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# THE TAXATION OF RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACT ANNUITIES

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# The Taxation of Railroad Retirement Act Annuities

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## **A. Taxation of Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) Annuities Under Federal Income Tax Laws**

The Tier 1, Tier 2, and vested dual benefit components of regular annuity payments and special guaranty (overall minimum) formula payments have been subject to Federal income tax since January 1, 1984. Supplemental annuities have been subject to Federal income tax since November 1, 1966.

Section 14 (45 U.S.C. Section 231m) of the RRA declares railroad retirement annuities are **not** taxable for State income tax purposes.

## **B. How RRA Annuity Component Payments are Taxed**

Various components of RRA annuities are taxed differently. With the exception of certain Social Security Equivalent Benefit (SSEB) payments covering prior years, annuity payments are taxed in the year in which they are received by the payee, regardless of the year for which they were paid. Below is an assessment of how specific annuity components are taxed.

### **1. SSEB Payments**

The SSEB portion of Tier 1 is equivalent to the amount the Social Security Administration (SSA) would pay a railroad annuitant if railroad service were covered under the Social Security Act.

Special guaranty formula payments are considered SSEB amounts. These payments consider all eligible family members, and increase railroad retirement annuity payments to equal what SSA would pay the family group if railroad service were covered under the Social Security Act.

The SSEB amounts are treated as social security benefits for Federal income tax purposes. To determine if these benefits are taxable, refer to completion instructions for the tax return applicable to the payee. For more detailed information, refer to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 915, *Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*.

### **2. Contributory Pension Payments**

Two pension components are referred to as contributory pension payments because the employee contributes to these payments through payroll taxes.

#### **a. Non-Social Security Equivalent Benefit (NSSEB) Payments**

The NSSEB portion of Tier 1 is the amount that **exceeds** the SSEB portion of Tier 1. The NSSEB is treated like a contributory pension for Federal income tax purposes, and is also referred to as a “contributory amount” paid.

#### **b. Tier 2 Payments**

Tier 2 payments are based solely on the retired employee’s railroad service. Like NSSEB, Tier 2 is treated like a contributory pension for Federal income tax purposes, and is also referred to as a “contributory amount” paid.

For more information on how NSSEB and Tier 2 contributory amounts paid are taxed, refer to IRS Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income*, and/or IRS Publication 939, *General Rule for Pensions and Annuities*.

### **3. Non-Contributory Pension Payments**

Two pension components are referred to as non-contributory pension payments because the employee does not contribute to them.

#### **a. Vested Dual Benefit (VDB) Payments**

The VDB is a regular annuity component and is fully taxable for Federal income tax purposes.

#### **b. Supplemental Annuity Payments**

The supplemental annuity is an annuity separate from the regular annuity payable to railroad retirement employees who meet certain eligibility requirements. It is fully taxable.

### **4. Special Situations**

#### **a. Disability Annuities**

The Tier 1 portion of a disability annuity is taxed as SSEB if a period of disability has been established and a five full month waiting period after that date has been met. This is true regardless of the disability annuitant's age.

#### **EXCEPTIONS**

- If a period of disability is granted in any year after the annuity beginning date, Tier 1 is mostly SSEB, but a small portion is NSSEB. The SSEB/NSSEB split in Tier 1 occurs because SSA would not establish a date of entitlement prior to the period of disability and five full month waiting period.
- Disability annuitants who are not granted periods of disability are paid Tier 1 amounts taxed as NSSEB if they are under retirement age, and are paid Tier 1 amounts taxed as SSEB or a SSEB/NSSEB split once they reach retirement age.

#### **b. Spouses and Widow(er)s with a Minor Child in Care**

The Tier 1 portion of railroad retirement annuities paid to spouses under age 62 or widow(er)s under age 60 who have a child under age 16 in his or her care, is considered all SSEB for Federal income tax purposes. SSA pays comparable benefits to spouses and widow(er)s. When the child turns age 16, the RRB continues to pay the spouse or widow(er) until the child turns age 18, whether the child is disabled or not. If the child is not disabled, Tier 1 is changed to NSSEB because SSA does not pay comparable benefits to spouses and widow(er)s. If the child is disabled, the spouse or widow(er) continues to receive SSEB Tier 1 amounts, because SSA pays comparable benefits to spouses or widow(er)s.

