

**List¹ of commonly accepted unions recognized
for the purpose of survivor’s benefits under the UNJSPF Regulations²
(As at 17 November 2023)³**

(A) Countries that have legalized same-sex marriage

Country	Year legalized	Decision/Requirements
Argentina	2010	-Marriage certificate issued by Argentina.
Australia	2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Australia.
Austria	2019	-Marriage certificate issued by Austria.
Belgium	2003	-Marriage certificate issued by Belgium.
Brazil	2013	-Marriage certificate issued by Brazil.
Canada	2005	-Marriage certificate issued by Canada.
Colombia	2016	-Marriage certificate issued by Colombia.
Costa Rica	2020	-Marriage certificate issued by Costa Rica
Denmark	2012	-Marriage certificate issued by Denmark.

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.

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Ecuador	2019	-Marriage certificate issued by Ecuador
Estonia	2024	-Marriage certificate issued by Estonia (from 1 January 2024)
Finland	2015	-Marriage certificate issued by Finland.
France	2013	-Marriage certificate issued by France.
Germany	2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Germany.
Greenland	2016	- Marriage certificate issued by Greenland.
Iceland	2010	-Marriage certificate issued by Iceland.
Ireland	2015	-Marriage certificate issued by Ireland.
Luxemburg	2015	-Marriage certificate issued by Luxemburg.
Malta	2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Malta.
Mexico	By State since December 2009	-Marriage certificate issued by one of the states in Mexico that recognize same-sex marriage (i.e. Mexico City, Quintana Roo and Coahuila).
Netherlands	2000	-Marriage certificate or certificate of registration of marriage issued by the Netherlands.
New Zealand	2013	-Marriage certificate issued by New Zealand.
Norway	2009	-Marriage certificate issued by Norway.
Portugal	2010	-Marriage certificate or certificate of registration of marriage issued by Portugal.
South Africa	2006	-Marriage certificate OR certificate of registration of marriage issued by South Africa.
Spain	2005	-Marriage certificate issued by Spain.

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Sweden	2009	-Marriage certificate issued by Sweden OR Extract from the Population Register issued by the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket).
Switzerland	1 July 2022	-Marriage certificate issued by Switzerland.
United Kingdom	2014	-Marriage certificate issued by England and Wales (March 2014), Scotland (December 2014) and Northern Ireland (January 2020).
United States	2015	-Marriage certificate issued by a State in the US.
Uruguay	2013	-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)

Country	Type of Union	Decision/Requirements
Argentina	Unión convivencial (opposite or same-sex union)	-Evidence of registration of the <i>unión convivencial</i> in the <i>Registro de las Personas</i> or, alternatively, judgment issued by a court of competent jurisdiction establishing the existence of the union.
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	Registered partnership (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate issued by Registry Office in Austria.
Belgium	Cohabitation (opposite or same-sex union)	-Not recognized.
Bolivia	Unión libre o de hecho (cohabitation)	-Declaration of cohabitation issued by a judicial body in Bolivia.

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	(opposite-sex union)	
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 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.		
Chile	Civil Union	The civil union must be entered into before a civil officer, either at the Civil Registry and Identification Service or a place selected by the parties, provided that it is within the jurisdictional territory. The document must be signed by the civil officer.
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.
Estonia	Registered partnership (Kooseluleping)	-Not recognized
	De facto cohabitation	-Not recognized

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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.
Hungary	Registered partnership (same-sex only)	-Certificate of registered partnership issued by Hungary. Same-sex marriages performed abroad recognized as equivalent to registered partnerships.
Ireland	Civil partnership (same-sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership issued by Ireland.
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)
Italy	Civil Union (same-sex)	- The union must be sealed with the same formalities as a marriage by the two partners in front of a registrar (Ufficiale di Stato Civile) and in the presence of two witnesses. The declaration will be made in written form and registered at the city hall.
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.

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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.
Serbia	Co-habitation/common law marriage (opposite-sex union)	-Certificates of “free marital status” for both partners AND -Notarized statements of both partners AND -Notarized statements of two witnesses confirming the existence of the union.
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

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		-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 / unión de hecho (civil partnership)	- Documentation establishing formal registration of the <i>pareja de hecho</i> or <i>union de hecho</i> at the level of the autonomous community.
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) Registered partnership concluded in Switzerland or abroad before 1 July 2022	-The existing Certificate of partnership issued under Swiss Federal law or registration of partnership under Swiss Federal law before 1 July 2022 remains in force without the partners having to make a special Declaration. Existing registered partnerships in Switzerland or abroad before 1 July 2022 may be converted into a marriage at any time by means of a joint Declaration made before the Swiss registrar. Their relationship details (“marriage” instead of “registered partnership”) and marital status (“married” instead of “registered partnership”) will be inscribed in the Swiss Civil Status Registry on the date of submission of the Declaration.
	Partenariat cantonal de droit genevois (civil partnership under Cantonal law) (opposite or same- sex union) Registered partnership concluded abroad after 30 June 2022	Not recognized. Not recognized. No possibility to convert such partnerships into a marriage in Switzerland
United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)	Civil partnership (Same or opposite sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by the United Kingdom.
*Includes Civil partnership (same or opposite sex union) under the laws of Gibraltar.		

Application of the Guidelines

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1. Generally, the Fund’s framework to recognize unions includes legal marriages, 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. For those participants who separated before the revised guidelines came into effect on 1 September 2016, the Fund still requires that the union meets the Fund's policy in effect at the time of separation from service.
4. The UNJSPF participant should confirm his/her status to the respective employing organization at the date of their separation from service, at the latest.
5. 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 United States;
 - 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.
6. As the Fund is unable to cover all possible situations, cases raising specific circumstances will be dealt with individually.