



PF/EPS/003/2023-24

Date – 21-04-2023

Submission of joint option online form hosted in EPFO Unified Portal in pursuance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dt. 4th November 2022

This circular is with reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dt. 4th November 2022 and subsequent circular issued by EPFO dt. 20th February 2023 and our circular no. PF/EPS/002/2022-23 dt. 9th March 2023 on the subject.

EPFO vide its Circular no. Pension/2022/56259/16541 dt. 20th February 2023 has enabled an URL on its website for exercising joint option for higher pension to employees who were members prior to 1st September 2014 and continued to be members as on 1st September 2014.

1. Employees and Ex-employees need certain information including the following documents to be uploaded while submitting the joint option form through EPFO website:

- a) Date on which statutory ceiling crossed for the first time – You may reach out to Accounts Team for the details.
- b) Permission required under clause 26(6) of EPS scheme for contribution on full salary - This is an optional field. Employees covered by Tata Pigments PF Trust are not required to submit this permission.
- c) PF account balance on the date of filling option and relevant documentary proof for the same – Available with Accounts team for existing employees. This is not applicable for Ex-employees.
- d) Undertaking by the member to deposit the contribution along with interest due till the date of payment – The Tata Pigments Ltd. shall divert the required contribution to EPS for current employees having sufficient PF Corpus. For current employees with insufficient PF corpus, differential EPS contribution deposit process will be communicated as when notified by EPFO (as on date there is no clarity on the subject). Ex-employees need to pay the contribution directly to RPFC.

2. Employees and Ex-employee will get these details from accounts team: -

- a. Statement of basic details needed to fill up the online form.
- b. Statement of computation of diversion to be made towards EPS. The statement is updated till Mar'23 (assuming interest of 8.15% for FY23 as proposed by EPFO. Interest rate for Tata Pigments PF Trust is yet to be finalized).

Employees and Ex-employees must note that the above statement of diversion is based on database available with us. For any discrepancy, Employees and Ex-employees are advised to produce the documents if they have.

3. Employees must note that once this option is exercised there will be a hold on PF balance for any Non-refundable Loan Processing under 'House Building loan' (purchase and construction of house/flat and purchase of land) & 'Retirement Benefit Loan' which are dependent on Employers PF contribution. All future diversion to EPS will be initiated on full salary (Basic plus DA) from the date of approval or as may be communicated by RPFC.

Interested and eligible members are advised to strictly follow the EPFO guidelines while submitting online joint option and are requested to submit the same preferably by 30th April 2023. Members may please note the following.

- a. Mere submission of joint option doesn't confer any right to higher pension and the same is subject to final decision of EPFO authority. The company does not undertake any liability or obligation for approval of the joint option form by RPFC or any other concerned authority.
- b. The Tata Pigments Ltd. shall not be liable for the date and manner of payment of enhanced pension as it is within the sole discretion and control of the EPFO and the concerned authorities.
- c. In case of ex- employees, The Tata Pigments Ltd. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of data and timelines for deposit of the amount to be diverted. It shall not be liable for any consequent damage or interest which may be levied by the authorities in terms of the Employees Provident Fund (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1952.

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