

Coastal Energy Impact Program

The CEIP was established in 1976 under then-section 308 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1456a, to provide coastal states and local governments in such states with Federal financial assistance to meet certain needs that result from specified energy development activities. In the 1990 amendments to the CZMA (Pub. L. 101-508), section 308 was amended by: (1) Terminating any future CEIP loans, although obligations of any coastal state or local government to repay loans made prior to the 1990 amendments remain in effect; and (2) establishing the Coastal Zone Management Fund as, *inter alia*, the repository for such CEIP loan repayments. As the CEIP has been terminated, the administrative regulations, Part 931, for this program are, for the most part, obsolete and need not be retained in the CFR. For the particular coastal states and local governments that have outstanding CEIP loans and therefore must repay the loans to the Coastal Zone Management Fund, NOAA will continue to apply the applicable provisions of Part 931. However, although such provisions shall continue to apply, it is not necessary to retain them in the CFR because, in part, such provisions have particular applicability to only those coastal states and local governments with outstanding CEIP loans. Accordingly, NOAA will provide copies of the relevant provisions of Part 931, with instructions that they continue to apply, directly to those particular coastal states and local governments that have outstanding CEIP loans. Therefore, the particular coastal states and local governments with outstanding CEIP loans will have, in addition to the constructive notice provided by this final rule, actual and timely notice of the continued application of the repayment provisions of Part 931, and such coastal states and local governments shall continue to comply with all the terms and conditions of such provisions of part 931. See 5 U.S.C. 552(a). Accordingly, NOAA is removing part 931, the CEIP regulations, from Title 15 of the CFR.

NOAA has determined that because this rule is a matter relating to loans, grants, benefits or contracts, it is not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requirements of prior notice, opportunity for comment, or delayed effective date (5 U.S.C. 553). Accordingly, this rule is being made effective immediately upon publication.

Executive Order 12866

For purposes of Executive Order 12866, this final rule is determined to be not significant.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Notice and comment for this rule are not required by the APA or any other law. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Pub. L. 96-354).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This regulation contains no information collection requirements which are subject to review and approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3506 *et seq.*).

Authority: Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, is amended, 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 931

Coastal zone, Grant programs—natural resources, Natural resources, and Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 28, 1995.

David Evans,

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the preamble and under the authority of 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*, Chapter IX of Title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 931—[REMOVED]

1. Part 931 is removed.

[FR Doc. 95-17745 Filed 7-25-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Office of Justice Programs****28 CFR Part 70**

[OJP No. 1004; AG Order No. 1980-95]

RIN 1121-AA18

Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-Profit Organizations

January 23, 1995.

AGENCY: Department of Justice.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: On November 29, 1993, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a revision of OMB

Circular A-110. The Circular is applicable to awards made by Federal agencies and subawards made by States to nongovernmental entities. This rule implements the OMB Circular A-110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia J. Schwimer, Director, Financial Management Division, Office of the Comptroller, Office of Justice Programs at 202-307-3186.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 26, 1995.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final rule amends 28 CFR by setting forth a new part 70 to enact the changes established by revised OMB Circular A-110, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-Profit Institutions," published by OMB on November 29, 1993 (58 FR 62992).

In November 1990, OMB established an interagency task force to revise Circular A-110. The task force developed a proposed revision of the Circular, which OMB published with a request for comments on August 27, 1992 (57 FR 39018). After considering the over 200 comments from a wide variety of Federal and non-Federal respondents, OMB published the final revised Circular in the **Federal Register** on November 29, 1993 (58 FR 62992).

OMB Circular A-110 sets forth government-wide standards governing Federal agency administration of grants and other agreements with institutions of higher education, hospitals and other non-profit organizations. Federal agencies must apply the provisions of the Circular in making awards to the covered entities; all primary recipients (including governments) of Federal awards must also apply the Circular's provisions to any subawards they make to such entities. Those provisions that affect Federal agencies were effective on December 29, 1993 (58 FR 62992-93). With respect to the Circular's application to recipients of Federal agency awards, OMB's notice directed each agency to promulgate its own rules adopting the provisions of the Circular (58 FR 62992-93).

Agency specific rules must follow the provisions of the Circular unless OMB has granted the agency an exception for classes of recipients of awards from a particular requirement of the Circular (58 FR 62992, 62995). The terms of the Circular, however, permit Federal awarding agencies to make exceptions on an award-by-award basis without prior OMB approval and to apply less restrictive requirements in the case of small awards. Where a conflict exists between a provision of the Circular and

a statute, the statute governs (58 FR 62992-93, 62995).

With respect to our implementation of the Circular, in general, we have faithfully followed its provisions. However, in several instances we have either elaborated on a provision or modified it to make it pertain more clearly to the Department of Justice's (the Department) environment. Directives made strictly to the Federal agencies and not to grantees have been deleted.

A notice of proposed rulemaking is not necessary for this regulation because OMB obtained public comments in the development of the Circular, and the Circular was written in a regulatory format. Furthermore, OMB requires that Federal agencies implement the Circular within six months of its publication.

Impact Analysis

1. Executive Order 12866

This regulation has been drafted and reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866, 1(b), Principles of Regulation. This rule is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, 3(f), Regulatory Planning and Review, and accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by OMB.

2. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) The Attorney General has determined that compliance with the rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities and, therefore, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required.

3. Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements contained in this rule are cleared by OMB as Standard Forms.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

This rule affects all of the grant programs administered by the Department.

List of Subjects in 28 CFR Part 70

Accounting; Administrative practice and procedures; Grant programs—health; Grant programs—social programs; Grants administration; and Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, Title 28, Chapter I of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended by adding the new part 70 as set forth below.

PART 70—UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND SUBAWARDS (INCLUDING SUBAWARDS) WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, HOSPITALS AND OTHER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3711, *et seq.* (as amended); Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5601, *et seq.* (as amended); Victims of Crime Act of 1984, 42 U.S.C. 10601, *et seq.* (as amended); 18 U.S.C. 4042, 4351-4353.

Subpart A—General

§ 70.1 Purpose and applicability.

This part establishes uniform administrative requirements for the Department grants and agreements awarded to institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations. It also establishes rules governing how State, local and Indian tribal governments shall administer subawards to nongovernmental entities.

§ 70.2 Definitions.

(a) *Accrued expenditures* means the charges incurred by the recipient during a given period requiring the provision of funds for:

- (1) Goods and other tangible property received;
- (2) Services performed by employees, contractors, subrecipients, and other payees; and,

(3) Other amounts becoming owed under programs for which no current services or performance is required.

(b) *Accrued income* means the sum of:

- (1) Earnings during a given period from
 - (i) Services performed by the recipient, and

(ii) Goods and other tangible property delivered to purchasers, and

(2) Amounts becoming owed to the recipient for which no current services or performance is required by the recipient.

(c) *Acquisition cost of equipment* means the net invoice price of the equipment, including the cost of modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make the property usable for the purpose for which it was acquired. Other charges, such as the cost of installation, transportation, taxes, duty or protective in-transit insurance, shall

be included or excluded from the unit acquisition cost in accordance with the recipient's regular accounting practices.

(d) *Advance* means a payment made by Treasury check or other appropriate payment mechanism to a recipient upon its request either before outlays are made by the recipient or through the use of predetermined payment schedules.

(e) *Award* means financial assistance that provides support or stimulation to accomplish a public purpose. Awards include grants and other agreements in the form of money or property in lieu of money, by the Department to an eligible recipient. The term does not include: Technical assistance, which provides services instead of money; other assistance in the form of loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, or insurance; direct payments of any kind to individuals; and, contracts which are required to be entered into and administered under procurement laws and regulations.

(f) *Cash contributions* means the recipient's cash outlay, including the outlay of money contributed to the recipient by third parties.

(g) *Closeout* means the process by which the Department determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work of the award have been completed by the recipient and the Department.

(h) *Contract* means a procurement contract under an award or subaward, and a procurement subcontract under a recipient's or subrecipient's contract.

(i) *Cost sharing or matching* means the portion of project or program costs not borne by the Federal Government.

(j) *The Department* refers to the United States Department of Justice awarding agencies, which include the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Community Relation Service (CRS), United States Marshals Service (USMS), National Institute of Corrections (NIC), Office of Special Counsel (OSC), and the Civil Rights Division (CRD).

(k) *Date of completion* means the date on which all work under an award is completed or the date on the award document, or any supplement or amendment thereto, on which the Department sponsorship ends.

(l) *Disallowed costs* means those charges to an award that the Department determines to be unallowable, in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles or other terms and conditions contained in the award.

(m) *Equipment* means tangible nonexpendable personal property including exempt property charged directly to the award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5000 or more per

unit. However, consistent with recipient policy, lower limits may be established.

(n) *Excess property* means property under the control of the Department that, as determined by the head thereof, is no longer required for its needs or the discharge of its responsibilities.

