

Information sheet “Purchasing regulatory benefits”

Based on the applicable legal and regulatory provisions (Art. 30 Pension Fund Regulations), the insured person may make purchases. The maximum amount is specified by the pension plan.

Legal basis

In accordance with Art. 3 of the Vested Benefits Act (VBA), in case of a new job both the termination benefit of the previous occupational benefits scheme and any other assets with 2nd pillar vested benefits institutions must be transferred to the employer’s occupational benefits scheme.

Since 1 January 2006, the voluntary purchase still possible must be calculated by offsetting any existing 2nd pillar vested benefits assets, even if they are not subject to the duty of transfer, i.e. apply irrespective of any job changes (Art. 60A(2) of the Occupational Pension Ordinance (OPO 2)).

In the case of persons who have ever been self-employed, the pension assets from restricted pension provision (pillar 3a) must also be taken into account to a certain extent (Art. 60a(3) OPO 2).

Furthermore, purchase options are limited in case the person concerned moved to Switzerland from abroad after 1 January 2006 (Art. 60b OPO 2).

In accordance with Art. 79b(3) of the Occupational Pensions Act (OPA), if purchases are made into the pension fund, the resulting benefits cannot be withdrawn from the occupational benefits scheme in the form of a lump sum within the next three years.

How do purchase opportunities arise?

So-called provisioning shortfalls can occur, in particular as a result of missing years of contributions, pay rises or changes in the pension plan.

How much is the maximum purchase amount?

The annual insurance certificate provides information on the possible purchase amount for full regulatory benefits.

What are the benefits of making a purchase?

First and foremost, in doing so you can increase the capital saved and thus also your retirement benefits. In addition, the sum paid leads to a reduction in income tax.

What happens to purchases in case of death prior to drawing retirement benefits?

Purchases made can be requested as a lump sum death benefit. Any purchases made with previous occupational benefits schemes can also be claimed if proof is provided.

What else needs to be considered:

You have made an early withdrawal under legislation encouraging home ownership:

- You can only make purchases if the early withdrawal has been repaid in full.

You moved to Switzerland within the last five years:

- If you were not previously insured under a Swiss occupational benefits scheme, in the first five years you can purchase a maximum of 20% of your insured salary per annum as specified by your insurance certificate.

You have saved pillar 3a assets as a self-employed person:

- These assets must be entered in the questionnaire. It will be partially offset in the calculation of the maximum possible purchase amount.

3-year deadline in case of a lump sum withdrawal:

- For a period of three years, benefits resulting from a purchase may not be paid out in the form of a lump sum payment (early withdrawal under legislation encouraging home ownership, lump sum payment on retirement, etc.).
- After a lump sum withdrawal, the tax authorities examine the purchases claimed in the last three years.

All tax-related issues must be clarified with the tax authorities by the insured person themselves. Ascaro cannot be held liable for decisions of the tax administration.

I am interested in a regulatory purchase. How must I proceed?

We would like to inform you about your options. However, to that end we need various types of information from you. Therefore, please complete the "Purchasing regulatory benefits" questionnaire. You will find it in the "Forms" section of our website or we would be only too pleased to provide you with a copy by post.

You can then make a deposit to the following IBAN:

CH19 0900 0000 3001 7338 5 (payment reference: Purchase by surname, first name)

Do you need further information? We're happy to help you.