

Paymt. from Non-Fed. Source for Travel Exp.

§ 304-1.6

first-class accommodations, as prescribed in chapter 301 of this subtitle or the JFTR. Acceptance of payment for first-class transportation accommodations is allowed only when the use of first-class transportation accommodations is authorized in accordance with §301-3.3 of this subtitle.

(e) *Reduced per diem rate in partial payment situation.* If the designated agency official determines in advance of the travel that a payment covers some but not all of the per diem costs to be incurred by the employee (and/or the accompanying spouse when applicable), the agency should authorize a reduced per diem rate, in accordance with §301-7.12 of this subtitle or analogous provisions of 6 FAM 100 or the JFTR, as applicable, that is commensurate with the known subsistence expense levels.

[57 FR 53289, Nov. 9, 1992, as amended by FTR Amdt. 32, 58 FR 58244, Oct. 29, 1993]

§304-1.4 Conditions for acceptance.

(a) An agency may accept payment for employee and/or spousal travel from a non-Federal source when a general authorization to accept payment (rather than an item-by-item authorization) is issued in advance of the travel following a determination by the agency official designated in accordance with §304-1.3(c) that the payment is:

(1) For travel relating to an employee's official duties (including attendance because the employee's presence at the meeting is necessary to permit participation in the meeting by another employee or because a spouse's presence at the meeting or similar function is in the interest of the agency) under an official travel authorization issued to the employee, and to an accompanying spouse when applicable;

(2) For attendance at a meeting or similar function (as defined in §304-1.2(c)(3) relating to the official duties of the employee; and

(3) From a non-Federal source that is not disqualified under §304-1.5 on conflict-of-interest grounds.

(b) Payments may be accepted from multiple sources under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) If a meeting or similar function does not concern a subject of mutual

interest to the employee's agency and the non-Federal source, acceptance of payment from the non-Federal source under paragraph (a) of this section is limited to payment in kind and to the types of services the non-Federal source generally provides; e.g., air passenger transportation services provided by a commercial airline.

§304-1.5 Conflict-of-interest analysis.

(a) Payment from a non-Federal source shall not be accepted if the authorized agency official determines that acceptance under the circumstances would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of all the facts relevant to a particular case to question the integrity of agency programs or operations. In making this determination, an authorized agency official shall be guided by all relevant considerations, including, but not limited to:

(1) The identity of the non-Federal source;

(2) The purpose of the meeting or similar function;

(3) The identity of other expected participants;

(4) The nature and sensitivity of any matter pending at the agency affecting the interests of the non-Federal source;

(5) The significance of the employee's role in any such matter; and

(6) The monetary value and character of the travel benefits offered by the non-Federal source.

(b) The authorized agency official may find that, while acceptance from the non-Federal source is permissible, it is in the interest of the agency to qualify acceptance of the offered payment by, for example, authorizing attendance at only a portion of the event or limiting the type or character of benefits that may be accepted.

§304-1.6 Payment guidelines.

(a) *Payment other than in kind.* Payments from a non-Federal source for an employee and/or accompanying spouse, other than payments in kind, shall be by check or similar instrument made payable to the agency. Any such payment received by the employee on behalf of the agency for his/her travel and/or that of the accompanying spouse is accepted on behalf of the agency and is to be submitted as soon

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: