

PART 157—EMPLOYER INTERACTIONS WITH EXCHANGES AND SHOP PARTICIPATION

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Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 157.10 Basis and scope.

(a) *Basis.* This part is based on the following sections of title I of the Affordable Care:

(1) 1311. Affordable choices of health benefits plans.

(2) 1312. Consumer Choice.

(3) 1321. State flexibility in operation and enforcement of Exchanges and related requirements.

(4) 1411. Procedures for determining eligibility for Exchange participation, advance payments of the premium tax credit and cost-sharing reductions, and individual responsibility exemptions.

(5) 1412. Advance determination and payment of the premium tax credit and cost-sharing reductions.

(b) *Scope.* This part establishes the requirements for employers in connection with the operation of Exchanges.

§ 157.20 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this part, unless otherwise indicated:

Qualified employee has the meaning given to the term in § 155.20 of this subchapter.

Qualified employer has the meaning given to the term in § 155.20 of this subchapter.

Small employer has the meaning given to the term in § 155.20 of this subchapter.

Subpart B [Reserved]

Subpart C—Standards for Qualified Employers

§ 157.200 Eligibility of qualified employers to participate in a SHOP.

(a) *General requirement.* Only a qualified employer may participate in the SHOP in accordance with § 155.710 of this subchapter.

(b) *Continuing participation for growing small employers.* A qualified employer may continue to participate in the SHOP if it ceases to be a small employer in accordance with § 155.710 of this subchapter.

(c) *Participation in multiple SHOPS.* A qualified employer may participate in multiple SHOPS in accordance with § 155.710 of this subchapter.

§ 157.205 Qualified employer participation process in a SHOP.

(a) *General requirements.* When joining the SHOP, a qualified employer must comply with the requirements, processes, and timelines set forth by this part and must remain in compliance for the duration of the employer's participation in the SHOP.

(b) *Selecting QHPs.* During an election period, a qualified employer may make coverage in a QHP available through the SHOP in accordance with the processes developed by the SHOP in accordance with § 155.705 of this subchapter.

(c) *Information dissemination to employees.* A qualified employer participating in the SHOP must disseminate information to its qualified employees about the process to enroll in a QHP through the SHOP.

(d) *Payment.* A qualified employer must submit any contribution towards the premiums of any qualified employee according to the standards and processes described in § 155.705 of this subchapter.

(e) *Employees hired outside of the initial or annual open enrollment period.* Qualified employers must provide employees hired outside of the initial or annual open enrollment period with:

(1) A period to seek coverage in a QHP beginning on the first day of becoming a qualified employee; and

(2) Information about the enrollment process in accordance with §155.725 of this subchapter.

(f) *New employees and changes in employee eligibility.* Qualified employers participating in the SHOP must provide the SHOP with information about dependents or employees whose eligibility status for coverage purchased through the employer in the SHOP has changed, including:

(1) Newly eligible dependents and employees; and

(2) Loss of qualified employee status.

(g) *Annual employer election period.* Qualified employers must adhere to the annual employer election period to change their program participation for the next plan year described in §155.725(c) of this subchapter.

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