### C. Payments That are Not Taxable

Tier 1, Tier 2, and vested dual benefits payable for the period before December 1983 are not taxable. Separation Allowance Lump-Sum Amount payments; Residual Lump-Sum payments; Lump-Sum Death Payment amounts, and excess Tier 2 employee tax refund payments are not taxable. Over-reimbursement amounts – amounts repaid to the RRB that exceed the amounts due – are paid back to annuitants as nontaxable payment amounts.

Nontaxable payment amounts are **not** reported on any Federal income tax statement issued by the RRB.

### D. Employee Contribution (EEC) Amount

#### 1. Definition

The EEC is the amount of railroad retirement taxes paid by the railroad employee that **exceeds** the amount that would have been paid in social security taxes if the employee's railroad service had been covered under the Social Security Act.

The amount the employee contributes is also referred to as the employee's "investment" or "cost" in their pension "contract."

#### 2. EEC Recovery

The NSSEB and Tier 2 payments are taxed as contributory pension payments because employees contribute toward these amounts. The taxability of NSSEB and Tier 2 contributory pension payments depends on the types of annuities being paid and whether the EEC amount has been recovered. An EEC amount is recovered when NSSEB and Tier 2 amounts paid to an employee and all individuals paid on the employee's wage record **equal** the EEC amount. Portions of NSSEB and Tier 2 amounts paid before EEC recovery are considered nontaxable or "tax-free." Once EEC amounts are fully recovered, any NSSEB and Tier 2 amounts paid are fully taxable.

#### EXCEPTIONS

- NSSEB and Tier 2 payments to disability annuitants are **fully taxable** from the annuity beginning date until minimum retirement age is met. When minimum retirement age is met, disabled employees may determine their eligibility to compute tax-free portions of NSSEB and Tier 2 payments.

Minimum retirement age is generally the age at which individuals could retire based on age and service. This is age 60 with 30 or more years of railroad service or age 62 with less than 30 years of railroad service.

- NSSEB and Tier 2 components of spouse annuities and NSSEB components of divorced spouse annuities are fully taxable from the annuity beginning date. These annuities **are not** subject to tax-free calculations using the EEC amount.

- Tier 2 portions of legal process partition payments are fully taxable from the payment beginning date. Partition payments **are not** subject to tax-free calculations using the EEC amount.

**Note** - The RRB **does not** provide or compute the tax-free amount of railroad retirement annuities.

### 3. **EEC Recovery Methods**

#### a. **Three-Year Rule Recovery**

The EEC recovery under the Three-Year Rule covers annuitants with annuity beginning dates **before** July 2, 1986. Under the Three-Year Rule, NSSEB and Tier 2 payments became fully taxable only after the total of these benefits paid to all annuitants on the employee's wage record **equaled** the EEC amount.

The Three-Year Rule also applied only if the employee's contribution amount could be recovered within a 36 month (or 3 year) period. This method does **not** apply to individuals filing for annuities at the present time. We do **not** have any annuitants under the Three-Year Rule currently receiving railroad retirement annuities.

#### b. **1986 General Rule Recovery**

The EEC recovery under the 1986 General Rule covers annuitants with annuity beginning dates from July 2, 1986, through December 31, 1986. These annuitants were allowed to calculate tax-free portions of NSSEB and Tier 2 payments that apply for the life of the annuities. The tax-free amounts are permanent.

#### c. **1987 General Rule Recovery**

The EEC recovery under the 1987 General Rule covers annuitants with annuity beginning dates after December 31, 1986. These annuitants are entitled to a temporary tax-free amount. This temporary tax-free amount ends when the employee contributions are fully recovered based on NSSEB and Tier 2 payments made to the employee and/or all individuals drawing on the employee's wage record.

There are two methods of determining the tax-free and taxable portions under the General Rule.

##### 1) **Nonsimplified Method**

The Nonsimplified Method consists of a series of calculations and was initially the only General Rule method available. A description of this method and when to use it is explained in IRS Publication 939, *General Rule for Pensions and Annuities*.

##### 2) **Simplified Method**

In 1988, the IRS introduced another method of computing taxable and tax-free amounts for General Rule cases called the Simplified General Rule or the Simplified Method. To

see if a payee qualifies to use the Simplified Method, refer to IRS Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income* and/or IRS Publication 939, *General Rule for Pensions and Annuities*.

