

§ 240.2

other unauthorized indorsements or other material defects or alterations.

§ 240.2 Definitions.

(a) *Certifying agency* means an agency for whom a Treasury disbursing officer or a non-Treasury disbursing officer makes payment in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3325. The responsibilities of a certifying official are set forth at 31 U.S.C. 3528.

(b) *Check* or *Checks* means a check or checks drawn on the United States Treasury.

(c) *Check payment* means the amount paid to a presenting bank in accordance with § 240.9(a)(3) of this part.

(d) *Commissioner* means the Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, 401 14th Street SW., Washington, DC 20227.

(e) *Days* means calendar days.

(f) *Financial institution* means any bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, Federal or State chartered credit union, or similar institution.

(g) *Item* means a reference in a monthly interest billing statement to a check for the amount of which Treasury has demanded refund from a presenting bank.

(h) *Monthly interest billing statement* means a statement prepared by Treasury and sent to a presenting bank which includes the following information regarding each outstanding demand for refund:

- (1) The reclamation date;
- (2) The reclamation number;
- (3) Check identifying information; and
- (4) The balance due, including interest.

(i) *Person* or *persons* means an individual or individuals, or an institution or institutions including all forms of financial institutions.

(j) *Presenting bank* means:

(1) A financial institution which, either directly or through a correspondent banking relationship, presents checks to and receives provisional credit from a Federal Reserve Bank; or

(2) A depository which is authorized to charge checks directly to the General Account of the United States Treasury and present them to Treasury

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for payment through a designated Federal Reserve Bank.

(k) *Protest* means a presenting bank's written statement and any supporting documentation tending to prove that it is not liable for refund of the reclamation balance.

(l) *Reclamation* means a demand by Treasury for refund of the amount of a check payment.

(m) *Reclamation date* means the date on which a demand for refund was prepared. Normally, demands are sent to presenting banks within two working days of the reclamation date.

(n) *Treasury* means the United States Treasury.

(o) *U.S. securities* means securities of the United States and securities of Federal agencies and wholly or partially government-owned corporations for which the Treasury acts as the transfer agent.

(p) *Unauthorized indorsement* means:

(1) An indorsement made by a person other than the payee, except as authorized by and in accordance with § 204.5 and §§ 240.11 through 240.15;

(2) An indorsement by a financial institution under circumstances in which the financial institution breaches the guaranty required of it by 31 CFR 209.9(a) (*See*, 31 CFR 209.8); or

(3) A missing indorsement where the depository bank had no authority to supply the indorsement.

§ 240.3 Limitations on payment.

(a) As a general rule,

(1) The Commissioner shall not be required to pay a Treasury check issued on or after October 1, 1989 unless it is negotiated to a financial institution within 12 months after the date on which the check was issued; and

(2) The Commissioner shall not be required to pay a Treasury check issued before October 1, 1989 unless it is negotiated to a financial institution no later than October 1, 1990.

(b) All checks drawn on the United States Treasury and issued on or after October 1, 1989 shall bear a legend, stating "Void After One Year." The legend is notice to payees and indorsers of a general limitation on the payment of Treasury checks. The legend, or the inadvertent lack thereof, does not