

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE
SPRINKLER INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTAL
PENSION FUND
Restated Effective January 1, 2026**

ARTICLE 1
Definitions

1.01 Act or ERISA and Code.

“Act” or “ERISA” means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, any amendments to the Act and any regulations issued under the provisions of the Act. “Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

1.02 Annuitant.

“Annuitant” means an Employee who has retired and (a) who is receiving a Single Life Pension or a 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension under this Plan; or (b) to whom a pension would be paid but for the time required for administrative processing.

1.03 Association.

“Association” means the National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc.

1.04 Beneficiary.

“Beneficiary” means a person (other than the Annuitant) who is:

- (a) legally entitled to receive benefits under this Plan because of his or her designation for such benefits by an Employee or Annuitant under the provisions of Section 6.02 or by the terms of the Plan under the provisions of Section 5.10; or
- (b) legally entitled to and receiving or is entitled to receive benefits by operation of law.

For purposes of Code Section 401(a)(9), a “Designated Beneficiary” is an individual who is designated as a Beneficiary under the Plan and otherwise satisfies the requirements of Code Section 401(a)(9) and Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-4.

1.05 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

“Collective Bargaining Agreement” means the Collective Bargaining Agreements in force and effect between Sprinkler Local Unions and the Association, together with any modifications, supplements or amendments thereto or any other written labor agreement or written contract which requires Contributions to this Fund in a manner acceptable to the Trustees together with any modifications, supplements or amendments thereto.

1.06 Contributions.

“Contributions” means the payments made to the Fund by an Employer pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement or other written agreement with the Trustees.

1.07 Covered Employment.

“Covered Employment” means employment covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement for which Contributions are made to the Fund. The term “Covered Employment” also means work performed by other individuals on whose behalf appropriate Contributions are made to the Fund under a written agreement with the Trustees.

1.08 Employee.

“Employee” means:

- (a) those persons employed by an Employer and on whose behalf payments are required to be made to the Fund pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement or, as additionally defined in the Trust Agreement or policies adopted by the Trustees; and
- (b) Non-Collectively Bargained Employees of Employers and Employees of Sprinkler Local Unions who meet the requirements of Section 8.02 of the Plan.

The term Employee does not include any person who has a direct or indirect interest in a sole proprietorship, or a partnership which is an Employer.

1.09 Employer.

“Employer” means:

- (a) an Employer that is a member of the Association and is bound to a Collective Bargaining Agreement with a Sprinkler Local Union;
- (b) an Employer engaged in the sprinkler or fire control business of installing, servicing and maintaining sprinkler and fire control systems, who are now or may become party to a Collective Bargaining Agreement with a Sprinkler Local Union that provides that the Employer party to the Agreement will contribute to the Fund;
- (c) an Employer employing sprinkler fitters of a Sprinkler Local Union affiliated with the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada and who is contractually obligated to make Contributions to the Fund;
- (d) Sprinkler Local Unions for the purpose of making payments into this Fund as the employer of Employees of the Sprinkler Local Union for which the Sprinkler Local Union agrees to contribute in accordance with rules adopted by the Trustees; and
- (e) this Fund or other trust funds to which a Sprinkler Local Union is a party, for the purpose of making payments into this Fund as the Employer of Employees of such trust funds for which the trust funds agree to contribute in accordance with rules adopted by the Trustees.

Provided, that the foregoing references to Sprinkler Local Unions and trust funds as “Employers” shall not be deemed to convey to them any rights or privileges granted by this Plan or the Trust Agreement to Employers who are members of the Association.

1.10 Fund.

“Fund” means the Sprinkler Industry Supplemental Pension Fund established by the Trust Agreement, and means generally the monies, insurance policies and other things of value which comprise the corpus, income and additions to the Fund.

1.11 Hour of Service.

An “Hour of Service” is each hour for which an Employee is paid, or entitled to payment, by the Employer(s), directly or indirectly, including payments for disability from the National Automatic

Sprinkler Industry Welfare Fund as well as each hour for which back pay, regardless of mitigation of damages, is awarded or agreed to by an Employer, to the extent that such award or agreement is intended to compensate an Employee for periods during which the Employee would have been entitled to Compensation. However, Hours of Service shall not include any time compensated under a Workers' Compensation or unemployment Compensation law or a plan pursuant to a mandatory disability benefits law and excluding any hours for non-work time in excess of 501 in any one continuous period. Two periods of paid non-work time will be deemed continuous if they are compensated for the same reason (*e.g.*, disability) and are not separated by at least ninety days. Hours of Service will be computed and credited in accordance with Department of Labor Regulations 2530.200b-2.

1.12 Hour of Work.

"Hour of Work" means (a) each hour for which an Employee was paid or entitled to payment for the performance of duties for an Employer, and (b) each hour for which back pay, regardless of mitigation of damages, is either awarded or agreed to by the Employer, excluding any hour credited under (a). Hours of Work will be computed and credited in accordance with Department of Labor Regulations 2530.200b-3(d).

1.13 Individual Account.

"Individual Account" means the account established for each Employee, pursuant to Article 3 of the Plan.

1.14 Normal Retirement Age.

"Normal Retirement Age" means age 65 or, if later, the age of the Employee on the fifth anniversary of his participation.

1.15 Participant.

"Participant" means a person who has a Contribution made on his behalf to this Fund and who has satisfied the participation requirements of Section 2.03. A Participant ceases to be a Participant when final payment of his Individual Account has been made.

1.16 Plan.

"Plan" means this document, the Sprinkler Industry Supplemental Pension Plan, as adopted by the Trustees and as thereafter amended by the Trustees. The Plan is a profit-sharing plan as defined in the Code and related regulations.

1.17 Plan Year.

"Plan Year" means the period from January 1 to the following December 31, inclusive, except that the initial Plan Year commenced July 1, 1977 and ended December 31, 1977.

1.18 Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

"Qualified Domestic Relations Order" means a domestic relations order which has been reviewed by the Plan and determined to be a qualified order as defined in Section 203(d) of the Act.

1.19 Retires.

“Retires” or “Retired” or “Retirement” as used herein and as further defined in Section 5.02, means the complete withdrawal by an Employee from any employment that is within the collective bargaining jurisdiction of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada, regardless of whether a Collective Bargaining Agreement actually exists with respect to the employment.

1.20 Sprinkler Local Union.

“Sprinkler Local Union” means Sprinkler Fitters Local Unions No. 709, Los Angeles; No. 483, San Francisco; No. 699, Seattle; No. 183, Milwaukee; No. 268, St. Louis; No. 281, Chicago; No. 314, Kansas City; No. 542, Pittsburgh; No. 669, Road Local; No. 692, Philadelphia; No. 696, Newark; No. 704, Detroit; and any other Sprinkler Fitter Local Union affiliated with the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada who is bound to the Trust Agreement.

1.21 Trust Agreement.

“Trust Agreement” means the Agreement and Declaration of Trust establishing the Sprinkler Industry Supplemental Pension Fund, made and entered into as of January 25, 1978, and as thereafter amended, supplemented, and restated.

1.22 Trustees or Board of Trustees.

“Trustees” or “Board of Trustees” means the Board of Trustees of the Sprinkler Industry Supplemental Pension Fund.

1.23 Valuation Date.

“Valuation Date” means the date on which the assets of the Plan and of each Individual Account are valued. The Valuation Date for the assets of the Plan is the last day of each Plan Year unless otherwise determined by the Trustees. The Valuation Date of the assets of each Individual Account is each day of the Plan Year unless otherwise determined by the Trustees.

1.24 Other Terms.

Other terms are defined or explained elsewhere as follows:

- (a) Adjusted Account Balances – Section 4.03
- (b) Annual Additions – Section 7.06(c)
- (c) Collectively Bargained Employee – Section 8.01(a)
- (d) Compensation – Sections 7.06(d); 8.01(e)
- (e) Designated Beneficiary – Section 5.10 and 7.08(b)(i)
- (f) Direct Rollover – Section 7.01(h)(iv)
- (g) Distributee – Section 7.01(h)(iii)
- (h) Distribution for Hardship – Section 5.06
- (i) Distribution to Participant Returning from Military Service – Section 5.07
- (j) Effective Date of Benefits – Section 7.01(c)
- (k) Eligible Retirement Plan – Section 7.01(h)(ii)
- (l) Eligible Rollover Distribution – Section 7.01(h)(i)

- (m) Hardship – Section 5.06(a)
- (n) Highly Compensated Employee – Section 8.01(d)
- (o) 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension – Section 6.03(b)
- (p) Investment Alternatives – Article 3
- (q) Non-Collectively Bargained Employee – Section 8.01(b)
- (r) Normal Form of Benefit Payment – Sections 6.02(a), (b) and (c)
- (s) Pre-Retirement Death Benefit – Section 5.09
- (t) Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit – Section 6.05(b)
- (u) Required Beginning Date – Section 7.08(b)(v)
- (v) Retirement Benefit – Section 5.02
- (w) Separation Benefit – Section 5.03
- (x) Separation from Covered Employment – Section 5.03(b)
- (y) Single Life Pension – Section 6.02(b)
- (z) Spouse – Section 6.06
- (aa) Total and Permanent Disability Benefit – Section 5.04
- (bb) Totally and Permanently Disabled – Section 5.04(c)

ARTICLE 2
Contributions and Participation

2.01 Employer Contributions.

Each Employer will contribute on behalf of each Employee employed by that Employer in Covered Employment. These Contributions will be made in the amount and manner and within the time limits required by the applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Trust Agreement, this Plan, and any rules adopted by the Trustees in connection with this Plan.

2.02 Employee Contributions.

No Contributions are permitted by Employees.

2.03 Participation.

An Employee becomes a Participant in the Plan on the date he completes his first Hour of Work in Covered Employment performing work of the type covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement between a Sprinkler Local Union and an Employer.

An Employee who completes his first Hour of Work on or after January 1, 1993 in Covered Employment performing work of the type not covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements between Sprinkler Local Unions and Employers will become a Participant in the Plan on the first day of the month following the completion of 1,000 Hours of Service.

2.04 Termination of Participation.

An Employee is no longer a Participant in the Plan on the date on which final payment of his or her Individual Account has been made.

2.05 Return to Covered Employment.

A former Participant in the Plan participates again as of the date of his return to Covered Employment.

2.06 Contributions for Military Service.

- (a) Effective December 12, 1994, notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan to the contrary, Contributions, benefits, and service credit with respect to qualified military service will be provided as required by Section 414(u) of the Code.
- (b) Contributions to a Participant's Individual Account for qualified military service in accordance with Section 414(u) of the Code will be paid from the investment earnings of the Plan, with this payment to occur prior to the allocation of investment earnings to Individual Accounts.
- (c) Effective January 1, 2007, the Beneficiary of a Participant who dies while performing qualified military service shall be entitled to any additional benefits (other than benefit accruals relating to the period of qualified military service) that would have been provided under the Plan had the Participant died as an active Employee, in accordance with Code Section 401(a)(37).

ARTICLE 3
Investment Alternatives

3.01 Investment Alternatives.

Effective August 17, 1998, the Trustees will establish various Investment Alternatives to be managed by the Trustees in accordance with the Trust Agreement.

3.02 Additional Investment Alternatives.

The Trustees may, from time to time, establish additional Investment Alternatives and eliminate and change the name or nature of existing Investment Alternatives. Participants will be notified of the name and characteristics of each Investment Alternative established by the Trustees. Each Investment Alternative will be governed by the Statement of Investment Policy and Guidelines adopted by the Trustees.

