

**PART 41—AUDITING REQUIREMENTS**

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AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 98-502, 31 U.S.C. ch. 75; 38 U.S.C. 501.

SOURCE: 50 FR 30937, July, 31, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 41.1 Purpose.**

These regulations (38 CFR 41.1 through 41.20) are issued pursuant to the Single Audit Act of 1984, Pub. L. 98-502. The act establishes audit requirements for State and local governments that receive Federal aid, and defines Federal responsibilities for implementing and monitoring those requirements. The Single Audit act requires the following:

(a) State or local governments that receive \$100,000 or more a year in Federal financial assistance shall have an audit made in accordance with these regulations.

(b) State or local governments that receive between \$25,000 and \$100,000 a year shall have an audit made in accordance with these regulations, or in accordance with Federal laws and regulations governing the programs they participate in.

(c) State or local governments that receive less than \$25,000 a year shall be exempt from compliance with the Act and other Federal audit requirements. These State and local governments shall be governed by audit requirements prescribed by State or local law or regulation.

(d) Nothing in this section exempts State or local governments from maintaining records of Federal financial as-

sistance or from providing access to such records to Federal agencies, as provided for in Federal law or in Circular A-102, "Uniform requirements for grants to State or local governments."

(Authority: Pub. L. 98-502)

**§§ 41.2-41.4 [Reserved]****§ 41.5 Definitions.**

For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions from the Single Audit Act apply:

(a) *Cognizant agency* means the Federal agency assigned by the OMB (Office of Management and Budget) to carry out the responsibilities described in § 41.11.

(b) *Federal financial assistance* means assistance provided by a Federal agency in the form of grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, property, interest subsidies, insurance, or direct appropriations, but does not include direct Federal cash assistance to individuals. It includes awards received directly from Federal agencies, or indirectly through other units of State and local governments.

(c) *Federal agency* has the same meaning as the term 'agency' in section 551(1) of Title 5 U.S.C.

(d) *Generally accepted accounting principles* has the meaning specified in the generally accepted government auditing standards.

(e) *Generally accepted government auditing standards* means the *Standards For Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions*, developed by the Comptroller General, dated February 27, 1981.

(f) *Independent auditor* means:

(1) A State or local government auditor who meets the independence standards specified in generally accepted government auditing standards; or

(2) A public accountant who meets such independence standards.

(g) *Internal controls* means the plan of organization and methods and procedures adopted by management to ensure that:

(1) Resource use is consistent with laws, regulations, and policies;

(2) Resources are safeguarded against waste, loss, and misuse; and

(3) Reliable data are obtained, maintained, and fairly disclosed in reports.

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(h) *Indian tribe* means any Indian tribe, band, nations, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native village or regional or village corporations (as defined in, or established under, the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act) that is recognized by the United States as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

(i) *Local government* means any unit of local government within a State, including a county, a borough, municipality, city, town, township, parish, local public authority, special district, school district, intrastate district, council of governments, and any other instrumentality of local government.

(j) *Major Federal Assistance Program*, for State and local governments having Federal assistance expenditures between \$100,000 and \$100,000,000, means any program for which Federal expenditures during the applicable year exceed the larger of \$300,000, or 3 percent of such total expenditures. Where total expenditures of Federal assistance exceed \$100,000,000, the following criteria apply:

Total Expenditures of Federal Financial Assistance of all Programs		Major Federal Assistance Program Means Any Program That Exceeds
More Than	But Less Than	
\$100 million	1 billion	\$ 3 million
1 billion	2 billion	4 million
2 billion	3 billion	7 million
3 billion	4 billion	10 million
4 billion	5 billion	13 million
5 billion	6 billion	16 million
6 billion	7 billion	19 million
over 7 billion		20 million

(k) *Public accountants* means those individuals who meet the qualification standards included in generally accepted government auditing standards for personnel performing government audits.

(l) *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, any instrumentality thereof, and any multi-State, regional or interstate entity that has governmental functions and any Indian tribe.

(m) *Subrecipient* means any person or government department, agency, or establishment that receives Federal financial assistance to carry out a program through a State or local government, but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such a program. A subrecipient may also be a direct recipient of Federal financial assistance.

(Authority: Pub. L. 98-502)

**§ 41.6 Scope of audit.**

The Single Audit Act provides that:

(a) The audit shall be made by an independent auditor in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards covering financial and compliance audits.

(b) The audit shall cover the entire operations of a State or local government or, at the option of that government, it may cover departments, agencies or establishments that received, expended, or otherwise administered Federal financial assistance during the year. However, if a State or local government receives \$25,000 or more in General Revenue Sharing Funds in a fiscal year, it shall have an audit of its entire operations. A series of audits of individual departments, agencies, and establishments for the same fiscal year may be considered a single audit.

(c) Public hospitals and public colleges and universities may be excluded from State and local audits and the requirements of this Circular. However, if such entities are excluded, audits of these entities shall be made in accordance with statutory requirements and the provisions of Circular A-110, "Uniform requirements for grants to universities, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations."

(d) The auditor shall determine whether:

(1) The financial statements of the government, department, agency or establishment present fairly its financial position and the results of its financial operations in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(2) The organization has internal accounting and other control systems to provide reasonable assurance that it is managing Federal financial assistance programs in compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and