

intervals prescribed by, State regulatory procedures. In addition, an adequate monitoring system shall be employed to detect those institutions with financial problems.

#### § 226.6 Financial reports.

Financial reports of Insurance Organizations shall be submitted to the Treasury at the same intervals they are submitted to State regulatory authorities. However, they need not be submitted more frequently than quarterly but, as a minimum, shall be submitted annually. The Treasury may prescribe the format of such reports.

#### § 226.7 Effective date.

The provisions of this part become effective November 2, 1978.

[43 FR 47506, Oct. 16, 1978]

### PART 235—ISSUANCE OF SETTLEMENT CHECKS FOR FORGED CHECKS DRAWN ON DESIGNATED DEPOSITARIES

Sec.

- 235.1 Scope of regulations.
- 235.2 Definition.
- 235.3 Settlement of claims.
- 235.4 Check Forgery Insurance Fund.
- 235.5 Reclamation amounts.
- 235.6 Implementing instructions.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 3343.

SOURCE: 40 FR 6785, Feb. 14, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 235.1 Scope of regulations.

This part governs the issuance of settlement checks for checks drawn on designated depositaries of the United States by accountable officers of the United States, that have been negotiated and paid on a forged or unauthorized indorsement.

[40 FR 6785, Feb. 14, 1975, as amended at 54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989]

#### § 235.2 Definition.

*Accountable Officers of the United States*, as used in these regulations, means disbursing officers authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain official accounts of the United States in depository banks located in the United States, its territories, and foreign countries, and to draw checks

thereon in dollars or in foreign currencies.

#### § 235.3 Settlement of claims.

Upon receipt of a claim by a payee or special indorsee on a check determined to have been paid on a forged indorsement under conditions satisfying the provisions set forth in 31 U.S.C. 3343, accountable officers of the United States, with respect to a check drawn on designated depositaries of the United States, in dollars or in foreign currency, shall cause to be issued a settlement check in the appropriate currency to the payee or special indorsee.

[40 FR 6785, Feb. 14, 1975, as amended at 49 FR 47001, 47002, Nov. 30, 1984; 54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989]

#### § 235.4 Check Forgery Insurance Fund.

The Check Forgery Insurance Fund, established pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3343, shall be available for use by the Commissioner, Financial Management Service, and accountable officers of the United States for the purpose of providing funding for settlements made to a payee or special indorsee pursuant to these regulations.

[40 FR 6785, Feb. 14, 1975, as amended at 49 FR 47001, 47002, Nov. 30, 1984]

#### § 235.5 Reclamation amounts.

Amounts received by way of reclamation on forged checks shall be deposited to the credit of the Check Forgery Insurance Fund or to the appropriate foreign currency fund or other account charged for the settlement payment.

#### § 235.6 Implementing instructions.

Procedural instructions implementing these regulations will be issued by the Commissioner of the Financial Management Service in volume I, part 4 of the Treasury Financial Manual.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989]

### PART 240—INDORSEMENT AND PAYMENT OF CHECKS DRAWN ON THE UNITED STATES TREASURY

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.

- 240.1 Scope of regulations.

## § 240.1

- 240.2 Definitions.
- 240.3 Limitations on payment.
- 240.4 Cancellation and distribution of proceeds of checks.
- 240.5 Guaranty of indorsements.
- 240.6 Reclamation of amounts of paid checks.
- 240.7 Demand and protest.
- 240.8 Offset.
- 240.9 Treasury Check Offset.
- 240.10 Processing of checks.
- 240.11 Release of original checks.

### INDORSEMENT OF CHECKS

- 240.12 Indorsement by payees.
- 240.13 Checks issued to incompetent payees.
- 240.14 Checks issued to deceased payees.
- 240.15 Checks issued to minor payees in certain cases.
- 240.16 Powers of attorney.

### APPENDIX A TO PART 240—STANDARD FORMS FOR POWER OF ATTORNEY AND THEIR APPLICATION

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 12 U.S.C. 391; 31 U.S.C. 3328, 3331, 3343, 3711, 3712, 3716, 3717; 332 U.S.C. 234 (1947); 318 U.S. 363 (1943).