## **E. Taxed Under United States Citizen or Nonresident Alien Rules**

The rules under which individuals are taxed impact both tax withholding and tax statement reporting. Railroad retirement annuitants are taxed under United States citizen rules or under nonresident alien rules.

For Federal income tax purposes, the “United States” consists of the 50 States and Washington, D.C.

An “unknown individual” is someone who has not provided the RRB with citizenship and residence information.

### **1. Taxed as United States (U.S.) Citizens**

Individuals taxed as U.S. citizens are:

- a. Known citizens of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or American Samoa, or
- b. Unknown individuals physically residing in the United States, Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Note** - Most annuitants taxed as U.S. citizens are unknown individuals physically residing in the United States.

Any such individual, who plans a change of address **outside** the United States or Guam, should file Form RRB-1001, *Nonresident Questionnaire*, **before** making the address change. Failure to establish citizenship and residence information will result in assumed nonresident alien taxes being withheld from the individual’s railroad retirement annuity payments.

### **2. Taxed as Nonresident Aliens (NRAs) of the United States**

Individuals taxed as NRAs of the United States are:

- a. Known citizens of countries **other than** the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or American Samoa who are also known to be legal residents of countries **other than** the United States, Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or
- b. Unknown individuals residing **outside** the United States, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## F. Tax Withholding and Railroad Retirement Annuities

### 1. U.S. Citizen Tax Withholding

#### a. Elected SSEB Tax Withholding

Individuals taxed as U.S. citizens may voluntarily choose to have Federal income tax withheld from the SSEB portion of their Tier 1 benefits. The SSEB tax withholding is based on a percentage of the payment. Current percentages are 7%, 10%, 15%, or 25%. Individuals may elect one of these percentages by completing IRS Form W-4V, *Voluntary Withholding Request*, and sending it to the RRB.

An election remains in force until changed or revoked. An election may be changed or revoked by filing a new IRS Form W-4V at any time.

#### b. Elected Pension (NSSEB, Tier 2, Vested Dual Benefit, and Supplemental Annuity) Tax Withholding

Individuals taxed as U.S. citizens may voluntarily choose to have Federal income tax withheld from the pension portions of their regular annuities and any supplemental annuities. Individuals may elect pension tax withholding by filing Form RRB W-4P, *Withholding Certificate for Railroad Retirement Payments*.

Elected pension tax withholding is based on Internal Revenue Service tax tables using the individual's requested marital status and number of withholding allowances. An individual may also request the RRB withhold an additional dollar amount of taxes from their annuity payments.

An election remains in force until changed or revoked. An election may be changed or revoked by filing a new Form RRB W-4P at any time.

**Note** - The following exceptions apply:

- Individuals taxed as U.S. citizens living **outside** the 50 United States and Washington, D.C. may not elect "NO" tax withholding on Forms RRB W-4P.
- Individuals taxed as U.S. citizens who **do not** provide U.S. Social Security Numbers (SSNs) **on their Forms RRB W-4P** may not elect "NO" tax withholding on those forms.

#### c. Mandatory Pension Tax Withholding

If a Form RRB W-4P is not filed, the RRB is required by law to calculate and withhold taxes on the pension portions of an annuity as if the individual were married with three withholding allowances. This is called mandatory citizen tax withholding. Mandatory citizen tax withholding is not applied unless monthly annuity components exceed a minimum mandatory withholding amount. This amount changes each time the IRS tax table rates change.



Refer to booklet TXB-25, *Tax Withholding and Railroad Retirement Payments*, for the current minimum mandatory withholding amount and more information about tax withholding.

**d. Change of Address Outside the 50 United States and Guam**

Individuals taxed as U.S. citizens who change their addresses outside the 50 United States and Guam, and have not previously provided the RRB with citizenship information, should submit Form RRB-1001, *Nonresident Questionnaire*. Form RRB-1001 is used to provide both citizenship and country of legal residence information for tax purposes on RRB records. Without this information, the RRB must assume nonresident annuitants are nonresident aliens (NRAs) of the United States, and apply mandatory NRA 30% tax withholding to annuity payments.

**2. Nonresident Alien (NRA) Tax Withholding**

**a. Mandatory 30% NRA Tax Withholding**

As prescribed by the Internal Revenue Code, known NRAs not subject to reduced tax withholding under an income tax treaty and those individuals assumed to be NRAs are subject to mandatory 30% tax withholding rates, applied as follows:

- 30% of 85% of the SSEB,
- 30% of the NSSEB, Tier 2, VDB, and supplemental annuity.

