

Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 of 21 March 1972 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self employed persons, to self-employed persons and to their families moving within the Community (Consolidated version — OJ No L 28 of 30. 1. 1997, p. 1See annex B.) (repealed)

TITLE IV

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATION RELATING TO THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF BENEFITS

CHAPTER 3

INVALIDITY, OLD-AGE AND DEATH (PENSIONS)

Investigation of claims for benefits in respect of invalidity, old age and survivors in the cases referred to in Article 36 of the implementing Regulation

Article 41

Determination of the investigating institutions

1 Claims for benefit shall be investigated by the institution to which they have been sent or forwarded in accordance with the provisions of Article 36 of the implementing Regulation. This institution is hereinafter referred to as the ‘investigating institution’.

2 The investigating institution shall forthwith notify claims for benefits to all the institutions concerned on a special form, so that the claims may be investigated simultaneously and without delay by all these institutions.

Article 42

Forms to be used for the investigation of claims for benefits

1 When investigating claims for benefits the investigating institution shall use a form which will include, in particular, a statement and a summary of the periods of insurance or residence completed by the employed or self-employed person under the legislation of all the Member States concerned.

2 These forms, when forwarded to the institution of any other Member State, shall take the place of supporting documents.

Article 43

Procedure to be followed by the institution concerned in the investigation of a claim

1 The investigating institution shall enter on the form provided for in Article 42 (1) of the implementing Regulation the periods of insurance or residence completed under the legislation

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which it administers and it shall forward a copy of that form to the institution administering insurance in respect of invalidity, old-age or death (pensions) of any Member State with which the employed or self-employed person has been insured enclosing, where appropriate, any employment certificates produced by the claimant.

2 Where only one other institution is involved, that institution shall complete the said form by indicating:

- a the periods of insurance or residence completed under the legislation which it administers;
- b the amount of benefit which the claimant could claim in respect of those periods of insurance or residence only;
- c the theoretical amount and the actual amount of benefits calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 46 (2) of the Regulation.

The form, thus completed, shall be returned to the investigating institution.

If a right to benefits is acquired taking into account only the periods of insurance or residence completed under the legislation administered by the institution of the second Member State, and if the amount of benefit corresponding to those periods can be determined without delay, whereas the calculation procedure referred to in subparagraph (c) requires an appreciably longer period of time, the form shall be returned to the investigating institution with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b); the information referred to in subparagraph (c) shall be forwarded to the investigating institution as soon as possible.

3 If two or more other institutions are involved, each one of those institutions shall complete the said form by indicating the periods of insurance or residence completed under the legislation which it administers, and shall return it to the investigating institution.

If a right to benefits is acquired taking into account only the periods of insurance or residence completed under the legislation administered by one or more of those institutions, and if the amount of benefit corresponding to those periods can be determined without delay, the investigating institution shall be simultaneously notified of that amount and of the periods of insurance or residence; if the determination of the said amount involves some delay, the investigating institution shall be notified of that amount as soon as it has been determined.

On receipt of all the forms giving information concerning periods of insurance or residence and, where appropriate, the amount or amounts due under the legislation of one or more of the Member States concerned, the investigating institution shall forward a copy of the forms thus completed to each of the institutions concerned which shall specify thereon the theoretical amount and the actual amount of the benefits, calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 46 (2) of the Regulation, and shall return the form to the investigating institution.

4 As soon as the investigating institution, upon receipt of the information referred to in paragraphs 2 or 3, establishes the fact that the provisions of Article 40 (2) or 48 (2) or (3) of the Regulation should be applied, it shall inform the other institutions concerned accordingly.

5 In the case provided for in Article 37 (d) of the implementing Regulation, the institutions of the Member States to whose legislation the claimant has been subject but to which he has applied for postponement of the award of the benefits shall enter on the form provided for in Article 42 (1) of the implementing Regulation only the periods of insurance or residence completed by the claimant under the legislation which they administer.

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Article 44

Institution empowered to take a decision relating to the degree of invalidity

1 Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, only the investigating institution shall be empowered to take the decision referred to in Article 40 (4) of the Regulation concerning the degree of invalidity of the claimant. It shall take such a decision as soon as it is in a position to determine whether, taking account, where appropriate, of the provisions of Article 45 of the Regulation, the conditions for entitlement fixed by the legislation which it administers are fulfilled. It shall notify such decision forthwith to the other institutions concerned.

2 If, taking account of the provisions of Article 45 of the Regulation, the conditions for entitlement, other than those relating to the degree of invalidity, laid down by the legislation administered by the investigating institution are not fulfilled, that institution shall immediately notify the competent institution in respect of invalidity of the other Member State to whose legislation the employed or self-employed person was last subject. This institution shall, if the conditions for entitlement laid down by the legislation which it administers are fulfilled, be empowered to take the decision relating to the degree of invalidity of the claimant; it shall forthwith notify that decision to the other institutions concerned.

3 Where necessary, the matter may have to be referred back, under the same conditions, to the competent institution in respect of invalidity of the Member State to whose legislation the employed or self-employed person was first subject.

Article 45

Provisional payment of benefits and advance payments of benefits

1 If the investigating institution establishes that the claimant is entitled to benefits under the legislation which it administers without having recourse to periods of insurance or residence completed under the legislation of other Member States, it shall pay such benefits immediately on a provisional basis.

