

part 273 or Performance Reporting System reviews required per 7 CFR part 275.

(2) Investigations of authorized retail or wholesale food concerns except when performed in coordination with USDA Office of Inspector General and FCS.

(3) Investigations or establishing claims against households by workers whose regular duties include the determination of a household's eligibility for participation in the Food Stamp Program, except as may be granted under the provisions of paragraph (e)(1)(i) of this section.

(4) Verification of eligibility information provided by the household for the purpose of making an eligibility determination, and

(5) Audits.

[Amdt. 188, 45 FR 85802, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended by Amdt. 210, 47 FR 41096, Sept. 17, 1982; Amdt. 242, 48 FR 6865, Feb. 15, 1983]

§ 277.16 Suspension, disallowance and program closeout.

(a) *Suspension.* When a State agency has materially failed to comply with any of the provisions contained in the Act, regulations, or FCS-approved State Plan of Operation, FCS may, after written notification to the State agency, temporarily withhold some or all Federal reimbursements for costs of administration of the Food Stamp Program in accordance with § 276.4. Adjustments will be made either by adjusting the Letter of Credit authorization or by not allowing the State agency to withdraw funds.

(b) *Disallowance.* (1) FCS may disallow costs in accordance with part 276 and effect nonpayment for some or all costs incurred by a State agency which are normally allowable but are determined by FCS to be nonreimbursable because the State agency has failed to comply with any of the provisions contained in the Act, regulations, or FCS-approved State Plan of Operation.

(2) FCS may also disallow costs and institute recovery of Federal funds when a State agency fails to adhere to the cost principles of this part and appendix A.

(c) *Offsets to the Letter of Credit.* (1) FCS may recover funds when owed by the State agency to FCS through off-

sets to the Letter of Credit. Offsets shall include:

(i) Costs determined by FCS to be disallowed under the provisions of this part;

(ii) Unallowable costs resulting from audit or investigation findings;

(iii) Amounts owed which have been billed to the State agency and which the State agency has failed to pay without cause acceptable to FCS; or

(iv) Amounts owed to FCS for title IV reimbursements and recipient claims collections which were reported on the FCS-209 and which the State agency has failed to pay.

(2) The amounts recovered through the offset procedure should be in one lump sum. If recovery of funds through the offset procedure is not possible in one lump sum, FCS shall make appropriate adjustments to recover the funds in not more than three fiscal years.

(d) *Program transfer or termination.* (1) When termination or transfer of a State program has been agreed upon by FCS, the following closeout procedure shall be observed:

(i) Upon request, FCS shall make or arrange for prompt payment to the State agency for allowable costs not covered by previous payments.

(ii) The State agency shall immediately refund to FCS any unobligated balance of cash withdrawn by the State agency for the administration of the program in the affected State or Indian reservation.

(iii) The State agency shall submit to FCS within 90 days after the date of termination of the program, all required financial, performance, and other reports. FCS may grant extensions when requested by the State agency.

(iv) FCS shall adjust the amount authorized by the Letter of Credit in order to effect payment of any amounts due the State agency, and if appropriate, shall bill the State agency for any amounts due to FCS. The amounts of such billings shall be promptly remitted to FCS.

(v) In the event a final audit has not been performed prior to the closeout of the program, FCS shall retain the right to disallow costs or recover funds resulting from the final audit findings.

(2) Provisions of §277.13 apply for any property acquired with program funds or received from the Federal Government in connection with the program and which was in use in the affected project area or areas.

[Amdt. 188, 45 FR 85702, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended by Amdt. 342, 59 FR 2733, Jan. 19, 1994]

§277.17 Audit requirements.

(a) *General.* This section sets forth the audit requirements for State agencies that receive FCS program funds. Audits shall be conducted on an organization-wide basis. Such audits are to determine whether:

- (1) Financial operations are conducted properly;
- (2) The financial statements are presented fairly;
- (3) The organization has complied with laws and regulations affecting the expenditure of Federal funds;
- (4) Internal procedures have been established to meet the objectives of federally assisted programs; and
- (5) Financial reports to the Federal Government contain accurate and reliable information.

Except where required by law, no additional requirements for audit will be imposed by FCS unless approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The provisions of this section do not limit the authority of FCS to make audits of State agencies, their subdivisions, and subcontracts. However, if independent audits arranged for by State agencies meet the requirements prescribed herein, FCS shall rely on them, and any additional audit work already done.

(b) *Audit standards.* (1) State agencies shall use their own procedures to arrange for independent audits, and to prescribe the scope of audits, provided that the audits comply with the requirements set forth in this section. Where contracts are awarded for audit services, the contracts shall include a reference to OMB Circular A-102, Attachment P.

(2) Audits shall be made in accordance with the General Accounting Office "Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions, the Guidelines for Financial and Compliance Audits of

Federally Assisted Program," and any compliance supplements approved by OMB, and generally accepted auditing standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

(c) *Purpose of audit.* Audits will include, at a minimum, an examination of the systems of internal control, systems established to ensure compliance with laws and regulations affecting the expenditure of Federal funds, financial transactions and accounts, and financial statements and reports of State agencies. These examinations are to determine whether:

- (1) There is effective control over and proper accounting for revenues expenditures, assets, and liabilities.
- (2) The financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- (3) The Federal financial reports (including Financial Status Reports, Cash Reports, and claims for advances and reimbursements) contain accurate and reliable financial data; and are presented in accordance with the terms of applicable agreements, and in accordance with Attachment H of OMB Circular A-102.

(4) Federal funds are being expended in accordance with the terms of applicable agreements and those provisions of Federal law or regulations that could have a material effect on the financial statements or on the awards tested.

(d) *Audit coverage.* A representative number of charges to Federal funds shall be tested. The test shall be representative of:

- (1) The universe of Federal funds received, and
- (2) All cost categories that materially affect the award. The test is to determine whether the charges:
 - (i) Are necessary and reasonable for the proper administration of the program;
 - (ii) Conform to any limitations or exclusions in the award;
 - (iii) Were given consistent accounting treatments and applied uniformly to both federally assisted and other activities of the State agency;
 - (iv) Were net of applicable credits;