

Per diem locality		Maximum lodging amount (room rate only-no taxes) (a)	+	M&IE rate (b)	=	Maximum per diem rate 4 (c)
Key city 1	County and/or other defined location 2,3					
Denver	Denver	83		42		125
Jefferson County	Jefferson County	69		34		103
GEORGIA						
Cobb County	Cobb County	78		34		112
DeKalb County	DeKalb County	78		34		112
NEW YORK						
Great Neck	That part of Nassau County defined as north of the Southern States Parkway (see Nassau County).	190		42		232
Nassau County	That part of Nassau County not defined as north of the Southern States Parkway (see Great Neck).	120		38		158
Suffolk County	Suffolk County	155		38		193

Dated: May 18, 1999.

David J. Barram,

Administrator of General Services.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

41 CFR Part 300-80

RIN 3090-AG88

[FTR Amendment 83]

Federal Trade Regulation; Travel and Relocation Expenses Test Programs

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) is amending the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) to add authority to implement sections of the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998, which authorize Federal agencies to conduct travel and relocation expenses test programs when determined by the Administrator of

General Services to be in the interest of the Government. This change will permit agencies to test new and innovative methods of reimbursing travel and relocation expenses without seeking a waiver of current rules or authorizing legislation. It will also assist the Government in determining whether such innovations provide advantageous and effective travel and transportation costs and processes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Harte, Travel Team Leader, Travel and Transportation Management Policy Division (MTT), telephone 202-501-0483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 19, 1998, the President signed into law the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998 (the Act) (Pub. L. 105-264). This change will implement the provisions of the Act authorizing travel and relocation expenses test programs designed to enhance cost savings or other efficiencies that may accrue to the Government. This final rule is written in the plain language style of regulation writing as a continuation of GSA's effort to make the

FTR easier to understand and use. A proposed rule with request for comments was published in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, February 10, 1999 (64 FR 6590). No comments were received.

A. Executive Order 12866

GSA has determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This final rule is not required to be published in the **Federal Register** for notice and comment; therefore, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the final rule does not impose recordkeeping or information collection requirements, or the collection of information from offerors, contractors, or members of the public which require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 501 *et seq.*

D. Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This final rule is also exempt from congressional review prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 801 since it relates solely to agency management and personnel.

List of Subjects in 41 CFR Part 300-80

Government employees, Travel and transportation expenses.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 41 CFR part 300-80 is added to read as follows:

PART 300-80—TRAVEL AND RELOCATION EXPENSES TEST PROGRAMS

Sec.

- 300-80.1 What is a travel and relocation expenses test program?
 300-80.2 Who may authorize such test programs?
 300-80.3 What must be done to apply for test program authority?
 300-80.4 How many test programs may be authorized by GSA throughout the Government?
 300-80.5 What factors will GSA consider in approving a request for a travel or relocation expenses test program?
 300-80.6 May the same agency be authorized to test travel and relocation expenses programs at the same time?
 300-80.7 What limits are there to test programs?
 300-80.8 What is the maximum duration of test programs?
 300-80.9 What reports are required for a test program?
 300-80.10 When does the authority of GSA to authorize test programs expire?

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5707, 5710, 5738, and 5739.

PART 300-80—TRAVEL AND RELOCATION EXPENSES TEST PROGRAMS

§ 300-80.1 What is a travel and relocation expenses test program?

It is a program to permit agencies to test new and innovative methods of reimbursing travel and relocation

expenses without seeking a waiver of current rules or authorizing legislation.

§ 300-80.2 Who may authorize such test programs?

The Administrator of General Services may authorize an agency to conduct such tests when the Administrator determines such tests to be in the interest of the Government.

§ 300-80.3 What must be done to apply for test program authority?

The head of the agency or designee must design the test program to enhance cost savings or other efficiencies to the Government and submit in writing to the Administrator of General Services (Attention: MTT), 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405:

- (a) An explanation of the test program;
- (b) If applicable, the specific provisions of the FTR from which the agency is deviating (travel and/or relocation);
- (c) An analysis of the expected costs and benefits; and
- (d) A set of criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

§ 300-80.4 How many test programs may be authorized by GSA throughout the government?

No more than 10 travel expense test programs and 10 relocation expense test programs may be conducted at the same time.

§ 300-80.5 What factors will GSA consider in approving a request for a travel or relocation expenses test program?

The following factors will be considered:

- (a) Potential savings to the Government.
- (b) Application of results to other agencies.
- (c) Feasibility of successful implementation.
- (d) Number of tests, if any, already authorized to the same activity.
- (e) Whether the request meets the requirements of § 300-80.3.

- (f) Other agency requests under consideration at the time of submission.
- (g) Uniqueness of proposed test.

§ 300-80.6 May the same agency be authorized to test travel and relocation expenses programs at the same time?

Yes, if authorized, both test programs may be conducted by the same agency at the same time.

§ 300-80.7 What limits are there to test programs?

None. When authorized by the Administrator of General Services, the agency may pay any necessary travel or relocation expenses in lieu of payments authorized or required under chapters 301 and 302 of this title.

§ 300-80.8 What is the maximum duration of test programs?

The test program may not exceed 24 months from the date the test is authorized to begin.

§ 300-80.9 What reports are required for a test program?

Two reports are required:
 (a) The Administrator of General Services must submit a copy of an approved test program to Congress at least 30 days before the effective date of the authorized test program.

(b) The agency authorized to conduct the test program must submit a report on the results of the test program to the Administrator of General Services (Attention: MTT), 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, and to Congress within 3 months after completion of the program.

§ 300-80.10 When does the authority of GSA to authorize test programs expire?

The authority to conduct test programs expires on October 20, 2005.

Dated: May 7, 1999.

David J. Barram,

Administrator of General Services.

[FR Doc. 99-13125 Filed 5-26-99; 8:45 am]

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