

§ 302-6.203 What factors should we consider in determining whether the TQSE allowance is actually necessary?

The factors you should consider include:

(a) The length of time the employee should reasonably be expected to occupy their residence at the old official station before reporting for duty at the new official station. An employee and the employee's immediate family should continue to occupy the residence at the old official station for as long as practicable to avoid the necessity for temporary quarters.

(b) The existence of less expensive alternatives. If a less expensive alternative to the TQSE allowance exists that will enable the employee to find permanent quarters at the new official station, you should consider such an alternative. For example, authorize a househunting trip instead of temporary quarters if it would cost less overall.

(c) The existence of other opportunities to arrange for permanent quarters. Consider whether the employee had adequate opportunity to arrange for permanent quarters. For example, you should not authorize temporary quarters if the employee had adequate opportunity during an extended temporary duty assignment or long-term temporary change of station that became permanent, to arrange for permanent quarters.

§ 302-6.204 What factors should we consider in determining what TQSE method(s) to offer an employee?

When determining what TQSE method(s) to offer an employee the following factors should be considered:

(a) *Ease of administration.* You should consider the administrative requirements for each method of TQSE. Factors such as obtaining and reviewing receipts to verify validity, accuracy, and reasonableness of each expense carry an administrative burden to the employee, their immediate family, and you.

(b) *Cost consideration.* You should weigh the cost of each alternative. TQSE-LP and TQSE-AE reimbursement may extend up to 120 days, while the TQSE-LS payment is limited to a maximum of 30 days.

(c) *Treatment of employee.* The employee will be reimbursed for TQSE under the "lodgings-plus" method unless you offer one or more of the alternate methods. If you make all methods available to the employee, the employee is allowed to select any one of the methods. You should therefore consider employee morale and productivity against actual cost in determining which method(s) to offer.

§ 302-6.205 Must we require transferees to sign a statement that TQSE will be incurred?

(a) Transferees authorized TQSE-LP or TQSE-AE are not required to sign a statement asserting that they will occupy temporary quarters since they must document temporary quarters lodging expenses.

(b) Transferees electing the TQSE-LS payment option if offered by you, must sign a statement, which should be included as part of the service agreement, asserting that they will occupy temporary quarters and will incur TQSE. If a lump sum amount was paid, and if no TQSE are incurred, the transferee must return all monies received for the TQSE-LS payment to the agency.

§ 302-6.206 When must we make the TQSE-LS payment to the transferee?

You must pay the transferee the TQSE-LS payment before the occupancy of temporary quarters begins. You should make the TQSE-LS payment as close as is reasonably possible to the time that the transferee will begin occupancy of temporary quarters.

§ 302-6.207 What factors should we consider in determining whether quarters are temporary?

In determining whether quarters are "temporary", you should consider factors such as reasonable time when the employee's residence at the old official station becomes temporary and no longer suitable for permanent residence (*e.g.*, household goods have been shipped and are unavailable to the employee and their immediate family), the duration of the lease, movement of household goods into the quarters, the