

§ 304-1.7

41 CFR Ch. 304 (7-1-02 Edition)

as practicable for credit to the agency appropriation applicable to such expenses. When the acceptance of payment has been approved in advance by the designated agency official, the agency, or employee on behalf of the agency for his/her travel (and/or that of the accompanying spouse, when applicable), may, in accordance with the provisions of §304-1.3(d), accept payment in excess of applicable limitations, provided that the accommodation or other benefit furnished is comparable in value to that offered to, or purchased by, other similarly situated individuals attending the meeting or similar function. When the applicable limitation will be exceeded, payment should be required in advance of the travel.

(b) *Payment in kind.* When the acceptance of payment has been approved in advance by the designated agency official, the employee, for his/her travel (and/or that of the accompanying spouse, when applicable), may, in accordance with the provisions of §304-1.3(d), accept payment in kind in excess of applicable limitations, provided that the accommodation or other benefit furnished is comparable in value to that offered to, or purchased by, other similarly situated individuals attending the meeting or similar function.

§ 304-1.7 Reimbursement claims for official travel expenses.

(a) The employee (and/or accompanying spouse when applicable) shall submit to the employing agency on authorized reimbursement forms all travel expense reimbursement claims, and shall itemize all expenses incurred which exceed applicable limitations (see §304-1.3(d)). Generally, the employee, and/or accompanying spouse when applicable, shall be reimbursed an amount not to exceed applicable limitations. However, when the non-Federal source, in accordance with the provisions of §304-1.3(d), makes full payment in excess of applicable limitations for reimbursable subsistence expenses or common carrier transportation expenses incurred, reimbursement shall be the amount of the payment from the non-Federal source. Reimbursement for expenses in excess of regulatory limitations shall not in any

case exceed the amount of the expenses incurred.

(b) The agency may reimburse the employee (and/or accompanying spouse of such employee when applicable) for only the types of expenses defined in §§301-7.1 (b)(6) and (c) of this subtitle or in analogous provisions of 6 FAM 100 or the JFTR, as applicable, for per diem allowances, transportation expenses, or other miscellaneous travel expenses.

(c) If an accepted payment covers only a portion of one or more types of the expenses incurred (e.g., \$50.00 per night for lodging in a locality with an \$85.00 per night maximum lodging allowance), the agency shall reimburse the employee (and/or accompanying spouse when applicable) only the amount to which he/she otherwise would be entitled under applicable regulation (chapter 301 of this subtitle, 6 FAM 100, or the JFTR). (See §304-1.3(e) regarding reduced per diem rate situations.)

(d) If an accepted payment covers in full one or more types of expenses described in paragraph (b) of this section (e.g., payment for lodging accommodations) but does not cover all of the travel expenses incurred, the agency shall reimburse the employee (and/or accompanying spouse of such employee when applicable) for those expenses that are not covered by the payment, not to exceed applicable limitations established in chapter 301 of this subtitle or in analogous provisions of 6 FAM 100 or the JFTR.

§ 304-1.8 Limitations and penalties.

(a) This part is the only authority under which an agency may accept payment from a non-Federal source, or authorize an employee to accept such payment on behalf of the agency, in connection with the attendance of its employee (and/or the accompanying spouse of such employee when applicable) at a meeting or similar function. An agency may not accept, under an agency gift statute or other similar authority, payment for travel, subsistence, and related expenses incurred by an employee and/or accompanying spouse to attend a meeting or similar function. However, nothing in this part prohibits an agency or employee from accepting payment as follows:

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(1) When authorized under 5 U.S.C. 4111 or 5 U.S.C. 7342;

(2) When payment is for travel to be performed for a partisan rather than an official purpose in the case of an employee who is exempt from the Hatch Act under 5 U.S.C. 7324(d);

(3) When authorized pursuant to an agency gift statute or similar statutory authority and payment is for attendance at or participation in an event (other than a meeting or similar function) relating to the official duties of the employee; or

(4) When consistent with the applicable standards of ethical conduct regulation concerning personal acceptance of gifts.

(b) An employee who accepts any payment in violation of this part is subject to the following:

(1) The employee may be required, in addition to any penalty provided by law and applicable regulations, to repay for deposit to the general fund of the Treasury, an amount equal to the amount of the payment so accepted; and

(2) When repayment is required under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the employee shall not be entitled to any reimbursement from the Government for such expenses.

§ 304-1.9 Reports.

(a) *Agency reports.* Each agency shall submit semiannual reports of payments (see definition of payment in § 304-1.2(c)) which total more than \$250 per event, and which have been accepted under this part with respect to the attendance at, or participation in, a meeting or similar function by an agency employee, and/or accompanying spouse of such employee when applicable. Negative reports are required.

(1) *Submission.* The head of each agency (or his/her designee) shall submit the semiannual report to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005-3917. The report shall be based on when payment is received rather than when travel is performed, and shall be submitted as follows:

(i) Not later than May 31 of each year with respect to payments received in

the preceding period beginning on October 1 and ending on March 31; and

(ii) Not later than November 30 of each year with respect to payments received in the preceding period beginning on April 1 and ending on September 30.

(2) *Information required.* Except as provided in paragraph (a)(6) of this section, the report shall specify the following information in the order presented:

(i) The name of the agency submitting the report;

(ii) Each event (meeting or similar function) for which an agency accepts payment under this part of more than \$250 for an employee and spouse together, or for either the employee or the spouse separately, including:

- (A) The sponsor(s) of the event;
- (B) The location of the event;
- (C) The date(s) of the event; and
- (D) The nature of the event;

(iii) The name of each employee for whom such payment was accepted in connection with the event, including:

- (A) The employee's Government position; and
- (B) The employee's travel date(s) in connection with attendance at the event;

(iv) The name of the accompanying spouse, if applicable, for whom payment was accepted in connection with the event, including:

- (A) The name of the employee accompanied by the spouse;
- (B) The employee's Government position; and
- (C) The spouse's travel date(s) in connection with attendance at the event;

(v) The identity of any non-Federal source from which payment was accepted in connection with the event;

(vi) An itemization of the benefits accepted by the agency in connection with attendance at the event, including for each benefit:

(A) A description of the benefit, provided that benefits accepted as a part of a conference or training fee need not be reported separately;

(B) The method of payment (payment in kind or by check or similar instrument);

(C) The individual for whom payment was accepted (employee or spouse);