We revised EM-20020 SEN to add additional information in the “Background” section i.e. adding mention of the agency COVID-19 EM 20010 SEN REV 6. We also removed the prior dates that originally stated we would delay the mailing until at least September 2020 and replaced with that we will continue delay mailing the 2020 FEQ. Additionally, under “Action Needed”, we removed dates to not mail the FEQ prior to September 2020 and that we would reevaluate in July 2020 and replaced with, “Do not mail the 2020 FEQ to beneficiaries or representative payees. We will reevaluate the circumstances and provide further instructions.”

A. Purpose
Due to COVID-19 related mail delivery issues, the Office of Income Security Programs has temporarily suspended mailing of the 2020 Foreign Enforcement Questionnaire (FEQ) to beneficiaries and representative payees.

B. Background
The FEQ is the primary source we use to determine whether to continue benefit payments to beneficiaries residing outside the United States, regardless of the beneficiary’s current or deferred payment status. In May or June, we usually mail the FEQ to
beneficiaries and representative payees receiving benefits outside the United States. In October, we usually mail a second notice to those who did not respond to the first mailing. Generally, we suspend benefits if beneficiaries or their representative payees do not return the FEQ timely.

Due to mail delivery issues pre-dating the COVID-19 public health emergency, the agency delayed suspensions for 2019 non-responders through August 31, 2020, under EM-19037. Under EM-20010 SEN REV 6, suspensions for failure to respond to the 2019 FEQ remain on hold.

EM-20010 SEN REV 6 and EM 20020 SEN suspended mailing the 2020 FEQ. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 related mail delays in foreign countries, the agency will continue to delay mailing the 2020 FEQ.

**Action Needed**

**Do not mail the 2020 FEQ** to beneficiaries or representative payees. We will reevaluate the circumstances and provide further instructions.

This is a temporary change to **RS 02655.010B** and **RS 02655.010C**. You should follow the remaining policy in **RS 02655.010D** through **RS 02655.010F** and **RS 02655.007**.

Direct all program–related and technical questions to Division of Training and Program Support in Office of Earnings and International Operations at [b] (2) [b] (2)

**References**

**RS 02655.007** Processing the Foreign Enforcement Questionnaire (FEQ) – WBDOC, DIO and the FBU
**RS 02655.010** Follow-ups and Suspensions – Foreign Enforcement Program (FEP)
**EM-19037 SEN REV** Foreign Enforcement Questionnaire (FEQ) – Delaying Suspension for 2019 Non-responders
**EM-20010 SEN REV 6** Disaster Procedures – Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic – One Time Instruction

**EM-20020 SEN REV - Foreign Enforcement Questionnaire (FEQ) – Delay of 2020 mailing - 11/24/2020**

**Link to this document:**

[b] (2) [b] (2)