(o) *Exempt property* means tangible personal property acquired in whole or in part with Federal funds, where the Department has statutory authority to vest title in the recipient without further obligation to the Federal Government. An example of exempt property authority is contained in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (31 U.S.C. 6306), for property acquired under an award to conduct basic or applied research by a non-profit institution of higher education or non-profit organization whose principal purpose is conducting scientific research.

(p) *Federal funds authorized* means the total amount of Federal funds obligated by the Federal Government for use by the recipient. This amount may include any authorized carryover of unobligated funds from prior funding periods when permitted by agency regulations or agency implementing instructions.

(q) *Federal share* of real property, equipment, or supplies means that percentage of the property's acquisition costs and any improvement expenditures paid with Federal funds.

(r) *Funding period* means the period of time when Federal funding is available for obligation by the recipient.

(s) *Independent Research and Development costs* means research and development conducted by an organization which is not sponsored by Federal or non-Federal awards, contracts, or other agreements.

(t) *Intangible property and debt instruments* means, but is not limited to, trademarks, copyrights, patents and patent applications and such property as loans, notes and other debt instruments, lease agreements, stock and other instruments of property ownership, whether considered tangible or intangible.

(u) *Obligations* means the amounts of orders placed, contracts and grants awarded, services received and similar transactions during a given period that require payment by the recipient during the same or a future period.

(v) *Outlays or expenditures* means charges made to the project or program. They may be reported on a cash or accrual basis. For reports prepared on a cash basis, outlays are the sum of cash disbursements for direct charges for goods and services, the amount of indirect expense charged, the value of

third party in-kind contributions applied and the amount of cash advances and payments made to subrecipients. For reports prepared on an accrual basis, outlays are the sum of cash disbursements for direct charges for goods and services, the amount of indirect expense incurred, the value of in-kind contributions applied, and the net increase (or decrease) in the amounts owed by the recipient for goods and other property received, for services performed by employees, contractors, subrecipients and other payees and other amounts becoming owed under programs for which no current services or performance are required.

(w) *Personal property* means property of any kind except real property. It may be tangible, having physical existence, or intangible, having no physical existence, such as copyrights, patents, or securities.

(x) *Prior approval* means written approval by an authorized official evidencing prior consent.

(y) *Program income* means gross income earned by the recipient that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the award (see exclusions in § 70.24 (e) and (h)). Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under Federally-funded projects, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under an award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, interest on loans made with award funds, and income from asset forfeitures accounted for from the time of seizure. Interest earned on advances of Federal funds is not program income. Except as otherwise provided in the Department regulations or the terms and conditions of the award, program income does not include the receipt of principal on loans, rebates, credits, discounts, etc., or interest earned on any of them.

(z) *Project costs* means all allowable costs, as set forth in the applicable Federal costs principles, incurred by a recipient and the value of the contributions made by third parties in accomplishing the objectives of the award during the project period.

(aa) *Project period* means the period established in the award document during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

(bb) *Property* means, unless otherwise stated, real property, equipment, intangible property and debt instruments.

(cc) *Real property* means land, including land improvements, structures and appurtenances thereto,

but excludes movable machinery and equipment.

(dd) *Recipient* means an organization receiving financial assistance directly from the Department to carry out a project or program. The term includes public and private institutions of higher education, public and private hospitals, and other quasi-public and private non-profit organizations such as, but not limited to, community action agencies, research institutes, educational associations, and health centers. The term may include commercial organizations, foreign or international organizations (such as agencies of the United Nations) which are recipients, subrecipients, or contractors or subcontractors of recipients or subrecipients at the discretion of the Department. The term does not include government-owned contractor-operated facilities or research centers providing continued support for mission-oriented, large-scale programs that are government-owned or controlled, or are designed as Federally-funded research and development centers.

(ee) *Research and development* means all research activities, both basic and applied, and all development activities that are supported at universities, colleges, and other non-profit institutions. *Research* is defined as a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied. "Development" is the systematic use of knowledge and understanding gained from research directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design and development of prototypes and processes. The term research also includes activities involving the training of individuals in research techniques where such activities utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities and where such activities are not included in the instruction function.

(ff) *Small awards* means a grant or cooperative agreement not exceeding the small purchase threshold fixed at 41 U.S.C. 403(11) (currently \$25,000).

(gg) *Subaward* means an award of financial assistance in the form of money, or property in lieu of money, made under an award by a recipient to an eligible subrecipient or by a subrecipient to a lower tier subrecipient. The term includes financial assistance when provided by any legal agreement, even if the agreement is called a contract, but does not include procurement of goods and services nor does it include any form of assistance which is excluded from the definition of "award" in § 70.2(e).

(hh) *Subrecipient* means the legal entity to which a subaward is made and which is accountable to the recipient for the use of the funds provided. The term may include foreign or international organizations (such as agencies of the United Nations) at the discretion of the Department.

(ii) *Supplies* means all personal property excluding equipment, intangible property, and debt instruments as defined in this section, and inventions of a contractor conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under a funding agreement ("subject inventions"), as defined in 37 CFR part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts, and Cooperative Agreements."

(jj) *Suspension* means an action by the Department that temporarily withdraws the Department sponsorship under an award, pending corrective action by the recipient or pending a decision to terminate the award by the Department. Suspension of an award is a separate action from suspension under the Department regulations implementing Exec. Order No. 12549 and 12689, "Debarment and Suspension."

(kk) *Termination* means the cancellation of the Department sponsorship, in whole or in part, under an agreement at any time prior to the date of completion.

(ll) *Third party in-kind contributions* means the value of non-cash contributions provided by non-Federal third parties. Third party in-kind contributions may be in the form of real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, and the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project or program.

(mm) *Unliquidated obligations*, for financial reports prepared on a cash basis, means the amount of obligations incurred by the recipient that have not been paid. For reports prepared on an accrued expenditure basis, they represent the amount of obligations incurred by the recipient for which an outlay has not been recorded.

(nn) *Unobligated balance* means the portion of the funds authorized by the Department that has not been obligated by the recipient and is determined by deducting the cumulative obligations from the cumulative funds authorized.

(oo) *Unrecovered indirect cost* means the difference between the amount awarded and the amount which could have been awarded under the recipient's approved negotiated indirect cost rate.

(pp) *Working capital advance* means a procedure where by funds are advanced to the recipient to cover its estimated disbursement needs for a given initial period.

§ 70.3 Effect on other issuances.

For awards subject to this part, all administrative requirements of codified program regulations, program manuals, handbooks and other nonregulatory materials which are inconsistent with the requirements of this part shall be superseded, except to the extent they are required by statute, or authorized in accordance with the deviations provision in § 70.4.

§ 70.4 Deviations.

OMB, after consultation with the Department's Division of Financial Management and Grants Administration may grant exceptions for classes of grants or recipients subject to the requirements of this part when exceptions are not prohibited by statute. However, in the interest of maximum uniformity, exceptions from the requirements of this part shall be permitted only in unusual circumstances. The Department shall apply more restrictive requirements to a class of recipients when approved by OMB. The Department may apply less restrictive requirements when awarding small awards, except for those requirements which are statutory. Exceptions on a case-by-case basis may also be made by Department.

§ 70.5 Subawards.

Unless sections of this part specifically exclude subrecipients from coverage, all of the Department's recipients, including State and local governments, shall apply the provisions of this part to subrecipients performing work under awards if such subrecipients are institutions of higher education, hospitals or other non-profit organizations. State and local government subrecipients are subject to the provisions of regulations implementing the grants management common rule, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," published at 28 CFR part 66 (3/11/88).

Subpart B—Pre-Award Requirements

§ 70.10 Purpose.

Sections 70.11 through 70.17 prescribe forms and instructions and other pre-award matters to be used in applying for the Department's awards.

§ 70.11 Pre-award policies.

(a) *Use of grants and cooperative agreements, and contracts.* In each instance, the Department shall decide on the appropriate award instrument (i.e., grant, cooperative agreement, or contract). The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (31 U.S.C. 6301-08) governs the use of grants, cooperative agreements and contracts. A grant or cooperative agreement shall be used only when the principal purpose of a transaction is to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute. The statutory criterion for choosing between grants and cooperative agreements is that for the latter, "substantial involvement is expected between the executive agency and the State, local government, or other recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement." Contracts shall be used when the principal purpose is acquisition of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

(b) *Public notice and priority setting.* The Department shall notify the public of its intended funding priorities for discretionary grant programs, unless funding priorities are established by Federal statute.

§ 70.12 Forms for applying for Federal assistance.

(a) The Department shall comply with the applicable report clearance requirements of 5 CFR part 1320, "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public," with regard to all forms used by the Department as a supplement to the Standard Form 424 (SF-424) series.

(b) Applicants shall use the SF-424 series and instructions prescribed by the Department.

(c) For the Department's programs covered by Exec. Order No. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," the applicant shall complete the appropriate sections of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) indicating whether the application was subject to review by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The name and address of the SPOC for a particular State can be obtained from the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance." The SPOC shall advise the applicant whether the program for which application is made has been selected by that State for review.

