

Federal Property Management Regulations

§ 101-45.1003

Subpart 101-45.10—Recovery of Precious Metals

SOURCE: 53 FR 16123, May 5, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 101-45.1000 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes the policy and procedures for recovery of precious metals from articles of excess and surplus personal property.

§ 101-45.1001 General.

GSA is responsible for the initiation and development of Government-wide precious metals recovery programs, and for the issuance and administration of applicable contracts, except those issued and administered by DOD for precious metals recovery and refinement operations. Situations will occur where, in terms of economy, efficiency, and environmental quality, it is in the best interest of the Government to recover precious metals from articles of excess and surplus personal property instead of using other methods of disposal. GSA will determine when Government-wide recovery is appropriate on the basis of an evaluation of the supply-demand factor, the price of the commodity, the cost of recovering the precious metal, and applicable guidelines or regulations on pollution control.

§ 101-45.1002 Agency responsibilities.

Heads of executive agencies are responsible for establishing, maintaining, and pursuing a program for recovery of precious metals. The provisions of this § 101-45.1002 provide guidance with respect to surveys, assignments of program monitors, and internal audits. Precious metals that may be designated for recovery include gold, silver, and metals in the platinum family. Examples of silver bearing scrap and waste include used photographic fixing (hypo) solution, photographic and X-ray film, silver alloys, and dental scrap. Other examples of precious metals bearing materials include electronic scrap, ADPE, welding and brazing wire, anodes, and batteries. Certain strategic and critical materials may also be designated for recovery.

[62 FR 34013, June 24, 1997]

§ 101-45.1002-1 Precious metals recovery surveys.

Each agency shall identify those activities that generate silver or other precious metals (including used hypo solution, scrap film, and other precious metals bearing materials). Activities identified as generating precious metals bearing materials shall be surveyed to obtain information regarding actual or potential precious metals recovery. Estimates of potential recovery may be obtained through use of testing papers for hypo solution; various charts, tables, and scales for scrap film, assays of samples of precious metals bearing materials; or other acceptable methods of estimating potential precious metals contents.

§ 101-45.1002-2 [Reserved]

§ 101-45.1002-3 Precious metals recovery program monitor.

Each agency should designate an individual to monitor its precious metals recovery program. Responsibilities of the precious metals monitor should include conducting and initiating surveys; implementing and improving recovery procedures; and monitoring the agency's recovery program.

[62 FR 34013, June 24, 1997]

§ 101-45.1002-4 Internal audits.

Each agency should require periodic internal audits of its precious metals recovery program. The internal audits should be of such frequency and scope as to provide for proper control over the recovery, storage, and disposition of precious metals bearing materials. Primary elements for review should include document control and record maintenance; storage facilities and security controls; methods of recovery and equipment operation; and procedures for recovering precious metals through service contracts or disposal through sales contracts.

§ 101-45.1003 Recovery of silver from precious metals bearing materials.

(a) Each agency should recover silver regardless of the quantity of used hypo solution or scrap film generated. Installations of a silver recovery unit consistent with the quantity of used hypo solution generated or storage of

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used hypo solution or scrap film until a processible quantity is obtained are two alternatives. If an activity generates small quantities of hypo solution and tests show that there is a minimal amount of silver per gallon of solution, arrangements should be made, to the extent feasible, with another activity in the area which is using a recovery unit to receive and process the hypo solution. When the actual amount of silver recovered is substantially less than the estimated amount potentially recoverable, agencies should fully document the reason for the substantial difference.

(b) When recovery by an agency is not economically feasible and consolidation with other activities is not practical, the regional GSA Federal Supply Service Bureau serving the area or the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) (in accordance with §101-45.1004) should be contacted for assistance. If it is determined that silver recovery cannot be accomplished economically by Government-owned equipment or by a commercial recovery contractor, the hypo solution, scrap film, or other silver bearing materials should be disposed of in accordance with part 101-45 in an environmentally acceptable manner.

§ 101-45.1003-1 Guidelines for the recovery of silver from used hypo solution and scrap film.

The basic factors that determine the potential quantity of recoverable silver are: The amount of used hypo solution or scrap film generated; the amount and type of film processed; and the physical layout and available recovery equipment of the photographic facility. Since these factors may vary for each facility, a single method of recovery cannot be prescribed.

§ 101-45.1003-2 Recovery of silver from used hypo solution.

Used hypo solution should be processed to recover the maximum amount of silver from the solution, consistent with overall economic feasibility and environmental considerations. Recovery can be effected either by Government-owned equipment or through use of commercial recovery contracts. Various types and sizes of equipment using metallic replacement or electrolytic

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methods of recovery are available which permit economic silver recovery from both large and small quantities of used hypo solution.

§ 101-45.1003-3 Recovery of silver from scrap film.

Scrap film, the silver content of which varies according to the type of film and the degree of exposure, is a major source of recovered silver. One method of recovering silver from scrap film is by burning the film in specially designed and approved incinerators. The burning reduces the film to high content silver bearing ash which can be economically processed to produce fine silver. Recovery onsite by controlled burning should only be accomplished at those activities or installations where approved facilities exist and the local code on burning permits it. A common alternative method of recovery is through periodic disposal of accumulated scrap film by sale in accordance with part 101-45.

§ 101-45.1004 Recovery and use of precious metals through the DOD Precious Metals Recovery Program.

Civil agencies may use the DOD Precious Metals Recovery Program as prescribed in §101-45.1004.

§ 101-45.1004-1 Civil agency participation in the DOD Precious Metals Recovery Program.

(a) Civil agencies wishing to participate in the DOD precious metals recovery system should contact the Manager, DOD Precious Metals Recovery Program, Attention: DLA-MMLC, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, for further information regarding the following plans:

(1) *Plan I.* An appraisal or survey of the agency's precious metals recovery potential and a recommendation as to appropriate recovery techniques and equipment;

(2) *Plan II.* DLA acceptance of photographic wastes, excess, and other precious metals bearing materials at Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices (DRMO's) or other disposition sites;

(3) *Plan III.* Disposition and shipping instructions for recovered precious metals bearing materials not authorized for acceptance at local DRMO's;