NRAs are identified based on the country of citizenship and country of legal residence they provide on Forms RRB-1001, *Nonresident Questionnaire*.

**b. NRA Tax Withholding Reduced Under Income Tax Treaties**

The United States has a number of income tax treaties with other countries that allow reduced tax withholding if tax treaty exemption claims are filed with the RRB.

Tax treaty exemption claims are secured on Forms RRB-1001, *Nonresident Questionnaire*. Tax treaty exemption claims are valid until the end of the third year following processing of properly completed Forms RRB-1001.

Individuals claiming reduced tax withholding under an income tax treaty between the United States and their country of legal residence for tax purposes must provide a United States Taxpayer Identifying Number (TIN) on Form RRB-1001. An individual's TIN is either a United States Social Security Number (SSN) or a United States Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). An estate's or administrator of an estate's TIN is a United States Employer Identification Number.

Applicants/annuitants living outside the United States, who are not eligible to receive a United States SSN, may apply for an ITIN through the United States Internal Revenue Service.

Tax treaty exemption claims must be renewed prior to their expiration dates or mandatory 30% tax withholding rates will apply. The RRB issues tax treaty exemption claim renewal packages containing modified versions of Form RRB-1001 prior to the expiration dates of the exemption claims.

## **G. RRA Annuity Repayments**

Repayments are payment amounts that are:

- paid back to the RRB, or
- returned to the RRB, or
- withheld from one or more railroad retirement annuity payments to repay an amount owed the RRB, or
- withheld from one or more social security benefits paid by the RRB to repay an amount owed either the RRB or the Social Security Administration.

The way repayments are handled depends on the type of payment being repaid, the dollar amount of the repayments credited in a given tax year, the tax years to which the repayments apply, and whether the payments being repaid were reported as taxable income when originally paid.

Railroad retirement annuity payments may be used to recover overpaid:

- railroad retirement annuity payments,
- unemployment and/or sickness benefits paid by the RRB, or
- social security benefits paid by the RRB.

Social security benefits paid by the RRB may be used to recover overpaid:

- railroad retirement annuity payments if the overpayments are due to social security benefit entitlement, or
- social security benefits paid by the RRB.

**Note** - If an annuitant receives a payment from which income taxes were withheld, and it is determined in a later year that the annuitant was **not entitled** to the payment, the tax withholding amount is part of the amount not due.

### **1. Social Security Equivalent Benefit (SSEB) Repayments**

The SSEB repayments consist of amounts repaid, returned, or recovered. The Internal Revenue Code allows repayment credit to be reported to the IRS if the repayments cover amounts previously reported to the IRS as taxable or nontaxable when they were originally paid.

## **2. Non-Social Security Equivalent Benefit (NSSEB) Repayments**

The NSSEB repayments consist of amounts repaid, returned, or recovered for payments previously reported to the IRS as taxable when they were paid.

## **3. Tier 2 Repayments**

Tier 2 repayments consist of amounts repaid, returned, or recovered for payments previously reported to the IRS as taxable when they were paid.

## **4. Vested Dual Benefit (VDB) Repayments**

The VDB repayments consist of amounts repaid, returned, or recovered for payments previously reported to the IRS as taxable when they were paid.

## **5. Supplemental Annuity Repayments**

Supplemental annuity repayments consist of amounts repaid, returned, or recovered for payments previously reported to the IRS as taxable when they were paid.

Refer to IRS Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income*, for additional information regarding NSSEB, Tier 2, VDB and supplemental annuity repayments. Also refer to the IRS publication for special rules that apply when these repayments exceed \$3,000 in a given year.

## **H. Taxation of Payments to Non-Annuitants**

### **1. Court Ordered Legal Process Payments**

#### **a. Partition Payments**

Railroad retirement annuities are subject to division under court ordered partition payments. These payments are made to third-party individuals based on divorce, annulment, legal separation, or a court-approved property settlement.

For Federal income tax purposes, a partition payment is taxable to the payee and not to the railroad retirement annuitant. The payee may elect tax withholding on partition payments.

#### **b. Garnishment Payments**

Railroad retirement annuities are subject to division under court approved garnishment payments. These payments are made to third-party individuals for alimony or child support. For Federal income tax purposes, a garnishment amount is taxable to the railroad retirement annuitant and not to the payee.

