

HIPAA Information, Records, Privacy and Confidentiality

At times, the VEBA Committee or a benefits provider may need additional information from you. When you enroll in the Plan you must agree to furnish the VEBA Committee or a benefits provider with all information and proofs that may be reasonably required regarding any matters pertaining to the Plan. If you do not provide this information when requested, payment of your Plan benefits may be delayed or denied.

By accepting benefits under the Plan, you authorize and direct any person or institution that has provided services to you to furnish the VEBA Committee and its designees with all information or copies of records relating to the services provided to you. This applies to all Participants and Dependents, whether or not they have signed the Participant's enrollment form. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that the Plan protect the confidentiality of your private health information. The Plan maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices, which provides a complete description of your rights under HIPAA's privacy rules. For a copy of the Notice, please contact the Goodyear Retiree VEBA Office. This summary is not intended and cannot be construed as the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices. In the event of any inconsistency between this summary and the Notice of Privacy Practices, the terms of the Notice of Privacy Practice shall control.

The Plan will not use or further disclose information that is protected by HIPAA (known as "protected health information" or "PHI") except as necessary for treatment, payment, healthcare operations, or as permitted or required by law.

The VEBA Committee hires professionals and other companies to assist it in providing benefits under the Plan. These entities, called "Business Associates," are required to observe HIPAA's privacy rules. In some cases, you may receive a separate notice from one of the Plan designees. It will describe your rights with respect to benefits provided by that organization.

Under federal law you have certain rights with respect to your protected health information, including certain rights to see and copy the information, receive an accounting of certain disclosures of the information, and under certain circumstances amend the information. You have the right to request reasonable restrictions on disclosure of information about you and to request confidential communications. You also have the right to file a complaint with the Plan Administrator or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your rights have been violated.

If you have questions about the privacy of your health information or if you wish to file a privacy violation complaint, please contact the Goodyear Retiree VEBA Office.