

## Temp. Duty (TDY) Travel Allowances

## § 301-51.1

your agency may take appropriate disciplinary action.

[FTR Amdt. 2003-07, 68 FR 71029, Dec. 22, 2003, as amended by FTR Amdt. 2007-05, 72 FR 61538, Oct. 31, 2007]

### § 301-50.6 What is an “online self-service booking tool?”

An online self-service booking tool is an Internet based system that permits travelers to make their own reservations for transportation (e.g., air, rail, and car rental) and lodging. ETS and some agency TMS’s incorporate a self service booking tool.

[FTR Amdt. 2006-04, 71 FR 49375, Aug. 23, 2006]

### § 301-50.7 Should I use the online self-service booking tool once ETS is available within my agency?

Yes, you should use the online self-service booking tool offered by ETS or your agency’s TMS until ETS becomes available to you.

NOTE TO § 301-50.7: Some extenuating circumstances for which you may not be able to use online self-service booking are (1) when you are attending a conference where the conference sponsor has negotiated with one or more lodging facilities to set aside a specific number of rooms for conference attendees and to ensure that a set aside room is available to you, you are required to book lodging directly with the lodging facility, (2) when your travel is to a remote location and it is not possible to book lodging accommodations through the TMS or ETS, or (3) when such travel arrangements are so complex and circumstance will not allow you to book your travel through an online self-service booking tool.

[FTR Amdt. 2006-04, 71 FR 49375, Aug. 23, 2006]

## PART 301-51—PAYING TRAVEL EXPENSES

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SOURCE: FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General

SOURCE: FTR Amdt. 90, 65 FR 3055, Jan. 19, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

### § 301-51.1 How must I use the Government contractor-issued travel charge card?

You are required to activate the Government contractor-issued travel

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charge card once you receive it, and then use it as the method of payment for all official travel expenses unless exempted under § 301-51.2.

[FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

### **§ 301-51.2 Are there any official travel expenses that are exempt from the mandatory use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card?**

Expenses for which payment through the Government contractor-issued travel charge card is impractical (*e.g.*, vendor does not accept credit cards) or imposes unreasonable burdens or costs (*e.g.*, fees are charged for using the card) are exempt from use of the travel charge card. Your agency may also exempt an official travel expense when it is necessary in the interest of the agency (see § 301-51.4).

[FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

### **§ 301-51.3 What classes of employees are exempt from mandatory use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card?**

The Administrator of General Services exempts the following classes of employees from mandatory use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card:

- (a) Any employee who has an application pending for the Government contractor-issued travel charge card;
- (b) Any employee, when issuance of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card would adversely affect the mission or put the employee at risk; and
- (c) Any employee who is not eligible to receive a Government contractor-issued travel charge card.

[FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

### **§ 301-51.4 Who in my agency has the authority to grant exemptions from the mandatory use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card?**

The head of your agency or their designee(s) has (have) the authority to grant exemptions from the mandatory

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use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card.

[FTR Amdt. 90, 65 FR 3055, Jan. 19, 1998. Redesignated by FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016] FTR Amdt. 90, 65 FR 3055, Jan. 19, 1998; FTR Case 2022-05, 89 FR 12252, Feb. 16, 2024]

### **§ 301-51.5 If my agency grants an exemption, does that prevent me from using the card on a voluntary basis?**

No, an exemption from use would not prevent you from using the Government contractor-issued travel charge card on a voluntary basis in accordance with your agency's policy.

[FTR Amdt. 90, 65 FR 3055, Jan. 19, 1998. Redesignated by FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

### **§ 301-51.6 How may I pay for official travel expenses if I receive an exemption from use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card?**

If you receive an exemption from use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card, your agency may authorize one or a combination of the following methods of payment:

- (a) Personal funds, including cash or personal charge card;
- (b) Travel advances; or
- (c) Government Transportation Request (GTR).

NOTE TO § 301-51.6: City pair contractors are not required to accept payment by the methods in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.

[FTR Amdt. 90, 65 FR 3055, Jan. 19, 1998. Redesignated and amended by FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

### **§ 301-51.7 For what purposes may I use the Government contractor-issued travel charge card while on official travel?**

You are required to use the Government contractor-issued travel charge card for expenses directly related to your official travel.

[FTR Amdt. 2010-02, 75 FR 24436, May 5, 2010. Redesignated by FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

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### § 301-51.8 May I use the Government contractor-issued travel charge card for personal reasons while on official travel?

No, you may not use the Government contractor-issued travel charge card for personal reasons while on official travel.