3.03 Selection of Investment Alternatives by Participants.

A Participant may select the manner in which his Individual Account (as of the date of selection as well as the future Contributions to be made to his Individual Account) is to be invested by directing such amounts to be invested in one or more of the Investment Alternatives established by the Trustees. The selection of Investment Alternatives by Participants will be in accordance with rules established by the Trustees.

3.04 Failure of a Participant to Affirmatively Select an Investment Alternative.

If a Participant does not affirmatively select any Investment Alternative, the Participant's Individual Account as well as the future Contributions allocated to the Participant's Individual Account will be invested in one or more Investment Alternatives designated by the Trustees. The Trustees will notify Participants of the manner in which a Participant's Individual Account will be invested in the event the Participant does not affirmatively select any Investment Alternative. Therefore, a Participant's failure to make an affirmative selection following notice of the designated Investment Alternative constitutes the selection of the Investment Alternative or Alternatives designated by the Trustees.

3.05 Section 404(c) Plan.

The Plan is a plan described in Section 404(c) of ERISA and Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 2550.404c-1. Accordingly, the Trustees are not responsible for any losses that are the result of the investment choices of Participants or the failure of Participants to make investment choices.

ARTICLE 4
Individual Accounts

4.01 Establishment of Accounts.

A separate Individual Account will be established for each Participant when Contributions are received by the Fund on his behalf unless an Individual Account has already been established.

Employer Contributions are allocated to a Participant's Individual Account after they are actually received by the Fund. Contributions are made on a monthly basis as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. If an Employer makes all of the Contributions in a month as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Contributions are allocated to the Participants on whose behalf they are made. If an Employer does not make a complete monthly Contribution as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Employer's delinquency is allocated proportionally among the Employees of that Employer in that month working within the jurisdiction of the Sprinkler Local Union in which the delinquency arose.

An Individual Account will be established for the Beneficiary of a Participant until the Beneficiary receives a full distribution of the benefit to which the Beneficiary is entitled in accordance with the designation or the terms of the Plan. An Individual Account will be established for an Alternate Payee if required by a domestic relations order determined by the Plan to be a Qualified Domestic Relations Order. An Individual Account for a Beneficiary or an Alternate Payee will be subject to the provisions of the Plan, including the valuation of Individual Accounts, that apply to Individual Accounts of Participants to the extent permitted by law.

4.02 Valuation of Participant's Individual Accounts.

As soon as practical after each Valuation Date, the Fund will determine the amount in each Participant's Individual Account as of the Valuation Date. The amount of each Participant's Individual Account will be the total of the following:

- (a) The total of the Adjusted Account Balances of the Participant in each Investment Alternative as of the Valuation Date, determined in accordance with Section 4.03, minus
- (b) Operating expenses of the Fund assessed against Individual Accounts since the previous Valuation Date (adjusted for any reserves set aside and maintained for the payment of operating expenses), in a manner (*e.g.*, pro rata, per capita, and/or utilization basis), frequency (*e.g.*, monthly, quarterly, and/or annually), and amount determined by the Trustees from time to time in their sole and absolute discretion, minus
- (c) If applicable, charges to specific Individual Accounts for the processing of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order or a transfer (other than a roll-over) of the Individual Account to another Plan. Such charges will be the actual fees and costs incurred by the Plan in connection with the processing of the Qualified Domestic Relations Order or the transfer.

4.03 Valuation of Investment Alternatives.

As of each Valuation Date, before crediting any Contributions to or making any investment transfers to or from a Participant's Individual Account in an Investment Alternative as of that Valuation Date, the fees and expenses of each Investment Alternative and the investment income and gains and losses in asset value in each separate Investment Alternative since the preceding Valuation Date will be credited or charged to Participants' Individual Accounts in such Investment

Alternative.

The allocation of the fees and expenses of each Investment Alternative and investment income and gains or losses in asset value in each separate Investment Alternative since the preceding Valuation Date will be in proportion to the Adjusted Account Balances of Participants in such Investment Alternative as of each Valuation Date.

The Adjusted Account Balance of a Participant's Individual Account invested in a separate Investment Alternative is the amount in that Individual Account in the Investment Alternative as of the close of business on the preceding Valuation Date, increased by Employer Contributions actually received as of the current Valuation Date and allocated to the Participant's Individual Account in that Investment Alternative, decreased by any withdrawals, transfers or distributions from the Individual Account in the Investment Alternative since the preceding Valuation Date.

4.04 Termination of Accounts.

An Individual Account will be considered terminated as of the date on which final payment of the Individual Account is made.

4.05 Valuation of Total Fund.

In no event and at no time will the total amount in all Individual Accounts at any Valuation Date exceed the total net assets of the Fund. The Trustees may, at any time, uniformly reduce the amount in each Individual Account if financial circumstances so require, as determined by the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion. If such an event should occur, then all Individual Accounts will automatically be proportionately reduced so that the total of all Individual Accounts does not exceed the net assets of the Fund.

4.06 No Right to Assets.

The fact that Individual Accounts are established and valued as of each Valuation Date does not give any Participant or others any right, title or interest in the Fund or its assets, or in a Participant's Individual Account, except at the time or times, and upon the terms and conditions provided in this Plan, or as required by law.

4.07 Statements.

Each Participant who has an Individual Account will receive a statement of his or her Individual Account as of the end of each calendar quarter.

ARTICLE 5
Benefits and Eligibility

5.01 Payment of Benefits.

(a) Full Vesting.

A person for whom an Individual Account has been established will be fully and immediately vested in the Individual Account. However, the Individual Account may be reduced or eliminated in accordance with Sections 4.05 or other applicable Sections so that the total of all Individual Accounts does not exceed the net assets of the Fund.

(b) Available Distribution Features.

Subject to applicable provisions of the Plan, a Participant's Individual Account or portion thereof, determined in accordance with Article 4, will be paid upon the Participant's Retirement, Total and Permanent Disability, Separation from Covered Employment, Hardship as defined herein, Pre-Retirement Death, or, in certain cases, upon the completion of a fixed number of years of service or attainment of a specified age.

(c) Separation from Service Requirement for Certain Distribution Features.

A Participant may not receive a distribution under Sections 5.02, 5.03, or 5.04 unless the Participant has separated from all employment with an Employer maintaining the Plan at the time of distribution and satisfies the applicable requirements of the Section under which the distribution is to be made.

5.02 Retirement.

When a Participant Retires as defined in Section 1.19, a Retirement Benefit in an amount up to 100% of the amount in his Individual Account, if any, will be paid to the Participant in accordance with Section 6.02 of the Plan. A Retired Participant is eligible for a Retirement Benefit:

- (a) When he attains Normal Retirement Age;
- (b) When he attains age 55 and provides evidence of his receipt of a pension from another pension plan covering him under terms of a Collective Bargaining Agreement or, in the case of a Participant who is not vested in a pension plan covering him under the terms of such an agreement, he provides evidence of his receipt of Social Security Retirement Benefits;
- (c) In the case of an Employee of an Employer that is a Sprinkler Local Union or a trust fund as defined in Section 1.09(d) or (e) of the Plan, when he attains age 55 and provides evidence of his receipt of a pension from another pension plan or, in the case of a Participant who is not eligible for an early retirement pension from a pension plan, if the Participant has ceased employment with the Employer for at least 30 days and the Participant and Employer certify in writing that the Participant has Retired; or
- (d) If he is Totally and Permanently Disabled, regardless of age.

A Participant who applies for and receives less than 100% of the amount in his Individual Account may subsequently apply for additional Retirement Benefit payments. The Participant's eligibility for a Retirement Benefit will be determined based on whether he meets the requirements of this Section at the time of each application.

5.03 Separation from Covered Employment.

(a) In General.

If a Participant separates from Covered Employment, as defined in Section 5.03(b), a Separation Benefit in an amount up to 100% of the amount in his Individual Account may, upon application of the Participant, be paid in accordance with this Section and Section 6.02 of the Plan.

A Participant who applies for and receives less than 100% of the amount in his Individual Account may subsequently apply for additional Separation Benefit payments. However, the Participant's eligibility for a Separation Benefit will be determined based on whether he meets the requirements of this Section at the time of each application.

(b) Definition of Separation of Covered Employment.

For purposes of this Section 5.03, a Participant separates from Covered Employment as follows:

(i) *Portion of Individual Accounts Based on Employment Through December 31, 1995.*

With respect to the portion of a Participant's Individual Account based on employment through December 31, 1995, a Participant separates from Covered Employment on the earlier of the following dates: (A) the end of the second Plan Year following the Plan Year in which the Participant last works in Covered Employment or in any employment for an Employer maintaining the Plan or (B) the end of a period of twelve (12) consecutive months during which he has not worked any hours for which Contributions are required to be made to this Fund, and has not performed any services, direct or indirect, and whether or not compensated, for any employer in the piping industry, or is self-employed in the piping industry within the United States; and

(ii) *Portion of Individual Accounts Based on Employment After December 31, 1995.*

With respect to the portion of a Participant's Individual Account based on employment on and after January 1, 1996, a Participant separates from Covered Employment at the end of a period of twelve (12) consecutive months during which he has not worked any hours for which Contributions are required to be made to this Fund and has not performed any services, direct or indirect, and whether or not compensated, for any employer in the piping industry, or is self-employed in the piping industry within the United States.

(iii) *Individual Accounts Less Than \$2,500.*

Effective January 1, 2005, a Participant who is not employed by an Employer maintaining the Plan and whose Individual Account is less than \$2,500 as of the Effective Date of Benefits, separates from Covered Employment at the end of a period of six (6) consecutive months during which the Participant has not worked any hours for which Contributions are required to be made to this Fund.

(c) Impact of Prohibited Employment at Time of Application or Payment; 12-Month Waiting Period.

(i) *Portion of Individual Accounts Based on Employment Through December 31, 1995.*

With respect to the portion of a Participant's Individual Account based on employment through December 31, 1995, no Separation Benefit will be paid if at the time of application or payment the Participant is employed in Covered Employment or in any employment for an Employer maintaining the Plan.

(ii) *Portion of Individual Accounts Based on Employment After December 31, 1995.*

With respect to the portion of a Participant's Individual Account based on employment on and after January 1, 1996, no Separation Benefit will be paid if at the time of application or payment the Participant is employed in Covered Employment or is performing any services, direct or indirect, and whether or not compensated, for any employer in the piping industry, or is self-employed in the piping industry within the United States.

(iii) *12-Month Waiting Period Additional Separate Benefits.*

No Separation Benefit will be paid if the Participant has received a Separation Benefit from the Fund within the previous twelve (12) months.

- (d) In connection with each application for a Separation Benefit, the Participant must conclusively demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Trustees that he satisfies the requirements of this Section for a Separation Benefit. The Trustees may adopt rules for the enforcement of this Section including requirements for acceptable documentary evidence.

5.04 Benefit in Case of Total and Permanent Disability.

(a) In General.

If a Participant is Totally and Permanently Disabled as defined in (b) below, he will be eligible to receive his Individual Account as provided in Section 6.02 of the Plan.

(b) Definition of Totally and Permanently Disabled.

A Participant will be considered to be Totally and Permanently Disabled if as a result of an injury, disease or mental disorder he becomes completely unable to engage in Covered Employment and it is reasonably certain such condition will continue during his remaining lifetime.

(c) Determination of Totally and Permanently Disabled.

The determination whether a Participant is Totally and Permanently Disabled will be made solely by the Trustees, whose decision will be final and binding on the Participant. In making this determination, the Trustees may rely on a determination by the Social Security Administration that the Participant qualified for Social Security Disability benefits; they may require the Participant to submit medical reports which they determine to be sufficient to enable the Trustees to make a decision on the question of disability; they may require the Participant to be examined by a physician or physicians of the Trustees' choosing; or they may require that any combination of the foregoing types of proof be provided.