§ 70.13 Debarment and suspension.

Recipients shall comply with the nonprocurement debarment and suspension common rule implementing Exec. Order No. 12549 and 12689,

"Debarment and Suspension." This common rule restricts subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs or activities.

§ 70.14 Special award conditions.

If an applicant or recipient: Has a history of poor performance, Is not financially stable, Has a management system that does not meet the standards prescribed in this part, Has not conformed to the terms and conditions of a previous award, or Is not otherwise responsible, the Department will impose additional requirements as needed, provided that such applicant or recipient is notified in writing as to: The nature of the additional requirements, the reason why the additional requirements are being imposed, the nature of the corrective action needed, the time allowed for completing the corrective actions, and the method for requesting reconsideration of the additional requirements imposed. Any special conditions will be promptly removed once the conditions that prompted them have been corrected.

§ 70.15 Metric system of measurement.

The Metric Conversion Act, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (15 U.S.C. 205) declares that the metric system is the preferred measurement system for U.S. trade and commerce. The Act requires each Federal agency to establish a date or dates in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, when the metric system of measurement will be used in the agency's procurements, grants, and other business-related activities. Metric implementation may take longer where the use of the system is initially impractical or likely to cause significant inefficiencies in the accomplishment of Federally-funded activities. The Department will follow the provisions of Exec. Order No. 12770, "Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs."

§ 70.16 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (Pub. L. No. 94-580 codified at 42 U.S.C. 6962).

Under the Act, any State agency or agency of a political subdivision of a State which is using appropriated Federal funds must comply with section 6002. Section 6002 requires that preference be given in procurement programs to the purchase of specific products containing recycled materials identified in guidelines developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR parts 247-254). Accordingly, State and local institutions

of higher education, hospitals, and non-profit organizations that receive direct Federal awards or other Federal funds shall give preference in their procurement programs funded with Federal funds to the purchase of recycled products pursuant to the EPA guidelines.

§ 70.17 Certifications and representations.

Unless prohibited by statute or codified regulation, the Department will allow recipients to submit certifications and representations required by statute, executive order, or regulation on an annual basis, if the recipients have ongoing and continuing relationships with the agency. Annual certifications and representations must be signed by responsible officials with the authority to ensure recipients' compliance with the pertinent requirements.

Subpart C—Post-Award Requirements*Financial and Program Management***§ 70.20 Purpose of financial and program management.**

Sections 70.21 through 70.28 prescribe standards for financial management systems, methods for making payments and rules for: Satisfying cost sharing and matching requirements, accounting for program income, budget revision approvals, making audits, determining allowability of cost, and establishing fund availability.

§ 70.21 Standards for financial management systems.

(a) Recipients must relate financial data to performance data and development unit cost information whenever practical.

(b) Recipients' financial management systems must provide for the following:

- (1) Accurate, current and complete disclosure of the financial results of each Federally-sponsored project or program in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in § 70.52. When the Department requires reporting on an accrual basis from a recipient that maintains its records on other than an accrual basis, the recipient will not be required to establish an accrual accounting system. These recipients may develop such accrual data for its reports on the basis of an analysis of the documentation on hand.

- (2) Records that identify adequately the source and application of funds for Federally-sponsored activities. These records must contain information pertaining to Federal awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, outlays, income and interest.

(3) Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property and other assets. Recipients must adequately safeguard all such assets and assure they are used solely for authorized purposes.

(4) Comparison of outlays with budget amounts for each award. Whenever appropriate, financial information should be related to performance and unit cost data.

(5) Written procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds to the recipient from the U.S. Treasury and the issuance or redemption of checks, warrants or payments by other means for program purposes by the recipient. To the extent that the provisions of the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) (Pub. L. 101-453) govern, payment methods of State agencies, instrumentalities, and fiscal agents must be consistent with CMIA Treasury-State Agreements or the CMIA default procedures codified at 31 CFR part 205, "Withdrawal of Cash from the Treasury for Advances under Federal Grant and Other Programs."

(6) Written procedures for determining the reasonableness, allocability and allowability of costs in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Federal cost principles and the terms and conditions of the award.

(7) Accounting records including cost accounting records that are supported by source documentation.

(c) The Department, at its discretion, may require adequate bonding and insurance if the bonding and insurance requirements of the recipient are not deemed adequate to protect the interest of the Federal Government.

(d) The Department will require adequate fidelity bond coverage when the recipient lacks sufficient coverage to protect the Federal Government's interest.

(e) Where bonds are required in the situations described above, the bonds must be obtained from companies holding certificates of authority as acceptable sureties, as prescribed in 31 CFR part 223, "Surety Companies Doing Business with the United States."

§ 70.22 Payment.

(a) Payment methods must minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the United States Treasury and the issuance or redemption of checks, warrants, or payment by other means by the recipients. Payment methods of State agencies or instrumentalities must be consistent with Treasury-State CMIA agreements or default procedures codified at 31 CFR part 205.

(b) Recipients may be paid in advance, provided they maintain or demonstrate the willingness to maintain written procedures that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the recipient, and financial management systems that meet the standards for fund control and accountability as established in § 70.21. Cash advances to a recipient organization will be limited to the minimum amounts needed and be timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the recipient organization in carrying out the purpose of the approved program or project. The timing and amount of cash advances must be as close as is administratively feasible to the actual disbursements by the recipient organization for direct program or project costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs.

(c) Whenever possible, advances will be consolidated to cover anticipated cash needs for all awards made by the Department to the recipient.

(1) Advance payment mechanisms include, but are not limited to, Treasury check and electronic funds transfer.

(2) Advance payment mechanisms are subject to 31 CFR part 205.

(3) Recipients may be authorized to submit requests for advances and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used.

(d) Requests for Treasury check advance payment must be submitted on SF-270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement."

(e) Reimbursement is the method that will be used when the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section cannot be met. The Department may also use this method on any construction agreement, or if the major portion of the construction project is accomplished through private market financing or Federal loans, and the Federal assistance constitutes a minor portion of the project.

(1) When the reimbursement method is used, the Department will make payment within 30 days after receipt of the billing, unless the billing is improper.

(2) Recipients will be authorized to submit requests for reimbursement at least monthly when electronic funds transfers are not used.

(f) If a recipient cannot meet the criteria for advance payments and the Department has determined that reimbursement is not feasible because the recipient lacks sufficient working capital, the Department may provide cash on a working capital advance basis. Under this procedure, the Department

will advance cash to the recipient to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the awardee's disbursing cycle. Thereafter, the Department will reimburse the recipient for its actual cash disbursements. The working capital advance method of payment will not be used for recipients unwilling or unable to provide timely advances to their subrecipient to meet the subrecipient's actual cash disbursements.

(g) To the extent available, recipients must disburse funds available from repayments to and interest earned on a revolving fund, program income, rebates, refunds, contract settlements, audit recoveries and interest earned on such funds before requesting additional cash payments.

(h) Unless otherwise required by statute, the Department will not withhold payments for proper charges made by recipients at any time during the project period unless paragraph (h) (1) or (2) of this section apply.

(1) A recipient has failed to comply with the project objectives, the terms and conditions of the award, or the Department's reporting requirements.

(2) The recipient or subrecipient is delinquent in a debt to the United States as defined in OMB Circular A-129, "Managing Federal Credit Programs." Under such conditions, DOS may, upon reasonable notice, inform the recipient that payments must not be made for obligations incurred after a specified date until the conditions are corrected or the indebtedness to the Federal Government is liquidated.

(i) Standards governing the use of banks and other institutions as depositories of funds advanced under awards are as follows.

(1) Except for situations described in paragraph (i)(2) of this section, the Department will not require separate depository accounts for funds provided to a recipient or establish any eligibility requirements for depositories for funds provided to a recipient. However, recipients must be able to account for the receipt, obligation and expenditure of funds.

(2) Advances of the Department funds must be deposited and maintained in insured accounts whenever possible.

(j) Consistent with the national goal of expanding the opportunities for women-owned and minority-owned business enterprises, recipients are encouraged to use women-owned and minority-owned banks (a bank which is owned at least fifty percent by women or minority group members).

(k) Recipients must maintain advances of the Department's funds in

interest bearing accounts, unless paragraphs (k) (1), (2) or (3) of this section apply.

(1) The recipient receives less than \$120,000 in Federal awards per year.

(2) The best reasonably available interest bearing account would not be expected to earn interest in excess of \$250 per year on Federal cash balances.

(3) The depository would require an average or minimum balance so high that it would not be feasible within the expected Federal and non-Federal cash resources.