SOURCE: 54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### § 240.1 Scope of regulations.

The regulations in this part prescribe the requirements for indorsement and the conditions for payment of checks drawn on the United States Treasury. These regulations also establish procedures for collection of amounts due the United States Treasury because of payments on checks bearing forged or other unauthorized indorsements or other material defects or alterations.

#### § 240.2 Definitions.

(a) *Certifying agency* means an agency for whom a Treasury disbursing officer or a non-Treasury disbursing officer makes payment in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3325. The responsibilities of a certifying official are set forth at 31 U.S.C. 3528.

(b) *Check* or *Checks* means a check or checks drawn on the United States Treasury.

(c) *Check payment* means the amount paid to a presenting bank in accordance with § 240.9(a)(3) of this part.

(d) *Commissioner* means the Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury,

## 31 CFR Ch. II (7–1–03 Edition)

401 14th Street SW., Washington, DC 20227.

(e) *Days* means calendar days.

(f) *Financial institution* means any bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, Federal or State chartered credit union, or similar institution.

(g) *Item* means a reference in a monthly interest billing statement to a check for the amount of which Treasury has demanded refund from a presenting bank.

(h) *Monthly interest billing statement* means a statement prepared by Treasury and sent to a presenting bank which includes the following information regarding each outstanding demand for refund:

- (1) The reclamation date;
- (2) The reclamation number;
- (3) Check identifying information; and

(4) The balance due, including interest.

(i) *Person* or *persons* means an individual or individuals, or an institution or institutions including all forms of financial institutions.

(j) *Presenting bank* means:

(1) A financial institution which, either directly or through a correspondent banking relationship, presents checks to and receives provisional credit from a Federal Reserve Bank; or

(2) A depository which is authorized to charge checks directly to the General Account of the United States Treasury and present them to Treasury for payment through a designated Federal Reserve Bank.

(k) *Protest* means a presenting bank's written statement and any supporting documentation tending to prove that it is not liable for refund of the reclamation balance.

(l) *Reclamation* means a demand by Treasury for refund of the amount of a check payment.

(m) *Reclamation date* means the date on which a demand for refund was prepared. Normally, demands are sent to presenting banks within two working days of the reclamation date.

(n) *Treasury* means the United States Treasury.

(o) *U.S. securities* means securities of the United States and securities of

## Fiscal Service, Treasury

## § 240.6

Federal agencies and wholly or partially government-owned corporations for which the Treasury acts as the transfer agent.

(p) *Unauthorized indorsement* means:

(1) An indorsement made by a person other than the payee, except as authorized by and in accordance with § 204.5 and §§ 240.11 through 240.15;

(2) An indorsement by a financial institution under circumstances in which the financial institution breaches the guaranty required of it by 31 CFR 209.9(a) (*See*, 31 CFR 209.8); or

(3) A missing indorsement where the depository bank had no authority to supply the indorsement.

### § 240.3 Limitations on payment.

(a) As a general rule,

(1) The Commissioner shall not be required to pay a Treasury check issued on or after October 1, 1989 unless it is negotiated to a financial institution within 12 months after the date on which the check was issued; and

(2) The Commissioner shall not be required to pay a Treasury check issued before October 1, 1989 unless it is negotiated to a financial institution no later than October 1, 1990.

(b) All checks drawn on the United States Treasury and issued on or after October 1, 1989 shall bear a legend, stating "Void After One Year." The legend is notice to payees and indorsers of a general limitation on the payment of Treasury checks. The legend, or the inadvertent lack thereof, does not limit, or otherwise affect, the rights of the Commissioner under the law.

(c) The Treasury shall have the usual right of a drawee to examine checks presented for payment and refuse payment of any checks. The Treasury shall have a reasonable time to make such examination.

(d) Checks shall be deemed to be paid by the United States Treasury only after first examination has been fully completed.

