

RETIREMENT PLAN SPOTLIGHT

Defined Benefit Retirement Plan | 2026 Compliance Calendar

Calendar Plan Year and Calendar Employer Tax Year

Retirement plan sponsors are responsible for compliance with many ongoing reporting, disclosure and notice requirements. This Retirement Plan Compliance Calendar summarizes the major requirements that apply to Defined Benefit ("DB") pension plans for 2026. Due dates are based on a calendar plan year and calendar employer tax year and are applicable to plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). If you have questions regarding these requirements and their application to your plan(s), please contact your USI Consulting Group representative, visit our [Contact Us](#) page or reach out to us at information@usicg.com.

Month	Requirement	Due Date	Status
JANUARY	Due date to make fourth quarter required contribution for 2025 plan year.	January 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Deadline to provide participants and beneficiaries with notice of benefit restrictions for plans that fail to meet the 60% funding threshold.	January 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to furnish Form 1099-R to recipients of distributions during the 2025 calendar year.	January 31*	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
FEBRUARY	Last day to file Form 945 to report federal income tax withheld from distributions in 2025. (Due January 31 if 2025 tax deposits were not made on time in full.)	February 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file Form 1096 and Form 1099-R on paper with the IRS for prior year distributions.	February 28*	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
MARCH	Application for Waiver for Minimum Funding Standard due for DB plans, where applicable (due no later than the 15th day of the 3rd month after the close of the plan year for which the waiver is requested).	March 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Employer contributions: Last day for S-corporation and partnership employer plan sponsors to make deductible contributions for 2025. (For plan sponsor's with a tax year ending December 31, without tax extension.)	March 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file Form 1099-R on paper with extension, or electronically with the IRS for prior year distributions and/or deemed distributions.	March 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	2025 comprehensive PBGC reconciliation filing premium due to the PBGC for plans that filed an earlier estimated variable rate premium.	March 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Month	Requirement	Due Date	Status
APRIL	Presumed 2026 AFTAP (10% less than 2025 AFTAP) takes effect unless and until enrolled actuary issues certification of AFTAP for current plan year (if applicable).	April 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Required Beginning Date (RBD) for taking first Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) under IRC Section 401(a)(9) for participants who attained age 73 or who retired after age 73 in prior year.**	April 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Due date to make first quarter required contribution for 2026 plan year.	April 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file financial and actuarial information, if necessary, under ERISA Section 4010 with Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) (Notice of Underfunding). (May be different if fiscal year is not the same as the plan year.)	April 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day for C-corporation employer plan sponsors to make deductible contributions for 2025 without corporate tax return Extension (Form 1120). (For plans with a tax year ending December 31.)	April 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to furnish Annual Funding Notice to participants, beneficiaries and labor organizations representing participants from plan sponsors of single and multiemployer DB pension plans covered by the PBGC that have more than 100 participants. (Due within 120 days after the close of the plan year.)	April 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
MAY	Last day to provide notice to participants if plan is subject to benefit restrictions on April 1, 2026, based on presumed 2026 AFTAP.	May 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
JULY	Due date to make second quarter required contribution for 2026 plan year.	July 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to furnish Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) to participants and beneficiaries receiving benefits (due no later than 210 days after the end of the plan year in which the plan change is adopted).	July 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file Form 5500 for 2025 plan year without extension (due seven months after plan year ending December 31, unless extension applies).	July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file Form 8955-SSA for 2025 plan year without extension (report certain information relating to each participant with a deferred vested benefit).	July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file Form 5558 - Application for Extension of Time to File Certain Employee Plan Returns (Form 5500) (due on or before normal due date for filing Form 5500).	July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day (unextended deadline) to file Form 5330 and pay excise tax on nondeductible contributions and prohibited transactions (if applicable).	July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to provide a notice to terminated vested participants describing deferred vested retirement benefits (in conjunction with Form 8955-SSA).	July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day without extension to furnish Annual Funding Notice (for PBGC covered plans with 100 or fewer participants). (Or the day Form 5500 is filed, if earlier.)	July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Month	Requirement	Due Date	Status
SEPTEMBER	Last day to make proper election to add excess contributions for the 2025 plan year to the January 1, 2026 Prefunding Balance and/or use Credit Balance for the 2025 plan year contribution requirement.	September 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to pay balance of remaining required contributions for 2025 plan year to satisfy minimum funding requirements (due 8 ½ months after end of plan year).	September 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day for plans with plan year ending December 31 to furnish Summary Annual Report (SAR) to participants and beneficiaries for DB plans not subject to the Annual Funding Notice Requirement (for non-PBGC covered plans) (9 months after year-end or 2 months after filing Form 5500).	September 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day for enrolled actuary to issue AFTAP certification for current plan year. (If a Range Certification was issued, the deadline is extended until December 31.)	September 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
OCTOBER	Last day to file 2026 PBGC comprehensive filing and pay premiums due (for plans covered by PBGC). Annual PBGC Premium Payment for plans of all sizes, which includes the variable-rate premium and flat-rate premium. (9 1/2 months after end of plan year.)	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Due date to make third quarter required contribution for 2026 plan year.	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to File IRS Form 5310-A to give notice to IRS of Qualified Separate Lines of Business, where applicable.	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Deadline for corrections and related amendments to address 410(b) or 401(a)(4) testing failures.	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Extended deadline to file Form 1120. Extended deadline to deposit tax deductible contributions for qualified plans for those sponsors that filed a corporate tax extension. (Deadline in order to deduct contributions for 2025 plan year.)	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to file Form 5500 for 2025 plan year (with extension). (2½ month extension if Form 5558 was filed timely.)	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last date to file Form 8955-SSA (with extension). (2½ month extension if Form 5558 was filed timely.)	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to provide a notice to terminated vested participants describing deferred vested retirement benefits (in conjunction with Form 8955-SSA).	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Deadline for DB small plans (covering 100 or fewer participants) to distribute Annual Funding Notice. (Or the date Form 5500 is filed, if earlier.)	October 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to provide notice of benefit restrictions, if restrictions are applicable as of October 1, 2026.	October 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Month	Requirement	Due Date	Status
DECEMBER	Last day (with extension) to furnish Summary Annual Report (for non-PBGC covered plans).	December 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day to make 2026 Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to applicable participants who have begun receiving minimum distributions.	December 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Credit Balance Elections. Deadline for plan sponsor to make a voluntary election to reduce credit balances, or revoke a previous credit balance election, for funding purposes.	December 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day for enrolled actuary to issue a certification of the specific AFTAP for current year if a range certification was previously issued.	December 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Last day for plan sponsors to adopt discretionary plan amendments that became effective for the current plan year.	December 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Annual Benefit Statement Notice. As an alternative to furnishing a Benefit Statement once every three years, provide an annual notice to participants regarding availability and how to obtain Benefit Statements. (Benefit Statement requirement considered met if notice is provided at least once per year.)	December 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Intranet posting of Annual Form 5500 and Schedule SB. Plan Sponsors post certain information about their Defined Benefit Plan on their intranet websites. (Recommended.)	December 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

* IRS deadline extended to the next business day if due date falls on weekend or legal holiday (Internal Revenue Code Section 7503).

** Under the SECURE 2.0 Act, the RMD age has changed from 72 to 73 for anyone who did not attain age 72 by December 31, 2022. For these individuals, their RBD is April 1 of the calendar year following the later of the year in which the individual attains age 73 or retires. Like before, 5% owners must begin their RMDs once they attain age 73, even if they continue working.

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