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(f) *Miscellaneous.* (1) The minimum qualifying level may not be less than Interagency Language Roundtable Level 2 proficiency in at least two skills (listening, reading, speaking, or writing, as required).

(2) FLPP may be paid for proficiency in multiple languages; however, the total amount may not exceed \$500 per pay period.

CONVERSION PROVISIONS

§ 9901.371 Conversion into NSPS pay system.

(a) *Introduction.* This section describes the pay-setting provisions that apply when DoD employees are converted into the NSPS pay system established under this subpart. (See § 9901.231 for conversion rules related to determining an employee's career group, pay schedule, and band.) An affected employee may convert from the GS system, the SL/ST system, or the SES system (or such other systems designated by the Secretary as DoD may be authorized to include under 5 U.S.C. 9902), as provided in § 9901.302. For the purpose of this part (except § 9901.372), the terms “convert,” “converted,” “converting,” and “conversion” refer to employees who become covered by the NSPS pay system without a change in position (as a result of a coverage determination made under § 9901.102(b)) and exclude employees who move from a noncovered position to a position already covered by the NSPS pay system.

(b) *Implementing issuances.* The Secretary will issue implementing issuances prescribing the policies and procedures necessary to implement these conversion provisions.

(c) *Bar on pay reduction.* Subject to paragraph (e) of this section, employees will be converted into the NSPS pay system without a reduction in their adjusted salary rate. (As defined in § 9901.304, the term “adjusted salary” means base salary plus any applicable locality payment under 5 U.S.C. 5304, special rate supplement under 5 U.S.C. 5305, local market supplement under § 9901.332, or equivalent supplement under other legal authority.)

(d) *Rate comparison.* For the purpose of determining whether conversion into

NSPS constitutes an adverse action for reduction of pay under 5 U.S.C. chapter 75, subchapter II (dealing with adverse actions), an employee's rate of basic pay includes any applicable locality payment under 5 U.S.C. 5304, special rate supplement under 5 U.S.C. 5305, local market supplement under § 9901.332, or equivalent supplement under other legal authority. The rate of basic pay immediately before conversion must be adjusted as described in paragraph (e) of this section before comparing that rate of basic pay to the initial NSPS rate of basic pay.

(e) *Simultaneous actions.* If another personnel action (e.g., promotion, geographic movement) takes effect on the same day as the effective date of an employee's conversion to the new pay system, the other action will be processed under the rules pertaining to the employee's former system before processing the conversion action.

(f) *Temporary promotion prior to conversion.* An employee on a temporary promotion at the time of conversion will be returned to his or her official position of record prior to processing the conversion (as provided in § 9901.231(c)), and pay will be set consistent with the pay-setting rules of the pay system that applies prior to conversion. For GS employees, pay in the permanent position of record must be reconstructed to reflect any increase that would have otherwise occurred if the employee had not been temporarily promoted, as provided in GS pay-setting regulations. If the employee is temporarily promoted immediately after the conversion, pay will be set under the rules for promotion increases under the NSPS pay system. (See also paragraph (k) of this section.)

(g) *Grade retention prior to conversion.* An employee on grade retention immediately before conversion must be converted to a pay band based on the grade of his or her assigned permanent position of record (not the retained grade), as provided in § 9901.231(d), but the employee's base and adjusted salary while in grade retention status will be used in applying this section (e.g., in setting the initial NSPS base and adjusted salary and in determining the amount of any within-grade increase adjustment). After conversion and any within-grade

increase adjustment under paragraph (j) of this section, if the employee's base salary exceeds the rate range for the assigned pay band, the employee will be granted pay retention, subject to the conditions described in § 9901.356.

(h) *Pay retention prior to conversion.* For an employee on pay retention under 5 U.S.C. 5363 immediately before conversion, the employee's pay will be realigned so that the employee's NSPS adjusted salary (consisting of base salary plus any applicable local market supplement) equals the employee's retained rate before conversion. If the employee's base salary (after realignment) exceeds the rate range for the assigned pay band, the employee will be granted pay retention, subject to the conditions described in § 9901.356.

(i) *Conversion adjustments.* The only NSPS base salary adjustments that may be made in conjunction with an employee's conversion into NSPS are those identified in paragraphs (j) through (m) of this section.

(j) *Within-grade increase (WGI) adjustment.* (1) Upon conversion to NSPS, a General Schedule (GS) employee (regardless of work schedule) who would otherwise be eligible for a within-grade increase (WGI), and who is paid below the maximum rate for their grade, will receive a prorated WGI adjustment to his or her NSPS base salary rate to account for the time (measured in calendar days) since the employee's last equivalent pay increase.

(2) The WGI adjustment is calculated based on the number of calendar days between the effective date of the employee's last equivalent increase and the date of conversion into NSPS, regardless of the number of days in a non-pay status (if any). The maximum adjustment may not exceed a full WGI.

(3) For an employee on a temporary promotion immediately before conversion, the employee's GS pay entitlements must be determined as provided in paragraph (f) of this section before calculating the WGI adjustment.