(e) If the Treasury is on notice of a question of law or fact about whether a Treasury check is properly payable when the check is presented for payment, the Commissioner may defer payment until the Comptroller General settles the question.

### § 240.4 Cancellation and distribution of proceeds of checks.

(a) *Checks issued on or after October 1, 1989.* (1) Any check issued on or after October 1, 1989 that has not been paid and remains outstanding for more than 12 months shall be cancelled by the Commissioner.

(2) The proceeds from checks cancelled pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be returned to the agency which authorized the issuance of the check and credited to the appropriation or fund account initially charged for the payment.

(3) Beginning January 1, 1991, and monthly thereafter, the Commissioner shall provide to each agency that authorizes the issuance of Treasury checks a list of those checks issued for such agency which were cancelled during the preceding month pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

(b) *Checks issued before October 1, 1989.* (1) Any check issued before October 1, 1989 that has not been paid and remains outstanding for more than 12 months shall be cancelled by the Commissioner no later than April 1, 1991.

(2) The proceeds from checks cancelled pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section shall be applied as required by 31 U.S.C. 3334.

### § 240.5 Guaranty of indorsements.

The presenting bank and the indorsers of a check presented to the Treasury for payment are deemed to guarantee to the Treasury that all prior indorsements are genuine, whether or not an express guaranty is placed on the check. When the first indorsement has been made by one other than the payee personally, the presenting bank and the indorsers are deemed to guarantee the Treasury, in addition to other warranties, that the person who so indorsed had unqualified capacity and authority to indorse the check on behalf of the payee.

### § 240.6 Reclamation of amounts of paid checks.

(a) If, after a check has been paid by Treasury, it is found to:

(1) Bear a forged or unauthorized indorsement; or

(2) Contain any other material defect or alteration which was not discovered

## § 240.7

upon first examination, then, upon demand by the Treasury in accordance with the procedures specified in § 240.7 of this part, the presenting bank or other indorser shall refund the amount of the check payment.

(b) Interest on any unpaid item shall commence to accrue on the sixty-first day after the reclamation date. Interest shall be calculated at the rate set from time to time for purposes of 31 U.S.C. 323. Interest shall continue to accrue until the amount demanded is paid or the reclamation is abandoned by Treasury.

(c) In addition to its right to recover interest, Treasury shall have the right to recover such other applicable charges (*e.g.*, administrative collection costs, late payment penalties) as may be authorized or required by law.

(d) If the Treasury determines that a check has been paid over a forged or unauthorized indorsement, the Commissioner may reclaim the amount of the check from the presenting bank or any other indorser that breached its guarantee of indorsement prior to:

(1) The end of the one-year period beginning on the date of payment; or

(2) The expiration of the 180-day period beginning on the close of the period described in paragraph (d)(1) of this section if a timely claim under 31 U.S.C. 3702 is presented to the agency which authorized the issuance of the check.

### § 240.7 Demand and protest.

(a) For all reclamations an initial demand for refund of the amount of a check payment will be made by sending a "Request for Refund (Reclamation)," to the presenting bank or any other indorser. This Request shall advise the presenting bank of the amount demanded and the reason for the demand. Treasury will make follow-up demands by including each unpaid item on at least three monthly interest billing statements sent to the presenting bank. Monthly interest billing statements will identify any unpaid reclamation demands and will also show the amount of any accrued interest for each outstanding reclamation. Any discrepancies should be brought to Treasury's attention immediately at the address listed in paragraph (b) of this sec-

## 31 CFR Ch. II (7-1-03 Edition)

tion. Monthly interest billing statements will contain or be accompanied by notice to the bank:

(1) That Treasury intends to collect the debt through administrative offset in accordance with § 240.8 if the reclamation is not paid within 120 days of the reclamation date, and if administrative offset is unsuccessful, that Treasury intends to collect the debt through Treasury Check Offset in accordance with § 240.9;

(2) That the bank has an opportunity to inspect and copy Treasury's records with respect to the reclamation;

(3) That the bank may, by filing a protest, request Treasury to review its decision that the bank is liable for the reclamation; and

(4) That the bank has an opportunity to enter into a written agreement with Treasury for the repayment of the amount of the reclamation. A request for a payment agreement must be accompanied by proof that satisfies the Treasury that the requesting bank is unable to repay the entire amount owed at the time that it is due.