2 If the claimant is not entitled to benefits under paragraph 1 but, from information supplied to the investigating institution pursuant to Article 43 (2) or (3) of the implementing Regulation, it transpires that a right to benefits is acquired under the legislation of another Member State taking into account only the periods of insurance or residence completed under that legislation, the institution which administers the said legislation shall pay such benefits on a provisional basis as soon as the investigating institution has informed it of its obligation to do so.

3 If, in the case referred to in paragraph 2, a right to benefits is acquired under the legislation of more than one Member State, taking into account only those periods of insurance or residence completed under each one of those legislations, the payment of benefits on a provisional basis shall be the responsibility of the institution which in the first place informed the investigating institution of the existence of such a right; it shall be the duty of the investigating institution to inform the other institutions concerned.

4 The institution required to pay benefits under paragraph 1, 2 or 3 shall forthwith inform the claimant of the fact, drawing his attention explicitly to the provisional nature of the measure taken and to the fact that is not open to appeal.

5 If no benefit is payable to the claimant on a provisional basis under paragraph 1, 2 or 3, but it transpires from information received that a right is acquired under Article 46 (2) of the

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Regulation, the investigating institution shall pay him an appropriate recoverable advance, the amount of which shall be as close as possible to the amount he will probably be awarded under Article 46 (2) of the Regulation.

6 Two Member States or the competent authorities or those member States may agree to apply other methods of payment of benefits on a provisional basis in cases where only the institutions of those States are concerned. Any such agreements which are concluded on this subject shall be notified to the Administrative Commission.

Article 46 (11)

Amounts due for periods of voluntary insurance or optional continued insurance, which must not be taken into consideration under Article 15 (1) (b) of the implementing Regulation.

For the calculation of the theoretical amount and of the actual amount of the benefit in accordance with Article 46 (2) (a) and (b) of the Regulation, the rules laid down in Article 15 (1), (b), (c) and (d) of the implementing Regulation shall be applicable.

The amount actually due, calculated in accordance with Article 46 (2) of the Regulation, shall be increased by the amount which corresponds to the periods of voluntary or optional continued insurance, which have not been taken into account under Article 15 (1) (b) of the implementing Regulation. This increase shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Member State's legislation under which the periods of voluntary insurance or of optional continued insurance have been completed.

The comparison referred to in Article 46 (3) of the Regulation must be made bearing the aforesaid increase in mind.

Article 47 (11)

Calculation of the amounts due corresponding to the periods of voluntary or optional continued insurance

In accordance with the legislation it applies, the institution of each Member State shall calculate the amount corresponding to the periods of voluntary or optional continued insurance which, under Article 46a (3) (c) of the Regulation, is not subject to the provisions for withdrawal, reduction or suspension of another Member State.

Article 48 (11)

Notification to the claimant of the decisions of the institutions

1 The final decision taken by each of the institutions concerned shall be notified to the investigating institution. Each of these decisions must specify the grounds and time-limits for appeal provided for by the legislation in question. When all these decisions have been received, the investigating institution shall communicate them to the claimant in his own language by means of a summarized statement to which the aforesaid decisions shall be appended. Periods allowed for appeals shall commence only on the date of receipt of the summarized statement by the claimant.

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2 On dispatch to the claimant of the summarized statement provided for in paragraph 1, the investigating institution shall simultaneously forward a copy to each one of the institutions concerned, enclosing with it a copy of the decisions of the other institutions.

Article 49 (11)

Recalculation of benefits

1 For the purpose of implementing Article 43 (3) and (4), Article 49 (2) and (3) and Article 51 (2) of the Regulation, the provisions of Article 45 of the implementing Regulation shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

2 In the event of recalculation, withdrawal or suspension of a benefit, the institution which has taken such a decision shall immediately notify the person concerned and each of the institutions on which the person concerned has a claim, if necessary through the good offices of the investigating institution. The decision must specify the grounds and time-limits for appeal provided for by the legislation in question. Periods allowed for appeals shall commence only on the date of receipt of the decision by the person concerned.

Article 50

Measures designed to accelerate the award of benefits

- 1
- a (i) Where an employed or self-employed person who is a national of one Member State becomes subject to the legislation of another Member State, the competent institution in respect of pensions of the latter Member State shall, using all the means at its disposal and at the time of registration of the person concerned, forward to the body designated by the competent authority of that same Member State, all information relating to the identification of the person concerned and the name of the said competent institution and the insurance number allotted by the latter
 - (ii) Moreover, the competent institution referred to in subparagraph (i) shall also, as far as possible, forward to the body designated under the provisions of subparagraph (i) any other information which may facilitate and accelerate the award of the pensions.
 - (iii) Such information shall be forwarded, under conditions fixed by the Administrative Commission, to the body designated by the competent authority of the Member State concerned.
 - (iv) For the implementation of the provisions of subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (iii), stateless persons and refugees shall be deemed to be nationals of the member State to whose legislation they were first subject.
 - b) The institutions concerned shall, at the request of the person concerned or of the institution with which he is currently insured, draw up his insurance history starting not later than one year before the date on which he will reach pensionable age.

2 The Administrative Commission shall fix the methods for implementing the provisions of paragraph 1.

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