

News Release



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Labor Department Publishes 2004 Form M-1 For Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements -- Online Filing Is Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) will publish in the Dec. 21, 2004, *Federal Register* the 2004 Form M-1 annual report for multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs). MEWAs are arrangements that offer medical benefits to the employees of two or more employers or to their beneficiaries.

The annual filing date for the 2004 Form M-1 is March 1, 2005. In addition, administrators can request an automatic 60-day extension to May 1, 2005. The 2004 form has few changes from the previous year.

The online filing system is available on EBSA's Web site. It allows filers to complete the form and submit it at no cost. The online form can be completed in multiple sessions and can be printed for the filer's records. The Web site includes a user manual, frequently asked questions and a link to submit questions electronically. Online filing is an example of President Bush's E-Government initiative to use technology to make it easier for citizens and businesses to interact with the government.

To use the online filing process, go to www.askebsa.dol.gov/mewa/. Technical assistance for the online filing system is also available by calling 202-693-8600. Information about the Form M-1 and how to fill it out is available on the Web site or by calling (202) 693-8360. Paper copies of the form may be obtained by calling EBSA's toll free number at 1-866-444-EBSA (3272) or visiting the Web site at www.dol.gov/ebsa and clicking on Forms/Doc Requests.

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The U.S. Department of Labor is committed to providing America's employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/compliance. U.S. Labor Department releases are accessible on the Internet at <http://www.dol.gov>. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format upon request (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office. Please specify which news release when placing your request. Call (202) 693-7773 or TTY (202) 693-7755.