

**Notice of Critical and Declining Status**  
**for**  
**Teamsters Local 469 Pension Plan**  
**EIN: 22-6172237 / PN: 001**

This is to inform you that the plan actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and also to the Plan sponsor, that the Plan is in Critical and Declining status for the Plan year beginning January 1, 2024. Federal law requires that you receive this notice.

**Critical and Declining Status**

The Plan is considered to be in Critical and Declining status because it has funding or liquidity problems, or both. More specifically, the Plan's actuary determined that the Plan has not passed the "Emergence Test", meaning that the Plan was in Critical status last year, is in critical status this year and is projected to become insolvent (that is, to lack sufficient assets to pay benefits) within the next 19 years, and the inactive to active participant ratio is in excess of 2 to 1. Currently, the Plan is expected to become insolvent and require financial assistance from the PBGC by the year 2031.

**Rehabilitation Plan**

Federal law requires pension plans in Critical status to adopt a Rehabilitation Plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the Plan. This is the 16th year the Plan has been in Critical status and the seventh year it is in Critical and Declining status. The law permits pension plans to reduce, or even eliminate benefits called "adjustable benefits" as part of a rehabilitation plan. In April 2008 and November 2010, you were notified that the Plan reduced or eliminated adjustable benefits. On April 28, 2008, you were notified that as of January 1, 2008 the plan is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity) while it is in a Critical status

In addition to permitting Plans to implement a rehabilitation plan as described above, the law now permits Plans certified as Critical and Declining to suspend (cut) accrued benefits (as described on the next page), including benefits currently in pay status. However, before this action is permitted, the benefit suspension must be approved by the Department of Treasury, Department of Labor, and the PBGC, and then by a vote of Plan participants. If a majority of all Plan participants reject the suspension, it may be modified by the Trustees and resubmitted, otherwise the suspensions take effect.

If the trustees of the Plan determine that further benefit suspensions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those cuts. You have a right to receive a copy of the Rehabilitation Plan from the Plan.

## **Suspendable Benefits**

### **Adjustable Benefits (Plan Features):**

- 20 year preferred early retirement factors for participants who earn at least 400 hours of contribution service or 500 hours of vesting service in the two years immediately preceding retirement
- 30 year preferred early retirement factors for participants hired prior to January 1, 2011
- Benefits may be not be suspended for
  - Participants age 80 or older
  - Participants who are disabled
- Suspensions are limited for participants between age 75 and 80, pro-rated for each month a participant is less than 80 years old
- Benefits may not be suspended below 110% of the PBGC maximum benefit guarantee of 100% of the first \$11 plus 75% of the next \$33 per year of service, or \$39.325 per year of service

## **Employer Surcharge**

The law requires that all contributing employers pay to the plan a surcharge to help correct the plan's financial situation until such time as their collective bargaining agreements are updated to reflect the contribution increases required by the Rehabilitation Plan. The amount of the surcharge is equal to a percentage of the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the plan under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. With some exceptions, a 5% surcharge is applicable in the initial critical year and a 10% surcharge is applicable for each succeeding plan year thereafter in which the plan is in critical status.

## **Special Financial Assistance**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") was signed into law. ARPA created a Special Financial Assistance ("SFA") Program, which provides grants to eligible multiemployer plans that can demonstrate the need for SFA. The Plan is eligible to apply for and receive SFA. Further, the Trustees intend to apply for SFA on the earliest date the Plan is eligible to apply under current guidance. SFA is expected to significantly improve the funding of the Plan and reduce the risk of future insolvency and associated benefit reductions. Further, a pension fund that receives SFA is no longer eligible to apply for a suspension of benefits if it is certified in critical and declining status.

## **Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this Notice, you may contact:

Plan Manager  
Teamsters Local 469  
3400 Highway 35, Suite 8  
Hazlet, NJ 07730  
(732) 264-9000

DATE SENT: \_\_\_\_\_