SVE | SMARTER PENSION SOLUTIONS

Sulzer Vorsorgeeinrichtung
Zürcherstrasse 12, 8400 Winterthur
www.sve.ch

INFORMATION LETTER, SEPTEMBER 2026

Revision of the Pension Fund Regulations and pension plans with effect as of 1 January 2027

SVE's Board of Trustees has decided to revise the Pension Fund Regulations and pension plans. The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2027. This letter will provide you with comprehensive information about the key changes these involve.

Overview of the key changes

- Introduction of additional provision for surviving dependants amounting to 40% of the retirement pension
- Introduction of a retirement pension with capital protection
- Clarification of when the 40% provision for surviving dependants and retirement pension with capital protection will become available – also in the event of partial retirement, continued employment beyond the reference age or the replacement of a disability pension by a retirement pension
- Taking a declared partnership into account when calculating the duration of marriage for the purposes of the spouse's pension
- Adjustment of the partner's pension
- Clear distinction between the support agreement for the partner's pension and the designation of beneficiaries for the lump-sum death benefit
- Improvements to the lump-sum death benefit and the introduction of a minimum lump-sum death benefit of CHF 100,000

Detailed report

1. Amendments to the Pension Fund Regulations

a) New 40% provision for surviving dependants
(art. 18 para. 2)

On retirement, it is now possible to reduce the provision for surviving dependants from 60% of the retirement pension to 40%. This new option may be of particular interest to insured persons requiring no or only limited cover for their surviving dependants – because they are not married at the time of retirement, for example, or because both spouses are financially well provided for.

Opting for a 40% provision for a surviving dependant will result in a higher retirement pension, since the corresponding conversion rate will be adjusted.

As with the previous 100% option, the new 40% provision for surviving dependants must also ensure that the resulting benefits are equal to at least the statutory minimum benefits under the BVG.

b) New retirement pension with capital protection
(art. 18bis)

It is now possible to opt for a retirement pension with capital protection on retirement.

Capital protection applies if death occurs within ten years of retirement, but no later than the insured person's 75th birthday. In such cases, a lump-sum death benefit will be paid to the beneficiaries.

The lump-sum death benefit is, in principle, equal to the retirement savings held at the time of retirement, less any retirement pensions already paid out up to the end of the month in which death occurred. If a spouse's or partner's pension becomes payable upon death, this lump-sum death benefit will be reduced in accordance with the survivor's cover selected at the time of retirement.

Please note:

- A retirement pension with capital protection results in a reduction in the conversion rate and thus in a lower retirement pension.
- This is subject to compliance with the statutory minimum benefits pursuant to the BVG.
- Only survivors' benefits of 60% or 40% are permitted; the 100% option is excluded.
- If the capital protection provision takes effect, no additional lump-sum death benefit will be payable under the general provisions of the Pension Fund Regulations.

c) Partial retirement
(art. 20)

In the case of partial retirement, it is possible to opt for a retirement pension with capital protection at each stage of partial retirement. The same continues to apply to provision for surviving dependants.

d) Employment after the reference age
(art. 22)

If a person continues to work beyond the reference age and defers receipt of their retirement benefits, the surviving dependants' cover can also be adjusted when the deferral ends, and a retirement pension with capital protection can be selected.

e) Replacement of the disability pension
(art. 30 para. 2)

Once the reference age is reached, the disability pension will be replaced by a retirement pension. Under the new rules, the respective pension plan will determine whether, in the event of such a replacement, the provision for surviving dependants can be adjusted and a retirement pension with capital protection selected.

f) Counting a declared partnership towards the duration of marriage
(art. 34 para. 1^{bis})

From now on, the duration of a partnership declared with SVE will be counted towards the minimum duration of marriage, provided that the support agreement was submitted to the SVE in the correct form while the insured person or pension recipient was still alive.

g) Partner's pension
(art. 38)

The provisions relating to the partner's pension have been substantially revised.

To date, the rules have also been based on unilateral maintenance or support payments. From now on, partnerships will be defined more clearly as a relationship based on mutual responsibility and support. The decisive factor is a mutually agreed obligation to provide support, set out in writing.

In addition, the previous requirement to live 'in the same household' has been clarified: the new provision is based on cohabitation with a shared household. Temporary separation due to work, health or other legitimate reasons does not affect the relationship, provided that the intention to run a joint household remained.

h) Clear distinction between the partner's pension and the lump-sum death benefit
(art. 38 and art. 40)

Henceforth, the following shall expressly apply:

- The support agreement set out in Annex 2a of the Pension Fund Regulations exclusively safeguards entitlement to a partner's pension.
- The declaration of beneficiaries in accordance with Annex 2b of the Pension Fund Regulations is the sole determining factor for the designation of beneficiaries in respect of the lump-sum death benefit.

