



U.S. Department of Labor Issues Updated Guidance, New Forms on COBRA Extension

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The U.S. Department of Labor has issued a new set of guidance materials explaining the extension of the 65% COBRA subsidy eligibility date from December 31, 2009 to February 28, 2010 and the extension of the benefit period from 9 months to 15 months. The new guidance materials include updated Model Forms which employers must send to eligible employees, even those who were previously notified under the original COBRA amendments. These amendments, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in February of 2009, were extended by Congress in December of 2009. (For more detailed information on the COBRA extension, see the Bricker & Eckler LLP *Human Resources E-Alert* at [this link.](#))

The updated DOL guidance materials, prepared by the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), may be viewed at [this location](#) on the U.S. Department of Labor web site.

Specific information on the COBRA ARRA Updated Model Notices, including the [Premium Assistance Extension Notice](#), may be found [here](#).



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