

Press Release

MPFA arranges to inject \$6,000 into MPF accounts of eligible members by batches in March and April

The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) today (20 February 2009) gives an account of the detailed arrangement of the Government's injection of \$6,000 into the MPF accounts of MPF/ORSO scheme members after the Finance Committee of Legislative Council has approved the Government's funding application of \$9 billion for the injection this afternoon. Eligible scheme members will receive the injection by batches via the 17 trustees in March and April 2009. It is estimated that about 1.404 million scheme members would be eligible to receive the injection. The trustees concerned would send a written notification to each eligible member after the injection has been made to the relevant MPF account. For eligible ORSO scheme members who do not have any MPF accounts, the MPFA would in March notify the scheme members and the trustees concerned will set up MPF preserved accounts for the scheme members to receive the injection.

An MPFA spokesperson said: "An Injection Hotline will be made available in April 2009 for scheme members who have not received the written notification to enquire or request for review. Any review request should be made with the MPFA between April and 30 September 2009. Details of the Injection Hotline will be announced later. Scheme members need not enquire about their own cases at this stage. The MPFA will inform the public of injection arrangement in detail via the media next week."

(Please refer to Annex 1 for eligibility criteria.)

Review/Appeal Mechanism

The spokesperson pointed out that starting from April 2009, any scheme members who wish to review their eligibility for injection can lodge their requests by calling the Injection Hotline, visiting the MPFA Kwun Tong Office in person or sending requests in writing to the MPFA. The requests should be made between April and 30 September 2009. A person who has made a request for review will be notified of the review result by the MPFA in writing. If a person is not satisfied with the MPFA's review decision, he/she should lodge an appeal within three weeks after a written notification of the MPFA's review decision is issued. Any late submission of appeal request would not be considered.

"All appeals will be handled by an Appeal Panel chaired by the Chairman of the MPF Schemes Advisory Committee and comprising non-executive directors of the MPFA. The Appeal Panel will review the decision having regard to all of the information provided by the appellant and the findings of the MPFA's investigation. The individual will be notified of the outcome of the appeal in writing. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final," the spokesperson said.

Injection Arrangement

MPF Scheme Members

- The MPFA will inject the contributions into eligible members' MPF preserved accounts if members possessed such accounts.
- If members do not possess MPF preserved accounts but only have MPF contribution accounts, the contributions will be injected into their contribution accounts.
- For members who have withdrawn their accrued benefits on statutory grounds and closed their MPF accounts (except on the ground of small account balance), the contributions will be paid by cheque or bank transfer.
- If members have withdrawn their accrued benefits on the ground of small account balance and closed their MPF accounts, the trustees concerned will set up MPF preserved accounts for

them to receive the injection.

ORSO Scheme Members

As the contributions will be injected into MPF accounts of eligible scheme members, for eligible ORSO scheme members who do not have any MPF accounts, the trustees concerned will set up MPF preserved accounts for them to receive the injection. The MPFA will separately send a letter and a publicity leaflet to each eligible ORSO scheme member concerned in March explaining to him/her how to set up the preserved account. Scheme members are advised to study the documents thoroughly, and return the completed MPF preserved account application / enrolment form to the trustees concerned by 31 March 2009 to set up the MPF preserved account.

(Please refer to Annex 2 for payment arrangement.)

The MPFA will roll out an extensive publicity programme starting from next week through advertisements, newspaper articles, Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) etc to inform the public of the details of the injection exercise. Scheme members are reminded to take note of the announcements and information. Scheme members can also get the relevant information from the MPFA's designated webpage (www.mpfa.org.hk).

- The End -

Notes to Editors: For enquiries, please contact Mr Tsui Kwok-chuen of the External Affairs Division, MPFA, at 2292 1278/9878 7237.

Friday, 20 February 2009

Eligibility Criteria

	Eligibility Criteria
Regular employees (include full-time and part-time employees) and ORSO scheme members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (a) If you were a holder of an MPF contribution account as at 29 February 2008; <u>or</u> (b) If you were a member of an ORSO scheme (a defined contribution or a defined benefit scheme) as at 29 February 2008; and ➤ If your relevant income in any one of the three months of December 2007, January and February 2008 was HK\$10,000 or below (excluding the month(s) without income records).
Casual employees of Industry Schemes (covering the catering and construction industries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you were a holder of an MPF Industry Scheme contribution account as at 29 February 2008; and ➤ Your average monthly relevant income during the period between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008 (i.e. the total relevant income over those 12 months divided by 12) was HK\$10,000 or below.
Self-employed persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you were a holder of an MPF contribution account as at 29 February 2008; and ➤ If the annual relevant income that you have reported to or have on record with your trustee for the scheme financial year covering the period of 1 December 2007 to 29 February 2008 was HK\$120,000 or below, i.e. the average monthly relevant income was HK\$10,000 or below. (If the above period spans two scheme financial years, only one of the scheme financial years' average monthly relevant income is required to be HK\$10,000 or below.)
Employed or self-employed persons in the Coverage Period*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you were a holder of an MPF preserved account as at 29 February 2008; and ➤ You were employed or self-employed at any time between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008; had contribution records under an MPF scheme or were an ORSO scheme member during the above period; and the relevant income in any one of the last three months of your last job in the above period was HK\$10,000 or below (excluding the month(s) without income records).

For any eligible person whose income level or employment status has changed or who has become unemployed or deceased after 29 February 2008, his/her eligibility to receive the injection will not be affected.

* Coverage period refers to the time between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008

Payment Arrangement

Account Status	Payment Arrangement
If you had MPF preserved account(s) on 30 November 2008#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you had one MPF preserved account only • If you had two or more MPF preserved accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions will be injected into that preserved account • Contributions will be injected into the preserved account set up most recently as at 30 November 2008# (according to MPFA's records)
If you did not have any MPF preserved account on 30 November 2008#, but had MPF contribution account(s) on 29 February 2008*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you had one MPF contribution account only • If you had two or more MPF contribution accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions will be injected into that contribution account • Contributions will be injected into the account with the highest account balance as at 29 February 2008*
If you had withdrawn all MPF/ORSO benefits after 29 February 2008*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All accounts have been closed and all MPF/ORSO accrued benefits have been withdrawn on the grounds of retirement, early retirement, total incapacity or permanent departure from Hong Kong • The scheme member has passed away, and all accounts have been closed and all MPF/ORSO accrued benefits have been withdrawn by the personal representative of the estate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions will be paid by cheque sent to your last known address according to the trustee's record, or directly paid by bank transfer • Contributions will be paid by cheque sent to the last known address of the personal representative of the estate, or directly paid by bank transfer to the personal representative of the estate

Account Status	Payment Arrangement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your MPF account has been closed and all MPF accrued benefits have been withdrawn on the ground of small account balance (only applicable to eligible MPF scheme members)
If you never had any MPF account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only applicable to eligible ORSO scheme members

[#] To allow sufficient time for administrative arrangement, the MPFA has taken 30 November 2008 as the cut-off date for information on preserved accounts provided by trustees, so as to decide to which preserved account the contributions should be injected.

* According to the eligibility criteria announced by the Government, 29 February 2008 is the date used for determining whether an individual is an MPF/ORSO scheme member or not.