

**List¹ of commonly accepted unions recognized
for the purpose of survivor’s benefits under the UNJSPF Regulations²
(As at 1 September 2016)³**

(A) Countries that have legalized same-sex marriage

State	Type of Union	Decision/Requirements
Argentina	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Argentina
Belgium	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Belgium
Canada	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Canada
Colombia	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Colombia
Denmark	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Denmark
Finland	Marriage (legislation is expected to enter into force in 2017)	-Marriage certificate issued by Finland
France	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by France

¹ This list is not exhaustive. It includes only those individual cases that the Fund has reviewed to date. The Fund makes every effort to keep the list updated.

² In all cases, **the union should also have been recognized by the employing organization and reported accordingly to the Fund in accordance with Administrative Rule B.3.** The only exception is with respect to the cases referred to in paragraph 9 of the Guidelines, where the employing organization has denied recognition of the spouse on the basis of its HR policy and the participant makes a direct request to the Fund. In all cases, the participant shall provide the Fund with a copy of his/her spouse’s passport or other official ID that bears the owner’s photograph and original signature.

³ As the nature of a UNJSPF spousal benefit is that of a survivor’s benefit, the final determination of eligibility can only be made at the time of death of the UNJSPF participant/retiree.

Annex – Guidelines, Articles 34/35, 1 September 2016

Iceland	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Iceland
Ireland	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Ireland
Luxemburg	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Luxemburg
Mexico	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by one of the states in Mexico that recognize same-sex marriage (i.e. Mexico City, Quintana Roo and Coahuila)
Netherlands	Marriage	-Marriage certificate or certificate of registration of marriage issued by the Netherlands
New Zealand	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by New Zealand
Norway	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Norway
Portugal	Marriage	-Marriage certificate or certificate of registration of marriage issued by Portugal
Scotland	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Scotland
South Africa	Marriage	-Marriage certificate OR certificate of registration of marriage issued by South Africa
Spain	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Spain
Sweden	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Sweden
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by the United Kingdom
United States	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by a State in the US
Uruguay	Marriage	-Marriage certificate issued by Uruguay

(B) Non-traditional unions/partnerships (only those unions/partnerships that were lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of the location where the status was established, and confer similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights, are recognized for purposes of survivors’ benefits under UNJSPF Regulations)

State	Type of Union	Decision/Requirements
Argentina	Unión de hecho (civil union) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Argentinian court document confirming that the couple has been in a unión de hecho for at least five years
Australia	De facto union (opposite or same-sex union)	-Relationship certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the laws of Australia OR affidavit or statutory declaration prepared in accordance with the laws of Australia, or other proof that the de facto relationship would meet the definition and criteria under the Australian Social Security Act AND -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by a competent authority in Australia and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
Austria	Civil partnership (same-sex unions)	-Certificate of civil partnership or registration of partnership issued by Austria OR Certificate of registration of foreign partnership in Austria
Belgium	Cohabitation (opposite or same-sex union)	-Not recognized
Bolivia	Unión libre o de hecho (cohabitation) (opposite-sex union)	-Declaration of cohabitation issued by a judicial body in Bolivia
Brazil	União estável (stable union) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Judicial decision issued by a Brazilian court OR declaration before a Brazilian notary in support of the claim that the participant has maintained a união estável recognized under the laws of Brazil for the purpose of eligibility for benefits
Canada	Common law marriage* (opposite or same- sex union)	-Affidavit or statutory declaration notarized by a Canadian notary in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a common law marriage recognized under the laws of Canada for the purpose of eligibility for benefits AND -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally

Annex – Guidelines, Articles 34/35, 1 September 2016

		recognized by a competent authority in Canada, and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
*Excludes <i>de facto</i> partnership under the laws of the province of Quebec, as such partnership does not have similar legal effects as marriage.		
Colombia	Union marital de hecho (stable union) (opposite or same- sex union)	-Declaration before a Colombian notary or a judge in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a civil partnership recognized under the laws of Colombia for the purpose of eligibility for benefits.
Croatia	Izvanbračne zajednice (cohabitation) (opposite-sex union)	Not recognized.
Denmark	Civil partnership (opposite or same- sex union)	- Certificate of civil partnership or registration of partnership issued by Denmark.
Ecuador	Union de hecho (civil partnership) (opposite or same- sex union)	-Declaration before an Ecuadorian notary in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a civil partnership recognized under the laws of Ecuador for the purpose of eligibility for benefits.
Finland	Rekisteröity parisuhde (registered partnership) (same-sex union)	-Certificate of registration of partnership issued by Finland.
France	Pacte Civil de Solidarité (PACS) (opposite or same- sex union)	Not recognized.
Gabon	Concubinage	Not recognized.
Germany	Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft (civil partnership) (same-sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership or registration of civil partnership issued by Germany OR Certificate of registration of foreign partnership in Germany.
Ireland	Civil partnership (same-sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership issued by Ireland.