### **2. Annuities Due But Unpaid at Death**

Annuities due but unpaid at the death of an annuitant are taxable to the payee. Amounts paid may include SSEB, NSSEB, Tier 2, vested dual benefit, and/or supplemental annuity amounts.

An applicant living outside the United States should file Form RRB-1001, *Nonresident Questionnaire*, so the RRB can determine the individual's tax status.

## **I. Annual Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) Tax Statements**

The Internal Revenue Code requires the RRB release annual tax statements of annuities paid and/or repaid in a given tax year.

- U.S. citizen tax statements are to be released by January 31 of the next year.
- Nonresident alien (NRA) tax statements are to be released by March 15 of the next year.

The annual tax statements, as appropriate, reflect RRA annuities paid, RRA annuities repaid, the total amount of Federal income taxes withheld, the EEC amount, the rate of NRA tax withholding, and a NRA's country of legal residence for the taxable year.

The RRB also provides this information to the IRS. Individuals may receive more than one tax statement for a given time period, depending on the type of payments made. For instance, if an individual is a NRA of the United States and the rate of tax withholding changed, or the country of legal residence changed, they may receive more than one Form RRB-1042S and/or Form RRB-1099-R. See items 2 and 3 below for descriptions of these forms.

Each tax statement received should be considered when filing an income tax return. If a corrected tax statement is received, the original tax statement for that same period should not be used when filing a tax return.

Repayments shown on RRA tax statements represent recovery of RRA annuity overpayments only. Recovery of SSA overpayments from RRA annuity payments should be reflected on tax statements issued by the Social Security Administration. Recovery of RRB Unemployment and Sickness Insurance overpayments from RRA annuity payments should be shown on RRB Unemployment and Sickness Insurance tax statements.

The totals reported on RRB tax statements **may not equal** the total amount of railroad retirement annuity payments actually received by the beneficiary during the tax year. Differences may be attributable to deductions applied to annuity payments, such as Medicare premium deductions or Federal income tax withholding.

### **1. Form RRB-1099 for Individuals Taxed as United States Citizens**

Form RRB-1099 is the tax statement that documents the Social Security Equivalent Benefit (SSEB) portion of Tier 1 regular annuity payments and special guaranty payments for individuals taxed as U.S. citizens.

For information about if and/or how SSEB payments, repayments, and tax withholding amounts should be reported to the Internal Revenue Service, refer to IRS Publication 915, *Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*.

The following amounts are shown on Form RRB-1099 for the designated taxable year:

- Total SSEB payments.
- Total SSEB repayments.

**Note** - Tier 1 repayments for the period prior to December 1985 (the payment dated January 1, 1986) may be reported as SSEB repayments even though the Tier 1 payments were never reported to the IRS as taxable payments.

- Net SSEB payments (total payments minus total repayments).
- The portion of the total SSEB payments paid for the first prior tax year.
- The portion of the total SSEB payments paid for the second prior tax year.
- The portion of the total SSEB payments paid for the third and earlier prior tax years.
- Federal income taxes withheld.
- Workers' compensation offset amounts deducted from the SSEB portion of Tier 1. The offset amounts are included in the SSEB amounts shown as paid.
- Medicare premiums deducted from annuity payments.

## **2. Form RRB-1042S for Individuals Taxed as Nonresident Aliens**

Form RRB-1042S is the tax statement that documents the Social Security Equivalent Benefit (SSEB) portion of Tier 1 regular annuity payments and special guaranty payments for individuals taxed as nonresident aliens.

For information about if and/or how SSEB payments, repayments, and tax withholding amounts should be reported to the Internal Revenue Service, refer to IRS Publication 915, *Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*.

The following amounts are shown for the designated taxable year:

- Total SSEB payments.
- Total SSEB repayments.

**Note** - Tier 1 repayments for the period prior to December 1985 (the payment dated January 1, 1986) may be reported as SSEB repayments even though the Tier 1 payments were never reported to the IRS as taxable payments.

- Net SSEB payments (total payments minus total repayments).
- The portion of the total SSEB payments paid for the first prior tax year.

- The portion of the total SSEB payments paid for the second prior tax year.
- The portion of the total SSEB payments paid for the third and earlier prior tax years.
- Federal income taxes withheld.
- The claimed country of residence for tax purposes.
- NRA tax percentages (rate of taxes).
- Workers' compensation offset amounts deducted from the SSEB portion of Tier 1. These offset amounts are included in the SSEB amounts paid in the tax year.
- Medicare premiums deducted from annuity payments.

