§ 9901.409 Monitoring and developing performance.

(a) In applying the requirements of the performance management system and its implementing issuances and policies, supervisors will:
   (1) Monitor the performance of their employees and their contribution to the organization;
   (2) Provide ongoing (i.e., regular and timely) feedback to employees on their actual performance with respect to their performance expectations, including one or more interim performance reviews during each appraisal period; and
   (3) Document at least one interim performance review. Documented interim reviews are not required for overall periods of performance of less than 180 days.

(b) Developing performance is integrated with the performance management process and is a shared responsibility of management and employees. Developing performance includes but is not limited to—
   (1) Coaching and mentoring employees;
   (2) Reinforcing strengths and addressing weaknesses; and
   (3) Discussing employee development opportunities.

§ 9901.410 Addressing performance that does not meet expectations.

(a) If at any time during the appraisal period a supervisor determines that an employee’s performance is not meeting expectations, the supervisor will—
   (1) Identify and communicate to the employee the specific performance deficiencies that require improvement;
   (2) Consider the range of options available to address the performance deficiency, including remedial training, improvement periods, reassignment, oral warnings, letters of counseling, written reprimands, or adverse action (including a reduction in rate of basic pay or pay band or a removal); and
   (3) Take appropriate action to address the deficiency, taking into account the circumstances, including the nature and gravity of the unacceptable performance and its consequences.

(b) Adverse actions taken based on unacceptable performance and/or conduct will be taken in accordance with the provisions in 5 U.S.C. chapter 75 or other appropriate procedures if not covered by chapter 75, such as procedures for National Guard Technicians under 32 U.S.C. 709(f).

§ 9901.411 Appraisal period.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) and (b) of this section, the appraisal period will be October 1 to September 30.

   (1) The appraisal period may begin after October 1 and end after September 30 for newly converted groups of employees;
   (2) The appraisal period may begin after October 1 for employees who move to an NSPS position from a non-NSPS position after that date; and
   (3) The appraisal period may end between July 3 and September 30 for employees receiving early annual recommended ratings.

(b) If, by the end of the appraisal period, an employee has not met the minimum period of performance, management may extend the appraisal period provided such extensions do not—
   (1) Delay the payout for the applicable pay pool; or
   (2) Extend beyond the rating of record effective date.

(c) The effective date of ratings of record will be January 1, except for additional ratings of record as described in §9901.412(b)(2).

(d) The effective date of a rating of record described in §9901.412(b)(2) is the date the rating is final, as described in paragraph (g) of §9901.412.

§ 9901.412 Rating and rewarding performance.

(a) Forcible distribution of ratings (setting pre-established limits for the percentage or number of ratings that may be assigned at any level) is prohibited.

(b) An appropriate rating official—