Annex – Guidelines, Articles 34/35, 1 September 2016

Israel	Yeduim Ba'zibur (common law partnership) (opposite or same- sex union)	-Cohabitation agreement confirmed by the Israeli Court (the agreement has to be subject to the laws of Israel, and cannot deprive a party to the agreement from his/her rights under the law)
Malta	Civil Union (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by Malta OR Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by a foreign country & the partnership is listed in the Schedule to the Civil Union Bill
Mexico	Civil partnership (opposite or same- sex union)	-Certificate of ratification and registration of civil partnership agreement in Mexico
	Concubinato (common law marriage) (opposite or same- sex union)	-Certificate issued by a Mexican court confirming that the couple has been in a concubinato entered under the laws of Mexico and the Federal District (Mexico City) for at least five years
Netherlands	Geregistreerd partnerschap (civil partnership) (opposite or same- sex union)	-Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by the Netherlands
	Samenlevingscontract (cohabitation) (opposite or same- sex union)	Not recognized.
New Zealand	Civil partnership (opposite or same- sex union)	-Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by New Zealand
	De facto union (opposite or same- sex union)	-Affidavit or statutory declaration prepared in accordance with the laws of New Zealand OR other proof that the couple has been in a de facto relationship for more than three years and demonstrates a certain degree of companionship (for example living together on a permanent basis, sharing a household and important financial and social commitments) AND -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of New Zealand, and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
Norway	Civil partnership (opposite or same- sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership issued by Norway
Scotland	Civil partnership (same-sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by Scotland

Annex – Guidelines, Articles 34/35, 1 September 2016

Slovenia	Registered same-sex civil partnership	-Certificate of registration of same-sex civil partnership issued by Slovenia
	Cohabitation (opposite-sex union)	-Declaration notarized by a Slovenian notary according to that the participant has maintained a cohabitation recognized under the laws of Slovenia for the purpose of eligibility for benefits AND --Certificate of joint household record issued by the Administrative Unit, Slovenia (potrdilo iz gospodinjске) AND -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of Slovenia, and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
Spain	Pareja de hecho (civil partnership) under the laws of the Principality of Asturias & Estable de pareja (stable union) under the laws of Catalonia region	Not recognized
Sweden	Registrerat partnerskap (registered partnership) (same-sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership or registration of partnership issued by Sweden
Switzerland	Eingetragene Partnerschaft (in German) & Partenariat enregistré (in French) (civil partnership under Swiss Federal law) (same-sex union)	-Certificate of partnership issued under Swiss Federal law or registration of partnership under Swiss Federal law
	Partenariat cantonal de droit genevois (civil partnership under Cantonal law) (opposite or same- sex union)	Not recognized
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	Civil partnership (same-sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by the United Kingdom OR Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by a foreign country & the partnership is listed in Schedule 20 of the United Kingdom Civil Partnership Act 2004

Transitional measures

1. Generally, the Fund’s framework to recognize unions includes legal marriages and registered partnerships or equivalent unions entered into and legally recognized by the authorities of the country where the union has been established. The union should have similar legal effects as marriage, specifically conferring pension rights.
2. In order to recognize any union, the Fund requires documentation issued by the competent authorities in the place where the union was entered into. This should include the effective date of the union.
3. If the participant entered into a union that is not recognized by the Fund under the revised Guidelines or if the documentary proof from a competent national authority of the country where the status was established is insufficient in accordance with the requirements set out in the revised Guidelines (and the accordingly this Annex 1 for unions listed herein), the participant has 12 months from the effective date of the revised Guidelines to enter into a union that would be recognized by the Fund and/or to provide the required documentation for verification by his/her employing organization (such as a certificate of registration of the union with a competent authority or the court, or other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of the location where the status was established, and confers similar legal effects as marriage; the document must state the clear and effective date of the union). In such cases the effective date of the union is the date on that it was entered into.
4. For those participants who separated before the revised guidelines came into effect, the Fund still requires that the union meets the Fund's policy in effect at the time of separation from service.
5. The UNJSPF participant should confirm his/her status to the respective employing organization at the date of their separation from service, at the latest.
6. Following the adoption of the revised Guidelines:
 - a) The affidavit for US nationals is no longer recognized by the Fund as same-sex marriage is now legal in the US;
 - b) The affidavit for Australian nationals is no longer recognized by the Fund without additional supporting documentation issued by a competent local or government authority in Australia attesting to recognition of the union under the laws of Australia.
7. As the Fund is unable to cover all possible situations, cases raising specific/special circumstances will be dealt with individually.