(l) For those entities where CMIA and its implementing regulations do not apply, interest earned on Federal advances deposited in interest bearing accounts must be remitted annually to Department of Health and Human Services, (HHS), Payment Management System, P.O. Box 6021, Rockville, MD 20852. Interest amounts up to \$250 per year may be retained by the recipient for administrative expense. State universities and hospitals must comply with CMIA, as it pertains to interest. If an entity subject to CMIA uses its own funds to pay pre-award costs for discretionary awards without prior written approval from the Department, it waives its right to recover the interest under CMIA. In keeping with Electronic Funds Transfer rules, (31 CFR part 206), interest should be remitted to the HHS Payment Management System through an electronic medium such as the FEDWIRE Deposit System. Recipients which do not have this capability should use a check.

(m) Recipients must use the SF-270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement or other standard form for all nonconstruction programs when electronic funds transfer is not used.

§ 70.23 Cost sharing or matching.

(a) All contributions, including cash and third party in-kind, will be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the following criteria.

(1) Are verifiable from the recipient's records.

(2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federally-assisted project or program.

(3) Are necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives.

(4) Are allowable under the applicable cost principles.

(5) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another award, except where authorized by Federal statute to be used for cost sharing or matching.

(6) Are provided for in the approved budget.

(7) Conform to other provisions of this Part, as applicable.

(b) Unrecovered indirect costs may be included as part of cost sharing or matching only with the prior approval of the Department.

(c) Values for recipient contributions of services and property must be established in accordance with the applicable cost principles. If the Department authorizes recipients to donate buildings or land for construction/facilities acquisition projects or long-term use, the value of the donated property for cost sharing or matching must be the lesser of paragraph (c) (1) or (2) of this section.

(1) The certified value of the remaining life of the property recorded in the recipient's accounting records at the time of donation.

(2) The current fair market value. However, when there is sufficient justification, the Department may approve the use of the current fair market value of the donated property, even if it exceeds the certified value at the time of donation to the project.

(d) Volunteer services furnished by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor may be counted as cost sharing or matching if the service is an integral and necessary part of an approved project or program. Rates for volunteer services must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the recipient's organization. In those instances in which the required skills are not found in the recipient organization, rates must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the labor market in which the recipient competes for the kind of services involved. In either case, paid fringe benefits that are reasonable, allowable, and allocable may be included in the valuation.

(e) When an employer other than the recipient furnishes the services of an employee, these services must be valued at the employee's regular rate of pay (plus an amount of fringe benefits that are reasonable, allowable, and allocable, but exclusive of overhead costs), provided these services are in the same skills for which the employee would normally be paid.

(f) Donated supplies may include such items as expendable equipment, office supplies, laboratory supplies or workshop and classroom supplies. Value assessed to donated supplies included in the cost sharing or matching share must be reasonable and must not exceed the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation.

(g) The method used for determining cost sharing or matching for donated

equipment, buildings and land for which title passes to the recipient may differ according to the purpose of the award, if paragraph (g) (1) or (2) of this section apply.

(1) If the purpose of the award is to assist the recipient in the acquisition of equipment, buildings or land, the total value of the donated property may be claimed as cost sharing or matching.

(2) If the purpose of the award is to support activities that require the use of equipment, buildings or land, normally only depreciation or use charges for equipment and buildings may be made. However, the full value of equipment or other capital assets and fair rental charges for land may be allowed, provided that the Department has approved the charges.

(h) The value of donated property must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting policies of the recipient, with the following qualifications.

(1) The value of donated land and buildings must not exceed its fair market value at the time of donation to the recipient as established by an independent appraiser (e.g., certified real property appraiser or General Services Administration representative) and certified by a responsible official of the recipient.

(2) The value of donated equipment must not exceed the fair market value of equipment of the same age and condition at the time of donation.

(3) The value of donated space must not exceed the fair rental value of comparable space as established by an independent appraisal of comparable space and facilities in a privately-owned building in the same locality.

(4) The value of loaned equipment must not exceed its fair rental value.

(5) The following requirements pertain to the recipient's supporting records for in-kind contributions from third parties.

(i) Volunteer services must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the recipient for its own employees.

(ii) The basis for determining the valuation for personal service, material, equipment, buildings and land must be documented.

§ 70.24 Program income.

(a) The standards set forth in this section requiring recipient organizations to account for program income related to projects financed in whole or in part with Department funds.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (h) of this section, program income earned during the project period must be retained by the recipient and, in

accordance with the Department regulations or the terms and conditions of the award, must be used in one or more of the ways listed in the following:

(1) Added to funds committed to the project by the Department and recipient and used to further eligible project or program objectives.

(2) Used to finance the non-Federal share of the project or program.

(3) Deducted from the total project or program allowable cost in determining the net allowable costs on which the Federal share of costs is based.

(c) When the Department authorizes the disposition of program income as described in paragraphs (b)(1) or (b)(2), of this section, program income in excess of any limits stipulated must be used in accordance with paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(d) In the event that the Department does not specify in its regulations or the terms and conditions of the award how program income is to be used, paragraph (b)(3), of this section applies automatically to all projects or programs.

(e) Unless the Department's regulations or the terms and conditions of the award provide otherwise, recipients will have no obligation to the Federal Government regarding program income earned after the end of the project period.

(f) If authorized by the terms and conditions of the award, costs incident to the generation of program income may be deducted from gross income to determine program income, provided these costs have not been charged to the award.

(g) Proceeds from the sale of property must be handled in accordance with the requirements of the Property Standards (See §§ 70.30 through 70.37).

(h) Unless the terms and conditions of the award provide otherwise, recipients will have no obligation to the Federal Government with respect to program income earned from license fees and royalties for copyrighted material, patents, patent applications, trademarks, and inventions produced under an award. However, Patent and Trademark Amendments (35 U.S.C. 18) apply to inventions made under an experimental, developmental, or research award.

(i) Recipients must account for seized assets from the date of seizure until forfeiture and liquidation of funds occur.

§ 70.25 Revision of budget and program plans.

(a) The budget plan is the financial expression of the project or program as approved during the award process. It may include either the Federal and non-

Federal share, or only the Federal share, depending upon the Department's requirements. It must be related to performance for program evaluation purposes whenever appropriate.

(b) Recipients are required to report deviations from budget and program plans, and request prior approvals for budget and program plan revisions, in accordance with this section.

(c) For nonconstruction awards, recipients must request in writing prior approval from the Department for one or more of the following program or budget related reasons:

(1) Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program (even if there is no associated budget revision requiring prior written approval).

(2) Change in a key person specified in the application or award document.

(3) The absence for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project, by the approved project director or principal investigator.

(4) The need for additional Federal funding.

(5) The transfer of amounts budgeted for indirect costs to absorb increases in direct costs, or vice versa, approval is required by the Department.

(6) The inclusion, unless waived by the Department, of costs that require prior approval in accordance with OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education," OMB Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations," or 45 CFR Part 74 Appendix E, "Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals," or 48 CFR part 31, "Contract Cost Principles and Procedures," as applicable.

(7) The transfer of funds allotted for training allowances (direct payment to trainees) to other categories of expense.

(8) Unless described in the application and funded in the approved awards, the subaward, transfer or contracting out of any work under an award. This provision does not apply to the purchase of supplies, material, equipment or general support services.

(d) The Department restricts the transfer of funds among direct cost categories or programs, functions and activities, without prior written approval for awards in which the Federal share of the project exceeds \$100,000 and the cumulative amount of such transfers exceeds or is expected to exceed ten percent of the total budget as last approved by the Department. The Department will not permit a transfer that would cause any Federal appropriation or part thereof to be used

for purposes other than those consistent with the original intent of the appropriation.

(e) All other changes to nonconstruction budgets, except for the changes described in paragraph (h) of this section, do not require prior approval.

(f) For construction awards, recipients must request prior written approval promptly from the Department for budget revisions whenever paragraph (e) (1), (2) or (3) of this section apply.

(1) The revision results from changes in the scope or the objective of the project or program.

(2) The need arises for additional Department funds to complete the project.

(3) A revision is desired which involves specific costs for which prior written approval requirements may be imposed consistent with applicable OMB cost principles listed in § 70.27.

(g) When the Department makes an award that provides support for both construction and nonconstruction work, the Department will require the recipient to request prior approval from the Department before making any fund or budget transfers between the two types of work supported.

(h) For both construction and nonconstruction awards, the Department will require recipients to notify the Department in writing promptly whenever the amount of Federal authorized funds is expected to exceed the needs of the recipient for the project period by more than \$5000 or five percent of the award, whichever is greater. This notification will not be required if an application for additional funding is submitted for a continuation award.

(i) When requesting approval for budget revisions, recipients must use the budget forms that were used in the application unless the Department indicates a letter of request suffices.

(j) Within thirty of the request for budget revisions, the Department will review the request and notify the recipient whether the budget revisions have been approved. If the revision is still under consideration at the end of thirty calendar days, the Department will inform the recipient in writing of the date when the recipient may expect the decision.

§ 70.26 Non-Federal audits.

(a) Recipients and subrecipients that are institutions of higher education or other non-profit organizations are subject to the audit requirements contained in OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of Institutions of Higher

Education and Other Non-Profit Institutions.”