(b) Requests for an appointment to inspect and copy Treasury's records with respect to a reclamation and requests to enter into repayment agreements should be sent in writing to: Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Processing Division, Reclamation Branch, Room 700-D, P.O. Box 1849, Hyattsville, MD 20788.

(c)(1) If a presenting bank wishes to contest its liability for the principal amount demanded, it shall send a protest, *i.e.*, a written statement and copies of all documentary evidence (*e.g.*, affidavits, account agreements, signature cards) and other written information raising a question of law or fact which, if resolved in the presenting bank's favor, would show that the presenting bank is not liable, to: Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Processing Division, Reclamation Branch, Room 700-D, P.O. Box 1849, Hyattsville, MD 20788. The Director, Financial Processing Division, who has supervisory authority over the Reclamation Branch, or his/her authorized subordinate, shall consider and decide any protest properly submitted under this

## Fiscal Service, Treasury

## § 240.9

paragraph. Neither the Director, Financial Processing Division, nor any of his/her subordinates, shall have any involvement in the process of making findings or demands under § 240.6(a). In order to be considered, and to be timely, a protest must be received not later than 90 days after the reclamation date. Treasury will refrain from collection in accordance with § 240.8 or § 240.9 while a timely protest is being considered. Unresolved protested items will be appropriately annotated on the monthly summary of debt statement.

(2) If Treasury accepts the protest, the presenting bank shall be notified in writing that efforts to collect the item and any accrued interest have been abandoned.

(3) If the evidence sent by the presenting bank does not satisfy Treasury that refund of the amount demanded is not required under § 240.6(a), Treasury will notify the presenting bank in writing of its decision that the bank is liable for the amount demanded and the reasons for its decision. If the presenting bank fails to send the amount demanded within 30 days of the date of Treasury's decision, Treasury shall proceed to collect the amount owed in accordance with § 240.8, provided that no offset shall be taken sooner than 120 days after the reclamation date.

(4) If an item, and/or accrued interest relating to that item remains unpaid for 90 days after the reclamation date and if there is no unresolved protest associated with the item, the monthly interest billing statement will be annotated with a notice that the presenting bank has until the next billing date to make payment on the item or be subject to offset thereon.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989, as amended at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

### § 240.8 Offset.

(a) If an item, and/or accrued interest relating to that item, remains unpaid for 120 days after the reclamation date and the presenting bank has been sent at least one monthly interest billing statement informing it that Treasury intends to collect that item by offset, Treasury may refer the matter to any Federal agency and request that agency to offset the indebtedness and other applicable charges against amounts

otherwise owed by the Federal agency to the presenting bank. Monthly interest billing statements will be annotated to identify those specific items that are to be referred to an agency for offset.

(b) If a bank wishes to make payment on an item referred to an agency for offset, it should contact Treasury at the address listed in § 240.7(b) to reduce the possibility of a double collection. If an agency to which an indebtedness is referred in accordance with this paragraph is unable to effect offset in whole or in part, Treasury may then refer the debt to any other agency and request offset in accordance with this paragraph. Treasury designates each agency acting under this paragraph as its designee for the sole purpose of effecting offset. No such designee shall be liable to any party for any loss resulting from its action under this paragraph.

(c) If Treasury is unable to collect an amount owed by use of the offset described in paragraph (a) of this section, Treasury shall take such action against the presenting bank as may be necessary to protect the interests of the United States, including Treasury Check Offset in accordance with § 240.9 or referral to the Department of Justice.

