

Pension Payment Verification Frequently Asked Questions

1. I received a letter in the mail requiring my signature and date, do I have to complete and return it?

Yes. Do not discard or ignore this letter. A signed and dated form must be returned to the Plan by October 15th. The form can be faxed (818) 973-4467, emailed pensionhelp@sagafttraplans.org or returned in the provided blue envelope.

2. What happens if I do not return this letter?

If you do not return your signed and dated form by the due date indicated on the letter, the Plan will suspend your pension payments as of January 1st and until we can confirm that they are not being misdirected.

3. How long will it take to reinstate my benefit if suspended?

Reinstatement of the benefit could take up to 60 days, once your completed verification has been received.

4. What is the purpose of this letter?

In order to ensure that benefits are still being paid to the intended participants, the Plan must confirm that they are still alive and, therefore, eligible to receive their benefits. This is a very serious process intended to prevent fraud and the illegal collection of pension benefits by ineligible parties. It is illegal for an ineligible party or joint account holder to collect or cash a deceased participant's pension benefits and may be a crime punishable under law.

5. Will I receive this letter every year?

Yes. The Plan mails this letter every year in July to all participants receiving pension benefits. Each year, the Plan requires that the letter is returned with your signature and date.

6. Can I visit the Plan office in Burbank to drop off my signed and dated letter?

No. Due to Covid-19 our offices are not open for participant visits.

7. Can I access this letter/form on the website?

No. However, you can find the blank Annual Pension Verification form under Helpful Tips on the News and Resources tab.

8. Regarding the “return by” or due date, does the letter have to be postmarked or received by that date?

The signed and dated letter must be returned POSTMARKED by due date of October 15, 2020. If the Plan does not receive your signed and dated letter by the return date, then you risk having your benefit suspended. We encourage you to return your signed and dated letter immediately. To ensure proper delivery, please use the pre-addressed reply envelope that we provided to you.

9. Is a Power of Attorney (POA) able to complete the verification form on behalf of the participant?

Yes. In order to avoid processing delays, please submit a copy of your POA with the completed verification form.

10. What should I do if the participant / benefit recipient is deceased?

If the participant is deceased, please call the Pension department at (800) 777-4013 as soon as possible to report the death. Any deposits or checks issued after the recipient’s date of death MUST be returned to the Plan. It is illegal for an ineligible party or joint account holder to collect or cash a deceased participant’s pension benefits and may be a crime punishable under law.

11. Does this letter also apply to the SAG-AFTRA Health Plan?

No. This letter only applies to the SAG-Producers Pension Plan.

12. Does this letter also apply to the AFTRA Retirement Fund?

No. This letter only applies to the SAG-Producers Pension Plan. The AFTRA Retirement Fund’s verification process is separate from our Plan.