

(d) A married participant may request a refund of default employee contributions without obtaining the consent of his or her spouse or having the TSP notify the spouse of the request.

(e) The rules applicable to frozen accounts (5 CFR 1650.3) and applicable to deceased participants (5 CFR 1650.6) also apply to refunds of the default employee contributions.

**§ 1600.36 Matching contributions.**

(a) A participant is not entitled to keep the matching contributions and their associated earnings that are attributable to refunded default employee contributions.

(b) The matching contributions and associated earnings attributable to refunded default employee contributions shall be forfeited to the TSP and used to offset administrative expenses.

**§ 1600.37 Employing agency notice.**

Employing agencies shall furnish all new employees and all rehired employees covered by the automatic enrollment program a notice that accurately describes:

(a) That default employee contributions equal to 3 percent of the employee's basic pay will be deducted from his or her pay and contributed to the TSP on the employee's behalf if the employee does not make an affirmative election;

(b) The employee's right to elect to not have default employee contributions made to the TSP on his or her behalf or to elect to have a different percentage or amount of basic pay contributed to the TSP;

(c) That the default employee contributions will be invested in the G Fund unless the employee makes a contribution allocation and/or an interfund transfer; and

(d) The employee's ability to request a refund of any default employee contributions (adjusted for allocable gains and losses) and the procedures to request such a refund.

**PART 1601—PARTICIPANTS' CHOICES OF TSP FUNDS**

**Subpart A—General**

Sec.

1601.1 Definitions.

**Subpart B—Investing Future Deposits**

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1601.33 Acknowledgment of risk.

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**Subpart E—Lifecycle Funds**

1601.40 Lifecycle Funds.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8351, 8438, 8474(b)(5) and (c)(1).

SOURCE: 66 FR 22093, May 2, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 1601.1 Definitions.**

(a) Definitions generally applicable to the Thrift Savings Plan are set forth at 5 CFR 1690.1.

(b) As used in this part:

*Acknowledgment of risk* means an acknowledgment that any investment in a TSP Fund other than the G Fund is made at the participant's risk, that the participant is not protected by the United States Government or the Board against any loss on the investment, and that neither the United States Government nor the Board guarantees any return on the investment.

[68 FR 35495, June 13, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 32207, June 1, 2005]

### Subpart B—Investing Future Deposits

SOURCE: 68 FR 35495, June 13, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 1601.11 Applicability.

This subpart applies only to the investment of future deposits to the TSP's TSP Funds, including contributions, loan payments, and transfers or rollovers from traditional IRAs and eligible employer plans; it does not apply to redistributing participants' existing account balances among the TSP Funds, which is covered in subpart C of this part.

[68 FR 35495, June 13, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 32207, June 1, 2005]

#### § 1601.12 Investing future deposits in the TSP Funds.

(a) *Allocation.* Future deposits in the TSP, including contributions, loan payments, and transfers or rollovers from traditional IRAs and eligible employer plans, will be allocated among the TSP Funds based on the most recent contribution allocation on file for the participant.

(b) *TSP Funds availability.* All participants may elect to invest all or any portion of their deposits in any of the TSP Funds.

[70 FR 32207, June 1, 2005]

#### § 1601.13 Elections.

(a) *Contribution allocation.* Each participant may indicate his or her choice of TSP Funds for the allocation of future deposits by using the TSP Web site or the ThriftLine, or by completing and filing the appropriate paper TSP form with the TSP record keeper in accordance with the form's instructions. The following rules apply to contribution allocations:

(1) Contribution allocations must be made in one percent increments. The sum of the percentages elected for all of the TSP Funds must equal 100 percent;

(2) The percentage elected by a participant for investment of future deposits in a TSP Fund will be applied to all sources of contributions and transfers (or rollovers) from traditional IRAs and eligible employer plans. A partici-

pant may not make different percentage elections for different sources of contributions;

(3) A participant who elects for the first time to invest in a TSP Fund other than the G Fund must execute an acknowledgment of risk in accordance with §1601.33;

(4) All deposits made on behalf of a participant who does not have a contribution allocation in effect will be invested in the G Fund; and

(5) Once a contribution allocation becomes effective, it remains in effect until it is superseded by a subsequent contribution allocation. If a separated participant is rehired and had not withdrawn his or her entire TSP account, the participant's last contribution allocation before separation from service will be effective until a new allocation is made.

(b) *Effect of rejection of contribution allocation.* If a participant does not correctly complete a contribution allocation, the attempted allocation will have no effect. The TSP will provide the participant with a written statement of the reason the transaction was rejected.

(c) *Contribution elections.* A participant may designate the amount of employee contributions he or she wishes to make to the TSP or may stop contributions only in accordance with 5 CFR part 1600.

[68 FR 35495, June 13, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 32207, June 1, 2005]

### Subpart C—Redistributing Participants' Existing Account Balances (Interfund Transfers)

SOURCE: 68 FR 35495, June 13, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 1601.21 Applicability.

This subpart applies only to interfund transfers, which involve redistributing participants' existing account balances among the TSP Funds; it does not apply to the investment of future deposits, which is covered in subpart B of this part.

[68 FR 35495, June 13, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 32208, June 1, 2005]

**§ 1601.22 Methods of requesting an interfund transfer.**

(a) Participants may make an interfund transfer using the TSP Web site or the ThriftLine, or by completing and filing the appropriate paper TSP form with the TSP record keeper in accordance with the form's instructions. The following rules apply to an interfund transfer request:

(1) Interfund transfer requests must be made in whole percentages (one percent increments). The sum of the percentages elected for all of the TSP Funds must equal 100 percent.

(2) The percentages elected by the participant will be applied to the balances in each source of contributions and to both tax-deferred and tax-exempt balances on the effective date of the interfund transfer.