(d) If Treasury effects offset under this section and it is later determined that the presenting bank paid the amount of the reclamation and accrued interest thereon, or that a presenting bank which had timely filed a protest was not liable for the amount of the reclamation, Treasury shall promptly refund to the presenting bank the amount of its payment.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989, as amended at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

### § 240.9 Treasury Check Offset.

(a) If Treasury is unable to effect collection pursuant to § 240.7 or § 240.8 of this part, it will collect the principal amount of the reclamation, accrued interest, penalty, and administrative costs through Treasury Check Offset. Treasury Check Offset occurs when, at the direction of Treasury, a Federal Reserve Bank withholds, that is, offsets, credit from a presenting bank (e.g., a financial institution presenting

## § 240.10

## 31 CFR Ch. II (7–1–03 Edition)

a Treasury check for ultimate charge to the account of the United States Treasury). The amount of credit offset is applied to the principal amount of the reclamation, accrued interest, penalties, and administrative costs owed by the presenting bank. As provided by the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3712(e), by presenting Treasury checks for payment, the presenting bank is deemed to authorize Treasury Check Offset.

(b) If Treasury effects offset under this section and it is later determined that the presenting bank paid the principal amount of the reclamation and accrued interest, penalties, and administrative costs thereon, or that a presenting bank was not liable for the amount of the reclamation, Treasury will promptly refund to the presenting bank the amount of its payment. Treasury may refund the amount either by applying the amount to another reclamation debt in accordance with this Part or other applicable law, or by returning the amount to the presenting bank.

(c) Treasury Check Offset is used for the purpose of collecting debt owed by a presenting bank to the Federal Government. As a consequence, presenting banks shall not be able to use the fact that Treasury checks presented for payment have not been paid as the basis for a claim against Treasury, a Federal Reserve Bank, or other persons or entities, including payees or other indorsers of checks, for the amount of the credit offset pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3712(e) and this section.

(d) This section does not apply to a claim based upon a reclamation that has been outstanding for more than 10 years from the date of delinquency.

[67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

### § 240.10 Processing of checks.

(a) *Federal Reserve Banks.* (1) Federal Reserve Banks shall cash checks for Government disbursing officers when such checks are drawn by the disbursing officers to their own order. Payment of such checks shall not be refused except for alteration or counterfeiting of the check, or forged signature of the drawer.

(2) Federal Reserve Banks shall not be expected to cash Government checks

presented directly to them by the general public.

(3) As a depository of public funds, each Federal Reserve Bank shall:

(i) Receive checks from its member banks, nonmember clearing banks, or other depositors, when indorsed by such banks or depositors who guarantee all prior indorsements thereon;

(ii) Give immediate credit therefore in accordance with their current Time Schedules and charge the amount of the checks cashed or otherwise received to the account of the Treasury, subject to examination and payment by the United States Treasury;

(iii) Forward payment records and copies of checks to Treasury; and

(iv) Release the original checks to a designated Federal Records Center upon notification from Treasury. The Treasury shall return to the forwarding Federal Reserve Bank a photocopy of any check the payment of which is refused upon first examination. Federal Reserve Banks shall give immediate credit therefor in the United States Treasury's account, thereby reversing the previous charge to the account for such check. The Treasury authorizes each Federal Reserve Bank to release the original check to the endorser when payment is refused in accordance with § 240.3(a).

(b) *Depositaries outside of the mainland of the United States.* Banks outside of the mainland of the United States designated as depositaries of public money and permitted to charge checks to the General Account of the United States Treasury shall be governed by the operating instructions contained in the letter of authorization to them from Treasury and shall assume the obligations of presenting banks set forth in §§ 240.5 and 240.6. Checks charged to the General Account of the United States Treasury along with the supporting credit voucher shall be shipped to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The Treasury shall return to the presenting depository bank a photocopy of any check the payment of which is refused upon first examination. The depository bank shall give immediate credit therefor in the General Account of the United States Treasury, thereby reversing the previous charge to the

Account for such check. Treasury authorizes the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to return to the presenting depository bank the original check when payment is refused in accordance with § 240.3(a).

