

Fiscal Service, Treasury

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(ii) Any officer of a trust company incorporated in the United States, the territories or possessions of the United States, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(iii) Any officer of an organization that is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System. This includes Federal savings and loan associations.

(iv) Any officer of a foreign branch or a domestic branch of an institution described in paragraphs (a) (1)(i) through (iii) of this section.

(v) Any officer of a Federal Reserve Bank, a Federal Land Bank, or a Federal Home Loan Bank.

(vi) Any employee of an institution described in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (v) of this section, who is expressly authorized to certify by the institution.

Certification by these officers or designated employees must be authenticated by a legible imprint either of a corporate stamp of the institution or of the issuing or paying agent's stamp. An employee authorized to certify requests must sign his or her name over the title "Designated Employee".

(2) *At issuing agents that are not banks or trust companies.* Any officer of an organization, not a bank or a trust company, that is qualified as an issuing agent for savings bonds. The agent's stamp must be imprinted in the certification.

(3) *By United States officials.* Any judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a United States court, including United States courts for the territories and possessions of the United States, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any United States Commissioner or United States Attorney.

(b) *Officers with limited authority—(1) In the Armed Forces.* Any commissioned officer or warrant officer of the Armed Forces of the United States, but only for members of the respective services, their families, and civilian employees at posts, bases, or stations. The certifying officer must indicate his or her rank and state that the individual signing the request is one of the class whose request the certifying officer is authorized to certify.

(2) *At Veterans Administration facilities, Federal penal institutions, and United States Public Health Service hos-*

pitals. Any officer in charge of a home, hospital, or other facility of the Veterans Administration, but only for the patients, or employees of the facility; any officer of a Federal penal institution or a United States Public Health Service hospital expressly authorized to certify by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designee, but only for the inmates, patients or employees of the institution involved. Officers of Veterans Administration facilities, Federal penal institutions, and Public Health Service hospitals must use the stamp of the particular institution or service.

(c) *Authorized officers in foreign countries.* Any United States diplomatic or consular representative, or the officer of a foreign branch of a bank or trust company incorporated in the United States whose signature is attested by an imprint of the corporate stamp or is certified to the Department of the Treasury. If none of these individuals is available, a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths may certify, but his or her official character and jurisdiction must be certified by a United States diplomatic or consular officer under seal of his or her office.

(d) *Authorized officers in particular localities.* The Governor and the Treasurer of Puerto Rico; the Governor and the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands; the Governor and the Director of Finance of Guam; and the Governor and the Director of Administrative Services of American Samoa; and designated officers of the Panama Canal Commission.

(e) *Special provisions.* If no certifying officer is readily accessible, the Commissioner of the Public Debt, Deputy Commissioner, any Assistant Commissioner, or other designated official of the Bureau or of a Federal Reserve Bank or Branch is authorized to make special provision for any particular case.

§ 315.56 General instructions and liability.

(a) *Certification procedure.* Certifying officers at financial institutions qualified as paying agents should observe the Treasury's payment instructions

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and identification guidelines in certifying savings bonds and savings notes being forwarded to a designated Federal Reserve Bank for any transaction. Other certifying officers should provide certification services for persons with whom they have substantial personal acquaintance, and for other persons whose identities have been unmistakably established. A notation showing exactly how identification was established should be placed on the back of the security or Public Debt form, or in a separate record. As part of the certification, the certifying officer must affix his or her official signature, title and address, the exact date of execution and, where one is available, a corporate stamp or issuing or paying agent's stamp.

(b) *Liability.* The certifying officer and, if such person is an officer or an employee of an organization, the organization will be held fully responsible for the adequacy of the identification.

[45 FR 64091, Sept. 26, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 10535, Mar. 4, 1994]

§ 315.57 When a certifying officer may not certify.

Certifying officers may not certify the requests for payment of bonds, or appropriate Public Debt forms if, in their own right or in a representative capacity, they

- (a) Have an interest in the bonds, or
- (b) Will, by virtue of the requests being certified, acquire an interest in the bonds.

§ 315.58 Forms to be certified.

When required in the instructions on a Public Debt form, the form must be signed before an authorized certifying officer.

Subpart K—Minors, Incompetents, Aged Persons, Absentees, et al.

§ 315.60 Conditions for payment to representative of an estate.

(a) *General.* The representative of an estate of an owner who is a minor, an aged person, incompetent, absentee, et al., may receive upon request—

- (1) If the registration shows the name and capacity of the representative;

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(2) If the registration shows the capacity but not the name of the representative and the request is accompanied by appropriate evidence; or

(3) If the registration includes neither the name of the representative nor his or her capacity but the request is accompanied by appropriate evidence.

(b) *Evidence.* Appropriate evidence for paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of this section includes a certified copy of the letters of appointment or, if the representative is not appointed by a court, other proof of qualification. Except in the case of corporate fiduciaries, the evidence must show that the appointment is in full force and be dated not more than one year prior to the presentation of the bond for payment. The request for payment appearing on the back of a bond must be signed by the representative as such, for example, “John S. Jones, guardian (committee) of the estate of Henry W. Smith, a minor (an incompetent).”

§ 315.61 Payment after death.

After the death of the ward, and at any time prior to the representative's discharge, the representative of the estate will be entitled to obtain payment of a bond to which the ward was solely entitled.

§ 315.62 Payment to minors.

If the owner of a savings bond is a minor and the form of registration does not indicate that there is a representative of the minor's estate, payment will be made to the minor upon his or her request, provided the minor is of sufficient competency to sign the request for payment and to understand the nature of the transaction. In general, the fact that the request for payment has been signed by a minor and certified will be accepted as sufficient proof of competency and understanding.

§ 315.63 Payment to a parent or other person on behalf of a minor.

If the owner of a savings bond is a minor and the form of registration does not indicate that there is a representative of his or her estate, and if the minor is not of sufficient competency to sign the request for payment and to