

amount is calculated by dividing the month-end account balance for the month preceding the month of the first payment by the factor from table V based upon the participant's age as of his or her birthday in that year. This amount is then divided by 12 to yield the monthly payment amount. In subsequent years, the monthly payment amount is recalculated each January by dividing the December 31 account balance from the previous year by the factor from Table V based upon the participant's age as of his or her birthday in the year payments will be made. That amount is divided by 12 to yield the monthly payment account.

(b) A participant who chooses to receive monthly payments calculated using one of the three methods set forth in paragraph (a) of this section cannot change the method after payments begin. Also, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the participant cannot change the number of payments or the payment amount after payments begin.

(c) A participant receiving monthly payments can choose to receive the remainder of his or her account balance in a final single payment.

(d) A participant receiving monthly payments may invest his or her account balance as provided in 5 CFR part 1601.

§ 1650.10 Annuities.

(a) A participant can withdraw his or her entire account balance in the form of a life annuity. The participant's account balance must be \$3,500 or more in order for the TSP to purchase an annuity. If a participant chooses this method, the TSP will be sent forms asking him or her to choose an annuity method, name a beneficiary (if required), and provide any necessary spousal waiver or spousal information. Upon receipt of the required information, the TSP will purchase the annuity from the TSP's annuity vendor using the participant's entire account balance, except for any amount necessary to satisfy minimum distribution requirements. The first annuity payment will be made approximately 30 calendar days after the purchase of the annuity. The annuity will provide a payment for life to the participant and, if applicable, the participant's survivor, in accordance with the type of annuity chosen.

(b) The following types of annuities are available to participants:

(1) A single life annuity with level payments. This annuity is based upon the life expectancy of the participant at the time of purchase and provides monthly payments to the participant as long as the participant lives.

(2) A joint life annuity for the participant and his or her spouse with level payments. This annuity is based upon the combined life expectancies of the participant and the spouse and provides monthly payments to the participant, as long as both the participant and spouse are alive, and monthly payments to the survivor, as long as he or she is alive.

(3) Either a single life or joint life annuity (as described in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section) where the amount of the monthly payment can increase each year on the anniversary date of the first annuity payment. The amount of the increase is based on the average annual change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers as measured between the period of July through September in the second calendar year preceding the anniversary date and July through September in the calendar year preceding the anniversary date. For example, if the anniversary date of an increasing annuity occurs in November of 1995, the amount of the increase will be calculated based upon the change in the index between the July–September period in 1993 and the July–September period in 1994. Monthly payments cannot decrease, nor can they increase more than 3 percent each year. If this option is chosen in conjunction with a joint life annuity with the spouse, the annual increase continues to apply to benefits received by the survivor. (4) A joint life annuity, with level payments, for the participant and another person who either is a former spouse or has an insurable interest in the participant. This annuity is based upon the combined life expectancies of the participant and the other person. It provides monthly payments to the participant as long as both the participant and the joint annuitant are alive, and monthly payments to the survivor as long as he or she is alive. Increasing payments cannot be chosen for a joint annuity with a person other than the spouse.

(i) A person has an "insurable interest" in a participant if the person is financially dependent on the participant and could reasonably expect to derive financial benefit from the participant's continued life.

(ii) A relative (whether blood or adopted, but not by marriage) who is closer than a first cousin will be presumed to have an insurable interest in the participant.

(iii) A participant can establish that a person not described in paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section has an insurable interest in him or her by submitting with the annuity request an affidavit

from a person other than the participant or the joint annuitant demonstrating that the designated joint annuitant has an insurable interest (as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section) in the participant.

(c) Participants who choose a joint life annuity (with either a spouse or a person with an insurable interest) must choose either a 50 percent or a 100 percent survivor benefit. A 50 percent survivor benefit provides a monthly payment to the survivor which is 50 percent of the payment made when both the participant and the joint annuitant are alive. A 100 percent survivor benefit provides a monthly payment to the survivor which is the same amount as the payment made when both the participant and the survivor are alive. Either the 50 percent or the 100 percent survivor benefit may be combined with any joint life annuity option, except that the 100 percent survivor benefit can be combined with a joint annuity with a person other than the spouse (or a former spouse, if required by a retirement benefits court order) only if the joint annuitant is not more than 10 years younger than the participant.

(d) The following mutually exclusive features can be combined with certain types of annuities, as indicated:

(1) *Cash refund*. This feature provides that, if the participant (and joint annuitant, if applicable) dies before an amount equal to the balance used to purchase the annuity has been paid out, the difference between the balance used to purchase the annuity and the sum of monthly payments already made will be paid to the named beneficiaries. The participant (or the joint annuitant, if the participant is deceased) may name or change the beneficiaries. This feature can be combined with any other annuity option.

(2) *Ten-year certain*. This feature provides that, if the participant dies before annuity payments have been made for 10 years (120 payments), monthly payments will continue to be made to the beneficiaries selected by the participant until 120 payments have been made. This feature can be combined with any single life annuity option, but cannot be selected in conjunction with any joint life annuity option.

(e) The Board can, from time to time, establish other types of annuities, other levels of survivor benefits, and other annuity features.

(f) The Board can, from time to time, eliminate a type of annuity (except for those annuities described in paragraph (b) of this section), a survivor benefit level, or an annuity feature. However, if the Board does so, it must continue to