(b) State and local governments are subject to the audit requirements contained in the Single Audit Act (31 U.S.C. 7501-7) and the Department's regulations implementing OMB Circular A-128, “Audits of State and Local Governments.”

(c) Hospitals not covered by the audit provisions of OMB Circular A-133 and commercial organizations must follow the audit thresholds in OMB Circular A-133 in determining whether to conduct an audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

§ 70.27 Allowable costs.

(a) For each kind of recipient, there is a set of Federal principles for determining allowable costs. Allowability of costs must be determined in accordance with the cost principles applicable to the entity incurring the costs. Thus, allowability of costs incurred by State, local or Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments is determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87, “Cost Principles for State and Local Governments.” The allowability of costs incurred by non-profit organizations is determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-122, “Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations.” The allowability of costs incurred by institutions of higher education is determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-21, “Cost Principles for Educational Institutions.” The allowability of costs incurred by commercial organizations and those non-profit organizations listed in Attachment C to Circular A-122 is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR part 31.

(b) OMB Circular A-122 does not cover the treatment of bid and proposal costs or independent research and development costs. The following rules apply to these costs for non-profit organizations subject to the Circular.

(1) *Bid and proposal costs.* Bid and proposal costs are the immediate costs of preparing bids, proposals, and applications for Federal and non-Federal awards, contracts, and agreements, including the development of scientific, costs, and other data needed to support the bids, proposals, and applications. Bid and proposal costs of the current accounting period are all allowable as indirect costs. Bid and proposal costs of past accounting periods are unallowable in the current period. However, if the recipient's established practice is to treat these

costs by some other method, they may be accepted if they are found to be reasonable and equitable. Bid and proposal costs do not include independent research and development costs covered by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, or preaward costs covered by Attachment B, Paragraph 33 of OMB Circular A-122.

(2) *Independent Research and Development costs.* Independent research and development shall must be allocated its proportionate share of indirect costs on the same basis as the allocation of indirect costs to sponsored research and development. The costs of independent research and development, including its proportionate share of indirect costs, are unallowable.

§ 70.28 Period of availability of funds.

Where a funding period is specified, a recipient must charge to the grant only allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during the funding period and any pre-award costs authorized by the Department.

Property Standards

§ 70.30 Purpose of property standards.

Sections 70.31 through 70.37 sets forth uniform standards governing management and disposition of property furnished by the Federal Government whose cost was charged to a project supported by a Federal award. The Department will require recipients to observe these standards under awards and will not impose additional requirements, unless specifically required by Federal statute. The recipient may use its own property management standards and procedures provided it observes the provisions of §§ 70.31 through 70.37.

§ 70.31 Insurance coverage.

Recipients must, at a minimum, provide the equivalent insurance coverage for real property and equipment acquired with Federal funds as provided to property owned by the recipient. Federally-owned property need not be insured unless required by the terms and conditions of the award.

§ 70.32 Real property.

(a) Title to real property will vest in the recipient subject to the condition that the recipient use the real property for the authorized purpose of the project as long as it is needed and will not encumber the property without approval of the Department.

(b) The recipient must obtain written approval by the Department for the use of real property in other Federally-sponsored projects when the recipient determines that the property is no

longer needed for the purpose of the original project. Use in other projects will be limited to those under Federally-sponsored projects (i.e., awards) or programs that have purposes consistent with those authorized for support by the Department.

(c) When the real property is no longer needed as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the recipient must request disposition instructions from the Department. The Department will observe one or more of the following disposition instructions.

(1) The recipient may be permitted to retain title without further obligation to the Federal Government after it compensates the Federal Government for that percentage of the current fair market value of the property attributable to the Federal participation in the project.

(2) The recipient may be directed to sell the property under guidelines provided by the Department and pay the Federal Government for that percentage of the current fair market value of the property attributable to the Federal participation in the project (after deducting actual and reasonable selling and fix-up expenses, if any, from the sales proceeds). When the recipient is authorized or required to sell the property, proper sales procedures must be established that provide for competition to the extent practicable and result in the highest possible return.

(3) The recipient may be directed to transfer title to the property to the Federal Government or to an eligible third party provided that, in such cases, the recipient shall be entitled to compensation for its attributable percentage of the current fair market value of the property.

§ 70.33 Federally-owned and exempt property.

(a) *Federally-owned property.* (1) Title to Federally-owned property remains vested in the Federal Government. Recipients may be required by the terms and conditions of the award, to submit annually an inventory listing of Federally-owned property in their custody to the Department. Upon completion of the award or when the property is no longer needed, the recipient must report the property to the Department for further Federal agency utilization.

(2) If the Department has no further need for the property, it will be declared excess and reported to the General Services Administration, unless the Department has statutory authority to dispose of the property by alternative methods (e.g., the authority provided by the Federal Technology Transfer Act (15

U.S.C. 3710 (I) to donate research equipment to educational and non-profit organizations in accordance with Exec. Order No. 12821, "Improving Mathematics and Science Education in Support of the National Education Goals.") Appropriate instructions shall be issued to the recipient by the Department.

(b) *Exempt property.* The Department will vest title to property acquired with Federal funds in the recipient without further obligation to the Federal Government when such property is "exempt property."

§ 70.34 Equipment.

(a) Title to equipment acquired by a recipient with Federal funds will vest in the recipient, subject to conditions of this section.

(b) The recipient must not use equipment acquired with Federal funds to provide services to non-Federal outside organizations for a fee that is less than private companies charge for equivalent services, unless specifically authorized by Federal statute, for as long as the Federal Government retains an interest in the equipment.

(c) The recipient must use the equipment in the project or program for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by Federal funds and must not encumber the property without approval of the Department. When no longer needed for the original project or program, the recipient must use the equipment in connection with its other Federally-sponsored activities, in the following order of priority:

(1) Activities sponsored by the Department which funded the original project, then

(2) Activities sponsored by other Federal awarding agencies.

(d) During the time that equipment is used on the project or program for which it was acquired, the recipient must make it available for use on other projects or programs if such other use will not interfere with the work on the project or program for which the equipment was originally acquired. First preference for such other use must be given to other projects or programs sponsored by the Department. Second preference must be given to projects or programs sponsored by other Federal awarding agencies. If the equipment is owned by the Federal Government, use on other activities not sponsored by the Federal Government may be permissible if authorized in writing by the Department. User charges must be treated as program income.

(e) When acquiring replacement equipment, the recipient may use the equipment to be replaced as trade-in or sell the equipment and use the proceeds to offset the costs of the replacement equipment subject to the written approval of the Department.

(f) The recipient's property management standards for equipment acquired with Federal funds and Federally-owned equipment must include all of the following:

(1) Equipment records must be maintained accurately and must include the following information:

(i) A description of the equipment.

(ii) Manufacturer's serial number, model number, Federal stock number, national stock number, or other identification number.

(iii) Source of the equipment, including the award number.

(iv) Whether title vests in the recipient or the Federal Government.

(v) Acquisition date (or date received, if the equipment was furnished by the Federal Government) and cost.

(vi) Information from which one can calculate the percentage of Federal participation in the cost of the equipment (not applicable to equipment furnished by the Federal Government).

(vii) Location and condition of the equipment and the date the information was reported.

(viii) Unit acquisition cost.

(ix) Ultimate disposition data, including date of disposal and sales price or the method used to determine current fair market value where a recipient compensates the Department for its share.

(2) Equipment owned by the Federal Government must be identified to indicate Federal ownership.

(3) A physical inventory of equipment must be taken and the results reconciled with the equipment records annually. Any differences between quantities determined by the physical inspection and those shown in the accounting records must be investigated to determine the causes of the difference. The recipient must, in connection with the inventory, verify the existence, current utilization, and continued need for the equipment.

(4) A control system must be in effect to insure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the equipment. Any loss, damage, or theft of equipment must be investigated and fully documented; if the equipment was owned by the Federal Government, the recipient must promptly notify the Department.

(5) Adequate maintenance procedures must be implemented to keep the equipment in good condition.

(6) Where the recipient is authorized or required to sell the equipment, proper sales procedures must be established which provide for competition to the extent practicable and result in the highest possible return.

(g) When the recipient no longer needs the equipment, the equipment may be used for other activities in accordance with the following standards. For equipment with a current per unit fair market value of \$5,000 or more, the recipient may retain the equipment for other uses provided that compensation is made to the Department or its successor. The amount of compensation must be computed by applying the percentage of Federal participation in the cost of the original project or program to the current fair market value of the equipment. If the recipient has no need for the equipment, the recipient must request disposition instructions from the Department. The Department will determine whether the equipment can be used to meet the agency's requirements. If no requirement exists within that agency, the availability of the equipment must be reported to the General Services Administration by the Department to determine whether a requirement for the equipment exists in other Federal agencies. The Department will issue instructions to the recipient no later than 120 calendar days after the recipient's request and the following procedures will govern.