5.05 Benefits Upon Attainment of Age 59½.

(a) Eligibility; Frequency and Form of Payment; Amount.

A Participant who has attained age 59½ may receive a one-time, lump sum distribution of up to thirty percent (30%) of the Participant's Individual Account valued as of the Effective Date of Benefits as defined in Section 7.01(c). A Participant is eligible to receive one single distribution pursuant to this Section during the Participant's lifetime, regardless of its amount.

(b) Spousal Consent.

A married Participant must provide the Plan with his or her Spouse's notarized, written consent to a distribution under this Section on a form furnished by the Fund Office. Alternatively, a Plan representative may witness such consent.

5.06 Hardship.

(a) Eligibility.

A distribution under this Section may be made in the event of a Hardship. The term Hardship means an immediate and heavy financial need of a Participant that cannot be satisfied from other resources. A distribution will be deemed to be on account of an immediate and heavy financial need only if the distribution is for one of the following:

(i) *Eviction or Foreclosure.*

Payments necessary to prevent the eviction of the Participant from his principal residence or foreclosure on the mortgage of the Participant's principal residence.

(ii) *Qualifying Home Repairs.*

(A) Expenses for the repair of damage to the Participant's principal residence that would qualify for the casualty deduction under Code Section 165 (determined without regard to Code Section 165(h)(5) and whether the loss exceeds 10% of adjusted gross income).

(B) Expenses for the repair of damage to the Participant's principal residence; provided, (a) that a licensed or certified home inspector represents in writing that the principle residence is uninhabitable as a result of such damage, and (b) expenses payable under this Plan provision are limited to restoring the principle residence to habitability (*i.e.*, to restore the premises to a condition which permits the participant to reside free of serious threats to health and safety); and (c) the Participant has participated in the Plan for five (5) or more years.

(C) Expenses required to make necessary corrections to the Participant's principal residence; provided, (a) a structural engineer or licensed home inspector represents, in writing, that Participant's principal residence is experiencing structural failure to the degree that, in the expert opinion of the engineer or inspector, without corrective action is likely to become uninhabitable in the near future, (b) expenses payable under this Plan provision are not to exceed the amount required to make the necessary correction; and (c) the Participant has participated in the Plan

for five (5) or more years.

(iii) *FEMA-Declared Disasters.*

Expenses and losses (including loss of income) incurred by the Participant on account of a disaster declared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 100–707, provided that the Participant’s principal residence or principal place of employment at the time of the disaster was located in an area designated by FEMA for individual assistance with respect to the disaster.

(iv) *Funeral and Burial Expenses.*

Payments for burial or funeral expenses for a Participant’s deceased parent, Spouse, child, or dependent (as defined in Code Section 152 without regard to Code Section 152(d)(1)(B)).

(b) Amount.

The distribution under this Section cannot exceed the lesser of the amount required to meet the Hardship (including any amounts necessary to pay federal, state or local income taxes or penalties reasonably anticipated to result from the distribution) or the Employer Contributions to the Participant’s Individual Account (including earnings thereon) for hours worked on or after January 1, 1999.

(c) Documentation of Hardship.

To receive a distribution under this Section, the Participant must provide a written statement specifying the nature of the immediate and heavy financial need and stating that he lacks other financial resources reasonably available to him (*i.e.*, cash or other liquid assets) to meet the financial need. The Fund may rely on representations from the Participant concerning the need and amount of Hardship unless the Fund has actual knowledge to the contrary.

5.07 Benefits Upon Returning from Military Service.

Subject to the requirements of the Plan, a distribution under this Section may be made to a Participant who satisfies the requirements of this Section and who returns to Covered Employment within 180 days of leaving active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States and applies for the distribution within one year of leaving active military service.

The portion of the Individual Account available for distribution is limited as follows: (a) if the Participant has five (5) or more years of participation in the Plan, to the portion of the Participant’s Individual Account based on Contributions for hours worked on and after January 1, 1999; or (b) if the Participant has fewer than five (5) years of participation in the Plan, to amounts consisting of Contributions made more than 24 months prior to the date of distribution (but in no event may Contributions for hours worked before January 1, 1999 be distributed under this provision).

Subject to the rules above concerning the portion of the Participant’s Individual Account available for distribution under this Section, the amount which may be distributed is limited to an amount which after taxes is the greater of 50% of the Participant’s Individual Account (calculated taking into account amounts not available for distribution under this Section) or \$20,000.

5.08 Corrective Distributions.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Article 5 to the contrary, the Plan may make a corrective distribution with regard to benefits payable under Plan Sections 5.07 and 5.06; provided, however, that such distribution conforms to a formula that has been approved, in writing, by the Internal Revenue Service.

5.09 Pre-Retirement Death Benefit.

If a Participant dies before he becomes an Annuitant, his Individual Account will be paid to his Beneficiary in a lump sum. The Beneficiary may elect to receive as a pension any benefits to which the Beneficiary may be entitled. Applications are processed in the order received. Payments may be made to Beneficiaries at different times using different Valuation Dates.

However, if the Participant was married on the date of his death, one-half of the Participant's Individual Account will be used to provide a Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit in accordance with Section 6.05.

If the Designated Beneficiary is not alive at the time of the Participant's death, the Individual Account will be paid in accordance with Section 5.10.

5.10 Designation of Beneficiary.

(a) Designation of Beneficiary.

An Employee may designate a Beneficiary on a form provided by the Trustees and delivered to the Trustees before death. An Employee may change his or her Beneficiary (without the consent of the Beneficiary) in the same manner. However, in every case, the Spouse of a married Participant will be the Participant's Beneficiary for at least one-half (50%) of his Individual Account unless the Spouse has filed with the Trustees a notarized written rejection of the right to be the Beneficiary.

(b) Most Recently Filed Beneficiary Designation Shall Apply; Exception for Divorce.

Subject to the provisions of subsection (a), any death benefits provided in accordance with applicable provisions of the Plan will be paid to the most recently Designated Beneficiary filed with the Trustees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the naming of an individual as Designated Beneficiary who is or will later become the Spouse of the person making the designation will be automatically revoked and invalidated upon divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, or the completion of any other proceeding pursuant to which that person is no longer the Spouse of the person making the designation. A Participant may rename a former Spouse as Designated Beneficiary by forwarding such designation in a form acceptable to the Trustees to the Fund Office.

(c) No Designated Beneficiary.

If there is no Designated Beneficiary, the Designated Beneficiary predeceases the Participant, or if the Beneficiary dies prior to receiving the full or remaining amount of the Individual Account, distribution shall be made in a single payment to the deceased Participant's surviving Spouse or, if none, in equal shares to his or her surviving children or, if none, in equal shares to his or her surviving natural parents or, if none, to the Participant's estate. Applications of Beneficiaries are processed in the order received. For

purposes of this Plan, a child who has been adopted is considered the child of his or her adoptive parent(s) and not the child's natural parent or parents.

(d) Payments to Beneficiaries.

Payments may be made to Beneficiaries at different times using different Valuation Dates.

(e) Payments to Minors.

If benefits from this Fund are payable to a minor, the Trustees may pay the benefits due to the minor to the person having present custody or care of the minor and with whom the minor resides. Such recipient on behalf of the minor must agree in writing to apply the payments of benefits to the minor by depositing the payments in a federally insured savings account in the sole name of the minor and by giving written notice of such deposit to the minor. Payment made in the manner set forth in this Section will discharge the Trustees from any liability to the minor or anyone representing his or her interests. No payment will be made under this Section to a government agency.

(f) Disclaimer of Benefits.

If a Beneficiary signs and delivers to the Fund Office a written disclaimer of Plan benefits which satisfies the requirements of Section 2518 of the Code and the regulations thereunder, and the benefits, but for the disclaimer, would otherwise pass to such individual as a result of the death of a Participant or a Beneficiary, the individual executing such disclaimer of benefits shall be deemed to have failed to survive the deceased Participant or Beneficiary from whom he otherwise would have taken. For such a disclaimer to be effective for purposes of the Plan, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- (i) The disclaimer must be an irrevocable and unqualified written refusal by the individual who would otherwise receive Plan benefits as a Beneficiary not to accept such benefits;
- (ii) The written disclaimer must be received in the Fund Office no later than the date that is nine (9) months after the date of death of the Participant or Beneficiary by reason of which the disclaiming individual would be entitled to Plan benefits;
- (iii) The disclaiming individual has not accepted any portion of the Plan benefits being disclaimed;
- (iv) As a result of the disclaimer, the Plan benefits are paid in accordance with the Plan document and without any direction on the part of the individual making the disclaimer to a person other than the individual making the disclaimer, and
- (v) The disclaimer must satisfy the requirements of applicable state law which must be evidenced by an opinion of counsel for the disclaiming individual submitted with the disclaimer.

ARTICLE 6
Forms of Payment

6.01 Payment of Small Amounts.

If a Participant's Individual Account is less than \$5,000, payment will be made only in a lump sum. If the portion of a Participant's Individual Account that is paid as a Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit under Section 6.05 is less than \$5,000, payment to the surviving Spouse shall be made only in a lump sum. If any payment on a monthly basis is less than permitted by the insurance contract under which payments are made, the monthly payments may be combined into quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments.

6.02 Forms of Payment.

(a) In General.

A Participant who becomes entitled to receive his Individual Account will receive it in the Normal Form of Benefit Payment for either married or unmarried Employees depending on the Participant's marital status on the Participant's Effective Date of Benefits unless the Participant, and the Participant's Spouse, if applicable, has filed a timely rejection of the Normal Form of Benefit Payment with the Fund. The Participant's Effective Date of Benefits is set forth in Section 7.01(c).

(b) Single Life Pension - Normal Form of Benefit for Unmarried Participants.

The Normal Form of Benefit Payment for an unmarried Participant is a Single Life Pension. A Single Life Pension means a series of payments, purchased from an insurance carrier, continuing for the life of the Participant.

Any distribution in excess of \$5,000 to a Participant who is not married on the Effective Date of Benefits will be paid in the form of a Single Life Pension, unless the Participant elects otherwise in accordance with this Section.

- (i) Once a Single Life Pension becomes effective it cannot be revoked. If the Participant dies after a Single Life Pension becomes effective, no further payments will be made to the Participant's Beneficiary.
- (ii) An unmarried Participant who applies for a distribution from his Individual Account will be advised by the Trustees of the estimated effect of payment in the form of the Single Life Pension, including a comparison between the estimated monthly pension benefits and the amount that would be paid in a single payment.
- (iii) If there is a valid waiver of the Single Life Pension, the Participant's Individual Account will be paid in accordance with the form of payment elected by the Participant.
- (iv) A Participant will only be permitted to make an election concerning the Single Life Pension when the Participant applies for a Retirement Benefit under Section 5.02 or a Separation Benefit under Section 5.03.
- (v) The Single Life Pension may only be waived in accordance with this Section. The Participant must file the waiver in writing in the form that the Trustees require.
- (vi) To be timely, a waiver of the Single Life Pension must be filed within the time

period provided in Section 7.01(c). To be valid, such a waiver must be made after the Participant has been provided with information which includes a general explanation of the Single Life Pension, the circumstances in which it will be provided unless the Participant elects otherwise, the availability of the election, the estimated effect of the Single Life Pension and the eligibility conditions and other material features of the optional forms of benefits provided under the Plan including the relative values of the optional forms. The Participant may revoke a previous waiver or file a new waiver at any time after the receipt of the information referred to in this subsection and before benefit payments to the Participant actually begin.

(c) 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension - Normal Form of Benefit for Married Participants.

