

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

PBGC-17: Office of Inspector General Investigative File System

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Office of Inspector General, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC, 20024-2101.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

Office of the Inspector General, PBGC, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC, 20024-2101.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

5 U.S.C. app. 3, sections 2 and 4.

PURPOSE(S) OF THE SYSTEM:

This system of records is *maintained* to supervise and conduct investigations relating to programs and operations of PBGC by the *Office of the Inspector General (OIG)*.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Individuals named in investigations conducted by the OIG; complainants and subjects of complaints collected through the operation of the OIG Hotline; other individuals, including witnesses, sources, and members of the general public who are named individuals in connection with investigations conducted by OIG.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Information within this system relates to OIG investigations carried out under applicable statutes, regulations, policies, and procedures. The investigations may relate to criminal, civil, or administrative matters. These OIG files may contain investigative reports; transcripts; internal staff memoranda; working drafts of papers to PBGC employees; investigative plans; litigation strategies; copies of personnel, financial, contractual, and property management records maintained by PBGC; information submitted by or about pension plan sponsors or plan

participants; background data including arrest records, statements of informants and witnesses, and laboratory reports of evidence analysis; information and documentation received from other government agencies; search warrants, summonses and subpoenas; and other information related to investigations. Personal data in the system may consist of names *and aliases*, social security numbers, *telephone and cell phone numbers*, *physical and mailing addresses*, *electronic mailing addresses*, dates of birth and death, fingerprints, handwriting samples, reports of confidential informants, physical identifying data, voiceprints, polygraph tests, photographs, individual personnel and payroll information, *and any other personal information relevant to the subject matter of an OIG investigation*.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Subject individuals; individual complainants; witnesses; interviews conducted during investigations; Federal, state, tribal, and local government records; individual or company records; claim and payment files; employer medical records; insurance records; court records; articles from publications; financial data; bank information; telephone data; service providers; other law enforcement organizations; grantees and sub-grantees; contractors and subcontractors; pension plan sponsors and participants; and other sources.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Information about covered individuals may be disclosed without consent as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) and:

1. A record from this system may be disclosed to law enforcement in the event the record is connected to a violation or potential violation of law, whether civil, criminal, or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute, regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto. Such disclosure may be made to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, state, local, or tribal, or other public authority responsible for enforcing, investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing

the statute, or rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto, if PBGC determines that the records are both relevant and necessary to any enforcement, regulatory, investigative or prospective responsibility of the receiving entity.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed to a Federal, state, tribal or local agency or to another public or private source maintaining civil, criminal, or other relevant enforcement information or other pertinent information if, and to the extent necessary, to obtain information relevant to a PBGC decision concerning the hiring or retention of an employee, the retention of a security clearance, or the letting of a contract.
3. A record from this system of records may be disclosed in a proceeding before a court or other adjudicative body in which PBGC, an employee of PBGC in his or her official capacity, an employee of PBGC in his or her individual capacity whom PBGC (or the Department of Justice (DOJ)) has agreed to represent is a party, or the United States or any other Federal agency is a party and PBGC determines that it has an interest in the proceeding, and if PBGC determines that the record is relevant and necessary to the litigation and that the use of the record is compatible with the purpose for which PBGC collected the information.
4. When PBGC, an employee of PBGC in his or her official capacity, or an employee of PBGC in his or her individual capacity whom PBGC (or DOJ) has agreed to represent is a party to a proceeding before a court or other adjudicative body, or the United States or any other Federal agency is a party and PBGC determines that it has an interest in the proceeding, a record from this system of records may be disclosed to DOJ if PBGC is consulting with DOJ regarding the proceeding or has decided that DOJ will represent PBGC, or its interest, in the proceeding and PBGC determines that the record is relevant and necessary to the litigation and that the use of the record is compatible with the purpose for which PBGC collected the information.

5. A record from this system of records may be disclosed to a congressional office in response to an inquiry from the congressional office made at the request of the individual.
6. A record from this system of records may be disclosed to appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when (1) PBGC suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records; (2) PBGC has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, PBGC (including its information systems, programs and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (3) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with PBGC's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.
7. To contractors, experts, consultants, and the agents thereof, and others performing or working on a contract, service, cooperative agreement, or other assignment for PBGC when necessary to accomplish an agency function. Individuals provided information under this routine use are subject to the same Privacy Act requirements and limitations on disclosure as are applicable to PBGC employees.
8. To the National Archives and Records Administration or to the General Services Administration for records management inspections conducted under 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.
9. To any source from which information is requested in the course of processing a grievance, investigation, arbitration, or other litigation, to the extent necessary to identify the individual, inform the source of the purpose(s) of the request, and identify the type of information requested.
10. To disclose information to a Federal agency, in response to its request, in connection with hiring or retaining an employee, issuing a security clearance, conducting a security or suitability investigation of an individual, or classifying jobs, to the extent that the information is relevant and necessary to the requesting agency's decision on the matter.

