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of law, Corporation rules, regulations, guidelines, instructions, or the terms of a recipient's grant or contract agreement may be charged to Corporation funds.

(b) Without prior approval of the Corporation (which approval shall not be withheld unless the Corporation determines that the cost would be inconsistent with the standards and policies of this part and which shall be valid for no more than one year), no cost allocable to any of the following may be charged to Corporation funds:

(1) The cost of a lease or purchase of equipment, furniture, books or similar personal property if the single item or combined purchase price is in excess of $10,000. In the case of a lease, the purchase price is determined by the prevailing market rate for purchase of the property leased, not by the lease price. ''Combined purchase price'' means the total cost of all the components of a system, such as a computer or telephone system, in which the components are planned as integral parts of the system or lease process. The addition of books to an existing library purchased during a prior audit year, of new printers to an existing computer system purchased during a prior audit year, or of new furniture to office furniture purchased during a prior audit year would not require prior approval unless the additions had a combined purchase price in excess of $10,000. When purchases or leases are made for more than one office, the ''combined purchase price'' includes the cost of all new system components for all offices affected;

(2) Purchases of real property;

(3) Consultant contracts in excess of $5,000 or consultant fees in excess of $261 per eight-hour day or $35 per hour except that

(i) The retention of expert witnesses or other consultants or attorneys secured on behalf of eligible clients shall not be considered consultant services, and

(ii) Audit services shall not be considered as consultant services, but other services that may be provided by a recipient's auditor, such as the preparation of interim financial reports or tax reports, shall be considered consultant services and shall require approval if the fees exceed the limits established by this subparagraph.

§1630.6 Effect of absence of prior approval.

The Corporation may not assert the absence of its approval as a basis for disallowance of a cost if it has not provided written notice to a recipient that it objects to a proposed cost expenditure involving Corporation funds, or to a proposed action that could result in a cost expenditure that the recipient will charge to Corporation funds, within sixty (60) days of receipt by the Office of Monitoring, Audit, and Compliance of a request for such approval, or within thirty (30) days of the receipt by that Office of all requested information about the proposal. The Corporation must make written request for additional information within forty five (45) days of the receipt by the Office of Monitoring, Audit, and Compliance of the request for approval. This section does not apply to requests for approval made prior to the effective date of this regulation. If the request for prior approval is denied, the Corporation will provide the recipient with an explanation and statement of the grounds for denial.

§1630.7 Review and appeal process.

(a) When it questions a cost incurred by a recipient, the Corporation shall give written notice to the recipient and the Chairperson of its governing body stating the dollar amount of the cost and the factual and legal basis for questioning it. Such notice must be provided no more than six (6) years after the recipient incurred the cost or expended the funds.

(b) The recipient may respond with written evidence and argument to show that the cost was allowable, that the Corporation, for equitable, practical, or other reasons, should not recover all, or part of the amount, or that the recovery should be made in installments. If the recipient fails to respond within thirty (30) days of its receipt of notice, the cost shall be disallowed.

(c) Within forty-five (45) days of receiving the recipient's written response to the notice of questioned cost, the Corporation shall issue a determination that the cost has been allowed or