the collection of a debt arising from a benefit payment charged to such employer and later found to be recoverable by the Board.

(d) *Limitations.* The Board will adjust a base year employer's cumulative benefit balance only when the Board actually recovers, by cash payment or setoff, a debt that represents a benefit payment that was charged, in whole or in part, to such employer. No adjustment shall be made—

(1) If the Board waives recovery of a debt in accordance with part 340 of this chapter, or

(2) If the Board finds that a debt is uncollectible, or

(3) To the extent of the amount not recovered by the Board by reason of a compromise settlement of a debt.

§ 345.405 Notices to base year employers.

(a) *Prepayment notification.* When the Board receives an employee's claim for unemployment or sickness benefits, the Board will give the employee's base year employer notice of the claim and an opportunity to provide information to the Board with respect to the employee's eligibility for benefits for the period of time covered by the claim.

(b) *Notice of claim determination.* After the base year employer has had an opportunity to provide information in accordance with the prepayment notification process described in paragraph (a) of this section, the office of the Board that is adjudicating the employee's claim for benefits will determine whether to pay or to deny benefits on the claim. Such office will send notice to the base year employer showing what determination was made on the claim. If benefits are found to be payable, the amount of the payment will be charged to the cumulative benefit balance of the base year employer in

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accordance with the provisions of this subpart. If the base year employer disagrees with the payment of benefits, it may request reconsideration in accordance with part 320 of this chapter.

(c) *Quarterly notice of benefit charges.* As soon as practical following the end of each calendar quarter, the Board will send to each employer a report of its cumulative benefit balance computed as of the end of such quarter. The computation of such balance will reflect the following:

(1) The total amount of unemployment and sickness benefit payments made after December 31, 1989, that have been charged to the employer as the base year employer of the employees who received the benefits; minus

(2) The total amount realized in recovery of such benefits; plus

(3) The total amount of the unallocated charges assigned to such base year employer after December 31, 1989; minus

(4) The total amount realized in recovery of such unallocated charges.

§ 345.406 Defunct employer.

Whenever the Board determines, pursuant to § 345.207 of this part, that an employer is defunct, the Board will add the amount of such employer's benefit charges, as shown in its cumulative benefit balance, to the system unallocated charge balance.

PART 346—RAILROAD HIRING

AUTHORITY: 45 U.S.C. 362(1).

§ 346.1 Central register.

(a) The Board shall maintain a central register of railroad employees with at least one year of service who have declared their current availability for rail industry employment. The register shall indicate which of those employees claims a first right of hire.

(b) The central register shall be subdivided by class and craft of prior employment and shall be updated periodically to reflect current employee availability.

(c) Upon request, listings of employees named in the central register and selected on the basis of job experience, location of residence, claimed hiring

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preference, last railroad employer or other available selection criteria will be furnished to railroads. Railroads may provide written notice of job vacancies to selected employees listed on the register. The railroad notice to the employees should contain job qualification requirements and application instructions. If the railroad requests, the Board shall notify the employees of the vacancy.

[53 FR 3201, Feb. 4, 1988]

PART 348—REPRESENTATIVE PAYMENT

Sec.

348.1 Introduction.

348.2 Recognition by the Board of a person to act in behalf of another.

AUTHORITY: 45 U.S.C. 355, 45 U.S.C. 231k.

SOURCE: 61 FR 42377, Aug. 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 348.1 Introduction.

(a) *Explanation of representative payment.* This part explains the principles and procedures that the Board follows in determining whether to make representative payment and in selecting a representative payee. It also explains the responsibilities that a representative payee has concerning the use of the funds which he or she receives on behalf of a claimant. A representative payee may be either a person or an organization selected by the Board to receive benefits on behalf of a claimant. A representative payee will be selected if the Board believes that the interest of a claimant will be served by representative payment rather than direct payment of benefits. Generally, the Board will appoint a representative payee if it determines that the claimant is not able to manage or direct the management of benefit payments in his or her interest.

(b) *Statutory authority.* Section 12 of the Railroad Retirement Act, which is also applicable to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, provides that every claimant shall be conclusively presumed to have been competent until the date on which the Board receives a notice in writing that a legal guardian or other person legally vested with the