

Relocation Allowances

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§ 302-6.20 May I be reimbursed for transportation expenses incurred while I am occupying temporary quarters?

Transportation expenses incurred in the vicinity of the temporary quarters, such as rental car or mileage for commuting to/from work, parking, and bus or mass transit, etc., are not TQSE expenses, and therefore, there is no authority to pay such expenses under TQSE.

§ 302-6.21 May I be reimbursed for TQSE while occupying my permanent residence quarters at my old official station?

Your agency may authorize TQSE for a reasonable time when your residence at your old official station becomes temporary and no longer suitable for permanent residence (*e.g.*, household goods have been shipped and are unavailable to you and your immediate family).

§ 302-6.22 What methods may my agency use to reimburse me for TQSE?

(a) Your agency may use one of the following TQSE methods:

- (1) TQSE—Lodgings-Plus (TQSE-LP);
- (2) TQSE—Actual Expense (TQSE-AE); or
- (3) TQSE—Lump Sum (TQSE-LS).

(b) Your agency will reimburse you for TQSE under the “lodgings-plus” method unless it offers you one or more of the alternate methods. If your agency makes multiple methods available to you, you may select the one you prefer; however, once your travel has begun, the authorized TQSE method may not be changed.

§ 302-6.23 What is the “applicable per diem rate” under the TQSE reimbursement methods?

The “applicable per diem rate” is the rate in effect for the locality at the old or new official station or combination thereof, wherever temporary quarters will be occupied. The applicable per diem rate could be the standard CONUS, CONUS non-standard area (NSA), or OCONUS non-foreign locality per diem rate as determined by GSA or the Department of Defense.

§ 302-6.24 How may my TQSE reimbursement be affected if I relocate to, or currently occupy, temporary quarters in a Presidentially-Declared Disaster area?

Your agency should consider delaying all non-essential relocations to Presidentially-Declared Disaster areas because the ability to secure temporary quarters lodgings in those areas may be compromised. If relocation cannot be delayed, or if you are already occupying temporary quarters that have been affected by the disaster in a Presidentially-Declared Disaster area, for temporary quarters located within CONUS your agency may:

(a) Authorize you to occupy temporary quarters outside of the proximity requirements at § 302-6.10; and

(b) Authorize TQSE at the applicable locality per diem allowance under FTR §§ 301-11.100 through 301-11.102 of this subtitle or authorize actual expenses on an individual basis under FTR §§ 301-11.300 through 301-11.306 of this subtitle not to exceed 300 percent of the applicable per diem in accordance with § 301-11.303 of this subtitle; or

(c) Issue a blanket actual expense authorization for official relocation travel performed on or after the date of the Presidentially-Declared Disaster.

(d) The authorizations in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section must apply to a specific Presidential Disaster Declaration, and must end on the expiration date of the Declaration, or one year from the date the Declaration is issued, whichever is sooner. The maximum limit of 120 consecutive days that TQSE may be authorized is statutorily based and remains in effect in accordance with FTR § 302-6.29(a). A blanket authorization issued under this section shall not apply to any travel performed pursuant to chapter 301 of this subtitle and does not permit an agency to change the TQSE method authorized once the travel has begun. See § 302-6.22(b).

§ 302-6.25 Must I document my TQSE to receive reimbursement?

(a) *TQSE-LP method.* You must file a voucher and provide documentation for your temporary quarters lodging expenses, lodging taxes, and other subsistence expenses over \$75. There is no

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requirement to document meals and incidental expenses.

(b) *TQSE-AE method.* You must file a voucher and document all temporary quarters lodging, lodging taxes, meals, and other subsistence expenses over \$75.

(c) *TQSE-LS method.* You are not required to document your subsistence expenses or file a voucher. However, your agency will require you to sign a statement or other document, and provide proof that you actually occupied temporary quarters, even if not for the full length of time on which the lump sum calculation was based. In the absence of sufficient proof of temporary quarters occupancy, your agency may demand repayment of the TQSE-LS payment in accordance with § 302-6.205.

§ 302-6.26 May I receive an advance of funds for TQSE?

(a) *TQSE-LP and TQSE-AE methods.* You may receive an advance of funds if authorized in accordance with your agency policy and § 302-2.24 of this chapter. Your agency may advance the amount of funds necessary to cover your estimated TQSE expenses for up to 30 days. Your agency may subsequently advance additional funds for periods up to 30 days.

(b) *TQSE-LS method.* You will not receive an advance of funds as your agency will offer a one-time lump sum payment as close as is reasonably possible to the time you will begin occupancy of temporary quarters; no additional payments will be authorized. If your TQSE-LS payment is more than adequate to cover your actual TQSE expenses, any balance belongs to you (*e.g.*, your agency authorizes and you accept a lump sum payment for 15 days of TQSE and you vacate temporary quarters after 10 days, you would retain the remaining balance for the 5 days of TQSE not incurred).

§ 302-6.27 Must I use a Government contractor-issued travel charge card for TQSE?

Yes, you must use the Government contractor-issued travel charge card as the method of payment for all official relocation expenses, including TQSE, unless exempted under part 301-51 of this subtitle.

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§ 302-6.28 Are temporary quarters lodging taxes and laundry/dry cleaning expenses included in the TQSE amount?

Temporary quarters lodging taxes are not included in your daily temporary quarters lodging rate and may be documented as a separate TQSE-LP or TQSE-AE miscellaneous expense. Lodging taxes for TQSE-LS are included in your overall lump sum amount. Laundry/dry cleaning expenses are included in your incidental portion of the daily M&IE allowance and are not separately reimbursed.

§ 302-6.29 How long may I be authorized to claim TQSE reimbursement?

(a) *TQSE-LP and TQSE-AE methods.* Your agency may initially authorize you to claim expenses in increments of 30 days or less, not to exceed 60 consecutive days. Your agency may authorize an extension of up to 60 additional consecutive days, for a maximum total of 120 consecutive days, if your agency determines that there is a compelling reason for you to continue occupying temporary quarters.

(b) *TQSE-LS method.* If your agency offers, and you select TQSE-LS, your agency may authorize a lump sum for each day authorized up to a maximum of 30 consecutive days of TQSE; no extensions are allowed under the lump sum payment method. You will not receive additional TQSE reimbursement if the lump sum payment is not adequate to cover your actual TQSE.

§ 302-6.30 May my agency reduce my authorized number of TQSE days if I am authorized a househunting trip?

Your agency may reduce the total number of days you are authorized for TQSE by the number of househunting days (*e.g.*, instead of authorizing 60 days of TQSE your agency can authorize 50 days to account for your 10-day househunting trip); however, the percentage multiplier used for calculating TQSE may not be reduced based on the number of days used for a househunting trip.