

BVG Guarantee Fund

Information sheet for insured persons

July 2016

The BVG Guarantee Fund foundation is a national Swiss occupational pensions institution to which all occupational pension funds that are subject to the Swiss Federal Law on Vesting in Pension Plans are affiliated. Its main purpose is to safeguard retirement savings in the event of insolvency.

Organisation and financing.

As a public-sector foundation, the BVG Guarantee Fund is a statutory authority and can issue rulings.

It is managed by the Union for the Implementation of the BVG Guarantee Fund (which is made up of the most important organisations involved in occupational pensions). The BVG Guarantee Fund is financed by all occupational pension funds subject to the Swiss Federal Law on Vesting in Pension Plans.

Main tasks.

1. Insolvency benefits

The main purpose of the BVG Guarantee Fund is to **guarantee the benefits** to all those insured under the 2nd pillar in **the event of the insolvency of their pension fund**. If a pension fund is unable to pay, the BVG Guarantee Fund guarantees the pension benefits in accordance with the **minimum requirements of the BVG** as well as (within certain limits and under certain conditions) non-mandatory benefits under the pension fund's regulations.

2. Compensatory subsidies

Since the BVG came into effect, the BVG Guarantee Fund has paid **subsidies** as compensation to employers with above-average numbers of older employees (i.e. to employers whose workforce has an unfavourable age structure).

3. 2nd pillar central office

The BVG Guarantee Fund serves as the Liaison Office between the pension funds of the 2nd pillar and the insured.

The funds have to report to the central office on the **assets without contacting the beneficiaries**, and insured persons can direct **enquiries about their assets** to the central office.

Procedure: If you don't know the address of your pension fund in Switzerland, you can submit a **written enquiry** to the 2nd pillar central office (using a special form). The 2nd pillar central office then compares the submitted form with the reports from the institution. If they match up, you are put in touch with the appropriate pension fund.

Any claims must then be made directly to the pension fund or vested benefits institution, which is then solely responsible for deciding on the claimant's entitlement to assets and whether payments should be made.

Please refer to the information sheet entitled «Anfrage bei der Zentralstelle 2. Säule zu Guthaben aus der beruflichen Vorsorge» («Submitting an enquiry to the 2nd pillar central office about assets in an occupational pension fund») (www.sfbvg.ch).

4. Liaison Office

The BVG Guarantee Fund serves as the occupational pensions Liaison Office for the **member countries of the European Union** and the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**.

The Guarantee Fund clarifies whether you are obliged to have social insurance in an EU or EFTA country.

By completing the form entitled «Antragsformular für die Abklärung der Sozialversicherungspflicht in einem EU oder EFTA Staat nach dem endgültigen Verlassen der Schweiz» («Form for requesting clarification as to whether there is an obligation to have social insurance in an EU or EFTA country after leaving Switzerland definitively») (www.sfbvg.ch), the requester authorises the BVG Guarantee Fund (in connection with the transfer of assets from the occupational pension fund) to forward his or her personal data to the responsible authority of an EU/EFTA country and to send the results of clarification to the BVG Guarantee Fund. The BVG Guarantee Fund is also authorised to inform all of the parties involved (the account-keeping institutions and the person submitting the request) about the results of clarification.