(1) If so instructed or if disposition instructions are not issued within 120 calendar days after the recipient's request, the recipient may sell the equipment and reimburse the Department an amount computed by applying to the sales proceeds the percentage of Federal participation in the cost of the original project or program. However, the recipient may be permitted to deduct and retain from the Federal share \$500 or ten percent of the proceeds, whichever is less, for the recipient's selling and handling expenses.

(2) If the recipient is instructed to ship the equipment elsewhere, the recipient may be reimbursed by the Federal Government by an amount which is computed by applying the percentage of the recipient's participation in the cost of the original project or program to the current fair market value of the equipment, plus any reasonable shipping or interim storage costs incurred.

(3) If the recipient is instructed to otherwise dispose of the equipment, the recipient may be reimbursed by the Department for such costs incurred in its disposition.

(4) The Department reserves the right to transfer the title to the Federal Government or to a third party named by the Federal Government when such third party is otherwise eligible under existing statutes. Such transfer will be subject to the following standards.

(i) The equipment must be appropriately identified in the award or otherwise made known to the recipient in writing.

(ii) The Department will issue disposition instructions within 120 calendar days after receipt of a final inventory. The final inventory must list all equipment acquired with grant funds and Federally-owned equipment. If the Department fails to issue disposition instructions within the 120 calendar day period, the recipient may apply the standards of this section, as appropriate.

(iii) When the Department exercises its right to take title, the equipment is subject to the provisions for Federally-owned equipment.

§ 70.35 Supplies and other expendable property.

(a) Title to supplies and other expendable property vests in the recipient upon acquisition. If there is a residual inventory of unused supplies exceeding \$5000 in total aggregate value upon termination or completion of the project or program and the supplies are not needed for any other Federally-sponsored project or program, the recipient may retain the supplies for use on non-Federal sponsored activities or sell them, but must, in either case, compensate the Federal Government for its share. The amount of compensation must be computer in the same manner as for equipment.

(b) The recipient must not use supplies acquired with Federal funds to provide services to non-Federal outside organizations for a fee that is less than private companies charge for equivalent services, unless specifically authorized by Federal statute as long as the Federal Government retains an interest in the supplies.

§ 70.36 Intangible property.

(a) The recipient may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was purchased, under an award. The Department reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so.

(b) Recipients are subject to applicable regulations governing patents and inventions, including government-wide regulations issued by the Department of Commerce at 37 CFR part

401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements."

(c) The Department, unless expressly waived by the Department, has the right to paragraphs (c) (1) and (2) of this section.

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the data first produced under an award.

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.

(d) Title to intangible property and debt instruments acquired under an award or subaward vests upon acquisition in the recipient. The recipient must use that property for the originally-authorized purpose, and the recipient must not encumber the property without approval of the Department. When no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, disposition of the intangible property must occur in accordance with the provisions of § 70.34(g).

§ 70.37 Property trust relationship.

Real property, equipment, intangible property and debt instruments that are acquired or improved with Federal funds must be held in trust by the recipient as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved. Recipients are required to record liens or other appropriate notices of record to indicate that personal or real property has been acquired or improved with Federal funds and that use and disposition conditions apply to the property.

Procurement Standards

§ 70.40 Purpose of procurement standards.

Sections 70.41 through 70.48 set forth standards for use by recipients in establishing procedures for the procurement of supplies and other expendable property, equipment, real property and other services with Federal funds. These standards are furnished to ensure that such materials and services are obtained in an effective manner and in compliance with the provisions of applicable Federal statutes and executive orders. No additional procurement standards will be imposed by the Department upon recipients, unless specifically required by Federal statute or executive order or approved by OMB.

§ 70.41 Recipient responsibilities.

The standards contained in this section do not relieve the recipient of

the contractual responsibilities arising under its contract(s). The recipient is the responsible authority, without recourse to the Department, regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements entered into in support of an award or other agreement. This includes disputes, claims, protests of award, source evaluation or other matters of a contractual nature. Matters concerning violation of statute are to be referred to such Federal, State or local authority as may have proper jurisdiction.

§ 70.42 Codes of conduct.

The recipient must maintain written standards of conduct governing the performance of its employees engaged in the award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds if a real or apparent conflict of interest would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for an award. The officers, employees, and agents of the recipient shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, or parties to subagreements. However, recipients may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the recipient.

§ 70.43 Competition.

All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open and free competition. The recipient must be alert to organizational conflicts of interest as well as noncompetitive practices among contractors that may restrict or eliminate competition or otherwise restrain trade. In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids and/or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. Awards must be made to the bidder or offeror whose bid or offer is responsive to the solicitation and is most advantageous to the recipient,

price, quality and other factors considered.

Solicitations must clearly set forth all requirements that the bidder or offeror must fulfill in order for the bid or offer to be evaluated by the recipient. Any and all bids or offers may be rejected when it is in the recipient's interest to do so.

§ 70.44 Procurement procedures.

(a) All recipients must establish written procurement procedures. These procedures must provide for, at a minimum, that paragraphs (a) (1), (2), and (3) of this section apply.

(1) Recipients avoid purchasing unnecessary items.

(2) Where appropriate, an analysis is made of lease and purchase alternatives to determine which would be the most economical and practical procurement for the Federal Government.

(3) Solicitations for goods and services provide for all of the following:

(i) A clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product or service to be procured. In competitive procurements, such a description must not contain features which unduly restrict competition.

(ii) Requirements which the bidder/offeror must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

(iii) A description, whenever practicable, of technical requirements in terms of functions to be performed or performance required, including the range of acceptable characteristics or minimum acceptable standards.

(iv) The specific features of "brand name or equal" descriptions that bidders are required to meet when such items are included in the solicitation.

(v) The acceptance, to the extent practicable and economically feasible, of products and services dimensioned in the metric system of measurement.

(vi) Preference, to the extent practicable and economically feasible, for products and services that conserve natural resources and protect the environment and are energy efficient.

(b) Positive efforts must be made by recipients to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises, whenever possible. Recipients of Federal awards must take all of the following steps to further this goal.

(1) Ensure that small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises are used to the fullest extent practicable.

(2) Make information on forthcoming opportunities available and arrange time frames for purchases and contracts to

encourage and facilitate participation by small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises.

(3) Consider in the contract process whether firms competing for larger contracts intend to subcontract with small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises.

(4) Encourage contracting with consortiums of small businesses, minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises when a contract is too large for one of these firms to handle individually.

(5) Use the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency in the solicitation and utilization of small businesses, minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises.

(c) The type of procuring instruments used (e.g., fixed price contracts, cost reimbursable contracts, purchase orders, and incentive contracts) must be determined by the recipient and must be appropriate for the particular procurement and for promoting the best interest of the program or project involved. The "cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost" or "percentage of construction cost" methods of contracting must not be used.

(d) Contracts must be made only with responsible contractors who possess the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement. Consideration must be given to such matters as contractor integrity, record of past performance, financial and technical resources or accessibility to other necessary resources. In certain circumstances, contracts with certain parties are restricted by agencies' implementation of Exec. Order No. 12549 and 12689, "Debarment and Suspension."

(e) Recipients must, on request, make available for the Department, pre-award review and procurement documents, such as request for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc., when any of the following conditions apply.

(1) A recipient's procurement procedures or operation fails to comply with the procurement standards in the Department's regulation.

(2) The procurement is expected to exceed the small purchase threshold fixed at 41 U.S.C. 403(11) (currently \$25,000) and is to be awarded without competition or only one bid or offer is received in response to a solicitation.

(3) The procurement, which is expected to exceed the small purchase

threshold, specifies a "brand name" product.

(4) The proposed award over the small purchase threshold is to be awarded to other than the apparent low bidder under a sealed bid procurement.

(5) A proposed contract modification changes the scope of a contract or increases the contract amount by more than the amount of the small purchase threshold.

§ 70.45 Cost and price analysis.

Some form of cost or price analysis must be made and documented in the procurement files in connection with every procurement action. Price analysis may be accomplished in various ways, including the comparison of price quotations submitted, market prices and similar indicia, together with discounts. Cost analysis is the review and evaluation of each element of cost to determine reasonableness, allocability and allowability.

§ 70.46 Procurement records.

Procurement records and files for purchases in excess of the small purchase threshold must include the following at a minimum:

- (a) Basis for contractor selection,
- (b) Justification for lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained, and
- (c) Basis for award cost or price.

§ 70.47 Contract administration.

A system for contract administration must be maintained to ensure contractor conformance with the terms, conditions and specifications of the contract and to ensure adequate and timely follow up of all purchases. Recipients must evaluate contractor performance and document, as appropriate, whether contractors have met the terms, conditions and specifications of the contract.

§ 70.48 Contract provisions.

The recipient must include, in addition to provisions to define a sound and complete agreement, the following provisions in all contracts. The following provisions must also be applied to subcontracts.

