

**Pt. 5**

**31 CFR Subtitle A (7-1-02 Edition)**

32-13, "Policies and Procedures For Employees' Claim for Loss or Damage to Personal Property Incident to Service."

**Subpart A—Administrative Collection, Compromise, Termination and Referral of Claims**

**PART 5—CLAIMS COLLECTION**

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 3711.

SOURCE: 32 FR 452, Jan. 17, 1967, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—Administrative Collection, Compromise, Termination and Referral of Claims**

**§ 5.1 Authority.**

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- 5.1 Authority.
- 5.2 Incorporation by reference; scope.
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The regulations of this part are issued under section 3 of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, Pub. L. 89-508, 80 Stat. 308, 309, and in conformity with the Joint Regulations issued under that Act by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice prescribing standards for administrative collection, compromise, termination of agency collection action, and referral to the General Accounting Office and to the Department of Justice for litigation, of civil claims by the Government for money or property, 4 CFR Chapter II.

**Subpart B—Salary Offset**

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The regulations of this part incorporate by this reference all provisions of the Joint Regulations of the General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice, and supplement those regulations by the prescription of procedures and directives necessary and appropriate for Treasury operations. The Joint Regulations and this part do not apply to tax claims nor to any claim as to which there is an indication of fraud or misrepresentation, as described in §101.3 of the Joint Regulations, unless returned by the Justice Department to the Treasury Department for handling.

**Subpart C—Tax Refund Offset**

**§ 5.3 Designation.**

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- 5.25 Definitions.
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The heads of bureaus and offices and their delegates are designated as designees of the Secretary of the Treasury authorized to perform all the duties for which the Secretary is responsible under the foregoing Act and Joint Regulations: *Provided, however,* That no compromise of a claim shall be effected or collection action terminated, except upon the recommendation of the General Counsel, the Chief Counsel of the bureau or office concerned, or the designee of either. Notwithstanding the

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foregoing proviso, no such recommendation shall be required with respect to the termination of collection activity on any claim in which the unpaid amount of the debt is \$300 or less.

(Sec. 3, 80 Stat. 309; 31 U.S.C. 951-953, 4 CFR Chap. II; 31 U.S.C. 3711, 96 Stat. 971 (1982))

[34 FR 5159, Mar. 13, 1969, as amended at 49 FR 45579, Nov. 19, 1984]

### § 5.4 Application to other statutes.

(a) The authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or the head of a bureau or office within the Treasury Department to compromise claims of the United States shall be exercised with respect to claims not exceeding \$20,000, exclusive of interest, in conformity with the Federal Claims Collection Act, the Joint Regulations thereunder, and this part, except where standards are established by other statutes or authorized regulations issued pursuant thereto.

(b) The authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or the head of a bureau or office within the Treasury Department to remit or mitigate a fine, penalty or forfeiture shall be exercised in accordance with the standards for remission or mitigation established in the governing statute or in Departmental enforcement policies. In the absence of such standards, the standards of the Joint Regulations shall be followed to the extent applicable.

### Subpart B—Salary Offset

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5514; 5 CFR part 550, subpart K.

SOURCE: 52 FR 39514, Oct. 22, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

### § 5.5 Purpose.

The purpose of the Debt Collection Act of 1982, (Pub. L. 97-365), is to provide a comprehensive statutory approach to the collection of debts due the Federal Government. These regulations implement section 5 of the Act which authorizes the collection of debts owed by Federal employees to the Federal Government by means of salary offsets, except that no claim may be collected by such means if outstanding for more than 10 years after the agency's right to collect the debt first accrued, unless facts material to

the Government's right to collect were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the official or officials who were charged with the responsibility for discovery and collection of such debts. These regulations are consistent with the regulations on salary offset published by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on July 3, 1984, codified in Subpart K of part 550 of title 5 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

### § 5.6 Scope.

(a) These regulations provide Departmental procedures for the collection by salary offset of a Federal employee's pay to satisfy certain debts owed the Government.

(b) These regulations apply to collections by the Secretary of the Treasury from:

(1) Federal employees who owe debts to the Department; and

(2) Employees of the Department who owe debts to other agencies.

(c) These regulations do not apply to debts or claims arising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*); the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*); the tariff laws of the United States; or to any case where collection of a debt by salary offset is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute (*e.g.*, travel advances in 5 U.S.C. 5705 and employee training expenses in 5 U.S.C. 4108).

(d) These regulations do not apply to any adjustment to pay arising out of an employee's election of coverage or a change in coverage under a Federal benefits program requiring periodic deductions from pay, if the amount to be recovered was accumulated over four pay periods or less.

(e) Nothing in these regulations precludes the compromise, suspension, or termination of collection actions where appropriate under the standards implementing the Federal Claims Collection Act (31 U.S.C. 3711 *et seq.*, 4 CFR parts 101-105, 38 CFR 1.1900 *et seq.*).

### § 5.7 Designation.

The heads of bureaus and offices and their delegates are designated as designees of the Secretary of the Treasury authorized to perform all the duties for