The Normal Form of Benefit Payment for a married Participant is a 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension. A 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension is defined in Section 6.03. The 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension is purchased from an insurance carrier.

(d) Optional Forms of Payment.

A Participant who has rejected the Normal Form of Benefit Payment which applies to him based on his marital status, with the consent of his Spouse, if applicable, will be entitled to elect to receive his Individual Account:

- (i) in one lump sum;
- (ii) in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments over a period specified by the Participant which may not be less than two (2) years or more than ten (10) years;
- (iii) a combination of a lump sum and payment in installments; or
- (iv) in any other actuarially equivalent form available from an insurance company.

If the Participant is receiving his Individual Account in installment payments, each payment will be the amount of the Participant's Individual Account at the time the installment is to be paid divided by the number of installments remaining.

A Participant who is receiving his Individual Account in installment payments may elect, with his Spouse's consent, to accelerate the payments to receive the balance of the Individual Account in a lump sum. Such an election must be made within the time period provided in Section 7.01(c) and after the Participant has been provided with information which includes a general explanation of the installment payment form currently in effect, the circumstances in which it will continue unless the Participant elects a lump sum, the availability of the election, the estimated effect of the lump sum form of payment available to the Participant under this provision including the relative values of the payment forms. The Participant may revoke a previous election or file a new election at any time after the receipt of the information referred to in this subsection and before the lump sum benefit payment to the Participant has actually been made.

Distributions to Participants made pursuant to this subsection (d) are subject to the provisions of Section 7.08 of the Plan.

6.03 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension at Retirement or Separation of Covered Employment (Married).

- (a) Any distribution in excess of \$5,000 to a Participant who is married on the Effective Date of Benefits will be paid in the form of a 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension, unless the Participant and Spouse elect otherwise in accordance with Section 6.04.
- (b) A 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension means that the Participant will receive a monthly amount for life and, if the Participant dies before his or her Spouse, the Spouse will receive a monthly benefit for his or her lifetime that is 50% of the monthly amount the Participant received during the Participant's lifetime. The monthly benefits will be at the level payable under an insurance contract that is the actuarial equivalent of the Participant's Individual Account as of the date of distribution, determined in accordance with Section 6.07.
- (c) Once payment of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension begins, it cannot be revoked. If, after that point, the Spouse dies before the Participant, the Participant's monthly pension benefit will not be increased, and no one can be substituted as the Participant's Beneficiary in place of the Spouse.
- (d) In the event of a divorce between the Spouse and the Participant after the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension becomes effective, the former Spouse will be treated as the Spouse of the Participant for the purpose of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension and will be entitled to receive the survivor pension benefits if the Participant dies before the former Spouse unless a Qualified Domestic Relations Order provides otherwise.
- (e) A married Participant who applies for a distribution from his Individual Account will be advised by the Trustees of the estimated effect of payment in the form of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension, including a comparison between the estimated monthly pension benefits and the amount that would be paid in a single payment.
- (f) If there is a valid waiver of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension, the Participant's Individual Account will be paid out in accordance with Section 6.02.
- (g) A Participant and Spouse will only be permitted to make an election concerning the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension when the Participant applies for a Retirement Benefit under Section 5.02 or a Separation Benefit under Section 5.03.

6.04 Waiver of Spousal Benefits.

The 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension may only be waived in accordance with this Section.

- (a) The Participant must file the waiver in writing in the form that the Trustees require. The Participant's Spouse must acknowledge the effect of the waiver and must consent to it in writing. The Spouse must also consent to a specified Beneficiary or Beneficiaries and to a specified optional benefit form. The Spouse's consent must be witnessed by a Notary Public or Plan official. The Participant may not subsequently change the Designated Beneficiary or Beneficiaries or the optional benefit form without the consent of the Spouse, or
- (b) The Participant must establish to the satisfaction of the Trustees that a waiver of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension is not required because:
 - (i) the Participant is not married;

- (ii) the Spouse whose consent would be required cannot be located; or
 - (iii) consent of the Spouse cannot be obtained because of extenuating circumstances, as provided in IRS regulations.
- (c) To be timely, a waiver of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension and any required consent must be filed within the time period provided in Section 7.01(c). To be valid such a waiver must be made after the Participant and Spouse have been provided with information which includes a general explanation of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension, the circumstances in which it will be provided unless the Participant and Spouse elect otherwise, the availability of the election, the estimated effect of the 50% Joint-and-Survivor Pension and the eligibility conditions and other material features of the optional forms of benefits provided under the Plan including the relative values of the optional forms. The Participant and Spouse may revoke a previous waiver or file a new waiver at any time after the receipt of the information referred to in this subsection and before benefits payments to the Participant actually begin.
- (d) A Spouse's consent to a waiver is effective only for that Spouse.

6.05 Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

- (a) If a Participant who has a Spouse dies before distribution of his Individual Account has begun, a Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit will be paid to his surviving Spouse.
- (b) The Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit is a monthly pension benefit for the life of the Spouse that is the actuarial equivalent, determined in accordance with Section 6.07, of 50% of the Participant's Individual Account as of the date of the Participant's death. A Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit that is paid for the life of the Spouse is provided as described in Section 6.08.
- (c) (i) Except as provided below, the Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit will be payable as described in subsection (b) above starting as of the Effective Date of Benefits in accordance with Section 7.01(c) after the date the surviving Spouse applies for payments in the manner prescribed by the Trustees, including submission of any and all information that they require to process the claim and arrange for the commencement of payments.
- (ii) A surviving Spouse may not postpone the commencement of benefit payments beyond when the Participant would have reached his or her Required Beginning Date.
- (iii) A Spouse may elect to receive the Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit in a single payment instead of a lifetime pension. If the Spouse is the Participant's Beneficiary for his entire Individual Account, the Spouse may elect to receive a pension that is the actuarial equivalent of the entire Individual Account, determined in accordance with Section 6.07. The Spouse's election must be in writing, must acknowledge the effect of the election, and must be witnessed by a Notary Public or Plan official. A pension based on the entire Individual Account that is paid for the life of the Spouse is provided as described in Section 6.08.

6.06 Definition of Spouse.

For purposes of this Plan, a Spouse is a person to whom a Participant is considered married under applicable law or, if and to the extent provided by a Qualified Domestic Relations Order as defined in ERISA, a Participant's former Spouse. An individual of the same sex as a Participant will be considered the Participant's Spouse for purposes of this Plan if the marriage was legally performed in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage. For purposes of the Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, the Spouse is the person to whom the Participant was married on the date of the Participant's death.

A former Spouse is considered a Spouse for purposes of this Plan if required by a Qualified Domestic Relations Order which is issued by a court and approved by the Plan before a benefit is distributed. If the Plan receives notice that a Participant's marital status is changing while the Plan is processing an application for payment of the Participant's Individual Account or the Plan receives notice that all or a portion of the Participant's Individual Account may be payable to an Alternate Payee, the Plan may delay the distribution of the Participant's Individual Account until the effect of the change in marital status may be taken into account or a determination made concerning the status of the claimed Alternate Payee.

6.07 Actuarially Equivalent Benefits.

For purposes of this Plan, the following principles will apply in determining the actuarial equivalent of a Participant's Individual Account:

- (a) The value of a Participant's Individual Account will be in accordance with Article 4 as of the date for which the value is to be determined. The value of the Individual Account will be adjusted as of each subsequent Valuation Date, until the amount in the Individual Account is distributed by purchase of an annuity or otherwise.
- (b) The conversion of an Individual Account, or part of it, to an actuarially equivalent pension shall be based on the actuarial assumptions and other terms prescribed by an insurance company selected to issue the pension. These need not be the same factors (or the same insurance company) used to estimate the pension benefits for purposes of informing the Participant and/or Spouse about the effect of receiving the benefit in a pension form.
- (c) Fees and other costs directly incurred in connection with the purchase of a pension from an insurance company will be deducted from the Individual Account immediately before the purchase.

6.08 Insurance Contracts.

Unless the Trustees determine otherwise, any lifetime pension benefits payable under this Plan will be provided by the purchase of an irrevocable annuity contract from an insurance company. The purchase of the annuity contract from the insurance company will discharge the Trustees' obligations to the Participant and/or Spouse and thereafter the payment of benefits under the annuity contract, and any other matters relating to the administration of the benefit, will be the sole responsibility of the insurance company. Any annuity contract purchased from an insurance company will comply with Code Section 401(a)(9) and Treas.

Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-5(a)(5) and Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-6(d).

6.09 Trustees' Reliance.

The Trustees will be entitled to rely on written representations, consents, and revocations submitted by Participants, Spouses, Beneficiaries, or other parties in making determinations under this Article and, unless such reliance is arbitrary or capricious, the Trustees' determinations will be final and binding, and will discharge the Fund and the Trustees from liability to the extent of the payments made. This means that, unless the Plan is administered in a manner determined to be inconsistent with the fiduciary standards of Part 4 of Title I of the Act, the Fund will not be liable under this Article for duplicate benefits with respect to the same Participant's Individual Account determined as of the date scheduled for the start of payments to the Participant or, if earlier, the date of the Participant's death.

ARTICLE 7
General Provisions

7.01 Applications.

- (a) Except as required by law, as a condition for payment of any benefit from the Plan, an application for the benefit must be made in writing in the form and manner required by the Trustees. No benefits will be paid prior to the establishment of an Individual Account. An application may be withdrawn at any time before the payments commence.
- (b) If the amount of the Individual Account is \$5,000 or less, the Trustees will pay the benefit in a lump sum. If the amount of the Individual Account exceeds \$5,000, benefits may not be paid before the date the Participant attains Normal Retirement Age without the consent of the Participant. The Participant's consent is not valid unless the Participant has received a general description of the material features and an explanation of the relative values of the optional forms of benefit available under the Plan before giving consent.
- (c) The "Effective Date of Benefits" or "Effective Date" is the date specified by the Participant or, if later, the first of the month after a Participant has fulfilled all of the conditions for entitlement to benefits (including the conditions for the form of benefit elected by the Participant in Sections 6.02 and 6.04) and after the later of the following:
 - (i) Submission by the Participant of a completed application for benefits, or
 - (ii) 30 days after the Plan advises the Participant and Spouse, if applicable, of the available benefit payment options, unless--
 - (A) the benefit is being paid as a Joint-and-Survivor Pension at or after the Participant reaches Normal Retirement Age; or
 - (B) the benefit is being paid out automatically as a lump sum under Section 6.01; or
 - (C) in the case of a Single Life Pension under Section 6.02, the Participant consents in writing to the commencement of payments before the end of that 30-day period, as provided in subsection (iii).
 - (iii) The Effective Date may be before the end of the thirty-day period in subsection (c)(ii) above if all of the following requirements are met:
 - (A) The Participant, and Spouse if applicable, are provided with information about the right to at least 30 days to consider the available benefit options and whether to consent to payment;
 - (B) The Participant, and Spouse if applicable, are permitted to revoke any election until the Effective Date, or if later, at any time prior to the expiration of the seven-day period that begins the day after the explanation of the available benefit payment options is provided to the Participant, and Spouse if applicable;
 - (C) The Effective Date is after the date that the explanation of the available benefit payment options is provided to the Participant, and Spouse if applicable; and

- (D) The actual payment of benefits does not begin before the expiration of the seven-day period that begins the day after the explanation of the available benefit payment options is provided to the Participant, and Spouse if applicable.

Provided, that the Effective Date of Benefits will not be later than the Participant's Required Beginning Date.

