

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Catch-up contributions are in addition to your regular TSP contributions. Therefore, if you are not already contributing the maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Code (\$17,000 in 2012) through your regular TSP contributions or by contributing to an equivalent employer plan (e.g., a 401(k) plan), you must elect to contribute the maximum amount before you are eligible to make catch-up contributions. This catch-up election **will not** affect your regular TSP contributions.

You may start, stop, or change your catch-up contributions at any time. Your election will stay in effect subject to the conditions in Section II below. You must make a new election for each calendar year.

You do not receive matching contributions from your agency for any catch-up contributions.

Your catch-up contribution election will be effective no later than the first full pay period after your agency receives it. Contributions will be invested according to your most recent contribution allocation on file. If you wish to change your contribution allocation, you may do so on the TSP website at www.tsp.gov, or the ThriftLine at 1-TSP-YOU-FRST (1-877-968-3778; outside the U.S. and Canada, call 404-233-4400).

SECTION I

Complete all items in this section.

SECTION II

Your choice will cancel all previous elections.

Your contribution election. You can elect to make traditional (pre-tax) and Roth (after-tax) catch-up contributions simultaneously. Whatever you enter in this section will cancel all previous elections; therefore, be sure to indicate exactly what amounts you want to contribute, even if part of your election has not changed. **Traditional contributions** come out of your pay **before** income taxes are calculated; you pay income taxes on these contributions and their earnings when you withdraw them. **Roth contributions** are made from your pay **after** taxes. Withdrawals of Roth contributions are tax-free. The earnings associated with these contributions are also tax-free, but only if 5 years have passed since January 1 of the calendar year in which you made your first Roth contribution, **and** you have reached age 59½, have a permanent disability, or have died.

Contribution limits. The IRC limit for catch-up contributions is \$5,500 in 2012. The **total** of your traditional and Roth catch-up contributions cannot exceed this limit. IRC limits may be adjusted annually for inflation. Check the TSP website, www.tsp.gov, to be sure that you have the most up-to-date limit amount (and the most recent version of this form).

Deductions will be made from your basic pay in the dollar amount you indicate. However:

- (1) Catch-up contributions will stop when you have reached the maximum allowable dollar amount for the calendar year.
- (2) The catch-up contribution amount you specified cannot exceed the amount of your pay after all other required deductions have been made. (Required deductions include regular TSP contributions and TSP loan payments.)
- (3) Your catch-up contributions will **not** continue into the next calendar year.

You are not eligible to make catch-up contributions if you are in nonpay status or if you are ineligible to make TSP contributions because you have made a financial hardship in-service withdrawal within the last 6 months. If you have elected to make catch-up contributions and you subsequently enter a noncontribution period, deductions will stop. Contributions will **not** restart automatically. You must submit a new election when your noncontribution period ends.

You may stop your catch-up contributions at any time by submitting a new Form TSP-1-C to your agency indicating that you want your election to stop. (See Section III.)

You must sign this section. If you do not, your request to start or change your catch-up contributions will be rejected.

SECTION III

If you choose to stop all, or just one type, of your catch-up contributions, you must complete and sign this section. Your election should be effective the first pay period after your agency receives it. You can restart your catch-up contributions at any time, subject to the conditions above. Do **not** complete this section if you have completed Section II. Your election in Section II cancels your previous election.

SECTION IV

(To be completed by personnel or benefits office)

The Receipt Date (Item 13) is the date that a **properly completed** form is received by the agency personnel office. If the form has not been properly completed, it should be returned to the employee.

The Effective Date (Item 14) must be no later than the first full pay period after receipt of a properly completed form.

You should provide the participant with a copy of this completed election form.