



PLAN SPONSOR

Electronic Filing of Form 5500 Annual Return/Reports

On December 31, DOL/EBSA converted to a total electronic system of online filing for the Forms 5500 and the new Form 5500-SF. Now, the all-electronic EFAST2 system allows the public to submit and access filings online at www.efast.dol.gov.

The revised EFAST Web site has been updated to provide a variety of tools and guidance, including the 2009 and 2010 Form 5500 and the new Form 5500-SF schedules and instructions, Frequently Asked Questions, user guides and a tutorial. Filers and preparers can register for an account, complete the required forms and schedules online (in multiple sessions), print a copy for their records and submit it at no cost.

Filers may also use EFAST2-approved software to complete and submit their filings. EFAST2-approved software is expected to be easier to use and provide more value-added features than the Government Web application. A list of EFAST2-approved software is available on the EFAST2 Web site.

Retirement plans required to file an annual return/report regarding their financial conditions, investments and operations each year generally satisfy that requirement by filing the Form 5500 or Form 5500-SF and any required attachments.

Filers must submit the 2009 and 2010 annual return/report forms and schedules electronically through EFAST2. Prior year delinquent or amended Form 5500 filings also now must be filed electronically except that timely 2008 plan year filings may still be filed through the original EFAST on paper until October 15, 2010, or electronically through June 30, 2010.

Important changes for the 2009 and 2010 forms include:

- Mandatory electronic filing;
- Introduction of the new, two-page Form 5500-SF for eligible small plan filers;
- Expanded disclosure on Schedule C of indirect service provider compensation;
- Expanded reporting by Code §403(b) plans; and
- Elimination of IRS Schedules E and SSA. Information on participants with deferred vested benefits who separated from the service covered by the plan must now be filed directly with the IRS.

Assistance with the EFAST2 system and the Form 5500 and 5500-SF is available toll-free at (866) 463-3278. DOL/EBSA is also helping filers and other plan officials with the changes to the Form 5500 and the filing process through a series of webcasts. Archives of four webcasts held are also [available](#).

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