

Example 1 to paragraph (a): A recently hired employee of the Department of Transportation receives a Certificate of Divestiture for the sale of a large block of stock in an airline. He may split the proceeds of the sale and reinvest them in an S&P Index Fund, a diversified Growth Stock Fund, and U.S. Treasury bonds.

Example 2 to paragraph (a): The Secretary of Treasury sells certain stock after receiving a Certificate of Divestiture and is considering reinvesting the proceeds from the sale into U.S. Treasury securities. However, because the Secretary of the Treasury is prohibited by 31 U.S.C. 329 from being involved in buying obligations of the United States Government, the Secretary cannot reinvest the proceeds in such securities. However, she may invest the proceeds in a diversified mutual fund. See the definition of *permitted property* at § 2634.1003.

(b) *Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements.* An eligible person who elects to defer the recognition of capital gains from the sale of property pursuant to a Certificate of Divestiture must follow Internal Revenue Service rules for reporting the sale of the property and the reinvestment transaction.

§ 2634.1007 Cases in which Certificates of Divestiture will not be issued.

The Director of the Office of Government Ethics, in his or her sole discretion, may deny a request for a Certificate of Divestiture in cases where an unfair or unintended benefit would result. Examples of such cases include:

(a) *Employee benefit plans.* The Director will not issue a Certificate of Divestiture if the property is held in a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other employee benefit plan and can otherwise be rolled over into an eligible tax-deferred retirement plan within the 60-day reinvestment period.

(b) *Complete divestiture.* The Director will not issue a Certificate of Divestiture unless the employee agrees to divest all of the property that presents a conflict of interest, as well as other similar or related property that presents a conflict of interest under a Federal conflict of interest statute, regulation, rule, or Executive order. However, any property that qualifies for a regulatory exemption at 5 CFR part 2640 need not be divested for a Certificate of Divestiture to be issued.

Example 1 to paragraph (b): A Department of Agriculture employee owns shares of

stock in Better Workspace, Inc. valued at \$25,000. As part of his official duties, the employee is assigned to evaluate bids for a contract to renovate office space at his agency. The Department's designated agency ethics official discovers that Better Workspace is one of the companies that has submitted a bid and directs the employee to sell his stock in the company. Because Better Workspace is a publicly traded security, the employee could retain up to \$15,000 of the stock under the regulatory exemption for interests in securities at 5 CFR 2640.202(a). He would be able to request a Certificate of Divestiture for the \$10,000 of Better Workspace stock that is not covered by the exemption. Alternatively, he could request a Certificate of Divestiture for the entire \$25,000 worth of stock. If he chooses to sell his stock down to an amount permitted under the regulatory exemption, the Office of Government Ethics will not issue additional Certificates of Divestiture if the value of the stock goes above \$15,000 again.

(c) *Property acquired under improper circumstances.* The Director will not issue a Certificate of Divestiture:

(1) If the eligible person acquired the property at a time when its acquisition was prohibited by statute, regulation, rule, or Executive order; or

(2) If circumstances would otherwise create the appearance of a conflict with the conscientious performance of Government responsibilities.

§ 2634.1008 Public access to a Certificate of Divestiture.

A Certificate of Divestiture issued pursuant to the provisions of this subpart is available to the public in accordance with the rules of § 2634.603 of this part.

APPENDIX A TO PART 2634—CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENCE (FORM APPROVED: OMB CONTROL NO. 3209-0007)

The Certificate of Independence required by § 2634.406(b) shall be executed as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENCE

With respect to the trust of _____ (Settlor), which has been submitted to the Office of Government Ethics for certification pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-521, as amended), the undersigned proposed [Trustee] [_____] of such trust is a financial institution which is eligible to serve in such fiduciary capacity in accordance with section 102(f)(3)(A) of such Act:

FIRST: The undersigned is (check one)—

() a bank, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1841(c), or

() an investment adviser, as defined in 15 U.S.C. 80b-2(a)(11),

not more than 10 percent of which is owned or controlled by a single individual.

SECOND: The undersigned—

(1) Is independent of and unassociated with any interested party so that the undersigned cannot be controlled or influenced in the administration of the trust by any interested party; and

(2) is not and has not been affiliated with any interested party, and is not a partner of, or involved in any joint venture or other investment or business with any interested party.

THIRD: Any director, officer, or employee of the undersigned—

(1) Is independent of and unassociated with any interested party so that such director, officer, or employee cannot be controlled or influenced in the administration of the trust by any interested party;

(2) Is not and has not been employed by any interested party, nor a director, officer, or employee of any organization affiliated with any interested party, and is not and has not been a partner of, or involved in any joint venture or other investment or business with, any interested party; and

(3) Is not a relative of any interested party.

FOURTH: The undersigned certifies that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of such undersigned's knowledge and belief.

Date _____
(firm) _____
By: _____
(title) _____

NOTE: See Appendix C of this part for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act notices.

[57 FR 11829, Apr. 7, 1992, as amended at 63 FR 58620, Nov. 2, 1998]

APPENDIX B TO PART 2634—CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (FORM APPROVED: OMB CONTROL NO. 3209-0007)

The Certificate of Compliance required by §2634.408(b) shall be executed as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

With respect to the qualified blind trust (qualified diversified trust) of _____ (Settlor), the undersigned, the approved [Trustee] [_____] of such trust, pursuant to 5 CFR 2634.406, has served in such fiduciary capacity during the calendar year [or for the period beginning _____ and ending _____] and is eligible to continue in such capacity by virtue of the following:

FIRST: The undersigned (and any director, officer, or employee) has not knowingly or negligently, and will not—

(A) disclose any information to an interested party with respect to the trust that may not be disclosed pursuant to title I of the Act, the implementing regulations (including 5 CFR 2634.403(b)(12)(i) for a qualified blind trust, and 5 CFR 2634.404(c)(12)(i) for a qualified diversified trust), or the trust instrument;

(B) acquire any holding the ownership of which is prohibited by, or not in accordance with, applicable statute, regulation, or the terms of the trust instrument;

(C) solicit advice from any interested party with respect to such trust, which solicitation is prohibited by title I of the Act, the implementing regulations (including 5 CFR 2634.403(b)(12)(iii) for a qualified blind trust and 5 CFR 2634.404(c)(12)(iii), for a qualified diversified trust), or the trust instrument;

(D) fail to file any document required by title I of the Act, the implementing regulations (including 5 CFR 2634.408(b) and (c)), or the trust instrument; or

(E) violate or fail to comply with any provision or requirement of title I of the Act, the implementing regulations, or the trust instrument.

SECOND: The undersigned (and any director, officer, or employee) will not knowingly or negligently engage in the above-mentioned activities.

THIRD: The undersigned certifies that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of such undersigned's knowledge and belief.

Date _____
(firm) _____
By: _____
(title) _____

NOTE: See appendix C of this part for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act notices.

[57 FR 11830, Apr. 7, 1992; 57 FR 21855, May 22, 1992]

APPENDIX C TO PART 2634—PRIVACY ACT AND PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICES FOR APPENDIXES A AND B

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Section 102(f) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 as amended (the "Ethics Act") (5 U.S.C. App.) and subpart D of 5 CFR part 2634 of the regulations of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) require the reporting of this information for the administration of qualified trusts under the Ethics Act. The primary use of the information on this certificate is for review by Government officials of OGE and the agency of the Government employee for whom the trust is established to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations as regards qualified trusts. Additional disclosures of the information on this certificate may be made: