

Pathways Programs as authorized by the final rule: “Excepted Service, Career and Career-Conditional Employment; and Pathways Programs,” 77 FR 28193 (May 11, 2012).

Changes

Students hired under an Internship Program, Recent Graduate Program, or Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program, collectively known as the Pathways Programs, and who are employed in an appointment for a period expected to last longer than 1 year are eligible for life insurance coverage, as long as they are expected to be in a pay status for at least one-third of the total period of time from the date of their initial appointment to the date of the completion of the Program. The regulations are being changed to reflect this enrollment opportunity. This change can be found in section 870.302(b)(2).

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

OPM has determined that it would be impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to delay putting the provisions of this interim final regulation in place until a public notice and comment process has been completed. Under section 553(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.) a general notice of proposed rulemaking is not required when an agency, for good cause, finds that notice and public comment thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. The FEGLI elections authorized by E.O. 13562 for students and recent graduates require immediate implementation to protect available election opportunities for enrollees and their eligible dependents.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because the regulation only affects life insurance benefits of Federal employees and retirees.

Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Review

This rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 870

Administrative practice and procedure, Government employees, Life insurance, Retirement.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Katherine Archuleta,
Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR part 870 as follows:

PART 870—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM

■ 1. The authority citation for 5 CFR part 870 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8716; Subpart J also issued under section 599C of Pub. L. 101–513, 104 Stat. 2064, as amended; Sec. 870.302(a)(3)(ii) also issued under section 153 of Pub. L. 104–134, 110 Stat. 1321; Sec. 870.302(a)(3) also issued under sections 11202(f), 11232(e), and 11246(b) and (c) of Pub. L. 105–33, 111 Stat. 251, and section 7(e) of Pub. L. 105–274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 870.302(a)(3) also issued under section 145 of Pub. L. 106–522, 114 Stat. 2472; Secs. 870.302(b)(8), 870.601(a), and 870.602(b) also issued under Pub. L. 110–279, 122 Stat. 2604.

Subpart C—Eligibility

■ 2. Section 870.302(b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

§ 870.302 Exclusions.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) An employee who is employed for an uncertain or purely temporary period, who is employed for brief periods or intervals, or who is expected to work less than 6 months in each year. Exception: an employee who receives an appointment of at least 1 year’s duration as an Intern under § 213.3402(a) of this chapter and who is expected to be in a pay status for at least one-third of the total period of time from the date of the first appointment to the completion of the work-study program.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Parts 890 and 894

RIN 3206–AM97

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program: Eligibility for Pathways Programs Participants

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Interim Final Rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing an interim final regulation to update the

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) regulations to reflect updated election opportunities for participants in the Pathways Programs. The Pathways Programs were created by Executive Order (E.O.) 13562, signed by the President on December 27, 2010, and are designed to enable the Federal Government to compete effectively for students and recent graduates by improving its recruitment efforts through internships and similar programs with Federal agencies. This interim final rule furthers these recruitment and retention efforts by providing health insurance, as well as dental and vision benefits, to eligible program participants and their families.

DATES: This interim final rule is effective February 5, 2014. Comments are due on or before March 7, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pathways Programs offer clear paths to civil service careers for recent graduates and provide meaningful training, mentoring, and career-development opportunities through internships and similar programs with Federal Government agencies. This interim final rule updates 5 CFR 890.303 and 5 CFR 894.302 to allow election opportunities for participants in these programs as authorized by the final rule: “Excepted Service, Career and Career-Conditional Employment; and Pathways Programs,” 77 FR 28193 (May 11, 2012).

Accordingly, to provide essential healthcare benefits, and dental and vision benefits, and to further the recruitment and retention of talent by Federal agencies, OPM is issuing this rule to allow Pathways Programs participants to elect FEHBP and FEDVIP benefits.

