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DB Plans in Second Six-Year Cycle Have Longer to Adopt Pre-Approved Plans

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) intends to issue opinion and advisory letters for pre-approved master and prototype (M&P) and volume submitter (VS) defined benefit (DB) plans that were restated for changes in plan qualification requirements per the 2012 Cumulative List, and that were filed with the IRS during the submission period for the second six-year remedial amendment cycle on March 30, 2018, or, in some cases, as soon as possible thereafter. [Read more>](#)

Largest DB Plans Lead in Accelerating Pension Funding

Following a pattern as trendsetters, the 20 members of the \$20 billion club collectively dismissed funding relief and paid more than triple their mandated contributions in 2017, according to Russell Investments. [Read more>](#)



Fiduciary Rule, RIP? Fate Looks Dim After Court Overturns Regulation

The fiduciary looks set to die a quiet death. In a surprising turn of events, a federal appeals court vacated the fiduciary rule late Thursday, upending yet again a regulatory landscape that has changed dramatically since the Department of Labor put the regulation in effect last year. [Read more>](#)

New Fed Chair, New Challenge

When Jerome Powell presides over his first Federal Open Market Committee meeting as the new Federal Reserve chairman on March 20-21, the seat will be less comfortable than it was just two months ago, when the U.S. Senate approved his nomination. Since then, the rollout of new tax legislation, the resolution of near-term debt-ceiling dramas, and a rise in bellicose trade rhetoric have plucked stuffing from the seat cushion. [Read more>](#)

Can DB Plans Offer a Better TDF Selection and Monitoring Framework?

ERISA requires plan sponsors to regularly monitor investment lineups to ensure they remain prudent—a task made more complicated by the multi-layered construction of target-date funds; a new paper points to the best practices of defined benefit plans for some guidance. [Read more>](#)

401(k) Nondiscrimination Tests Explained

Even though nondiscrimination testing is likely performed by a plan's recordkeeper or third-party administrator (TPA), plan sponsors need to understand the basics of the tests, including the types of contributions that are tested, the methods used and the consequences of failing. [Read more>](#)

The Cloud Hovering Over 401k Automatic Enrollment

Improving the retirement security of all Americans isn't easy. After decades of education and guidance on which employees and participants often failed to act, plan sponsors began to adopt automatic enrollment. [Read more>](#)

Newsworthy notes



Promotions and Designations:

- Steve Lemanski has been promoted to OPEB practice leader, consulting actuary
- Senior Actuarial Associates, Dan McCarthy and Jonathan Plumb have completed the requirements to receive their Associate of the Society of Actuaries designations (ASA).

Sharing our expertise:

Stuart Herskowitz, vice president, client relations, and Kathryn Pizzi, managing director, wealth management, will discuss the impact of the changing retirement plan landscape for HR professionals at the Tri-State Society for Human Resources Management conference on May 1. [Register today>](#)

In our communities:

We are proud to be supporting Johnny's Jog for Charity on March 25 in West Hartford. There's still time to register! [Learn more and register here>](#)