11. To another federal agency or federal entity, when information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (1) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or (2) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the agency (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security.
12. A record relating to a person held in custody pending or during arraignment, trial, sentence, or extradition proceedings or after conviction may be disclosed to a Federal, state, local, tribal or foreign prison; probation, parole, or pardon authority; or any other agency or individual involved with the maintenance, transportation, or release of such a person.
13. A record relating to a case or matter may be disclosed to an actual or potential party or his or her attorney for the purpose of negotiation or discussion on such matters as settlement of the case or matter, plea bargaining, or informal discovery proceedings.
14. A record may be disclosed to any source, either private or governmental, when reasonably necessary to elicit information or obtain the cooperation of a witness or informant when conducting any official investigation or during a trial or hearing or when preparing for a trial or hearing.
15. A record relating to a case or matter may be disclosed to a foreign country, through the United States Department of State or directly to the representative of such country, under an international treaty, convention, or executive agreement; or to the extent necessary to assist the U.S. Department of State, law enforcement officials, and such country in apprehending or returning a fugitive to a jurisdiction that seeks that individual's return.
16. A record originating exclusively within this system of records may be disclosed to other Federal offices of inspectors general and councils comprising officials from other Federal offices of inspectors general, as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The purpose is to ensure that OIG investigative operations can be subject to

integrity and efficiency peer reviews, and to permit other offices of inspectors general to investigate and report on allegations of misconduct by senior OIG officials as directed by a council, the President, or Congress. Records originating from any other PBGC systems of records, which may be duplicated in or incorporated into this system, also may be disclosed with all identifiable information redacted.

17. A record may be disclosed to the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice when the OIG seeks an ex parte court order to obtain taxpayer information from the Internal Revenue Service.
18. A record may be disclosed to any governmental, professional, or licensing authority when such record reflects on qualifications, either moral, educational or vocational, of an individual seeking to be licensed or to maintain a license.
19. A record may be disclosed to any direct or indirect recipient of Federal funds, e.g., a contractor, where such record reflects problems with the personnel working for a recipient, and disclosure of the record is made to permit a recipient to take corrective action beneficial to the Government.
20. A record may be disclosed where there is an indication of a violation or a potential violation of law, rule, regulation, or order whether civil, criminal, administrative or regulatory in nature, to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, state, tribal or local, or to a securities self-regulatory organization, charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, or rule, regulation, or order.
21. A record may be disclosed to Federal, state, tribal or local authorities in order to obtain information or records relevant to an Office of Inspector General investigation or inquiry.
22. A record may be disclosed to a bar association, state accountancy board, or other Federal, state, tribal, local, or foreign licensing or oversight authority; or professional association or self-regulatory authority to the extent that it performs similar functions (including the

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board) for investigations or possible disciplinary action.

23. A record may be disclosed to inform complainants, victims, and witnesses of the results of an investigation or inquiry.
24. A record may be disclosed to the Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining advice on investigatory matters or to refer information for the purpose of prosecution.
25. A record may be disclosed to contractors, interns and experts who have been engaged to assist in an OIG investigation or in the performance of a service related to this system of records and require access to these records for the purpose of assisting the OIG in the efficient administration of its duties. All recipients of these records will be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended.
26. A record may be disclosed to the public when the matter under investigation has become public knowledge, or when the Inspector General determines that such disclosure is necessary to preserve confidence in the integrity of the OIG investigative process, to demonstrate the accountability of PBGC employees, or other individuals covered by this system, or when there exists a legitimate public interest, unless the Inspector General has determined that disclosure of specific information would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
27. A record to compare such records in other Federal agencies' systems of records or to non-Federal records.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

Records are maintained manually in paper and/or electronic form (including computer databases or discs). Records may also be maintained on back-up tapes, or on a PBGC or a contractor-hosted network.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

Records may be retrieved by any one or more of the following: name; social security number; subject category; or assigned case number.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

Records are maintained and destroyed in accordance with the National Archives and Record Administration's (NARA) Basic Laws and Authorities (44 U.S.C. 3301, et seq.) or a PBGC records disposition schedule approved by NARA. See General Record Schedule 4.2 Inspector General Item: 080. Records existing on paper are destroyed beyond recognition.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

PBGC has established security and privacy protocols that meet the required security and privacy standards issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Records are maintained in a secure, password protected electronic system that utilizes security hardware and software to include multiple firewalls, active intruder detection, and role-based access controls. PBGC has adopted appropriate administrative, technical, and physical controls in accordance with PBGC's security program to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information, and to ensure that records are not disclosed to or accessed by unauthorized individuals.

Electronic records are stored on computer networks, which may include cloud-based systems, and protected by controlled access with Personal Identity Verification (PIV) cards, assigning user accounts to individuals needing access to the records and by passwords set by authorized users that must be changed periodically.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

This system is exempt from the notification and record access requirements. However, consideration will be given to requests made in compliance with 29 CFR 4902.3 and 4902.4.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

This system is exempt from amendment requirements. However, consideration will be given to requests made in compliance with 29 CFR 4902.3 and 4902.5.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

This system is exempt from the notification requirements. However, consideration will be given to inquiries made in compliance with 29 CFR 4902.3.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(j) and (k), PBGC has established regulations at 29 CFR 4902.11 that exempt records in this system depending on their purpose.

HISTORY:

PBGC – 17, Inspector General Investigative File System (last published at 89 FR 3436 (Jan. 18, 2024)).