- (d) Payment of a Participant's Individual Account will be made as soon as practical after the Participant's Effective Date of Benefits but not later than 60 days after the latest of the following to occur:
 - (i) December 31st of the Plan Year in which the Participant reaches Normal Retirement Age;
 - (ii) The Participant's termination of employment;
 - (iii) The date as of which the Participant's benefit is first ascertained.
- (e) If a Participant's Beneficiary is not his surviving Spouse, the payment of any benefits that become payable because of the Participant's death will begin no later than one year from the date of death or, if later, as soon as practical after the Trustees learn of the death.
- (f)
 - (i) If a Participant begins to receive distribution of his Individual Account, payments will be made over a period no longer than the joint life expectancies of the Participant and his Spouse and/or other Beneficiary.
 - (ii) Payments continuing to a surviving Spouse or other Beneficiary after the death of a Participant whose distribution had begun will continue over a period that is no longer than the period originally scheduled when the Participant's payments started.
 - (iii) If the Participant died before a distribution began, payments will be made over a period no longer than the life expectancy of his Spouse or other Designated Beneficiary; provided that any portion of the Participant's benefit that is not paid to the Participant's Spouse or other Designated Beneficiary will be distributed within five (5) years of the death of the Participant.
- (g) Any benefits payable to an "Alternate Payee" under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order will reduce any benefits payable to a Participant, Spouse, or Beneficiary under this Plan.
- (h) Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary that would otherwise limit a Distributee's election under this subsection, a Distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Trustees, to have any portion of an Eligible Rollover Distribution paid directly to an Eligible Retirement Plan specified by the Distributee in a Direct Rollover.

A Participant's non-Spouse Beneficiary may elect, at the time and manner prescribed by the Trustees, to have any portion of an otherwise Eligible Rollover Distribution paid directly to an inherited individual retirement plan as prescribed in paragraph (v) below.

- (i) "Eligible Rollover Distribution":
 - (A) In general, an Eligible Rollover Distribution is any distribution of all or any portion of the benefit of the Distributee, except that an Eligible Rollover

Distribution does not include any distribution that is one in a series of substantially equal periodic payments (not less frequently than annually) made for the life (or life expectancy) of the Distributee or the joint lives (or joint life expectancies) of the Distributee and the Distributee's Designated Beneficiary, or for a specified period of ten years or more; any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under Section 401(a)(9) of the Code; and the portion of any distribution that is not includible in gross income.

- (B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph (i), a distribution described in paragraph (v) shall be an Eligible Rollover Distribution.
- (ii) "Eligible Retirement Plan": An Eligible Retirement Plan is an individual retirement account described in Section 408(a) of the Code, an individual retirement annuity described in Section 408(b) of the Code (including a non-Spouse Beneficiary's inherited individual retirement plan as described in paragraph (v) below), an annuity plan described in Section 403(a) of the Code, or a qualified trust described in Section 401(a) of the Code, that accepts the Distributee's Eligible Rollover Distribution. An Eligible Retirement Plan shall also mean an annuity contract described in Section 403(b) of the Code and an eligible plan under Section 457(b) of the Code which is maintained by a state, political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state and which agrees to separately account for amounts transferred into such plan from this Plan. This definition of "Eligible Retirement Plan" shall also apply in the case of a distribution to a surviving Spouse, or to a Spouse or former Spouse who is the Alternate Payee under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, as defined in Section 414(p) of the Code.
- (iii) "Distributee": A Distributee includes a Participant or former Participant. In addition, the Participant's or former Participant's surviving Spouse and the Participant's or former Participant's Spouse or former Spouse who is the Alternate Payee under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, as defined in Section 414(p) of the Code, are Distributees with regard to the interest of the Spouse or former Spouse. A Distributee may be a non-Spouse Beneficiary who applies for a distribution as described in Section 7.01(h)(i)(B) above.
- (iv) "Direct Rollover": A Direct Rollover is a payment by the Plan to the Eligible Retirement Plan specified by the Distributee.
- (v) Distribution to an inherited individual retirement plan of a deceased Participant's non-Spouse Beneficiary: If, with respect to any portion of a deceased Participant's distribution from this Plan, a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer is made to an individual retirement plan described in Code Section 408(a) or 408(b) (other than an endowment contract) established for the purposes of receiving the distribution on behalf of an individual who is a Designated Beneficiary (as defined by Code Section 401(a)(9)(E)) of the Participant and who is not the surviving Spouse of the Participant—
 - (A) The transfer shall be treated as an Eligible Rollover Distribution;
 - (B) The individual retirement plan shall be treated as an inherited individual

retirement account or individual retirement annuity (within the meaning of Code Section 408(d)(3)(C)); and

- (C) Code Section 401(a)(9)(B) (other than clause (iv) thereof) shall apply to such inherited individual retirement plan.

For purposes of this paragraph (v), to the extent provided in rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, a trust maintained for the benefit of one or more Designated Beneficiaries shall be treated in the same manner as a trust of a Designated Beneficiary.

7.02 Information and Proof; Recovery of Overpayments.

(a) Information and Proof.

At the request of the Trustees, a Participant, Annuitant or Beneficiary must provide any evidence reasonably required for the administration of the Plan or to enable the Trustees to make a determination of any matter that the Trustees may have before them. The Trustees will be the sole judges of the standard of evidence required in any case. Failure to furnish information on a timely basis, and in good faith, will be sufficient reason for the denial of immediate benefits to a Participant or Beneficiary, or temporary suspension of benefits to an Annuitant. Furnishing a false statement that is material to an application or furnishing false information or proof will be sufficient reason for the denial, suspension or discontinuance of benefits under this Plan. The Trustees have the right to recover any losses resulting from reliance on false information.

(b) Recovery of Overpayments.

To the extent permitted by applicable law:

- (i) If the Fund pays benefits to any Participant, Spouse, former Spouse, Beneficiary, or any other third party (“Payee”) in excess of the amount to which such person is entitled under the terms of the Plan, the Payee of such excess amount (an “Overpayment”), must: (A) notify the Fund upon receipt of the Overpayment; (B) return the Overpayment to the Fund upon demand by the Fund; and (C) pay the Fund interest on the Overpayment at a rate determined by the Fund.
- (ii) The Fund may recover all or part of an Overpayment (plus interest on the Overpayment at a rate determined by the Fund) by all legal and equitable means. The Fund has a constructive trust, lien, and/or equitable lien by agreement on any Overpayment received by a Payee, and the Overpayment is deemed to be held in trust by the Payee for the benefit of the Fund until returned to the Fund. Consistent with the foregoing, by accepting payment from the Fund, a Payee of an Overpayment consents and agrees: (A) that a constructive trust, lien, and/or equitable lien by agreement in favor of the Fund exists with respect to the Overpayment; (B) to hold the Overpayment (plus interest on the Overpayment at a rate determined by the Fund) in trust for the benefit of the Fund until returned to the Fund upon demand by the Fund; and (C) if the Fund undertakes legal action to collect amounts payable to the Fund pursuant to this subsection, to: (1) reimburse the Fund for all of its costs and expenses, including attorneys’ fees, incurred in connection with such action; and (2) to waive any applicable statute of limitations defense available to the enforcement of any of the Fund’s rights to

recover Overpayments.

7.03 Right to Appeal.

If an application for benefits under this Plan has been denied, in part or in whole, or if a dispute arises as to the amount of an Individual Account or any other matter concerning application of this Plan, the Participant or Beneficiary has the right to appeal the decision.

The decisions of the Trustees applying and interpreting any of the provisions of this Plan will be final and binding on all parties, including but not limited to Participants, Employees, Employers, any Sprinkler Local Union, Annuitants, and Beneficiaries.

A Participant or Beneficiary may not commence a judicial proceeding against any person or entity, including but not limited to the Fund, the Plan, the Board of Trustees, any individual serving (or who has served) on the Board of Trustees, any Plan fiduciary (including any former Plan fiduciary), and/or any employee or agent thereof (including any former employee or agent thereof), with respect to any claims for benefits without first exhausting appeal procedures established by the Trustees and incorporated herein. If such a Participant or Beneficiary has exhausted such procedures and are dissatisfied with the decision on appeal of a denied claim, he or she may bring an action under Section 502 of ERISA in an appropriate court (*see* Section 9.09) to review the Fund's decision on appeal, but only if the action is commenced no later than the earlier of (a) the applicable statute of limitations, or (b) the second anniversary of the date of the decision on appeal.

7.04 Incompetence or Incapacity.

If it is determined to the satisfaction of the Trustees that any Participant, Annuitant, or Beneficiary is unable to care for his affairs because of mental or physical incapacity, any benefit due the Participant, Annuitant or Beneficiary, may be paid, in the discretion of the Trustees, for the maintenance and support of the Participant, Annuitant, or Beneficiary; or to a legal guardian, committee, or other legal representative; or, in the absence of any of them, to any relative by blood or connection by marriage who is determined by the Trustees to be equitably entitled thereto. Any such payment will completely discharge the Trustees' liability with respect to the benefit.

7.05 Non-Assignment of Benefits; Revocation of Alternate Payee's Interest Under a QDRO.

(a) Non-Assignment of Benefits.

No Participant, Annuitant or Beneficiary under this Plan will have the right to assign, alienate, transfer, sell, mortgage, encumber, pledge, or anticipate any payments. Payments will not in any way be subject to any legal process to levy, execution upon, or attachment or garnishment proceeding for the payment of any claim against the Participant, Annuitant, or Beneficiary. Payments will not be subject to the jurisdiction of any bankruptcy court or insolvency proceedings by operation of law, or otherwise. However, a Participant's benefits may be reduced pursuant to a judgment, order, decree or settlement entered into on or after August 5, 1997 where the Participant has committed a breach of fiduciary duty against the Plan or committed a criminal act against the Plan. Payments may be made by the Fund to an Alternate Payee of a Participant or Annuitant in accordance with the terms of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

(b) Revocation of Alternate Payee's Interest Under a QDRO.

An Alternate Payee under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order whose benefits have not yet commenced may revoke or waive the benefits awarded in an order that: (i) is a Domestic Relations Order as defined in Section 206(d)(3)(B)(ii) of ERISA; (ii) identifies the Participant, the Alternate Payee and the Plan to the satisfaction of the Trustees; and (iii) completely revokes the benefits previously awarded to the Alternate Payee by a Qualified Domestic Relations Order. Such order will have only prospective effect. Such order must be submitted to the Fund Office and will be subject to the Plan's Procedures for Processing Qualified Domestic Relations Orders.

7.06 Limitation on Annual Additions.

Annual Additions to a Participant's Individual Account shall be adjusted or curtailed in any Limitation Year (which is the Plan Year/calendar year), if required, to ensure compliance with Section 415 of the Code.

- (a) For Limitation Years after 2001, Annual Additions to a Participant's Individual Account will not exceed the lesser of—
 - (i) 100% of the Participant's Compensation within the meaning of Section 415(c)(3) of the Code; or
 - (ii) \$40,000, as adjusted for increases in the cost of living under Section 415(d) of the Code.
- (b) The maximum Annual Additions in paragraph 7.06(a)(ii) will be adjusted annually in accordance with Code Section 415(d) to take into account increases in the cost of living. The adjusted dollar limitation is prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury and published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin. The applicable adjusted dollar limitation is effective as of January 1 of each calendar year (which is also the Plan Year and Limitation Year).
- (c) For purposes of this Section, "Annual Additions" means the sum, credited to a Participant's Individual Account for any Limitation Year, of Employer Contributions and forfeitures.
 - (i) The direct transfer of a benefit or employee contribution from a qualified plan to this Plan does not give rise to an Annual Addition.
 - (ii) For purposes of this subsection (c), Annual Addition includes Employer Contributions credited to the Participant's Individual Account for the Limitation Year subject to timing rules set forth in paragraph (v) below.
 - (iii) A Restorative Payment allocated to a Participant's Individual Account does not give rise to an Annual Addition for any Limitation Year. For this purpose, "Restorative Payments" are payments made to restore losses to the Plan resulting from actions by a fiduciary for which there is reasonable risk of liability for breach of a fiduciary duty under ERISA or under other applicable federal or state law. Generally, payments to the Plan are Restorative Payments only if the payments are made in order to restore some or all of the Plan's losses due to an action (or a failure to act) that creates a reasonable risk of liability for such a breach of fiduciary duty (other than a breach of fiduciary duty arising from failure

to remit Contributions to the Plan). This includes payments to the Plan made pursuant to a Department of Labor order, the Department of Labor's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program, or a court-approved settlement, to restore losses to the Plan on account of the breach of fiduciary duty (other than a breach of fiduciary duty arising from failure to remit Contributions to the Plan).

