

## Office of Personnel Management

## § 3.1

the required period of service his appointment shall be converted to a career appointment without time limitation: *Provided*, That his career-conditional appointment shall not be converted to a career appointment if the limitation on the number of permanent employees in the Federal civil service established under paragraph (b) of this section would be exceeded thereby. Persons selected from competitive civil service registers for other than temporary appointment shall be given career-conditional appointments: *Provided*, That career appointments shall be given to the following classes of eligibles:

(1) Persons whose appointments are required by statute to be made on a permanent basis;

(2) Employees serving under career appointments at the time of selection from such registers;

(3) Former employees who have eligibility for career appointments upon reinstatement; and

(4) To the extent permitted by law, persons appointed to positions in the field service of the U.S. Postal Service for which salary rates are fixed by the act of July 6, 1945, 59 Stat. 435, as heretofore or hereafter amended and supplemented.

(b) Under the career-conditional appointment system there shall be a limit on the number of permanent employees in the Federal civil service which shall be the ceiling established by section 1310 of the Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1952 (65 Stat. 757), as amended. In the event section 1310, supra, is repealed, OPM is authorized to fix such limitation on the number of permanent employees in the Federal civil service as it finds necessary to meet the needs of the service.

(c) OPM may determine the types, duration, and conditions of indefinite and temporary appointments, and may prescribe the method for replacing persons holding such appointments.

### § 2.3 Apportionment.

Subject to such modifications as OPM finds to be necessary in the interest of good administration, appointments to positions in agencies' headquarters offices which are located within the metropolitan area of Wash-

ington, DC, shall be made so as to maintain the apportionment of appointments among the several States, Territories, and the District of Columbia upon the basis of population.

### § 2.4 Probationary period.

Persons selected from registers of eligibles for career or career-conditional appointment and employees promoted, transferred, or otherwise assigned, for the first time, to supervisory or managerial positions shall be required to serve a probationary period under terms and conditions prescribed by the Office.

[45 FR 4337, Jan. 22, 1980]

## PART 3—NONCOMPETITIVE ACQUISITION OF STATUS (RULE III)

Sec.

3.1 Classes of persons who may noncompetitively acquire status.

3.2 Appointments without competitive examination in rare cases.

3.3 Conversion of appointments.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 3301, 3302.

SOURCE: 28 FR 10023, Sept. 14, 1963, unless otherwise noted.

### § 3.1 Classes of persons who may noncompetitively acquire status.

(a) Upon recommendation by the agency concerned, and subject to such noncompetitive examination, time limits, or other requirements as OPM may prescribe the following classes of persons may acquire a competitive status without competitive examination:

(1) A person holding a permanent position when it is placed in the competitive service by statute or executive order or is otherwise made subject to competitive examination.

(2) A disabled veteran who, in a manner satisfactory to OPM, has completed a course of training in the executive branch of the Government prescribed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with the act of March 24, 1943 (57 Stat. 43).

(3) An employee who has served at least two years in the immediate office of the President or on the White House Staff and who is transferred to a competitive position at the request of an agency.

### § 3.2

(4) An employee who was serving when his name was reached for certification on a civil service register appropriate for the position in which he was serving: *Provided*, That the recommendation for competitive status is made prior to expiration of the register on which his name appears or is made during a period of continuous service since his name was reached: *Provided further*, That the register was being used for appointments conferring competitive status at the time his name was reached.

(b) Upon recommendation by the employing agency, and subject to such requirements as the Office of Personnel Management may prescribe, the following classes of handicapped employees may acquire competitive status without competitive examination:

(1) A severely physically handicapped employee who completes at least two years of satisfactory service in a position excepted from the competitive service.

(2) A mentally retarded employee who completes at least two years of satisfactory service in a position excepted from the competitive service.

(3) An employee with a psychiatric disability who completes at least 2 years of satisfactory service in a position excepted from the competitive service.

[28 FR 10023, Sept. 14, 1963, as amended by E.O. 12125, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 375; 65 FR 41868, July 7, 2000]

### § 3.2 Appointments without competitive examination in rare cases.

Subject to receipt of satisfactory evidence of the qualifications of the person to be appointed, OPM may authorize an appointment in the competitive service without competitive examination whenever it finds that the duties or compensation of the position are such, or that qualified persons are so rare, that, in the interest of good civil-service administration, the position cannot be filled through open competitive examination. Any person herebefore or hereafter appointed under this section shall acquire a competitive status upon completion of at least one year of satisfactory service and compliance with such requirements as OPM may prescribe. Detailed statements of

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the reasons for the noncompetitive appointments made under this section shall be published in OPM's annual reports.

### § 3.3 Conversion of appointments.

Any person who acquires a competitive status under this part shall have his appointment converted to career-conditional appointment unless he meets the service requirement for career appointment prescribed under § 2.2(a) of this subchapter.

## PART 4—PROHIBITED PRACTICES (RULE IV)

Sec.

4.1 Prohibition against political activity.

4.2 Prohibition against racial, political or religious discrimination.

4.3 Prohibition against securing withdrawal from competition.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 3301, 3302.

### § 4.1 Prohibition against political activity.

No person employed in the executive branch of the Federal Government, or any agency or department thereof, shall use his official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or affecting the result thereof. No person occupying a position in the competitive service shall take any active part in political management or in political campaigns, except as may be provided by or pursuant to statute. All such persons shall retain the right to vote as they may choose and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates.

[28 FR 10024, Sept. 14, 1963]

### § 4.2 Prohibition against racial, political or religious discrimination.

No person employed in the executive branch of the Federal Government who has authority to take or recommend any personnel action with respect to any person who is an employee in the competitive service or any eligible or applicant for a position in the competitive service shall make any inquiry concerning the race, political affiliation, or religious beliefs of any such employee, eligible, or applicant. All disclosures concerning such matters shall be ignored, except as to such