[FTR Amdt. 2010-02, 75 FR 24436, May 5, 2010. Redesignated by FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

### § 301-51.9 What are the consequences if I misuse the Government contractor-issued travel charge card on official travel?

Your agency may take appropriate disciplinary action if you misuse the Government contractor-issued travel

charge card according to internal agency policies and procedures.

[FTR Amdt. 2010-02, 75 FR 24436, May 5, 2010. Redesignated by FTR Amdt. 2016-01, 81 FR 63138, Sept. 14, 2016]

## Subpart B—Paying for Common Carrier Transportation

### § 301-51.100 What method of payment must I use to procure common carrier transportation?

You must use a Government contractor-issued individually billed travel card, centrally billed account, or GTR to procure contract passenger transportation services. For all other common carrier transportation, you must use one of the methods specified in the following table:

For passenger transportation services costing	You must use	Unless
(a) \$10 or less, and air excess baggage charges of \$15 or less for each leg of a trip.	A Government contractor-issued individually billed travel card or centrally billed account.	Use of the Government contractor-issued individually billed travel card is not accepted, its use is impracticable or special circumstances justify the use of a GTR.
(b) More than \$10, but not more than \$100.	A Government contractor-issued individually billed travel card, centrally billed account, or GTR.	None of the other methods are practicable, you may use cash.
(c) More than \$100 .....	Only a Government contractor-issued individually billed travel card, centrally billed account, or GTR.	Your agency authorizes you to use a reduced fare for group, charter, or excursion arrangements or under emergency circumstances where the use of other methods is not possible.

[FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998; 63 FR 35538, June 30, 1998, as amended by FTR Amdt. 2007-05, 72 FR 61539, Oct. 31, 2007]

### § 301-51.101 Which payment methods are considered the equivalent of cash?

Use of one of the following payment methods of this section to procure common carrier transportation is considered the equivalent of cash and you must comply with the rules in 41 CFR 102-118.50 that limit the use of cash for such purposes.

- (a) Personal credit cards;
- (b) Cash withdrawals obtained from an ATM using a Government contractor-issued individually billed travel card; and
- (c) Checks, both personal and travelers (including those obtained through

a travel payment system services program).

[FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998; 63 FR 35538, June 30, 1998, as amended by FTR Amdt. 108, 67 FR 57966, Sept. 13, 2002]

### § 301-51.102 How is my transportation reimbursement affected if I make an unauthorized cash purchase of common carrier transportation?

If you are a new employee or an invitational or infrequent traveler who is unaware of proper procedures for purchasing common carrier transportation, your agency may allow reimbursement for the full cost of the transportation. In all other instances, your reimbursement will be limited to

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the cost of such transportation using the authorized method of payment.

[FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998; 63 FR 35538, June 30, 1998]

### § 301–51.103 What is my liability if I lose a GTR?

You are liable for any Government expenditure that is caused by your negligence in safeguarding the GTR or tickets received in exchange for the GTR. To avoid liability, immediately

report a lost or stolen GTR to your administrative office. If the lost or stolen GTR shows the carrier service desired, and point of origin, promptly notify in writing the named carrier and other local initial carriers. Do not use a GTR that is recovered after having been reported as lost or stolen. Instead, report the recovered GTR to your administrative office.

[FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998; 63 FR 35538, June 30, 1998]

## Subpart C—Receiving Travel Advances

### § 301–51.200 For what expenses may I receive a travel advance?

For	You may receive an advance
(a) Cash transaction expenses ( <i>i.e.</i> , expenses that as a general rule cannot be charged and must be paid using cash, a personal check, or travelers check). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) M&amp;IE covered by the per diem allowance or actual expenses allowance;</li> <li>(2) Miscellaneous transportation expenses such as transit systems and taxi fares; parking fees; ferry fees; bridge, road, and tunnel fees; and aircraft parking, landing, and tie-down fees;</li> <li>(3) Fuel and other variable expenses covered by the mileage allowance for advantageous use of a privately owned automobile for official business; and</li> <li>(4) Other authorized miscellaneous expenses that cannot be charged using a Government contractor-issued charge card and for which a cost can be estimated.</li> </ul>	Any time you are on official travel.
(b) Non-cash transaction expenses (e.g., lodging, common carrier, advance payment of discounted conference registration fee).	Only in the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Government contractor-issued charge card not expected to be accepted.</li> <li>(2) <i>Government contractor-issued charge card issuance denied.</i> Your agency has decided not to provide you a contractor-issued individually billed travel card.</li> <li>(3) <i>Official change of station.</i> Your agency determines that use of a contractor-issued individually billed travel card would not be feasible incident to a transfer, particularly a transfer to another agency.</li> <li>(4) Financial hardship would be incurred.</li> </ul>

[FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998; 63 FR 35538, June 30, 1998, as amended by FTR Amdt. 108, 67 FR 57966, Sept. 13, 2002; FTR Amdt. 2006–02, 71 FR 24598, Apr. 26, 2006; FTR Amdt. 2010–02, 75 FR 24436, May 5, 2010; 87 FR 24065, Apr. 22, 2022]

### § 301–51.201 What is the maximum amount that my agency may advance?

The amount your agency advances you may not exceed the following amounts:

For	The maximum amount your agency may advance is
Cash transaction expenses .....	The estimated amount of your cash transaction expenses. (For M&IE, your advance is limited to the M&IE rate under the lodgings-plus per diem method.)
Non-cash transaction expenses (See § 301–51.200(b)).	Generally zero. However, your agency may advance up to the full amount of your expected non-cash transaction expenses for an individual trip (or not to exceed a 45-day period for an open authorization) in accordance with § 301–51.200(b).

[FTR Amdt. 70, 63 FR 15968, Apr. 1, 1998; 63 FR 35538, June 30, 1998]

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### § 301-51.202 When must I account for my advance?

You must file a travel claim which accounts for your advance after completion of your assignment, in accordance with your agency's policy. If you are in a continuous travel status (e.g., an auditor or inspector) or if you submit periodic reimbursement vouchers on an individual trip authorization, your agency may reimburse you the full amount of your travel expenses without any deduction of your advance until such time as you file a final voucher. If the amount advanced is less than the amount of the voucher on which it is deducted, you will be reimbursed the net amount. If the advance exceeds the reimbursable amount, you must immediately refund the excess.

### § 301-51.203 What must I do about my advance if my trip is canceled or postponed indefinitely?

Promptly notify the appropriate agency officials and refund any monies advanced in connection with the authorized travel.

## PART 301-52—CLAIMING REIMBURSEMENT

Sec.

301-52.1 Must I file a travel claim?

301-52.2 What information must I provide in my travel claim?

301-52.3 Am I required to file a travel claim in a specific format and must the claim be signed?

301-52.4 What must I provide with my travel claim?

301-52.5 Is there any instance where I am exempt from the receipt requirements in § 301-52.4?

301-52.6 How do I submit a travel claim?

301-52.7 When must I submit my travel claim?

301-52.8 May my agency disallow payment of a claimed item?

301-52.9 What will my agency do when it disallows an expense?

301-52.10 May I challenge my agency's disallowance of my claim?

301-52.11 What must I do to challenge a disallowed claim?

301-52.12 What happens if I attempt to defraud the Government?

301-52.13 Should I keep itemized records of my expenses while on travel?

301-52.14 What must I do with any travel advance outstanding at the time I submit my travel claim?

301-52.15 What must I do with any passenger coupon for transportation costing over \$75, purchased with cash?

301-52.16 What must I do with any unused tickets, coupons, or other evidence of refund?

301-52.17 Within how many calendar days after I submit a proper travel claim must my agency reimburse my allowable expenses?

301-52.18 Within how many calendar days after I submit a travel claim must my agency notify me of any error that would prevent payment within 30 calendar days after submission?

301-52.19 Will I receive a late payment fee if my agency fails to reimburse me within 30 calendar days after I submit a proper travel claim?

301-52.20 How are late payment fees calculated?

301-52.21 Is there a minimum amount the late payment fee must exceed before my agency will pay it to me?

301-52.22 Will any late payment fees I receive be reported as wages on a Form W-2?

301-52.23 Is the additional fee, which is equal to any late payment charge that the card contractor would have been able to charge had I not paid the bill, considered income?

301-52.24 Does mandatory use of the Government contractor-issued travel charge card change my obligation to pay my travel card bill by the due date?

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 15969, Apr. 1, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

### § 301-52.1 Must I file a travel claim?

Yes.

### § 301-52.2 What information must I provide in my travel claim?

You must provide the following:

(a) An itemized list of expenses and other information (specified in the listing of required standard data elements contained in appendix C of this chapter, and any additional information your agency may specifically require), except:

(1) You may aggregate official travel-related expenses incurred at the TDY location for authorized telephone calls, transit system fares, and parking meter fees, except any individual expenses costing over \$75 must be listed separately;