(iv) Annual Addition does not include rollover contributions (as described in Sections 401(a)(31), 402(c)(1), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), 408(d)(3) and 457(e)(16) of the Code).

(v) (A) For purposes of this subsection (c), an Annual Addition is credited to the Participant's Individual Account for a particular Limitation Year if it is allocated to the Participant's Individual Account under the terms of the Plan as of any date within that Limitation Year. An Annual Addition that is made pursuant to a corrective amendment that complies with the requirements of Treas. Reg. § 1.401(a)(4)-11(g) is credited to the Participant's Individual Account for a particular Limitation Year if it is allocated to the Participant's Individual Account under the terms of the corrective amendment as of any date within that Limitation Year. If the allocation of an Annual Addition is dependent upon the satisfaction of a condition that has not been satisfied by the date as of which the Annual Addition is allocated under the terms of the Plan, then the Annual Addition is considered allocated for purposes of this subsection (c) as of the date the condition is satisfied.

(B) For purposes of this subsection (c), Employer Contributions are not treated as credited to a Participant's Individual Account for a particular Limitation Year unless the Contributions are actually made to the Plan no later than 30 days after the end of the period described in Section 404(a)(6) applicable to the taxable year with or within which the particular Limitation Year ends. If, however, Contributions are made by an Employer exempt from Federal income tax, the Contributions must be made to the Plan no later than the 15th day of the 10th calendar month following the end of the calendar year or fiscal year (as applicable, depending on the basis on which the Employer keeps its books) with or within which the particular Limitation Year ends. If Contributions are made to the Plan after the end of the period during which Contributions can be made and treated as credited to a Participant's Individual Account for a particular Limitation Year, allocations attributable to those Contributions are treated as credited to the Participant's Individual Account for the Limitation Year during which those Contributions are made.

(C) A forfeiture is treated as an Annual Addition for the Limitation Year that contains the date as of which it is allocated to a Participant's Individual Account as a forfeiture.

- (D) For purposes of this Section, if, in a particular Limitation Year, an amount is allocated to a Participant's Individual Account because of an erroneous forfeiture in a prior Limitation Year, or because of an erroneous failure to allocate amounts in a prior Limitation Year, the corrective allocation will not be considered an Annual Addition with respect to the Participant for that particular Limitation Year, but will be considered an Annual Addition for the prior Limitation Year to which it relates.
 - (E) If, in a particular Limitation Year, an Employer contributes an amount to a Participant's Individual Account with respect to a prior Limitation Year and such Contribution is required by reason of such Participant's rights under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, resulting from qualified military service, as specified in Section 414(u)(1) of the Code, then such Contribution is not considered an Annual Addition with respect to the Participant for that particular Limitation Year in which the Contribution is made, but is considered an Annual Addition for the Limitation Year to which the Contribution relates.
- (d) For purposes of this Section, "Compensation" means:
- (i) a Participant's wages, salaries, fees for professional services, and other amounts received (without regard to whether or not an amount is paid in cash) for personal services actually rendered in the course of employment with an Employer, to the extent that the amounts are includible in gross income (or to the extent amounts would have been received and includible in gross income but for an election under Code Sections 125(a), 132(f)(4), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 402(k) or 457(b)). These amounts include, but are not limited to, commissions paid to salespersons, compensation for services on the basis of a percentage of profits, commissions on insurance premiums, tips, bonuses, fringe benefits, and reimbursements or other expense allowances under a non-accountable plan as described in Treas. Reg. § 1.62-2(c).
 - (ii) For purposes of paragraph (i) above, "wages" includes wages within the meaning of Section 3401(a) of the Code (for purposes of income tax withholding at the source), plus amounts that would be included in wages but for an election under Sections 125(a), 132(f)(4), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 402(k) or 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, any rules that limit the remuneration included in wages based on the nature or location of the employment or the services performed are disregarded for this purpose.
 - (iii) Compensation does not include:
 - (A) Employer Contributions (other than elective contributions described in Sections 402(e)(3), 408(k)(6), 408(p)(2)(A)(i) or 457(b) of the Code) to a plan of deferred compensation (including a simplified employee pension described in Section 408(k) of the Code or a simple retirement account described in Section 408(p) of the Code, and whether or not qualified) to the extent that the Contributions are not includible in the gross income of the Participant for the taxable year in which contributed. In addition, any

distribution from a plan of deferred compensation (whether or not qualified) is not considered as compensation for purposes of this Section, regardless of whether such amounts are includible in the gross income of the Participant when distributed. However, any amounts received by a Participant pursuant to a nonqualified unfunded deferred compensation plan are considered Compensation in the year the amounts are actually received, but only to the extent such amounts are includible in the Participant's gross income.

- (B) Amounts realized from the exercise of a non-statutory option (which is an option other than a statutory option defined in Treas. Reg. § 1.421-1(b)), or when restricted stock or other property held by an employee either becomes freely transferable or is no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture;
 - (C) Amounts realized from the sale, exchange or other disposition of stock acquired under a statutory stock option;
 - (D) Other amounts that receive special tax benefits, such as premiums for group-term life insurance (but only to the extent that the premiums are not includible in the gross income of the Participant and are not salary reduction amounts that are described in Section 125 of the Code);
 - (E) Other items of remuneration that are similar to any of the items listed in (A) through (D).
- (iv) For any self-employed individual, Compensation shall mean earned income.
- (v) (A) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (v), in order to be taken into account for a Limitation Year, Compensation for purposes of this Section must be actually paid or made available to a Participant (or, if earlier, includible in the gross income of the Participant) within the Limitation Year. For this purpose, Compensation is treated as paid on a date if it is actually paid on that date or it would have been paid on that date but for an election under Code Sections 125(a), 132(f)(4), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 402(k) or 457(b).
- (B) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (v), in order to be taken into account for a Limitation Year, Compensation within the meaning of this Section must be paid or treated as paid to the Participant (in accordance with the rules of subparagraph (v)(A) above) prior to the Participant's severance from employment with the Employer (For purposes of this Section, a Participant is treated as having a severance from employment only when the Participant is no longer providing services to any Employer maintaining the Plan.).
- (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (v)(D), Compensation for a Limitation Year includes amounts earned during the Limitation Year but not paid during the Limitation Year solely because of the timing of pay periods and pay dates if: (1) these amounts are paid during the first few weeks of the next Limitation Year; (2) the amounts are included on a uniform and consistent basis with respect to all similarly situated

employees; and (3) no Compensation is included in more than one Limitation Year.

(D) Compensation Paid After Severance from Employment.

- (1) Any Compensation described in this paragraph (D) does not fail to be Compensation within the meaning of this Section pursuant to the rule of subparagraph (v)(B) merely because it is paid after the Participant's severance from employment with the Employer, provided the Compensation is paid by the later of 2 ½ months after severance from employment with an Employer or the end of the Limitation Year that includes the date of severance from employment with an Employer. In addition, amounts described in subparagraph (v)(D)(3) below, are included in Compensation within the meaning of this Section if—
 - (I) Those amounts are paid by the later of 2 ½ months after severance from employment with an Employer or the end of the Limitation year that includes the date of severance from employment with an Employer; and
 - (II) The payment would have been included in the definition of Compensation if they were paid prior to the Participant's severance from employment with an Employer.
- (2) Regular Pay after Severance. An amount is described in this subparagraph (v)(D)(2) if—
 - (I) The payment is regular Compensation for services during the Participant's regular working hours, or Compensation for services outside the Participant's regular working hours (such as overtime or shift differential), commissions, bonuses, or other similar payments; and
 - (II) The payment would have been paid to the Participant prior to severance from employment if the Participant had continued in employment with the Employer.
- (3) Leave Cashouts and Deferred Compensation. An amount is described in this subparagraph (v)(D)(3) if—
 - (I) Payment for unused accrued bona fide sick, vacation, or other leave, but only if the Participant would have been able to use the leave if employment had continued; or
 - (II) Received by a Participant pursuant to a non-qualified unfunded deferred compensation plan, but only if the payment would have been paid to the Participant at the same time if the Participant had continued in employment with the Employer and only to the extent that the payment is includible in the Participant's gross

income.

- (4) Any payment that is not described in subparagraphs (v)(D)(2) or (v)(D)(3) is not considered Compensation under subparagraph (v)(D)(1) if paid after severance from employment with an Employer, even if it is paid within the time described in subparagraph (v)(D)(1) except, (I) payments to an individual who does not currently perform services for an Employer by reason of qualified military service (within the meaning of Code Section 414(u)(1)) to the extent these payments do not exceed amounts the individual would have received if the individual had continued to perform services for the Employer rather than entering qualified military service, or (II) compensation paid to a Participant who is permanently and totally disabled, as defined by Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, provided salary continuation applies to all Participants who are permanently and totally disabled for a fixed or determinable period, or the Participant was not a Highly Compensated Employee immediately before becoming disabled.
 - (E) Back pay, within the meaning of Treas. Reg. § 1.415(c)-2(g)(8), shall be treated as Compensation for the Limitation Year to which the back pay relates to the extent the back pay represents wages and compensation that would otherwise be included under this definition.
 - (F) In the case of a Participant who, for a taxable year, excludes from their gross income a qualified foster care payment that is a difficulty of care payment under Section 131 of the Code, the Participant's Compensation shall be increased by the amount so excluded.
 - (G) Only compensation considered for purposes of Code Section 401(a)(17) shall be taken into account for purposes of this Section. For Limitation Years beginning on or after January 1, 2002, the annual compensation of each Participant taken into account for determining all benefits provided under the Plan shall not exceed \$200,000, as adjusted for cost-of-living increases in accordance with Code Section 401(a)(17)(B).
- (e)
 - (i) Except as provided below, for applying the limitations set forth in subsection 7.06(a) applicable to a Participant for a particular Limitation Year, all defined contributions plans (without regarding to whether a plan has been terminated) ever maintained by the Employer (or predecessor employer as defined in Treas. Reg. § 1.415(f)-1(c)(1) and (2)) under which the Participant receives Annual Additions are treated as one defined contribution plan.
 - (ii) Notwithstanding paragraph (i) above, for purposes of subsection 7.06(a), Annual Additions to this Plan shall not be aggregated with Annual Additions made to any other multiemployer plan maintained by the Employer.
 - (f) Except as provided in subsection (e) above (regarding aggregation of this Plan with other multiemployer plans), for purposes of applying the limitations of subsection 7.06(a) with respect to a Participant of this Plan, Employer Contributions attributable to such

Participant from all of the Employers maintaining the Plan must be taken into account.

