

Information Sheet

Cash Payments in the EU from June 1, 2007

Cash payments upon leaving Switzerland permanently are not possible for insured persons moving to an EU/EFTA member state where they will be subject to mandatory occupational benefits insurance against old age, disability and death.

Withdrawal of the extra-mandatory portion of vested benefits may be made in the form of a cash payment.

1. Persons who are affected

Employees and self-employed persons are affected. Even persons who will become self-employed after moving to an EU/EFTA country cannot request a cash payment if they are subject to mandatory insurance there.

2. Cash benefits that are affected

Vested benefits from the mandatory occupational benefits insurance are affected. The extra-mandatory vested benefits, disability benefits (also as lump-sum payments) and advance withdrawals for the promotion of home ownership are not affected.

3. Consequences of cash payments not being made

The mandatory vested benefits must remain in Switzerland and cannot be withdrawn in cash as retirement benefits until five years before the normal retirement age is reached (women from the age of 59, men from the age of 60). It is not possible to transfer vested benefits to an occupational benefits institution in an EU-/EFTA country.

4. Principality of Liechtenstein as a special case

If an insured person is moving to the Principality of Liechtenstein after leaving Switzerland permanently, it is not possible for vested benefits (whether these are mandatory or extra-mandatory) to be paid out in cash. Instead, the vested benefits must be transferred to the occupational benefits institution in Liechtenstein in the same way as if it were a Swiss occupational benefits institution. This is based on a separate agreement between the two countries.

5. Occupational benefits institution's obligation to check entitlement

Insured persons must supply proof that the prerequisites for a cash payment have been met. The Swiss occupational benefits institution checks whether this proof has been supplied.

The BVG/LPP Security Fund (www.sfbvg.ch) has set up a centralized data exchange procedure with the social insurance authorities of Italy, Austria, Spain and Portugal for the purpose of verifying enrollment in the mandatory insurance. The application form for an inquiry about social insurance obligations can be obtained from the Liaison Office (www.verbindungsstelle.ch).

Insured persons who emigrate to a country with which no collaboration agreement has been signed can obtain a general application form from the same address when inquiring into social insurance obligations in a EU or EFTA country.

6. EFTA States

Iceland, Norway, Principality of Liechtenstein, Switzerland

7. EU Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

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