

## *Information leaflet – measure for older unemployed persons in the occupational pension plan*

**(Art. 47a OPA/ Art. 61 Pension Regulations)**

Concerns insured persons who are 58 or over and whose employment relationship was terminated by the employer after 31 July 2020.

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### **Who can continue to enjoy insurance on a voluntary basis?**

Insured persons who are 58 or over and whose employment relationship was terminated by the employer after 31 July 2020 may apply to Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG for continuation of the insurance at the previous level as of 1 January 2021.

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### **What can continue to be insured?**

The previous annual salary continues to be insured on the basis of the existing pension plan. If the provisions of the relevant pension plan and/or the contributions change, these changes will also apply to the continued insurance.

The insured person can choose to continue the entire pension provision or only the risk provision (without further savings contributions).

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### **What contributions are due and how are they charged?**

As a basic principle, the insured person takes over all contributions from the employer and the employee in accordance with the valid pension plan. As regards administrative costs, only the personal costs as per the Administrative Costs Regulations and the extraordinary administrative costs incurred (reminder fees in particular) are charged to the insured person. If Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG or the pension fund concerned is in deficit or if restructuring contributions are levied, the insured person will only pay their restructuring contributions (employee share).

If only the risks of death and disability continue to be insured, the insured person pays their risk contributions as well as those of the employer. If the retirement provision continues to be added to as well, the insured person pays their savings contributions as well as those of the employer in addition to the total risk contributions.

The total contributions are charged to the insured person on a monthly basis. If the insured person is in arrears with payment of contributions, the foundation will send him a reminder. If the outstanding contributions have not been received at the payment address within one month of the reminder being sent, continued insurance will automatically end from the date on which the contributions are outstanding.

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### **What happens to the savings capital?**

The savings capital stays with Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG during continued insurance and continues to accrue interest. If the insured person opts for the risk and retirement provision, the monthly savings contributions are credited to the savings capital. If the termination benefit has already been transferred to a vested benefits scheme or withdrawn in cash, it may be transferred back to Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG.

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## When does the continued insurance end?

Continued insurance ends when the insured person reaches the normal retirement age (65), when the risk of death or total disability materialises, when the insured person terminates the insurance or after a single reminder in the case of late payment of the contributions owed. It also ends if more than two-thirds of the termination benefit are required to purchase the full regulatory benefits when joining a new pension scheme.

The insured person can terminate the continued insurance at any time by the end of the next month.

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## Consequences of voluntary continued insurance remaining in force more than two years

If the voluntary continued insurance has remained in force longer than two years, an advance withdrawal or a mortgage on a residential property is no longer possible. In addition, the retirement benefit can only be drawn in the form of a pension.

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## Timeframes

**A written application** for continued insurance in line with Art. 47a OPA must be submitted to Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG within one month of termination of the employment relationship. It must be stated whether only the risk insurance or also the retirement provision is set to continue. The option for continued insurance is forfeited if this signed notification is not received within this timeframe.

The application by letter must be accompanied by a copy of the employer's **letter of termination** or the **termination agreement**. If the requested evidence of termination is not provided by the employer within two months of termination of the employment relationship, the right to continued insurance will be considered forfeited.

If the insured person has opted for continued insurance with savings contributions, they can revisit this choice annually with effect from 1 July of a calendar year and continue the insurance without savings contributions. Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG is to be informed of this in writing by 31 May at the latest. The selected form remains in effect without written notification. However, the reverse situation is excluded.

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## Contact

Your contact at Valitas Sammelstiftung BVG will be happy to discuss options for continued insurance, the effects and costs with you.