(a) Contracts in excess of the small purchase threshold must contain contractual provisions or conditions that allow for administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances in which a contractor violates or breaches the contract terms, and provide for such remedial actions as may be appropriate.

(b) All contracts in excess of the small purchase threshold must contain suitable provisions for termination by the recipient, including the manner by

which termination must be effected and the basis for settlement. In addition, such contracts must describe conditions under which the contract may be terminated for default as well as conditions where the contract may be terminated because of circumstances beyond the control of the contractor.

(c) Except as otherwise required by statute, an award that requires the contracting (or subcontracting) for construction or facility improvements must provide for the recipient to follow its own requirements relating to bid guarantees, performance bonds, and payment bonds unless the construction contract or subcontract exceeds \$100,000. For those contracts or subcontracts exceeding \$100,000, the Department may accept the bonding policy and requirements of the recipient, provided the Department has made a determination that the Federal Government's interest is adequately protected. If such a determination has not been made, the minimum requirements are to be as follows:

(1) A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder must, upon acceptance of his bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.

(2) A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.

(3) A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by statute of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

(4) Where bonds are required in the situations described herein, the bonds must be obtained from companies holding certificates of authority as acceptable sureties pursuant to 31 CFR part 223, "Surety Companies Doing Business with the United States."

(d) All negotiated contracts (except those for less than the small purchase threshold) awarded by recipients must include a provision to the effect that the recipient, the Department, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, must have access to any books, documents, papers and records of the contractor which are directly

pertinent to a specific program for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions.

(e) All contracts, including small purchases, awarded by recipients and their contractors must contain the procurement provisions of Appendix A to this part as applicable.

Reports and Records

§ 70.50 Purpose of reports and records.

Sections 70.51 through 70.53 set forth the procedures for monitoring and reporting on the recipient's financial and program performance and the necessary standard reporting forms. They also set forth record retention requirements.

§ 70.51 Monitoring and reporting program performance.

(a) Recipients are responsible for managing and monitoring each project, program, subaward, function or activity supported by the award. Recipients must monitor subawards to ensure subrecipients have met the audit requirements as delineated in § 70.26.

(b) Performance reports must be submitted based on each calendar quarter. Reports are due thirty days after the reporting period, unless stated differently in the terms and conditions of the award. The final performance reports are due ninety calendar days after the expiration or termination of the award.

(c) Performance reports must contain, for each award, brief information on each of the following.

(1) A comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives established for the period, the findings of the investigator, or both. Whenever appropriate and the output of programs or projects can be readily quantified, such quantitative data should be related to cost data for computation of unit costs.

(2) Reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate.

(3) Other pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.

(d) Recipients are required to submit the original and two copies of performance reports.

(e) Recipients must immediately notify DOS, in writing, of developments that have a significant impact on the award-supported activities. Also, written notification must be given in the case of problems, delays, or adverse conditions which materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award. This notification must include a statement of the action taken or

contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

(f) The Department will make site visits, as needed.

(g) The Department will comply with clearance requirements of 5 CFR part 1320 when requesting performance data from recipients.

§ 70.52 Financial reporting.

(a) The following forms or such other forms as may be approved by OMB are authorized for obtaining financial information from recipients.

(1) SF-269 or SF-269A, Financial Status Report.

(i) Recipients are required to use the SF-269 or SF-269A to report the status of funds for all nonconstruction projects or programs.

(ii) Reports must be on an accrual basis. Recipients are not required to convert their accounting system, but must develop such accrual information through best estimates based on an analysis of the documentation on hand.

(iii) The Department requires the SF-269, SF-269A, or turnaround document to be submitted no later than forty days after the calendar quarter. The final report is due ninety days from the end date of the award.

(b) When the Department needs additional information or more frequent reports, the following will be observed.

(1) When additional information is needed to comply with legislative requirements, the Department will issue instructions to require recipients to submit such information under the "Remarks" section of the reports.

(2) When the Department determines that a recipient's accounting system does not meet the standards in § 70.21, additional pertinent information to further monitor awards will be obtained upon written notice to the recipient until such time as the system is brought up to standard. The Department, in obtaining this information, will comply with report clearance requirements of 5 CFR part 1320.

(3) The Department will accept the identical information from the recipients in machine readable format or computer printouts or electronic outputs in lieu of prescribed formats.

(4) The Department will provide computer or electronic outputs to recipients when such expedites or contributes to the accuracy of reporting.

§ 70.53 Retention and access requirements for records.

(a) This section sets forth requirements for record retention and access to records for awards to recipients. The Department will not impose any other record retention or access requirements upon recipients.

(b) Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to an award must be retained for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report or, for awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, from the date of the submission of the quarterly or annual financial report, as authorized by the Department. The only exceptions are the following:

(1) If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the three year period, the records must be retained until all litigation, claims or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken.

(2) Records for real property and equipment acquired with Federal funds must be retained for three years after final disposition.

(3) When records are transferred to or maintained by DOS, the three year retention requirement is not applicable to the recipient.

(4) Indirect cost rate proposals, cost allocations plans, etc. as specified in § 70.53(g).

(c) Copies of original records may be substituted for the original records if authorized by the Department.

(d) The Department will request transfer of certain records to its custody from recipients when it determines that the records possess long term retention value. However, in order to avoid duplicate recordkeeping, the Department will make arrangements for recipients to retain any records that are continuously needed for joint use.

(e) The Department, its Inspector General, Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, have the right of timely and unrestricted access to any books, documents, papers, or other records of recipients that are pertinent to the awards, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, transcripts and copies of such documents. This right also includes timely and reasonable access to a recipient's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents. The rights of access in this paragraph are not limited to the required retention period, but must last as long as records are retained.

(f) Unless required by statute, the Department will not place restrictions on recipients that limit public access to the records of recipients that are pertinent to an award, except when the Department can demonstrate that such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of

Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) if the records had belonged to the Department.

(g) Indirect cost rate proposals, cost allocation plans, etc. Paragraphs (g)(1) and (g)(2) of this section apply to the following types of documents, and their supporting records: Indirect cost rate computations or proposals, cost allocation plans, and any similar accounting computations of the rate at which a particular group of costs is chargeable (such as computer usage chargeback rates or composite fringe benefit rates).

(1) *If submitted for negotiation.* If the recipient submits to the Department or the subrecipient submits to the recipient the proposal, plan, or other computation to form the basis for negotiation of the rate, then the three year retention period for its supporting records starts on the date of such submission.

(2) *If not submitted for negotiation.* If the recipient is not required to submit to the Department or the subrecipient is not required to submit to the recipient the proposal, plan, or other computation for negotiation purposes, then the three year retention period for the proposal, plan, or other computation and its supporting records starts at the end of the fiscal year (or other accounting period) covered by the proposal, plan, or other computation.

Termination and Enforcement

§ 70.60 Purpose of termination and enforcement.

Sections 70.61 and 70.62 set forth uniform suspension, termination and enforcement procedures.

§ 70.61 Termination.

(a) Awards may be terminated in whole or in part only if paragraph (a) (1), (2) or (3) of this section apply.

(1) By the Department, if a recipient materially fails to comply with the terms and conditions of an award.

(2) By the Department with the consent of the recipient, in which case the two parties must agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.

(3) By the recipient upon sending to the Department written notification setting forth the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. However, if the Department determines in the case of partial termination that the reduced or modified portion of the grant will not accomplish the purposes for which the grant was made, it may terminate the grant in its entirety under either paragraph (a) (1) or (2) of this section.

(b) If costs are allowed under an award, the responsibilities of the recipient referred to in § 70.71(a), including those for property management as applicable, must be considered in the termination of the award, and provision must be made for continuing responsibilities of the recipient after termination, as appropriate.

§ 70.62 Enforcement.

(a) *Remedies for noncompliance.* If a recipient materially fails to comply with the terms and conditions of an award, whether stated in a Federal statute, regulation, assurance, application, or notice of award, the Department will, in addition to imposing any of the special conditions outlined in § 70.14, take one or more of the following actions, as appropriate in the circumstances.

(1) Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the recipient or more severe enforcement action by the Department.

(2) Disallow (that is, deny both use of funds and any applicable matching credit for) all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance.

(3) Wholly or partly suspend or terminate the current award.

(4) Withhold further awards for the project or program.

(5) Take other remedies that may be legally available.

(b) *Hearings and appeals.* In taking an enforcement action, the Department will provide the recipient an opportunity for hearing, appeal, or other administrative proceeding to which the recipient is entitled under any statute or regulation applicable to the action involved.

(c) *Effects of suspension and termination.* Costs of a recipient resulting from obligations incurred by the recipient during a suspension or after termination of an award are not allowable unless the Department expressly authorizes them in the notice of suspension or termination or subsequently. Other recipient costs during suspension or after termination which are necessary and not reasonably avoidable are allowable if paragraphs (c) (1) and (2) of this section apply.

(1) The costs result from obligations which were properly incurred by the recipient before the effective date of suspension or termination, are not in anticipation of it, and in the case of a termination, are noncancellable.