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989. Redesignated at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

#### § 240.11 Release of original checks.

An original check may be released to a responsible indorser upon receipt of a properly authorized request showing the reason it is required and that the request is in conformity with all applicable law including the Privacy Act.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989. Redesignated at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

### INDORSEMENT OF CHECKS

#### § 240.12 Indorsement by payees.

(a) *General requirements.* Checks shall be indorsed by the payee or payees named, or by another on behalf of such payees as set forth in this part.

(b) *Checks indorsed by the payee or payees named.* When a check is indorsed by the payee or payees named, the forms of indorsement shall conform to those recognized by general principles of law and commercial usage for negotiation, transfer or collection of negotiable instruments.

(c) *Checks indorsed by another on behalf of the named payee or payees—(1) Acceptable indorsement.* The only acceptable indorsement of a check by another on behalf of the named payee or payees (except when a check is indorsed by a financial institution under the payee's or payees' authorization) is one which indicates that the person indorsing is doing so on behalf of the named payee or payees. Such an acceptable indorsement shall include the signature of the indorser and sufficient wording to indicate that the indorser is indorsing on behalf of the named payee or payees, pursuant to authority expressly conferred by or under law or other regulation. An example would be: "John Jones by Mary Jones." This example states the minimum indication acceptable. However, §§ 240.12(a)(1), 240.13(a)(1), and 240.15(d) specify the addition of an indication in specified situations of the actual capacity in which the person other than the named payee

is indorsing. Checks indorsed "for collection" or "for deposit only to the credit of the within named payee or payees," are acceptable without any signature. However, in the absence of a signature, the presenting bank will be deemed to guarantee its good title to such checks to all subsequent indorsers and to Treasury.

(2) *Unacceptable indorsement.* The indorsement by another on behalf of the named payee or payees, which consists of the name(s) of the payee(s), whether as purported signature(s) or otherwise, and *not* the signature of the person other than named payee or payees indorsing the check, regardless of the relationship between the indorser and the named payee or payees, will be rebuttably presumed to be a forgery and is unacceptable. The indorsement by a person who purports to indorse for the named payee(s) with an indorsement consisting of the name(s) of the payee(s), whether as purported signature(s) or otherwise, and the indorsing person's signature and no indication of the indorsing person's representative capacity, will create a rebuttable presumption that the indorsing person was not authorized to indorse for the named payee(s). In these circumstances it is the responsibility of the individual or institution accepting a check from a person other than the named payee(s) to determine that such person is authorized and has the capacity to indorse and negotiate the check. Evidence of the basis for such a determination may be required by the Treasury in the event of a dispute.

(d) *Indorsement of checks by a financial institution under the payee's authorization.* When a check is credited by a financial institution to the payee's account under the payee's or payees' authorization, the financial institution may use an indorsement substantially as follows: "Credit to the account of the within-named payee in accordance with the payee's or payees' instructions. XYZ." A financial institution using this form of indorsement will be deemed to guarantee to all subsequent indorsers and to the Treasury that it is acting as an attorney-in-fact for the payee or payees, under the payee's or payees' authorization, and that this authority is currently in force and has

**§ 240.13**

neither lapsed nor been revoked either in fact or by the death or incapacity of the payee or payees.

(e) *Indorsement of checks drawn in favor of financial institutions.* All checks drawn in favor of financial institutions, for credit to the accounts of persons designated payment so to be made, shall be indorsed in the name of the financial institutions as payee in the usual manner. Financial institutions receiving and indorsing such checks shall comply fully with part 209 of this chapter.

(f) *Social Security benefit checks issued jointly to individuals of the same family.* A social security benefit check issued jointly to 2 or more individuals of the same family shall, upon the death of 1 of the joint payees prior to the negotiation of such check, be returned to the Social Security District Office or the Treasury Regional Financial Center. Payment of the check to the surviving payee or payees may be authorized by placing on the face of the check a stamped legend signed by an official of the Social Security Administration or the Treasury Regional Financial Center, redesignating such survivor or survivors as the payee or payees of the check. A check bearing such stamped legend, signed as herein prescribed, may be indorsed and negotiated by the person or persons named as if such check originally had been drawn payable to such person or persons.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989. Redesignated at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