This clearly distinguishes between pension entitlements and entitlements to a lump-sum death benefit.

i) Further clarifications and subsequent adjustments

In addition to the main changes outlined above, the Pension Fund Regulations contain further clarifications and subsequent adjustments:

- The provisions relating to insured salaries have been revised to cover both pension schemes with and without a coordination deduction (art. 11).
- With regard to the relevant annual salary, it is now clarified that any loss of earnings due to illness, accident, military service, short-time work, maternity leave, the other parent's leave, adoption leave or carer's leave shall not be deducted (art. 10 para. 5).
- Accordingly, the obligation to pay contributions is also clarified as follows: It will continue to apply for as long as a salary or salary replacement benefit is paid (art. 13 para 6).
- The time limit for withdrawing capital on retirement is reduced from three months to one month (art. 19 para. 2).
- The statutory provisions are reflected more precisely in the case of deferral of the disability pension. The entitlement to a disability pension is deferred for as long as the company continues to pay a salary or any salary replacement benefits amounting to at least 80% of the lost salary, at least half of which has been co-financed by the employer (art. 29).
- The conversion rates are updated in Annex 1 of the Pension Fund Regulations. The rates are now shown not only for the previous standard option of 60% and the existing 100% option, but also for the new 40% cover for surviving dependants. In addition, separate conversion rates are set for the retirement pension with capital protection.
- The content and wording of annexes 2a (Support Agreement) and 2b (Beneficiary Declaration) of the Pension Fund Regulations will be adapted to the new system, specifically with a view to distinguishing clearly between the partner's pension and the lump-sum death benefit.

2. Amendments to the pension plans

a) Basic, Medium and Premium pension plans

The following amendments also apply to the Basic, Medium and Premium pension plans:

aa) Implementation of new options
(sections 3.1.2 and 3.3.1)

The new 40% cover for surviving dependants and the new retirement pension with capital protection will be finalised and implemented.

Sulzer Vorsorgeeinrichtung
Zürcherstrasse 12, 8400 Winterthur
www.sve.ch

ab) Substitution of the disability pension
(section 3.2.2)

Once the reference age has been reached, the disability pension will be substituted by a retirement pension. It has hitherto been possible to withdraw capital from these pension plans. A new provision now stipulates that, as part of this replacement, the survivor's cover may also be adjusted and a retirement pension with capital protection may be selected.

ac) Lump-sum death benefit prior to retirement
(section 3.5.1)

A minimum death benefit of CHF 100,000 is being introduced for insured persons.

Furthermore, under these pension plans, voluntary contributions made in accordance with article 15 of the Pension Fund Regulations, together with interest, will be paid out separately in the event of death.

b) Classic pension plan

The same new options on retirement also apply to persons insured under the Classic pension plan with regard to:

- Surviving dependants' protection of 40%;
- Retirement pension with capital protection.

However, in contrast to the Basic, Medium and Premium pension plans, the following will apply when the disability pension is replaced (section 3.2.2):

- The disability pension will continue to be replaced by a retirement pension in the same amount.
- It will still be possible to withdraw capital.
- However, in such cases, any adjustment to the surviving dependants' cover and the option of selecting a retirement pension with capital protection are expressly excluded.

As regards the lump-sum death benefit, the structure of the Classic plan remains essentially unchanged. However, a minimum death benefit of CHF 100,000 is now also being introduced (section 3.5).

3. What does this mean for you?

Whether any of the new options are suitable for you, and if so, which, will depend largely on your personal circumstances, particularly on:

- your family circumstances
- your requirements regarding provision for your dependants
- a potential desire for a lump-sum withdrawal
- your pension plan.

The new options may result in a higher or lower retirement pension, as well as differing levels of provision for your surviving dependants. If you opt for a retirement pension with capital protection, your surviving dependants will be provided with additional cover in the event of your premature death after retirement; on the other hand, your retirement pension will be lower.

4. Entry into force of the amendments

Principle

All amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2027.

Transitional arrangements for retirements with effect from 1 January 2027

The following applies to insured persons whose employment ends on 31 December 2026 and who retire on 1 January 2027: The new Pension Fund Regulations, which enter into force on 1 January 2027, already apply to retirement benefits. This means that, in principle, the new options are also available, specifically the 40% provision for surviving dependants and the retirement pension with capital protection.

At the same time, the statutory one-month deadline also applies to these transitional cases for lump-sum withdrawals, the selection of a retirement pension with capital protection, and for the option of surviving dependants' benefits of 40% or 100%.

We recommend that you consider the implications of the various options at an early stage.

5. Further information and documentation

This letter provides an overview of the most important changes. In all cases, the Pension Fund Regulations and the pension plan applicable to you in the version valid as of 1 January 2027 shall remain authoritative.

The revised Pension Fund Regulations and your 2027 pension plan will be available on mypkSVE from about mid-December 2026. The Pension Fund Regulations will also be published on our website, www.sve.ch/en, at the same time.

6. Your contacts

Should you have any questions, the Insurance Consulting team will be pleased to be of assistance (www.sve.ch/team).

Peter Strassmann
Managing Director

Martina Ingold
Deputy Managing Director
Head of Insurance Consulting