(2) The costs would be allowable if the award were not suspended or expired normally at the end of the funding period in which the termination takes effect.

(d) *Relationship to debarment and suspension.* The enforcement remedies identified in this section, including suspension and termination, do not preclude a recipient from being subject to debarment and suspension under Exec. Order No. 12549 and 12689 and DOS implementing regulations (see § 70.13).

Subpart D—After-the-Award Requirements

§ 70.70 Purpose.

Sections 70.71 through 70.73 contain closeout procedures and other procedures for subsequent disallowances and adjustments.

§ 70.71 Closeout procedures.

(a) Recipients must submit, within 90 calendar days after the date of completion of the award, all financial, performance, and other reports as required by the terms and conditions of the award. The Department may approve extensions when requested in writing by the recipient.

(b) Unless the Department authorizes an extension, a recipient must liquidate all obligations incurred under the award not later than ninety calendar days after the funding period or the date of completion as specified in the terms and conditions of the award or in agency implementing instructions.

(c) The Department will make prompt payments to a recipient for allowable reimbursable costs under the award being closed out.

(d) The recipient must promptly refund any balances of unobligated cash that the Department has advanced or paid and that is not authorized to be retained by the recipient for use in other projects. OMB Circular A-129 governs unreturned amounts that become delinquent debts.

(e) When authorized by the terms and conditions of the award, the Department will make a settlement for any upward or downward adjustments to the Federal share of costs after closeout reports are received.

(f) The recipient must account for any real and personal property acquired with Federal funds or received from the Federal Government in accordance with §§ 70.31 through 70.37.

(g) In the event a final audit has not been performed prior to the closeout of an award, the Department retains the right to recover an appropriate amount after fully considering the recommendations on disallowed costs resulting from the final audit.

§ 70.72 Subsequent adjustments and continuing responsibilities.

(a) The closeout of an award does not affect any of the following.

(1) The right of the Department to disallow costs and recover funds on the basis of a later audit or other review.

(2) The obligation of the recipient to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections, or other transactions.

(3) Audit requirements in § 70.26.

(4) Property management requirements in §§ 70.31 through 70.37.

(5) Records retention as required in § 70.53.

(b) After closeout of an award, a relationship created under an award may be modified or ended in whole or in part with the consent of the Department and the recipient, provided the responsibilities of the recipient referred to in § 70.73(a), including those for property management as applicable, are considered and provisions made for continuing responsibilities of the recipient, as appropriate.

§ 70.73 Collection of amounts due.

(a) Any funds paid to a recipient in excess of the amount to which the recipient is finally determined to be entitled under the terms and conditions of the award constitute a debt to the Federal Government. If not paid within a reasonable period after the demand for payment, the Department may reduce the debt by paragraph (a) (1), (2) or (3) of this section.

(1) Making an administrative offset against other requests for reimbursements.

(2) Withholding advance payments otherwise due to the recipient.

(3) Taking other action permitted by statute.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, the Department may charge interest on an overdue debt in accordance with 4 CFR Chapter II, "Federal Claims Collection Standards."

Appendix A to Part 70—Contract Provisions

All contracts, awarded by a recipient including small purchases, must contain the following provisions as applicable:

1. *Equal Employment Opportunity*—All contracts must contain a provision requiring compliance with Exec. Order No. 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Exec. Order No. 11375, "Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity," and as supplemented by regulations at 41 CFR part 60, "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor."

2. *Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act* (18 U.S.C. 874 and 40 U.S.C. 276c)—All

contracts and subawards in excess of \$2000 for construction or repair awarded by recipients and subrecipients must include a provision for compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. 874), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR part 3, "Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States"). The Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled. The recipient must report all suspected or reported violations to the Department.

3. *Davis-Bacon Act, as amended* (40 U.S.C. 276a to a-7)—When required by Federal program legislation, all construction contracts awarded by the recipients and subrecipients of more than \$2000 must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a to a-7) and as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR part 5, "Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Governing Federally Financed and Assisted Construction"). Under this Act, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the minimum wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors are required to pay wages not less than once a week. The recipient must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation and the award of a contract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The recipient must report all suspected or reported violations to the Department.

4. *Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act* (40 U.S.C. 327-333)—Where applicable, all contracts awarded by recipients in excess of \$2000 for construction contracts and in excess of \$2500 for other contracts that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with sections 102 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-333), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR part 5). Under section 102 of the Act, each contractor is required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of forty hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in the work week. Section 107 of the Act is applicable to construction work and provides that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

5. *Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement*—Contracts or

agreements for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work must provide for the rights of the Federal Government and the recipient in any resulting invention in accordance with 37 CFR part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements," and any implementing regulations issued by the awarding agency.

6. *Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)*, as amended—Contracts and subawards of amounts in excess of \$100,000 must contain a provision that requires the recipient to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.). Violations must be reported to the DOS and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

7. *Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352)*—Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more must file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient.

8. *Debarment and Suspension (Exec. Order No. 12549 and 12689)*—No contract shall be made to parties listed on the General Services Administration's List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Nonprocurement Programs in accordance with Exec. Order No. 12549 and 12689, "Debarment and Suspension." This list contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, and contractors declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Exec. Order No. 12549. Contractors with awards that exceed the small purchase threshold must provide the required certification regarding its exclusion status and that of its principal employees.

Dated: July 18, 1995.

Janet Reno,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 95-18157 Filed 7-25-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-18-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 36

RIN 2900-AG14

Loan Guaranty: Implementation of Public Laws 102-547, 103-66, 103-78, 103-325, 103-353, and 103-446

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) loan guaranty regulations to implement certain provisions of various public laws. VA is amending its regulations to provide for loans to Reservists and members of the National Guard, loans with negotiated interest rates, adjustable rate mortgages, restoration of entitlement in certain cases, energy efficient mortgages, and flood zone determination fees. VA is also amending its regulations in the areas of manufactured housing certifications, certain interest rate reduction refinancing loans, and conveyance of properties notwithstanding overbids. In addition, the regulations are amended to reflect a reduced funding fee for interest rate reduction refinancing loans and an increase in the maximum guaranty amount. These changes increase the types of loans available to veterans and the categories of veterans eligible for VA home loans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule is effective on August 25, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Judith Caden, Assistant Director for Loan Policy (264), Loan Guaranty Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7368.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 24, 1994, VA published in the **Federal Register** (59 FR 8881) proposed regulatory amendments implementing Public Laws 102-547, 103-66, and 103-78. The proposed amendments were published to change: [1] 38 CFR 36.4312, to add a funding fee structure for loans to members of the Selected Reserves; [2] §§ 36.4212 and 36.4311, to allow VA guaranteed loans to bear interest at rates agreed upon by the veteran and the lender; [3] §§ 36.4212(b) and 36.4311(b), to provide that discount points cannot be financed, except for interest rate reduction refinancing loans; [4] §§ 36.4212 and 36.4311, to provide for VA guaranteed loans with adjustable interest rates; [5] §§ 36.4302 and

36.4336, to provide for energy efficient mortgages; [6] §§ 36.4232, 36.4254, and 36.4312, to reduce the funding fee for interest rate reduction refinancing loans to 0.50 percent of the total loan amount; [7] § 36.4312, to increase the funding fee on most guaranteed loans and for the second and subsequent use of the loan guaranty benefit, except for interest rate reduction refinancing loans; and [8] §§ 36.4223 and 36.4302, to revise the guaranty percentage for certain interest rate reduction refinancing loans. Please refer to the February 24, 1994, **Federal Register** for a complete discussion of the proposed amendments. This document adopts the regulatory amendments as originally proposed, except for a technical change discussed below, revisions of authority citations, amendments reflecting statutory changes made by Public Laws 103-325, 103-353, and 103-446, and non-substantive changes.

VA received three comments on the proposed amendments. Two commenters noted that the veteran is permitted to finance discount points on interest rate reduction refinancing loans, and suggested that the veteran be allowed to finance discount points on purchase loans as well. This suggestion cannot be adopted because the financing of discount points on purchase loans is prohibited by statute; see 38 U.S.C. 3703(c).

A third commenter supported the amendments which allow VA to guarantee a loan above the reasonable value of the property for the purpose of adding energy efficient improvements to the home. This commenter recommended that language be added to the regulations requiring "that financed energy improvements meet efficiency standards that exceed, by some pre-determined level, those otherwise applicable in the jurisdiction."

We do not believe it would be appropriate to require specific standards for energy efficient improvements. Local variations in climate, energy sources and energy efficiency requirements would make it difficult to implement and monitor the use of such standards. Furthermore, standards for energy efficient improvements could be perceived by program participants as unnecessarily complicating the lending process and have an adverse impact on this area of VA's home loan program.

This commenter also suggested that prior to the closing of a VA guaranteed loan the purchaser be required to obtain an energy audit which would provide an estimate of home energy consumption and information about potential cost-effective improvements to reduce that consumption. VA is