**§ 240.13 Checks issued to incompetent payees.**

(a) *Classes of checks which may be indorsed by guardian or fiduciary.* Where the payee of a check of any class listed in § 240.13(a) has been declared incompetent:

(1) If a check is indorsed by a legal guardian or other fiduciary, such legal guardian or fiduciary shall include, as a part of the indorsement, an indication of the capacity in which the legal guardian or fiduciary is indorsing. An example would be: "John Jones by Mary Jones, guardian of John Jones." When a check indorsed in this fashion is presented for payment by a bank, it will be paid by the Treasury without submission to the Treasury of docu-

mentary proof of the authority of the guardian or other fiduciary, with the understanding that evidence of such claimed authority to indorse may be required by the Treasury in the event of a dispute.

(2) If a guardian has not been or will not be appointed, and if the check:

(i) Was issued in payment of goods and services, tax refunds or redemption of currency, it shall be forwarded for advice to the certifying agency; or

(ii) Was issued in payment of principal or interest on U.S. securities, it shall be forwarded to the Bureau of the Public Debt, Division of Customer Service, P.O. Box 426, Parkersburg, WV 26106.

(b) *Classes of checks which may not be indorsed by guardian or fiduciary.* Where the payee of a check of any other class has been declared incompetent, the check shall not be indorsed by a guardian or other fiduciary. The check shall be returned to the Government agency which certified the payment, with information as to the incompetency of the payee and submission of documentary evidence showing the appointment of the guardian or other explanation in order that a replacement check, and others to be issued subsequently, may be drawn in favor of the guardian.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 46728, Nov. 7, 1989. Redesignated and amended at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

**§ 240.14 Checks issued to deceased payees.**

(a)(1) *Classes of checks which may be indorsed by an executor or administrator.* Checks issued for the classes of payments indicated below, the right to which under law does not terminate with the death of the payee, when indorsed by an executor or administrator, shall include, as part of the indorsement, an indication of the capacity in which the executor or administrator is indorsing. An example would be: "John Jones by Mary Jones, executor of the estate of John Jones." Such checks, when presented for payment by a bank, will be paid by the Treasury without the submission of documentary proof of the authority of the executor or administrator, with the understanding that evidence of such claimed authority to indorse may be

required by the Treasury in the event of a dispute. The classes of payments to which this subsection refers are:

(i) Payments for the redemption of currencies or for principal or interest on U.S. securities;

(ii) Payments for tax refunds; and

(iii) Payments for goods and services.

(2) If an executor has not been appointed, persons claiming as owners shall return the checks for appropriate handling to the Government agency that certified the payment. If there is doubt as to whether the proceeds of the check or checks pass to the estate of the deceased payee, the checks shall be handled in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Classes of checks which may not be indorsed by an executor or administrator.*

Checks issued for classes of payment other than those specified in paragraph (a) of this section may not be negotiated after the death of the payee, but must be returned to the Government agency that certified the payment for determination whether, under applicable laws, payment is due and to whom it may be made.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989. Redesignated at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

**§ 240.15 Checks issued to minor payees in certain cases.**

Checks issued to minors in payment of principal or interest on U.S. securities may be indorsed by either parent with whom the minor resides, or, if the minor does not reside with either parent, by the person who furnishes his chief support. The parent or other person indorsing in behalf of the minor shall present with the check his signed statement giving the minor's age, stating that the payee either resides with the parent or receives his chief support from the person indorsing in his behalf, and that the proceeds of the checks will be used for the minor's benefit.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989. Redesignated at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

**§ 240.16 Powers of attorney.**

(a) *Specific powers of attorney.* Any check may be negotiated under a specific power of attorney executed after the issuance of the check and describing it in full.

(b) *General powers of attorney.* Checks issued for the following classes of payments may be negotiated under a general power of attorney in favor of an individual, financial institution or other entity:

(1) Payments for the redemption of currencies or for principal or interest on U.S. securities.

(2) Payments for tax refunds, but subject to the limitations concerning the mailing of Internal Revenue refund checks contained in 26 CFR 601.506(b).

