American Benefits Council
Benefits Briefing Webinar:
Multiemployer Pension Plan Issues
Tuesday, June 25, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET

BENEFITS BRIEFING: Multiemployer Pension Plan Issues
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The American Benefits Council will host a Benefits Briefing webinar on Tuesday June 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, to discuss legislative proposals and regulatory action surrounding multiemployer pension plans.

Lynn Dudley, senior vice president, retirement and international benefits policy, and Diann Howland, vice president, legislative affairs, will moderate the call. They will be joined by Chris Condeluci from the Venable Law Firm, Michael Kiely from UPS and Randy DeFrehn from the National Coordinating Committee of Multiemployer Plans (NCCMP). The panelists will discuss the topics described below, as well as recent legislative and executive branch interest in multiemployer plans.

Members are encouraged to submit questions and comments in advance to Dudley at ldudley@abcstaff.org.

Background:
The multiemployer plan funding provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014, and now must be amended or extended. The 2008 economic downturn highlighted the inherent risks the current system poses for employers contributing to multiemployer plans. These plans, which are facing a dwindling ratio of workers to retirees, are dependent on hour-based contributions for active workers and attracting new employers into the system but both are now shrinking. Legislators are seeking to give plan trustees and bargaining parties more tools to correct funding shortfalls and to distribute costs more equitably among all stakeholders in the plan – not just current active employers and employees.

The Retirement Security Review Commission, a coalition of employers and unions, recently studied the economic circumstances of the plans and issued a report on their findings in February 2013 (See the February 20 Benefits Byte for more details). Additionally, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report, PRIVATE PENSIONS: Timely Action Needed to Address Impending Multiemployer Plan Insolvencies, on March 28 (See the April 9 Benefits Byte for more details).
It is recommended that you connect to the call 5-10 minutes early, as the WebEx platform may take several minutes to load on your computer. Once you enter the meeting, you will automatically receive the audio broadcast of the meeting over your computer speakers, so you will not be required to call in. You will be able to ask questions of the presenters and panelists by typing your question into the Q&A panel.

For questions related to registration – or if you have colleagues at your organization who would like to participate in this call, but do not regularly receive Council materials – please contact Deanna Johnson, director, membership, or Sondra West, membership services coordinator, at (202) 289-6700.