7.07 Required Payments.

- (a) Benefit payments which are required to commence in accordance with Section 7.08 will be made automatically to Participants to whom benefits are payable by the Fund but who fail or refuse to apply for benefits. A Participant's Required Beginning Date is:
 - (a) in the case of a Participant who attained age 70½ on or before December 31, 2019, the April 1st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the Participant attains age 70½, subject to the provisions of Section 401(a)(9) of the Code and related regulations.
 - (b) in the case of a Participant who attained age 70½ after December 31, 2019, and attained age 72 before January 1, 2023, the April 1st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the Participant reaches age 72, subject to the provisions of Section 401(a)(9) of the Code and related regulations.
 - (c) in the case of a Participant who attained age 72 after December 31, 2022, the April 1st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the Participant reaches age 73, subject to the provisions of Section 401(a)(9) of the Code and related regulations.

7.08 Minimum Distribution Requirements.

(a) General Provisions.

The requirements of this Section 7.08 will take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of the Plan. All distributions required under this subsection will be determined and made in accordance with the Treasury Regulations under Code Section 401(a)(9).

- (b) For purposes of this Section 7.08, the following definitions will apply:
 - (i) *Designated Beneficiary.* The individual who is designated as the Beneficiary under Sections 1.04 and 5.10 of the Plan and is Designated Beneficiary under Code Section 401(a)(9) and Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-4.
 - (ii) *Distribution Calendar Year.* A calendar year for which a minimum distribution is required. For distributions beginning before the Participant's death, the first Distribution Calendar Year is the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year which contains the Participant's Required Beginning Date. For distributions beginning after the Participant's death, the first Distribution Calendar Year is the calendar year in which distributions are required to begin under Section 7.08(c)(ii). The required minimum distribution for the Participant's first Distribution Calendar Year will be made on or before the Participant's Required Beginning Date. The required minimum distribution for other Distribution Calendar Years, including the required minimum distribution for the Distribution Calendar Year in which the Participant's Required Beginning Date occurs, will be made on or before December 31st of that Distribution Calendar Year.
 - (iii) *Life Expectancy.* For purposes of this Section 7.08, Life Expectancy will be life expectancy as computed by use of the Single Life Table in Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-9.

- (iv) *Participant's Account Balance.* For purposes of this Section 7.08, the Participant's Account Balance is the account balance as of the last Valuation Date in the calendar year immediately preceding the Distribution Calendar Year (Valuation Calendar Year) increased by the amount of any Contributions made and allocated or forfeitures allocated to the account balance as of dates in the Valuation Calendar Year after the Valuation Date and decreased by distributions made in the Valuation Calendar Year after the Valuation Date.
 - (v) *Required Beginning Date.* The date specified in Section 7.07 for a distribution to the Participant; Section 6.05(c)(ii) for a distribution to a Participant's surviving Spouse; and Section 7.01(e) for a distribution to a Participant's surviving Beneficiary who is not the Participant's Spouse.
 - (vi) *Eligible Designated Beneficiary.* An Eligible Designated Beneficiary is a Designated Beneficiary who is, as of the date of the Participant's death, the (i) surviving Spouse of the Participant; (ii) a child who has not reached the age of majority, which is 21 years old; (iii) a disabled person within the meaning of Section 72(m)(7) of the Code; (iv) a chronically ill individual within the meaning of Section 401(a)(9)(E)(ii)(IV) of the Code; or (v) an individual who is not more than 10 years younger than the Participant.
- (c) Time and Manner of Distributions.
- (i) The Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, to the Participant no later than the Participant's Required Beginning Date.
 - (ii) If the Participant dies before distributions begin, the Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, no later than as follows:
 - (A) If the Participant's surviving Spouse is the Participant's sole Eligible Designated Beneficiary, then, except as provided in this Section 7.08, distributions to the surviving Spouse will begin by the December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant died, or by December 31st of the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the Participant would have attained his or her Required Beginning Date, if later.
 - (B) If the Participant's surviving Spouse is not the Participant's sole Eligible Designated Beneficiary and distributions are to be distributed over the life of the non-Spouse Eligible Designated Beneficiary (or over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of such beneficiary), then, except as provided in this Section 7.08, distributions to any non-Spouse Eligible Designated Beneficiary will begin by December 31st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the Participant died.
 - (C) If there is no Designated Beneficiary as of September 30th of the year following the year of the Participant's death, the Participant's interest will be distributed by December 31st of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the Participant's death.
 - (D) If the Participant's surviving Spouse is the Participant's sole Designated Beneficiary and the surviving Spouse dies after the Participant but before

distributions to the surviving Spouse begin, this paragraph 7.08(c)(ii), other than subparagraph 7.08(c)(ii)(A), will apply as if the surviving Spouse were the Participant.

- (E) In the case of a Designated Beneficiary who is not an Eligible Designated Beneficiary, the Participant's entire interest will be completed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the tenth anniversary of the Participant's death.
- (F) If an Eligible Designated Beneficiary dies before the portion of the Participant's interest is entirely distributed to the Eligible Designated Beneficiary, subsection 7.08(c)(B) shall not apply to any Beneficiary of such Eligible Designated Beneficiary, and the remainder of such portion shall be distributed within 10 years after the death of such Eligible Designated Beneficiary.
- (G) If the Participant's Designated Beneficiary is an Eligible Designated Beneficiary only because the beneficiary is the child of the Participant who has not reached the age of majority at the time of the Participant's death, then the remainder of the interest shall be distributed by December 31 of calendar year that includes the tenth anniversary of the date the Designated Beneficiary reaches the age of majority.

For purposes of this paragraph 7.08(c)(ii) and subsection 7.08(e), unless subparagraph 7.08(c)(ii)(D) applies, distributions are considered to begin on the Participant's Required Beginning Date. If subparagraph 7.08(c)(ii)(D) applies, distributions are considered to begin on the date distributions are required to begin to the surviving Spouse under subparagraph 7.08(c)(ii)(A). If distributions under an annuity purchased from an insurance company irrevocably commence to the Participant before the Participant's Required Beginning Date (or to the Participant's surviving Spouse before the date distributions are required to begin to the surviving Spouse under subparagraph 7.08(c)(ii)(A)), the date distributions are considered to begin is the date distributions actually commence.

- (iii) Unless the Participant's interest is distributed in the form of an annuity purchased from an insurance company or in a single lump sum on or before the Required Beginning Date, as of the first Distribution Calendar Year, distributions will be made in accordance with subsection (d) and (e) of this Section 7.08. If the Participant's interest is distributed in the form of an annuity purchased from an insurance company, distributions thereunder will be made in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 401(a)(9) and the underlying Treasury Regulations.

(d) Required Minimum Distributions During Participant's Lifetime.

- (i) During the Participant's lifetime, the minimum amount that will be distributed for each Distribution Calendar Year is:
 - (A) the quotient obtained by dividing the Participant's Account Balance by the distribution period in the Uniform Lifetime Table set forth in Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-9, using the Participant's age as of the Participant's birthday in the Distribution Calendar Year; or

- (B) if the Participant's sole Eligible Designated Beneficiary for the Distribution Calendar Year is the Participant's Spouse who is more than 10 years younger than the Participant, the quotient obtained by dividing the Participant's Account Balance by the number in the Joint and Last Survivor Table set forth in Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-9, using the Participant's and Spouse's attained ages as of the Participant's and Spouse's birthdays in the Distribution Calendar Year.
 - (ii) Required minimum distributions will be determined under this subsection 7.08(d) beginning with the first Distribution Calendar Year and up to and including the Distribution Calendar Year that includes the Participant's date of death.
- (e) Required Minimum Distributions After Participant's Death.
- (i) Death On or After Date Distributions Begin.
 - (A) If the Participant dies on or after the date distributions begin and there is an Eligible Designated Beneficiary, the minimum amount that will be distributed for each Distribution Calendar Year after the year of the Participant's death is the quotient obtained by dividing the Participant's Account Balance by the longer of the remaining Life Expectancy of the Participant or the remaining Life Expectancy of the Participant's Eligible Designated Beneficiary, determined as follows:
 - (I) The Participant's remaining Life Expectancy is calculated using the age of the Participant in the year of death, reduced by one for each subsequent year.
 - (II) If the Participant's surviving Spouse is the Participant's sole Eligible Designated Beneficiary, the remaining Life Expectancy of the surviving Spouse is calculated for each Distribution Calendar Year after the year of the Participant's death using the surviving Spouse's age as of the Spouse's birthday in that year. For Distribution Calendar Years after the year of the surviving Spouse's death, the remaining Life Expectancy of the surviving Spouse is calculated using the age of the surviving Spouse as of the Spouse's birthday in the calendar year of the Spouse's death, reduced by one for each subsequent calendar year.
 - (III) If the Participant's surviving Spouse is not the Participant's sole Eligible Designated Beneficiary, the Designated Beneficiary's remaining Life Expectancy is calculated using the age of the Beneficiary in the year following the year of the Participant's death, reduced by one for each subsequent year.
 - (B) If the Participant dies on or after the date distributions begin and there is no Designated Beneficiary as of September 30 of the year after the year of the Participant's death, the minimum amount that will be distributed for each Distribution Calendar Year after the year of the Participant's death is the quotient obtained by dividing the Participant's Account Balance by the Participant's remaining Life Expectancy calculated using the age of the Participant in the year of death, reduced by one for each subsequent

year.

- (C) If the Participant dies on or after the date distributions begin and there is a Designated Beneficiary that is not an Eligible Designated Beneficiary, distribution of the Participant's entire interest will be completed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the tenth anniversary of the Participant's death.

(ii) Death Before Distributions Begin.

- (A) Except as provided in this Section 7.08, if the Participant dies before the date distributions begin and there is an Eligible Designated Beneficiary, the minimum amount that will be distributed for each Distribution Calendar Year after the year of the Participant's death is the quotient obtained by dividing the Participant's Account Balance by the remaining Life Expectancy of the Participant's Eligible Designated Beneficiary, determined as provided in subparagraph 7.08(e)(i) above.
- (B) If the Participant dies before the date distributions begin and there is a Designated Beneficiary that is not an Eligible Designated Beneficiary, distribution of the Participant's entire interest will be completed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the tenth anniversary of the Participant's death.
- (C) If the Participant dies before the date distributions begin and there is no Designated Beneficiary as of September 30 of the year following the year of the Participant's death, distribution of the Participant's entire interest will be completed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the Participant's death.
- (D) If the Participant dies before the date distributions begin, the Participant's surviving Spouse is the Participant's sole Eligible Designated Beneficiary, and the surviving Spouse dies before distributions are required to begin to the surviving Spouse under subparagraph 7.08(c)(ii)(A) above, this paragraph 7.08(e)(ii) will apply as if the surviving Spouse were the Participant.

