§ 301-70.910

your family may file suit against potentially liable third parties. Before you depart, you may wish to consult with the department or agency sponsoring the flight to clarify whether you are considered a Federal employee.

2. If there is a determination that you are not a Federal employee, you and your family will not be eligible to receive workman's compensation benefits under FECA. If you are traveling for business purposes, you may be eligible for workman's compensation benefits under state law. If the accident occurs within the United States, or its territories, its airspace, or over the high seas, you and your family may claim against the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act or Suits in Admiralty Act. If you are killed aboard a military aircraft, your family may be eligible to receive compensation under the Military Claims Act, or if you are an inhabitant of a foreign country, under the Foreign Claims Act.

§ 301-70.910 Do the rules in this part apply to travel on Government aircraft by the President and Vice President or by individuals traveling in support of the President and Vice President?

Given the unique functions and needs of the presidency and the vice presidency, section 4 of Circular A-126, "Improving the Management and Use of Government Aircraft," Revised May 1992, makes clear that Circular A-126 does not apply to aircraft while in use by or in support of the President or Vice President. Since the principal purpose of the rules in this part is to implement Circular A-126, the rules in this part also do not apply to such travel. If any questions arise regarding travel related to the President or Vice President, contact the Office of the Counsel to the President or the Office of the Counsel to the Vice President, respectively.

PART 301-71—AGENCY TRAVEL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

Subpart A—General

Sec.

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- 301-71.202 May we pay a claim when an employee does not include a copy of the corresponding authorization?
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- 301-71.204 Within how many calendar days after the submission of a proper travel claim must we reimburse the employee's allowable expenses?
- 301-71.205 Under what circumstances may we disallow a claim for an expense?
- 301-71.206 What must we do if we disallow a travel claim?
- 301-71.207 What internal policies and procedures must we establish for travel reimbursement?
- 301–71.208 Within how many calendar days after submission of a proper travel claim must we notify the employee of any errors in the claim?
- 301-71.209 Must we pay a late payment fee if we fail to reimburse the employee within 30 calendar days after receipt of a proper travel claim?
- 301-71.210 How do we calculate late payment fees?
- 301-71.211 Is there a minimum amount the late payment fee must exceed before we will pay it?
- 301-71.212 Should we report late payment fees as wages on a Form W-2?
- 301-71.213 Is the additional fee, which is the equivalent to any late payment charge that the card contractor would have been able to charge had the employee not paid the bill, considered income?

301-71.214 Does mandatory use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card change the employee's obligation to pay his/her travel card bill by the due date?

Subpart D—Accounting for Travel Advances

- 301-71.300 What is the policy governing the use of travel advances?
- 301-71.301 In situations where a lodging facility requires the payment of a deposit, may we reimburse an employee for an advance room deposit prior to the beginning of scheduled official travel?
- 301–71.302 For how long may we issue a travel advance?
- 301-71.303 What data must we capture in our travel advance accounting system?
- 301-71.304 Are we responsible for ensuring the collection of outstanding travel advances?
- 301-71.305 When must an employee account for a travel advance?
- 301-71.306 Are there exceptions for collecting an advance at the time the employee files a travel claim?
- 301-71.307 How do we collect the amount of a travel advance in excess of the amount of travel expenses substantiated by the employee?
- 301-71.308 What should we do if the employee does not pay back a travel advance when the travel claim is filed?
- 301-71.309 What internal policies and procedures must we establish governing travel advances?

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5707; 40 U.S.C. 121(c); Sec. 2, Pub. L. 105–264, 112 Stat. 2350 (5 U.S.C. 5701 note).

SOURCE: FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15974, Apr. 1, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 301-71.1 What is the purpose of an agency travel accounting system?

То

- (a) Pay authorized and allowable travel expenses of employees;
- (b) Provide standard data necessary for the management of official travel; and
- (c) Ensure adequate accounting for all travel and transportation expenses for official travel.

§ 301-71.2 What are the standard data elements and when must they be captured on a travel accounting system?

The data elements are listed in appendix C of this chapter and must be on any travel claim form authorized for use by your employees.

§ 301-71.3 May we use electronic signatures on travel documents?

Yes, if you meet the security and privacy requirements established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for electronic data interchange.

Subpart B—Travel Authorization

§ 301-71.100 What is the purpose of the travel authorization process?

The purpose is to:

- (a) Provide the employee information regarding what expenses you will pay;
- (b) Provide travel service vendors with necessary documentation for the use of travel programs;
- (c) Provide financial information necessary for budgetary planning; and
 - (d) Identify purpose of travel.

§301-71.101 What travel may we authorize?

You may authorize only travel which is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Government effectively and economically. This must be communicated to any official who has the authority to authorize travel.

§ 301-71.102 May we issue a single authorization for a group of employees?

Yes. You may issue a single authorization for a group of employees when they are traveling together on a single trip. However, you must attach a list of all travelers to the authorization.

§ 301-71.103 What information must be included on all travel authorizations?

You must include:

- (a) The name of the employee(s);
- (b) The signature of the proper authorizing official;
 - (c) Purpose of travel;
- (d) Any conditions of or limitations on that authorization;