(4) For an employee entitled to grade retention immediately before conversion, the WGI adjustment is determined using the employee's retained grade and step.

(5) The WGI adjustment is not applicable to an employee entitled to pay

retention immediately before conversion.

(6) The WGI adjustment is not applicable to an employee whose performance has been determined to be below an acceptable level of competence under 5 CFR part 531, subpart D.

(7) An employee is entitled to a WGI adjustment in accordance with paragraphs (j)(1) through (6) of this section each time he or she occupies a position that is converted into NSPS under this part.

(k) *Special increase for employees on temporary promotion prior to conversion—*

(1) *General.* If an employee had a temporary promotion immediately before conversion, and if the position to which the employee was temporarily promoted becomes covered by NSPS, an authorized management official may temporarily reassign or temporarily promote the employee back to that position, subject to the same terms and conditions as the initial temporary promotion (e.g., if the temporary promotion was not to exceed 5 years and the action is a temporary reassignment under NSPS, the temporary reassignment may not exceed 5 years). When the employee is temporarily placed back into the position immediately after conversion, the pay-setting rules in paragraphs (k)(2) and (k)(3) of this section apply.

(2) *Temporary reassignment.* If the post-conversion action would be a temporary reassignment, the authorized management official may provide the employee with a temporary base salary increase up to the same base salary rate the employee was receiving during the temporary promotion (prior to conversion) in lieu of setting pay under the reassignment rules under § 9901.353. This is a one-time exception to the limitations on reassignment increases imposed under § 9901.353. Upon expiration of the temporary reassignment, pay will be set as specified in § 9901.353(g) or paragraph (k)(4) of this section, as applicable.

(3) *Temporary promotion.* (i) If the post-conversion action would be a temporary promotion, the authorized management official may provide the employee with a temporary base salary increase up to the same base salary rate the employee was receiving during

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the temporary promotion (prior to conversion) or may set pay according to the promotion rules under § 9901.354 to provide a greater increase. Upon expiration of the temporary promotion, pay will be set as specified in § 9901.354(c) or paragraph (k)(4) of this section, as applicable.

(ii) The increase described in paragraph (k)(3)(i) of this section may also apply to an employee who is on a temporary promotion at the time that temporary promotion position converts to NSPS, even if the employee's permanent position of record has not yet converted. In this case, upon expiration of the temporary promotion, pay will be set under the rules of the applicable pay system.

(4) *Temporary placement becomes permanent.* If a temporary reassignment or promotion to an NSPS position under this paragraph (k) becomes permanent with no break, the employee's base salary will not change, but will continue at the rate received at the end of the temporary reassignment or promotion.

(1) *Special increases equivalent to GS promotion increase.* (1) During the first 12 months following conversion, employees who are not eligible for the Accelerated Compensation for Developmental Positions (ACDP) under § 9901.345 are eligible to receive (at the discretion of an authorized management official) a one-time base salary increase equivalent to a noncompetitive promotion increase the employee would have received but for conversion to NSPS. This paragraph may be applied only when the grade level of the promotion is encompassed within the same pay band, the employee's performance warrants the pay increase, and the promotion would have otherwise occurred during that period.

(2) An employee who is selected for a non-NSPS position that subsequently becomes covered by NSPS before the effective date of the employee's placement in the position is eligible to receive (at the discretion of an authorized management official) a one-time base salary increase equivalent to the increase the employee would have received had the placement been effected prior to the position becoming covered by NSPS. This paragraph may be applied only when the employee is not al-

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ready in an NSPS-covered position on the effective date of the placement, and the effective date is within 12 months of the position becoming covered by NSPS. An employee who receives an increase under this paragraph is not eligible for the WGI adjustment described in paragraph (j) of this section.

(m) *Adjustment for physicians and dentists.* For a GS physician or dentist who was regularly receiving a physicians' comparability allowance or premium pay, the Component may increase the base salary after conversion to NSPS to account for the loss of such allowance or premium pay (since such payments are not authorized for physicians and dentists under NSPS). The Component must also consider the additional pay represented by any applicable targeted local market supplement in determining the rate at which the base salary should be set under this paragraph.

§ 9901.372 Conversion or movement out of NSPS pay system.

(a) *General.* (1) This section applies to the conversion or movement of employees out of the NSPS pay system to a different pay system. Under this section, when an NSPS employee is converted or moved to a GS position, a GS virtual grade and rate is established for the NSPS employee so that the employee is treated as a GS employee in applying GS pay-setting rules.

(2) For the purpose of this section (unless otherwise specified)—

(i) The terms "convert," "converted," "converting," and "conversion" refer to NSPS employees who become covered by a different pay system without a change in position (as a result of a determination made by the Secretary under § 9901.102(e) or as otherwise provided by law); and

(ii) The terms "move," "moved," "moving," and "movement" refer to NSPS employees who become covered by a different pay system through a change in position, rather than by conversion.

(b) *Classification of converted position.* Prior to converting an employee out of NSPS, an authorized management official, as defined by the Component, will review the duties of the employee's