

(c) Detailed procedures for the taking of physical inventories shall be developed for each DOE office and designated contractor. The OPMO shall review and approve the DOE office and contractor procedures.

(d) The conduct of a physical inventory will be observed, or follow-on audits made, by independent representatives, e.g., finance, audit, or property personnel, to the extent deemed necessary to assure that approved procedures are being followed and results are accurate. These observations or audits shall be documented and the documentation retained in the inventory record file.

(e) Procedures that are limited to a check-off of a listing of recorded property without actual verification of the location and existence of such property do not meet the requirements of a physical inventory.

(f) The frequency of physical inventories of personal property shall be as follows:

- (1) Equipment—biennial.
- (2) Sensitive items—annual (see paragraph 109-1.5110(l) of this section).
- (3) Stores inventories—annual.
- (4) Precious metals—annual.
- (5) Administratively controlled items—There is no formal Department requirement for the performance of physical inventories of this property. However, OPMOs should determine such requirements based on management needs.

(g) Physical inventories shall be performed at intervals more frequently than required when experience at any given location or with any given item or items indicates that this action is necessary for effective property accounting, utilization, or control.

(h) Physical inventories of equipment may be conducted by the "inventory by exception" method. The system and procedures for taking physical inventories by this method must be fully documented and approved in writing by the OPMO.

(i) The results of physical inventories shall be reconciled with the property records, and with applicable financial control accounts.

(j) The results of physical inventories shall be reported to the OPMO within

30 days after the reconciliation required above.

(k) Physical inventories of equipment and stores inventories may be conducted using statistical sampling methods in lieu of the normal wall-to-wall method. The sampling methods employed must be statistically valid and approved in writing by the OPMO. If use of the statistical methods of physical inventory does not produce acceptable results, the wall-to-wall method shall be used to complete the inventories.

(l) Physical inventories of sensitive items (excluding arms, ammunition, and military property) having an acquisition cost of \$2,000 or less may also be conducted using statistical sampling methods. However if statistical sampling methods are used, a wall-to-wall inventory is required no less frequently than every three years and at contract completion (unless there is a follow-on contract with the same contractor).

#### **§ 109-1.5111 Retirement of property.**

When Government property is worn out, lost, stolen, destroyed, abandoned, or damaged beyond economical repair, it shall be listed on a retirement work order. A full explanation shall be supported by an investigation, if necessary, as to the date and circumstances surrounding the wear, loss, theft, destruction, abandonment, or damage. The retirement work order shall be signed by the responsible official initiating the report and reviewed and approved by an official at least one supervisory level above the official initiating the report.

#### **§ 109-1.5112 Loss, damage, or destruction of personal property in possession of DOE direct operations.**

DOE offices shall establish procedures to provide for the reporting, documentation, and investigation of instances of loss, damage, or destruction of personal property including:

- (a) Notification to appropriate DOE organizations and law enforcement of offices;
- (b) Determination of cause or origin;
- (c) Liability and responsibility for repair or replacement; and