Benetech 🕓

2019 Retirement Plan Limits

Type of Limitation	2019 Limits*	Explanation	Examples
Maximum Considered Compensation** (Per Plan Year)	\$280,000	Plan year compensation for a participant in excess of this amount is disregarded for plan purposes.	A participant has \$300,000 of total compensation for the 2019 plan year. The company makes a matching contribution capped at 4% of compensation deposited each pay period. The matching contribution for this participant may not exceed \$11,200 for the plan year (4% x \$280,000).
Participant Contribution Limit in a 401(k), Profit Sharing, or Other DC Plan (IRC §415) (Per Plan Year)	The lesser of: • \$56,000; or • 100% of compensation	The aggregate of all contributions for a participant (e.g., deferral, match, profit sharing, etc.) cannot exceed this limit. This limit does not include catch-up deferrals.	 A participant under age 50 with \$200,000 of total compensation for a plan year with deferrals of \$19,000 may be allocated an additional profit sharing contribution up to \$37,000 (\$19,000 + \$37,000 = \$56,000) Same as participant in 1 above, except that total compensation is \$50,000. The profit sharing contribution would be limited to \$31,000 (\$19,000 + \$31,000 = \$50,000). In both examples, a participant may be limited from receiving their maximum contributions due to the plan's deductible contribution limit (IRC§404).
<i>Participant Deferral</i> Basic Deferral Limit (Per Calendar Year)	\$19,000 (Aggregate of pre-tax deferrals and ROTH deferrals)	This is the basic deferral limit for all participants. The Plan's document also has a limit on the % of compensation allowable for deferrals.	A participant with at least \$19,000 of total compensation could defer up to \$19,000 from their compensation. However, limits imposed by the plan document to account for employee Social Security Tax and other withholdings usually preclude participants from deferring 100% of their compensation. Refer to your adoption agreement for the maximum allowable percentage of compensation a participant may defer to the plan.
Participant Deferral Catch-up Contributions (Per Calendar Year)	\$6,000	An additional deferral amount available for participants age 50 or older in the current plan year. Allows such participants to defer up to \$25,000 (\$19,000 + \$6,000 = \$25,000).	A participant, age 50 or older, with at least \$25,000 of total compensation could defer up to \$25,000 from their compensation. However, limits imposed by the plan document to account for employee Social Security Tax and other withholdings usually preclude participants from deferring 100% of their compensation. Refer to your adoption agreement for the maximum allowable percentage of compensation a participant may defer to the plan.
Highly Compensated Employee (HCE) (Compensation for an HCE is based on the prior plan year)	 More than \$120,000 in the prior plan year; or More-than-5% direct or indirect owner of the company 	HCE determination using the dollar threshold is based on compensation <u>paid</u> <u>in the prior plan vear</u> . Indirect Owners are certain relatives of owner (e.g., spouse, child, parents, etc.)	 A participant who makes \$130,000 in the 2019 plan year and made \$130,000 in the prior plan year is an HCE in the 2019 plan year. A participant who makes \$130,000 in the 2019 plan year but made \$100,000 in the prior year is NOT an HCE in the 2019 plan year, unless they are more than a 5% direct or indirect owner.
Key Employee (Compensation for a Key Employee is based on the prior plan year)	 A more-than-5% owner of the company Certain relatives of the above (e.g., spouse, children, parents, etc.) An officer with compensation greater than \$175,000. A more-than-1% owner with compensation greater than \$150,000 	Used in certain plan determinations and testing, specifically Top Heavy Determination which considers benefits due to key employees. A plan is Top Heavy if more than 60% of the benefits due from all plans sponsored by the Employer belong to key employees. Any more-than-5% direct or indirect owner is also an HCE.	 The spouse of a 25% owner of the business is an employee of the business with annual compensation of \$50,000. The spouse is a Key Employee and also a HCE. The child of a 25% owner of the business is an employee of the business with annual compensation of \$15,000. The child is a Key Employee and also a HCE. An officer of the company with no ownership with compensation greater than \$175,000 in the prior plan year is a Key Employee and also a HCE.
Defined Benefit Maximum Annual Benefit At Retirement (IRC §415) (individual Limit)	 The lesser of: \$225,000; or 100% of the average of the highest three consecutive year annual compensation. 	This is the annual benefit payable <u>at</u> <u>retirement</u> that may be funded for in a DB or Cash Balance plan. A participant's 415 limit will supersede the plan's formula, if the plan's formula would produce a benefit greater than the 415 limit.	 Participant has established a high consecutive three year average compensation of \$265,000 and has 10 years of participation in a DB or Cash Balance plan. The plan may fund for an annual benefit for that participant of up to \$225,000 per year beginning at the plan's retirement age. Participant has established a high consecutive three year average compensation of \$100,000 and has 10 years of participation in a DB or Cash Balance plan. The plan may fund for an annual benefit for that participant of up to \$100,000 per year beginning at the plan's retirement age.

* Dollar limits assume a 12/31 plan year end, and are indexed.

**Compensation for this purpose is total gross wages or self-employment income (partners; sole props; etc.) for the plan year.

Intended for general information purposes only, and should not be taken as tax, legal or financial advice.