Changes

(1) Executive Order 13562, Recruiting and Hiring Students and Recent Graduates, and implementing regulations provide employee benefits to eligible participants in the Federal Government internships known as the Pathways Programs. The Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), signed into law on December 23, 2004, established a dental benefits and vision benefits program for Federal employees, annuitants, and their eligible family members. The FEDVIP benefit is available to all eligible Federal employees and is a valuable tool to recruit and retain

students and recent graduates by allowing talented employees to participate in Government internships and similar programs. Similarly, eligibility to enroll in health benefits is a valuable tool that can be used as part of an overall plan to attract students and recent graduates interested in Federal careers and to successfully recruit and retain them. Accordingly, OPM is proposing to amend the existing Federal regulations to clarify that eligible employees in the Pathways Programs are eligible to elect FEDVIP benefits. Also, we are proposing to amend the FEHBP rules to clarify that Pathways Programs interns are eligible to elect FEHBP enrollment pursuant to authorities contained in Schedule D of the excepted service, a new schedule created by E.O. 13562 to make necessary exceptions to the competitive hiring rules. These changes can be found in 5 CFR 894.302(f) and 5 CFR 890.303(e)(2).

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

OPM has determined that it would be impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to delay putting the provisions of this interim final regulation in place until a public notice and comment process has been completed. Under section 553(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.), a general notice of proposed rulemaking is not required when an agency, for good cause, finds that notice and public comment thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. The expanded FEDVIP elections authorized by the Pathways Programs final rule require immediate implementation to protect available election opportunities for employees and their eligible dependents.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because the regulation only affects health insurance benefits of Federal employees and retirees.

Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Review

This rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Parts 890 and 894

Administrative practice and procedure, Government employees, Health insurance, Retirement.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Katherine Archuleta,
Director.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management is amending 5 CFR chapter I as follows:

PART 890—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

■ 1. The authority citation for part 890 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8913; Sec. 890.301 also issued under sec. 311 of Pub. L. 111–3, 123 Stat. 64; Sec. 890.111 also issued under section 1622(b) of Pub. L. 104–106, 110 Stat. 521; Sec. 890.112 also issued under section 1 of Pub. L. 110–279, 122 Stat. 2604; Sec. 890.803 also issued under 50 U.S.C. 403p, 22 U.S.C. 4069c and 4069c–1; subpart L also issued under sec. 599C of Pub. L. 101–513, 104 Stat. 2064, as amended; Sec. 890.102 also issued under sections 11202(f), 11232(e), 11246(b) and (c) of Pub. L. 105–33, 111 Stat. 251; and section 721 of Pub. L. 105–261, 112 Stat. 2061.

Subpart C—Enrollment

■ 2. In § 890.303, revise paragraph (e)(2) to read as follows:

§ 890.303 Continuation of enrollment.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(2) However, in the case of an employee who is employed under an OPM approved career-related work-study program under Schedule D of at least one year's duration and who is expected to be in a pay status during not less than one-third of the total period of time from the date of the first appointment to the completion of the work-study program, his/her enrollment continues while he/she is in nonpay status so long as he/she is participating in the work-study program.

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PART 894—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE PROGRAM

■ 3. The authority citation for part 894 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8962; 5 U.S.C. 8992; Subpart C also issued under section 1 of Pub. L. 110–279, 122 Stat. 2604.

Subpart C—Eligibility

■ 4. In § 894.302, paragraph (f) is revised to read as follows:

§ 894.302(f) What is an excluded position?

* * * * *

(f) Expected to work fewer than six months in each year. *Exception:* you are eligible if you receive an appointment of at least one year's duration as an Intern

under § 213.3402(a) of this chapter. To qualify, you must be expected to be in a pay status for at least one-third of the total period of time from the date of the first appointment to the completion of the work-study program.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2013–0208; Directorate Identifier 2012–NM–204–AD; Amendment 39–17702; AD 2013–25–06]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes. This AD was prompted by a determination that certain maintenance activities, such as repairs or the accumulation of paint layers, might cause the weight of an elevator to exceed the certified limits. This AD requires checking the weight of certain elevators, and corrective action if necessary; and re-identifying the elevators. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct elevators that exceed the certified weight limits, which could result in reduced control of the airplane.

DATES: This AD becomes effective February 10, 2014.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of February 10, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FAA-2013-0208>; or in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC.

For service information identified in this AD, contact Airbus, Airworthiness Office—EIAS, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email account.airworth-eas@airbus.com; Internet <http://www.airbus.com>. You may view this