

# **CENTRAL LABORERS' PENSION FUND**

## **NOTICE OF PLAN STATUS (Yellow Zone)**

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April 27, 2018

To Participants, Beneficiaries, Participating Unions, and Contributing Employers:

The U.S. Congress enacted the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (“PPA”) and also the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (“MPRA”), in part, to improve the financial condition of pension plans by ensuring that pension plans have the assets necessary to fund pension benefits when participants retire. PPA implemented several safeguards aimed at improving plan funding levels as well as notification requirements to share more information about a plan’s “financial health” with participants and others related to the plan.

Many of PPA’s safeguard provisions relate to funding which, in simplest terms, is how much money a plan has coming in, going out, and what is in reserve (or “in the bank”) for the future. The safeguards are intended to prevent and correct avoidable funding problems.

Starting with the 2008 plan year, PPA requires that a pension plan be tested annually to determine how well it is funded. Benchmarks for measuring a plan’s funding, with formal classifications (“zone status”), were established. Plans that are in “endangered,” “seriously endangered,” or “critical” status must notify all plan participants, beneficiaries, unions, and contributing employers of the Plan’s status, as well as take corrective action to restore the plan’s financial health.

PPA’s zone status rules were modified by MPRA, enacted on December 16, 2014. MPRA, among other changes, added a new zone status called “critical and declining”. Additional measures to improve funding shortfalls are available to “critical and declining” plans.

### **Plan’s Status – Yellow Zone**

On March 30, 2018, the Central Laborers’ Pension Fund (“the Plan”) was certified by its actuary that the Plan is in “endangered” status (also known as the “Yellow Zone”) for the Plan year beginning January 1, 2018 (“2018 Plan year”). This is based on the actuary’s determination that the Plan is projected to be less than 80% funded as of January 1, 2018.

### **Funding Improvement Plan**

PPA requires pension plans in endangered or seriously endangered status to adopt a funding improvement plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. The Trustees adopted a Funding Improvement Plan (“FIP”) effective as of March 31, 2016, which was then provided to all contributing employers and participating unions. The FIP requires the same contribution increases as the most recent Rehabilitation Plan, except in cases where the employer did not elect a schedule of that Rehabilitation Plan. The required contribution rate increases for those employers were slightly higher.

### **What’s Next**

Since the Plan’s financial condition generally changes with changes in the economy, PPA requires that the Plan’s funding status be reviewed and certified annually. Any necessary changes will be communicated to all affected individuals and/or parties. This means that you will receive a notice like this each year until the Plan is no longer in the yellow zone.

Central Laborers' Pension Fund  
P.O. Box 1267  
Jacksonville, IL 62651-1267



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We understand that legally required notices like this one can create concern about the Plan's future. While the "endangered" status (or "Yellow Zone" classification) is required to be used by law, we are working with our actuaries and consultants to continue to review the Plan's condition and address its issues. We will continue to take actions necessary to improve the Plan's financial condition.

For more information about this notice or the Plan in general, please contact in writing the Plan's Executive Director, Mr. Dan Koeppel, at P.O. Box 1267, Jacksonville, Illinois, 62651-1267, 217-479-3600.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees

*As required by law, this notice is being provided to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and the Department of Labor.*