

Life Insurance Based Non-Qualified Plan Arrangements by Terri Getman, JD, CLU, ChFC, RICP AEP(Distinguished)

	162 Bonus	Restrictive Bonus REBA	Split Dollar (Endorsement Form)	Deferred Comp-SERP
Plan Description	Employer-paid, executive owned life insurance arrange- ment where employee has total control over the policy cash value	Employer-paid, executive owned life insurance ar- rangement where employ- ee's access to policy cash value is restricted	Employer-paid and owned life insurance arrangement providing employee pre-retirement death benefit protection and employer cost recovery from policy cash value or death benefit ¹	Contractual agreement (typically informally funded with employer owned life insurance) providing top- hat employee retirement income ¹
Plan Objective	Provide employee with death benefit protection and tax-free access to policy cash value while providing employer with an immediate income tax deduction ¹	Provide employee with death benefit protection and future tax-free access to policy cash value while providing employer with an immediate income tax deduction ¹	Provide employee with death benefit protection with minimal tax consequences while pro- viding the employer with the ability to recover plan cost ¹	Provide top-hat employee with additional retirement income beyond what can be accumulated in a qualified plan ¹
Target Employer	Wants to reward a few employees and willing to give up policy control to enjoy a current income tax deduction	Like a Bonus Plan, but employer wants to limit em- ployee's access to policy cash value to encourage retention	Wants to provide employees with a benefit but wants to retain total control over plan assets to recover plan costs. Willing to forego immediate tax-deduction and does not mind some plan administration	Wants to reward a few top- hat employees but wants to encourage retention by retaining control over plan assets and establishing a vesting schedule. Willing to forego immediate tax-deduc- tion and does not mind some plan administration
Target Employee	Employee or owner in a low- er tax bracket than the em- ployer who has supplemental life insurance and retirement income needs and willing to pay taxes currently to achieve control over assets ¹	A non-owner key employee whose early departure may affect an employer who has a supplemental life and income need and is willing to pay taxes currently	An owner or employee who may be in a higher tax bracket than the employer who has a need for life insurance coverage during employment with minimal income tax impact	Must be a "top-hat" employ- ee meaning in the top 10% of compensation who desires to supplement retirement in- come on a tax-deferred basis during their working years.
Policy Owner	Executive	Executive, with restrictive collateral assignment to employer	Employer², with beneficiary endorsement to executive	Employer ²
Employer Contribution Deductible?	Yes	Yes, but limited if arrange- ment has vesting schedule	No, employer owns the policy cash value and can bonus some or all the cash value and take a deduction at the time of bonus	No, employer receives the tax deduction when the retirement benefit is paid to the employee
Employee Taxed on Contribution	Yes	Yes	Yes, but limited to term cost (measured Table 2001)	No, employee is taxed when income benefits are received
Plan Administration	Yes, minimal	Yes	Yes, must comply with split dol- lar regulation under IRC §61	Yes, must comply with 409A

¹Withdrawals and loans for a life insurance policy access to provide supplemental retirement income will reduce the death benefit and cash value, may affect any policy guarantees against lapse, and may have tax consequences.

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² For employer-owned life insurance policies issued after August 17, 2006, IRC § 101(j) provides that death proceeds will be subject to income tax; however, where specific employee notice and consent requirements are met and certain safe harbor exceptions apply, death proceeds can be received income tax-free. Life insurance proceeds are otherwise generally received income tax-free under IRC § 101(a).