

# Rules and Regulations

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## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### 5 CFR Part 410

RIN 3206-AF99

#### Training

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Correcting amendment.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains a correction to final regulations which were published in the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, December 17, 1996, (61 FR 66189). The regulations related to the requirements for training Government employees subject to chapter 41 of title 5 of the United States Code.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Judith Lombard, 202-606-2431, EMAIL [jmlombard@opm.gov](mailto:jmlombard@opm.gov), or FAX 202-606-2394.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The regulations subject to this correction affect the training of Federal employees. Because a word is missing, the subsection on requirements for continued service agreements, § 410.309(b)(2), contains an inaccurate statement. The correction adds the missing word.

##### Need for Correction

As published in the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, December 17, 1996, (61 FR 66189), the final regulations contain an error which may prove to be misleading and needs to be corrected.

##### List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 410

Education, Government employees.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**  
*Director.*

Accordingly, 5 CFR part 410 is corrected by making the following correcting amendment:

#### PART 410—TRAINING

1. The authority citation for 5 CFR part 410 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 4101, *et seq.*; E.O. 11348, 3 CFR, 1967 Comp., p. 275.

##### § 410.309 [Corrected]

2. In § 410.309 paragraph (b)(2), in the first sentence, after the word "after," add the word "training".

[FR Doc. 98-34395 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### 5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AI48

#### Prevailing Rate Systems; Lead Agency Responsibility

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a final rule that will change the lead agency responsibility for certain Federal Wage System (FWS) appropriated fund wage areas from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the Department of Defense (DOD). VA requested that OPM designate DOD as the lead agency in all of the wage areas where VA currently has lead agency responsibility. This change will make DOD the lead agency in all FWS wage areas and will make more efficient use of the resources devoted by agencies to determining FWS pay rates.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective on January 1, 1999, except that VA will retain lead agency responsibility for the Roanoke, Virginia, wage area until the next wage schedule for that wage area is established on January 17, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Hopkins at (202) 606-2848, or send an email message to [jdhopkin@opm.gov](mailto:jdhopkin@opm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 2, 1998, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published a proposed rule (63 FR 58659) to transfer lead agency responsibility for the New Haven-Hartford, Connecticut; Miami, Florida; Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida; Champaign-Urbana, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois; Cedar Rapids-Iowa City, Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; Augusta, Maine; Boston, Massachusetts; Southwestern Michigan; Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; New York, New York; Rochester, New York; Asheville, North Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Southwestern Oregon; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Eastern Tennessee; Houston-Galveston-Texas City, Texas; Roanoke, Virginia; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, FWS wage areas from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the Department of Defense (DOD).

The proposed rule provided a 30-day period for public comment, during which OPM received one comment from a labor organization, which requested that OPM pursue enactment of appropriations legislation that would specifically designate funds for VA to conduct local FWS wage surveys. However, the commenter recognized that under present conditions there is no acceptable alternative but to make the proposed changes in lead agency responsibility effective. The possibility of requesting that Congress appropriate funds to VA specifically for conducting FWS wage surveys was raised and considered by the members of FPRAC. However, the Committee did not adopt this suggestion (which is outside the scope of our regulatory authority) as part of its recommendation to OPM.

Under 5 U.S.C. 5343(a)(2), OPM is responsible for designating lead agencies in Federal Wage System (FWS) wage areas. Lead agencies are responsible for conducting surveys of private sector employers to establish wage schedules for FWS employees based on local prevailing rates. The Department of Defense (DOD) is the lead agency in 110 FWS wage areas, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the lead agency in 23 FWS wage areas. VA is currently the lead agency in the New Haven-Hartford, Connecticut; Miami, Florida; Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida; Champaign-Urbana, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois; Cedar Rapids-Iowa