ARTICLE 8

Rules Affecting the Participation of Non-Collectively Bargained Employees

8.01 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to the participation of Non-Collectively Bargained Employees in this Plan:

- (a) “Collectively Bargained Employee”
- (i) A Collectively Bargained Employee for any Plan Year is an Employee who is included in a unit of Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement, as defined in Section 1.05 of the Plan, between an Employer and the Employee’s Employee representative, provided there is evidence that Retirement Benefits were the subject of good faith bargaining between the Employer and Employee representative. An Employee who is not covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement as defined in Section 1.05 of the Plan may not participate in the Plan without the prior approval of the Trustees.
 - (ii) A Non-Collectively Bargained Employee will be treated as a Collectively Bargained Employee (A) if the Employee is or was a member of a unit of Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement and that agreement or another agreement, such as an agreement with the Trustees, provides for the Employee to benefit under the Plan in the Plan Year; and (B) the Employee performs services for an Employer during that Plan Year both as a Collectively Bargained Employee and as a Non-Collectively Bargained Employee, provided at least half of the Employee’s Hours of Work during the Plan Year are performed as a Collectively Bargained Employee.
 - (iii) An Employee who was a Collectively Bargained Employee for a Plan Year, may be treated as a Collectively Bargained Employee for the duration of the Collective Bargaining Agreement applicable for that Plan Year, or if later, until the end of the following Plan Year (A) if the Employee is or was a member of a unit of Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement and that agreement or another agreement, such as an agreement with the Trustees, provides for the Employee to benefit under the Plan in the Plan Year; and (B) the terms of the Plan providing for benefit accruals treat the Employee in a manner that is generally no more favorable than similarly situated Employees who are currently in a unit of Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - (iv) A Non-Collectively Bargained Employee may be treated as a Collectively Bargained Employee (A) if the Employee is or was a member of a unit of Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement and that agreement or another agreement, such as an agreement with the Trustees, provides for the Employee to benefit under the Plan in the Plan Year; (B) the Employee is performing services for an Employer, for this Plan or for a Sprinkler Local Union; (C) the terms of the Plan providing for benefit accruals treat the Employee in a manner that is generally no more favorable than similarly situated Employees who are currently in a unit of Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement; and (D) no more than five percent (5%) of the Employees covered under the Plan are Non-Collectively Bargained Employees determined without regard to this subsection 8.01(a)(iv).

For purposes of this five percent (5%) limitation, Employees described in subsections 8.01(a)(ii) and (iii) are treated as Collectively Bargained Employees.

- (b) “Non-Collectively Bargained Employee” - A Non-Collectively Bargained Employee for any Plan Year is an Employee who is not a Collectively Bargained Employee for that Plan Year as defined in subsection 8.01(a)(i). Provided, however, that certain Non-Collectively Bargained Employees may be treated as Collectively Bargained Employees in accordance with subsections 8.01(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) above.
- (c) “Employer” - For purposes of determining the group of Highly Compensated Employees and for purposes of this Article but not for purposes of determining Covered Employment, the term “Employer” includes all corporations, trades or businesses under common control with the Employer within the meaning of Section 414(b) or (c) of the Code; all members of an affiliated service group with the Employer within the meaning of Section 414(m) of the Code and all other businesses aggregated with the Employer under Section 414(o) of the Code. The term “Employer” includes a Sprinkler Local Union or fund whose officers or Employees participate in the Plan.
- (d) “Highly Compensated Employee” - A Highly Compensated Employee is a highly compensated active Employee or a highly compensated former Employee of an Employer. Whether an individual is a Highly Compensated Employee is determined separately with respect to each Employer, based solely on that individual’s Compensation from that Employer and relationship to that Employer. A Highly Compensated Employee may be determined based on the Employer’s workforce on a single day during the calendar year in accordance with IRS Revenue Procedure 93-42.

A highly compensated active Employee is an Employee of the Employer who performs services for the Employer during the calendar year and who during the calendar year:

- (i) was a 5-percent owner;
- (ii) received Compensation from the Employer in excess of \$80,000, as adjusted.

A highly compensated former Employee for a calendar year is any former Employee who, with respect to the Employer, had a separation year prior to the calendar year and was a highly compensated active Employee for either the Employee’s separation year or any calendar year ending on or after the Employee’s 55th birthday.

An Employee who performs no services for an Employer during the calendar year is treated as a former Employee for that calendar year. Such Employee’s separation year is the year in which the Employee last performed services for the Employer.

- (e) For purposes of this Section, “Compensation” is Compensation as defined in Section 7.06(d) of the Plan. Only Compensation received by an Employee during the applicable calendar year is taken into account.
- (f) “Hour of Work” - For purposes of this Article, an Hour of Work is defined in accordance with Section 1.12 of the Plan.

8.02 Rules for Participation of Non-Collectively Bargained Employees.

- (a) Effective January 1, 1994, Non-Collectively Bargained Employees, including those Employees described in subsections 8.01(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) may participate in the Plan on

the terms and conditions set forth in this Article pursuant to a written agreement between the Employer of such Non-Collectively Bargained Employees and the Trustees.

- (b) Non-Collectively Bargained Employees who are eligible to participate in the Plan are owners, officers and Employees of incorporated Employers; officers and staff Employees of participating Sprinkler Local Unions and Employees of trust funds affiliated with participating Sprinkler Local Unions. Non-Collectively Bargained Employees of an Employer will not be eligible to participate in this Plan if they perform work of the type covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement in the building and construction industry (except the Sprinkler Industry) or perform work as a fabricator or truck driver. Owners of unincorporated Employers may not participate in the Plan.
- (c) Non-Collectively Bargained Employees covered by this Agreement must provide services to the Employer and receive Compensation for those services from the Employer. Whether or not an individual is an Employee of the Employer will be determined based upon whether the Employer is the employer of the individual for purposes of reports and tax returns filed with the Federal or state governments or agencies. Other information will be considered by the Trustees if necessary to determine whether an individual is employed by the Employer. The Employer agrees to furnish such information to the Trustees upon request.
- (d) The Employer must keep adequate records of a Non-Collectively Bargained Employee's Hours of Work. The Employer must also keep adequate records to document the individual's eligibility to participate in the Plan. These records must be provided to the Trustees upon request.
- (e) The Employer must make Contributions on behalf of its Non-Collectively Bargained Employees to the Sprinkler Industry Supplemental Pension Fund for each Hour of Work. Contributions must be made at the rate established by the Collective Bargaining Agreement for journeyman sprinkler fitters employed by the Employer unless otherwise approved by the Trustees.
- (f) Contributions as set out in subparagraph (e) above must be paid starting as of the date a Non-Collectively Bargained Employee performs an Hour of Work under an agreement requiring Contributions to the Plan.
- (g) Payments must be made at the time and in the manner established by the Trustees. The Trustees have the authority to retain an accountant or representative to review the records of the Employer to determine whether the correct Contributions have been made.
- (h) A Non-Collectively Bargained Employee will commence and terminate participation in the Plan in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Plan.
- (i) The participation in the Plan of the Non-Collectively Bargained Employees of an Employer for each Plan Year is conditioned on the Employer's compliance with the requirements of the Plan and the requirements of Sections 401(a)(4) and 410(b) of the Code for that Plan Year. A Non-Collectively Bargained Employee will not accrue a benefit under the Plan during a Plan Year unless the Non-Collectively Bargained Employees of the Employer meet the requirements of Sections 401(a)(4) and 410(b) of the Code for that Plan Year and the Employer provides the Plan with information deemed necessary by the Trustees to monitor compliance with the requirements of the Plan and the Code.

If the Employer fails to provide information requested by the Trustees or fails to comply with the requirements of the Plan or the requirements of Sections 401(a)(4) and 410(b) of the Code, the Employer must immediately take appropriate and necessary remedial action. Such action may include the withdrawal of the Employer's Non-Collectively Bargained Employees from participation in the Plan, or the curing of the defect. If the Employer fails to take necessary and appropriate remedial action, the participation of its Non-Collectively Bargained Employees will terminate as of the end of the Plan Year immediately preceding the Plan Year in which it failed to comply or for which information or certifications to determine compliance was requested but not provided.

- (j) In determining and certifying compliance with the coverage and non-discrimination requirements of the Plan and the Code, an Employer may use "substantiation quality data" as defined in IRS Revenue Procedure 93-42. In addition, an Employer may determine and certify compliance on the basis of the Employer's workforce on a single day during the calendar year (snapshot day) in accordance with IRS Revenue Procedure 93-42.
- (k) In addition to the provision of subsection (i), the participation of its Non-Collectively Bargained Employees in the Plan will end upon termination of the agreement with the Trustees or upon termination of the Employer's Collective Bargaining Agreement.

ARTICLE 9
Miscellaneous

9.01 Trustees' Authority.

The Trustees have the responsibility for interpreting and carrying out the administration of the Plan in accordance with the Trust Agreement. The Trustees have full discretion and authority to interpret and administer the Plan and Trust Agreement.

The decisions of the Trustees applying and interpreting any of the provisions of this Plan will be final and binding on all parties, including but not limited to Participants, Employees, Employers, any Sprinkler Local Union, Annuitants, and Beneficiaries.

The Board of Trustees may allocate and delegate its responsibilities to others, where they deem appropriate, for the effective administration of the Plan as provided in the Trust Agreement.

9.02 Unauthorized Representations.

The Fund is not bound by the representations of any person, other than the Trustees acting in that capacity, regarding participation in, and eligibility for, benefits under this Plan, status of Employees or Employers or any other matter relating to the Plan or Fund.

9.03 Construction.

- (a) Except to the extent ERISA or other federal law preempts, supersedes, or otherwise applies, the provisions of the Plan shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland.
- (b) The titles in this Plan are for references only. In the event of a conflict between a title and the content of a Section, the content of the Section shall control.
- (c) Except as the context may specifically require otherwise, use of the masculine gender will be understood to include both masculine and feminine genders.

9.04 Severability.

In the event that any provision, section or subsection of this Plan is determined to be invalid by decision, act or regulation of a duly constituted body or authority this will not nullify any of the other provisions, Sections or subsections of the Plan.

9.05 Limitation of Liability.

There will be no liability upon the Board of Trustees, any individual serving (or who has served) on the Board of Trustees, the Association, or any Sprinkler Local Union to provide the benefits established by this Plan, if the Fund does not have assets to make such payments.

9.06 Amendments.

The Trustees may amend or modify the Plan at any time in accordance with the Trust Agreement, except that no amendment or modification may reduce any benefits which have been approved for payment prior to amendment, as long as funds are available for payment of such benefits.

9.07 Merger.

In the event of any merger or consolidation with, or transfer of assets or liabilities to any other fund or plan, the amount which a Participant would receive upon a termination of the Plan immediately after such merger, consolidation or transfer will be no less than the amount he would have been entitled to receive immediately before the merger, consolidation, or transfer if the Plan had been terminated.

9.08 Plan Termination.

In the event of termination of the Plan, the assets then remaining, after providing for the expenses of the Plan and for the payment of any Individual Accounts previously approved, will be distributed among the Participants. Each Participant will receive that part of the total remaining assets in the same ratio as his Individual Account bears to the aggregate amount of the Individual Accounts of all Participants. No part of the assets will be returned to any Employer or inure to the benefit of any Employer or any Sprinkler Local Union. A reasonable effort will be made to contact every Participant. Those who cannot be located, or those for whom no claim is made for payment of their Individual Account within 90 days following the sending of notice by registered mail to the last known address, shall have their Individual Account placed in a federally insured savings account. The names of these individuals for whom an account is established will be available for reference with each applicable Sprinkler Local Union. An attempt will also be made to contact any Designated Beneficiary in an attempt to locate the Participant.

9.09 Forum Selection Clause.

Any legal action under Title I of ERISA brought against the Fund, the Plan, the Board of Trustees, any individual serving (or who has served) on the Board of Trustees, any Plan fiduciary (including any former Plan fiduciary), and/or any employee or agent thereof (including any former employee or agent thereof) must be brought exclusively in the federal court located within Prince George's County, State of Maryland (*i.e.*, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland – Southern Division), where the Plan is administered, in which case the parties consent and submit to the personal jurisdiction of the federal court located within Prince George's County, State of Maryland.

Any other legal action brought against the Fund, the Plan, the Board of Trustees, any individual serving (or who has served) on the Board of Trustees, any Plan fiduciary (including any former Plan fiduciary), and/or any employee or agent thereof (including any former employee or agent thereof) must be brought exclusively in the state or federal courts located within Prince George's County, State of Maryland, where the Plan is administered, in which case the parties consent and submit to the personal jurisdiction of the state or federal courts, as applicable, located within Prince George's County, State of Maryland.