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Gray, Gray & Gray News - Employee Benefit Plan Audits

DOL Issues Cybersecurity Guidelines for Retirement Benefit Plans



Citing the growing threat of online criminal activity, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued guidance on cybersecurity steps to help protect the nation's \$9.3 trillion in pensions and defined benefit plans. The suggestions are aimed at helping plan sponsors and fiduciaries to avoid data breaches and cyber theft from the estimated 140 million retirement plan participants in the U.S. The Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which regulates private pension plans and defined contribution plans, requires plan fiduciaries to take appropriate precautions to mitigate these risks. Without sufficient protections, these participants and assets may be at risk from both internal and external cybersecurity threats.

Click <u>here</u> to read more.

For additional information or help setting up your own cybersecurity defenses, please contact Gray, Gray & Gray at (781) 407-0300.

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Successfully Navigating the Employee Retention Tax Credit



The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERC), which allows eligible employers to earn a refundable tax credit against certain federal employment taxes, was an important part of the original CARES Act to provide pandemic relief. The ERC became even more appealing once it was opened to businesses that had also received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. (It was previously an "either/or" situation.)

Businesses that have not claimed an ERC during 2020, either because they had a PPP loan, did not realize they had an eligible revenue loss, or simply did not know about the ERC credit, can now apply for a 2020 tax credit retroactively. Read more <u>here</u>.

For additional information or help in calculating your potential for applying for the ERC, either this year or retroactively for 2020, please contact Gray, Gray & Gray at (781) 407-0300.

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Employee Benefits

Vision Coverage: The Need Is Easy to See



If your company is looking for money-saving ways to cut back on benefits, you may want to focus *away* from cutting eye-care insurance coverage. Every penny you spend on vision care can add to safety, production and morale. It can also lower medical and worker's compensation costs. This article explains how this benefit can potentially save your business money in the long run.

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Benefits Administration

Disability Programs: Save Money, Foster Return to Work



You can assist sick or injured employees to get the help they need early on, and in the process, limit lost productivity. Keep reading to find out how an integrated disability management program can help achieve this goal.

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Benefit Tax Issues

Protect Your Company's Plan From an IRS Attack



If your business sponsors a retirement plan, you must invest prudently and stay in compliance with numerous complex federal requirements. If you don't follow the rules, the IRS could disqualify your plan. Here are some steps to help keep you from falling into a costly noncompliance trap.

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"We formerly had our employee benefit plan audit with one of the 'Big Four' national accounting firms, but knew that we were not getting the attention and service we needed. Making the switch to Gray, Gray & Gray was like night and day! We are getting the same degree of competence and experience, but with a much higher level of service. At much more reasonable fees, too!"

-New England Sports Network (NESN)

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