(3) Any participant who elects to invest in a TSP Fund other than the G Fund for the first time must execute an acknowledgement of risk in accordance with § 1601.33.

(b) An interfund transfer request has no effect on deposits made after the effective date of the interfund transfer request; subsequent deposits will continue to be allocated among the investment funds in accordance with the participant's contribution allocation made under subpart B of this part.

(c) If an interfund transfer is found to be invalid pursuant to § 1601.34, the purported transfer will not be made. The TSP will provide the participant with a written statement of the reason the transaction was rejected.

[70 FR 32208, June 1, 2005]

**Subpart D—Contribution Allocations and Interfund Transfer Requests****§ 1601.31 Applicability.**

This subpart applies both to contribution allocations made under subpart B of this part and interfund transfers made under subpart C of this part.

**§ 1601.32 Timing and posting dates.**

(a) *Posting dates.* The date on which the TSP processes or posts a contribution allocation or interfund transfer request (transaction request) is subject to a number of factors, including some

that are outside of the control of the TSP, such as power outages, the failure of telephone service, unusually heavy transaction volume, and acts of God. These factors also could affect the availability of the TSP Web site and the ThriftLine. Therefore, the TSP cannot guarantee that a transaction request will be processed on a particular day. However, the TSP will process transaction requests under ordinary circumstances according to the following rules:

(1) A transaction request entered into the TSP record keeping system by a participant who uses the TSP Web site or the ThriftLine, or by a TSP Service Office participant service representative at the participant's request, before 12 noon eastern time of any business day, will ordinarily be posted that business day. A transaction request entered into the system at or after 12 noon eastern time of any business day will ordinarily be posted on the next business day.

(2) A transaction request made on the TSP Web site or the ThriftLine on a non-business day will ordinarily be posted on the next business day.

(3) A transaction request made on a paper TSP form will ordinarily be posted under the rules in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, based on when the TSP record keeper enters the form into the TSP system. The TSP record keeper ordinarily enters such forms into the system within 24 hours of their receipt.

(4) In most cases, the share price(s) applied to an interfund transfer request is the value of the shares on the date the relevant transaction is posted. In some circumstances, such as error correction, the share price(s) for an earlier date will be used.

(b) *Limit.* There is no limit on the number of contribution allocation requests. A participant may make two unrestricted interfund transfers (account rebalancings) per account (e.g., civilian or uniformed services), per calendar month. An interfund transfer will count toward the monthly total on the date posted by the TSP and not on the date requested by a participant. After a participant has made two interfund transfers in a calendar month, the participant may make additional interfund transfers only into the

## § 1601.33

G Fund until the first day of the next calendar month.

[70 FR 32208, June 1, 2005, as amended at 72 FR 73252, Dec. 27, 2007; 73 FR 22057, Apr. 24, 2008; 75 FR 68169, Nov. 5, 2010]

### § 1601.33 Acknowledgment of risk.

(a) A participant who wants to invest in a TSP Fund other than the G Fund must execute an acknowledgment of risk for that fund. If a required acknowledgment of risk has not been executed, no transactions involving the fund(s) for which the acknowledgment is required will be accepted.

(b) The acknowledgment of risk may be executed in association with a contribution allocation or an interfund transfer using the TSP Web site, the ThriftLine, or a paper TSP form.

[70 FR 32208, June 1, 2005]

### § 1601.34 Error correction.

Errors in processing contribution allocations and interfund transfer requests, or errors that otherwise cause money to be invested in the wrong investment fund, will be corrected in accordance with the error correction regulations found at 5 CFR part 1605.

[66 FR 22093, May 2, 2001. Redesignated at 70 FR 32208, June 1, 2005]

## Subpart E—Lifecycle Funds

### § 1601.40 Lifecycle Funds.

The Executive Director will establish TSP Lifecycle Funds, which are target date asset allocation portfolios. The TSP Lifecycle Funds will invest solely in the funds established by the TSP pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8438.

[70 FR 32208, June 1, 2005]

## PART 1603—VESTING

Sec.

1603.1 Definitions.

1603.2 Basic vesting rules.

1603.3 Service requirements.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8432(g), 8432b(h)(1), 8474(b)(5) and (c)(1).

SOURCE: 52 FR 29835, Aug. 12, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

## 5 CFR Ch. VI (1–1–12 Edition)

### § 1603.1 Definitions.

(a) Definitions generally applicable to the Thrift Savings Plan are set forth at 5 CFR 1690.1.

(b) As used in this part:

*Service* means:

(1) Any non-military service that is creditable under either 5 U.S.C. chapter 83, subchapter III, or 5 U.S.C. 8411. However, that service is to be determined without regard to any time limitations, any deposit or redeposit requirements contained in those statutory provisions after performing the service involved, or any requirement that the individual give written notice of that individual's desire to become subject to the retirement system established by 5 U.S.C. chapters 83 or 84;

(2) Any military service creditable under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 8432b(h)(1) and the regulations at 5 CFR part 1620, subpart H.

*Uniformed services* means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as members of the Ready Reserve including the National Guard.

*Vested* means those amounts in an individual account which are nonforfeitable.

*Year of service* means one full calendar year of service.

[68 FR 35497, June 13, 2003]

### § 1603.2 Basic vesting rules.

(a) All amounts in a CSRS employee's or uniformed service member's individual account are immediately vested.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, all amounts in a FERS employee's individual account (including all first conversion contributions) are immediately vested.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, upon separation from Government service without meeting the applicable service requirements of §1603.3, a FERS employee's agency automatic (1%) contributions and attributable earnings will be forfeited.

(d) If a FERS employee dies (or died) after January 7, 1988, without meeting the applicable service requirements set