



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

## FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: FIA/OPRS #99-44

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Issuance Date: May 18, 1999

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

**FROM: ROBERT J. EVERHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: UPDATED QUARTERS OF COVERAGE CHART**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: ALL PROGRAMS**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS**

### SUMMARY

The Family Investment Administration issued a revised State Verification Exchange System (SVES) Manual with Action Transmittal 99-13 (Amended). Page 59 of the SVES Manual provides a Quarters of Coverage Chart used to determine whether certain aliens met eligibility requirements under the forty quarters' provision of current immigrant policy. The attached updated chart reflects the amount of earnings needed to qualify for quarters of coverage in 1999. The amount for 1999 is \$740.

### ACTION REQUIRED

Remove page 58/59 from the SVES Manual and replace it with the attached updated page.

### INQUIRIES

Direct policy questions to Steve Sturgill at (410) 767-7733. Direct technical questions to Joyce Westbrook at (410) 767-8735.

Attachment

cc: FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services

OIM Help Desk

## MAKING THE 40 – QQ DETERMINATION

**REMEMBER:** Qualifying quarters earned after 12/31/96 cannot be counted if the immigrant, parent or spouse received a Federal means-tested public benefit during the quarter.

**STEP 1:** Review the customer's record. Do codes representing QQs add up to 40 or more?

If: YES, then the customer meets the exception requirement.

If: NO, then: Are there current or prior year earnings which are not shown in the QQ pattern? (See the chart following step 3 on page 59 for earnings amounts needed for a QQ.)

If: YES, then proceed as described on page 61, Reconciliation.

If: The total now equals 40 or more, the customer meets the exception requirement.

If: NO, then go to step 2.

**STEP 2:** Review other records for the periods that can be used (*during marriage for a spouse and under age 18 for a parent*). When you add the codes that represent a QQ on these records to the customer's record, do they equal 40 or more?

If: YES, then the customer meets the exception requirement.

If: NO, then consider current and prior taxable year earnings as in step 1.

If: The total when these are added equals 40 or more, then the customer meets the exception requirement.

If: NO, then go to step 3.

**STEP 3:** On all records: Review the field Minimum Number QCs 1937 – 1950

If: These can be used, then add them to the total. Does the total equal 40 or more?

If: YES, then the customer meets the exception requirement.

If: NO, then continue.

Review the field MAXIMUM NUMBER QCs 1937 – 1950 and look at the QC pattern for codes # and z.

- If: the maximum number and/or the codes “#” and “Z” will equal 40 or more when added to the total. Refer the case to SSA as described on page 61, Reconciliation.
- If: the total still does not equal at least 40, then continue. Review the QQ pattern with the customer.
- If: the customer believes that quarters are missing, then develop the issue as described on page 61, Reconciliation.
- If: the customer believes the records are correct, then he or she cannot meet the exception requirements.

Please refer to the **Covered Employment Chart** in Appendix A, page A-2 to determine whether individuals have the level of earnings to produce a **Qualifying Quarter**. The Covered Employment Chart also shows how to credit earnings prior to 1978.

For 1978 and later, credits are based solely on the total yearly amount of earnings. The number of creditable QQs is obtained by dividing the individual's total earned income by the increment amount for the year (a maximum of 4 quarters per year). All types of earnings follow this rule. The amount of earnings needed to earn credit increases and is different for each year. For 1978 through 1999, the dollar amount needed to credit each qualifying quarter is as follows:

1978.....\$250	1985.....\$410	1992.....\$570	1999.....\$740
1979.....\$260	1986.....\$440	1993.....\$590	
1980.....\$290	1987.....\$460	1994.....\$620	
1981.....\$310	1988.....\$470	1995.....\$630	
1982.....\$340	1989.....\$500	1996.....\$640	
1983.....\$370	1990.....\$520	1997.....\$670	
1984.....\$390	1991.....\$540	1998.....\$700	

A current year quarter may be included in the 40-quarter computation. Use the current year amount as the divisor to determine the number of quarters available.

**FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES REGARDING COUNTING A QUARTER THAT HAS NOT ENDED.**