

**SOCIAL SECURITY (OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS)  
(VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORS) REGULATIONS 1997**

**Subsidiary  
1997/115**

Regulations made under s. 4 of the Social Security (Open Long-Term Benefits Scheme) Act 1997.

**SOCIAL SECURITY (OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS)  
(VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORS) REGULATIONS 1997**

**(LN. 1997/115)**

**1.4.1997**

Amending enactments	Relevant current provisions	Commencement date
LN. 1997/164	r. 6	30.12.1997
2004/130	r. 6	3.1.2005
2008/044	r. 6	1.7.2008
2009/048	r. 6	1.7.2009*
2010/113	r. 6	1.7.2010
2017/058	r. 6	1.4.2017

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\* *Date of commencement of LN. 2009/048 amended by the Social Security (Open Long-Term Benefits) (Voluntary Contributors) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 [2009-37].*

**1997-16**

**Social Security (Open Long-Term Benefits Scheme)**

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**Subsidiary  
1997/115**

**SOCIAL SECURITY (OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS)  
(VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORS) REGULATIONS 1997**

**Title and commencement.**

1. These regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Open Long-Term Benefits) (Voluntary Contributors) Regulations 1997 and shall be deemed to have come into effect on the 1st day of April, 1997.

**Interpretation.**

2. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“period of grace” in relation to any contribution year, means the period beginning with the end of that year and ending on the 30th day of June next following or such later date as the Director may in any particular case determine;

“voluntary contributor” has the meaning assigned to that expression by regulation 3.

**Persons entitled to be voluntary contributors.**

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of these regulations, the persons not in employed contributor’s employment or self-employed contributor’s employment who are entitled to pay contributions under the Act (in these regulations referred to as “voluntary contributors”) include all persons who—

- (a) having been engaged in employed contributor’s employment or self-employed contributor’s employment for a period, whether continuous or not, of one hundred and four weeks or upwards, have ceased to be so engaged; and
- (b) are for the time being voluntary contributors under the Social Insurance) Act<sup>1</sup>.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation—

- (a) insurable employment under the 1955 Act shall be treated in the same way as insurable employment under the Act; and
- (b) insurable employment before the 3rd day of October, 1955 under the Social Security (Employment Injuries Insurance) Act, up to a maximum of one hundred weeks, shall be treated as employed contributor’s employment under the 1955 Act.

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<sup>1</sup> 1955-14

**SOCIAL SECURITY (OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS)  
(VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORS) REGULATIONS 1997****Time for giving notice of desire to become a voluntary contributor.**

4. The time within which a person shall give notice that he desires to be a voluntary contributor shall be the period of twelve months after the contribution week during which he was last engaged in employed contributor's employment or self-employed contributor's employment, or such longer period as the Director, having regard to the circumstances of the particular case, may allow.

**Form of application to become a voluntary contributor.**

5. An application to become a voluntary contributor under these regulations shall be in writing addressed to the Director, and a person making an application shall furnish such information in relation thereto as the Director may require.

**Rates of contribution.**

6. The weekly rate of contribution payable by voluntary contributors shall be £14.50

**Payment of contributions.**

7. (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) below, where at the end of any contribution year the number of contributions paid for that contribution year by a person insured as a voluntary contributor is less than forty-five, then, unless within the period of grace he pays such further contributions as will bring the total number of contributions for that year up to forty-five, he shall cease to be entitled to pay contributions as a voluntary contributor.

(2) Where a person has, on attaining the age of sixty in the case of a man or fifty-five in the case of a woman, been insured for a period of ten years, this regulation shall in respect of that person apply as if, for the references in paragraph (1) above to forty-five contributions, there were substituted references to twenty-six contributions.

(3) Paragraph (1) above shall not apply in relation to the contribution year in which the insured person becomes a voluntary contributor.