### 3. **Form RRB-1099-R for Individuals Taxed as United States Citizens and Nonresident Aliens**

Form RRB-1099-R is the tax statement that documents the pension components of the railroad retirement annuity.

For information about if and/or how pension payments, repayments, and tax withholding should be reported to the Internal Revenue Service, refer to IRS Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income*.

The following amounts are shown for the designated taxable year:

- The Employee Contribution (EEC) amount.
- The contributory amount (NSSEB and Tier 2) paid.
- The vested dual benefit (VDB) paid.
- The supplemental annuity paid.
- The total gross paid, which is the sum of the NSSEB, Tier 2, VDB and supplemental annuity payments.
- Total pension repayments.
  - Current year pension repayments by components offset current year pension payments by components. When both are present in the tax year, neither current year payments nor current year repayments are reported on the tax statement.
  - Pension repayments may be shown on tax statements **only if** they represent amounts that were shown as taxable when originally paid.
- Federal income taxes withheld.

- NRA tax percentages (rate of taxes).
- The claimed country of residence for tax purposes.
- Medicare premiums if deducted from annuity payments.

#### **4. IRS Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt**

The RRB issues IRS Form 1099-C, if at any time during the tax year an outstanding overpayment of \$600 or more that was never considered taxable, is waived or deemed permanently uncollectible. The \$600 amount may include overpayment principal, interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

#### **J. Social Security Benefits Paid by the RRB**

The RRB pays social security benefits to those railroad retirement annuitants also entitled to benefits paid by the Social Security Administration.

The Social Security Administration, **not** the RRB, releases annual tax statement Forms SSA-1099 to individuals taxed as U.S. citizens and Forms SSA-1042S to individuals taxed as nonresident aliens. The tax statement forms report social security benefits paid in a given tax year. Questions about annual tax statements covering social security payments made by the RRB should be directed to the Social Security Administration.

#### **K. Additional Information**

Questions about Federal income tax information and/or how to figure taxable payments and/or questions about amounts to show on income tax returns should be referred to a local IRS office or a tax preparer. Additional information is also available by visiting the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Questions about railroad retirement annuity payments, tax withholding on these payments, or the amounts shown on annual tax statements issued by the RRB should be referred to a RRB office by calling toll free at 1-877-772-5772. Office locations are also available on our website at [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov).

## **Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability**

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) regulations, no qualified person may be discriminated against on the basis of disability. RRB programs and activities must be accessible to all qualified applicants and beneficiaries, including those with impaired vision and/or hearing. Individuals with disabilities needing assistance (including auxiliary aids or program information in accessible formats) should contact the nearest RRB office. Complaints of alleged discrimination by the RRB on the basis of disability must be filed within 90 days in writing with the **Director of Administration, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-1275**. Questions about individual rights under this regulation may be directed to the RRB's Director of Equal Opportunity at the same address.

## **Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline**

The RRB's Office of Inspector General established its Hotline as a public service. The Hotline provides individuals with a means to report or discuss any suspected misconduct relating to the RRB, its programs or employees. If you believe a doctor, hospital or other health care provider is billing Medicare for services not provided or for unnecessary medical procedures or supplies; someone is illegally receiving RRB benefits; or you wish to report or discuss any other suspected misconduct relating to the RRB, its programs or employees, please contact the Office of Inspector General. The toll-free Hotline number is 1-800-772-4258. You may also send your complaints via U.S. Mail: **RRB-OIG Hotline Officer, 844 North Rush Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60611-1275**; fax: **(312) 751-4342**; or email: **hotline@oig.rrb.gov**. Please review the RRB's email notice and Internet privacy policy at [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov) before submitting information online.

**Note:** Please do **not** call the Office of Inspector General's Hotline with questions regarding benefit eligibility requirements, delayed payments or similar problems. These types of matters should be directed to an RRB office.

## **Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Notice**

The Computer Matching and Privacy Act of 1988 requires the RRB to periodically advise you that information you have provided may be used, without your consent, in automated matching programs. These matching programs are a computer comparison of RRB records with records kept by other Federal, state, or local governmental agencies. Information from these matching programs can be used to verify a person's eligibility for federally funded or administered benefit programs and for repayment of payments or delinquent debts under these programs.