(3) Payments for goods and services.

(c) *Special powers of attorney.* Under discussions of the Comptroller General of the United States, classes of checks other than those specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be negotiated under a special power of attorney which names a financial institution as attorney-in-fact, and recites that it is not given to carry into effect an assignment of the right to receive payment, either to the attorney-in-fact or to any other person.

(d) *Proof of authority.* Checks indorsed by an attorney-in-fact shall include, as part of the indorsement, an indication of the capacity in which the attorney-in-fact is indorsing. An example would be: "John Jones by Paul Smith, attorney-in-fact for John Jones." Such checks when presented for payment by a bank, will be paid by the Treasury without the submission of documentary proof of the claimed authority, with the understanding that evidence of such claimed authority to indorse may be required by the Treasury in the event of a dispute.

(e) *Revocation of powers of attorney.* Powers of attorney are revoked by the death of the grantor and may also be revoked by notice from the grantor to the parties known, or reasonably expected, to be acting on the power of attorney. Notice of revocation to the Treasury will not ordinarily serve to revoke the power.

(f) *Acknowledgment of powers of attorney.* Where desirable or where required by foreign, state or local law, powers of attorney shall be acknowledged before a notary public or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths generally.

(g) *Seal or certificate of attesting officers.* Where acknowledgment of powers

of attorney is desirable or required pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, seals of attesting officers shall be impressed or stamped upon the power of attorney form, or the power of attorney shall be accompanied by a certificate from an appropriate official showing that the officer was in commission on the date of acknowledgment.

(h) *Forms.* Power of attorney forms issued under this part are listed in the appendix to this part. They may be obtained from the Financial Management Service, Property and Supply Section, Ardmore East Business Center, 3361–L 75th Avenue, Landover, MD 20785.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989. Redesignated at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

#### APPENDIX A TO PART 240—STANDARD FORMS FOR POWER OF ATTORNEY AND THEIR APPLICATION

*Standard Form 231.* A general power of attorney on this form may be executed by an individual, firm, or sole owner, for checks drawn on the United States Treasury, in payment: (1) For redemption of currencies or for principal or interest on U.S. securities, (2) for tax refunds, and (3) for goods and services.

*Standard Form 232.* A specific power of attorney on this form, which must be executed after the issuance of the check, describing the check in full, may be used to authorize the indorsement of any class of check drawn on the United States Treasury.

*Standard Form 233.* A special power of attorney on this form naming a financial organization as attorney-in-fact and reciting that it is not given to carry into effect an assignment of the right to receive payment, either to the attorney-in-fact or to any other person, may be used for classes of payments other than those shown under Standard Form 231.

*Standard Form 234–5.* A general power of attorney may be executed by a corporation for the classes of payment listed under Standard Form 231.

*Standard Form 236–7.* A specific power of attorney may be executed on this form by a corporation to cover a specific check for any class of payment.

### PART 245—CLAIMS ON ACCOUNT OF TREASURY CHECKS

Sec.

- 245.1 Introductory.
- 245.2 Definitions.
- 245.3 Time limit for check claims.
- 245.4 Advice of nonreceipt or loss.

- 245.5 Recertification of payment.
- 245.6 Claim by an indorser.
- 245.7 Check status inquiry.
- 245.8 Receipt or recovery of original check.
- 245.9 Procedural instructions.
- 245.10 Performance of functions of the Commissioner.

AUTHORITY: R.S. 3646, as amended; 31 U.S.C. 3328; 31 U.S.C. 3331.

SOURCE: 54 FR 35647, Aug. 29, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 245.1 Introductory.

This part governs the issuance of replacement checks for checks drawn on the United States Treasury, when

(a) The original check has been lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated or defaced to such an extent that it is rendered non-negotiable;

(b) The original check has been negotiated and paid on a forged or unauthorized indorsement, and

(c) The original check has been cancelled pursuant to §204.4 of this chapter.

#### § 245.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Agency* means each authority of the United States for which the Treasury of the United States issues checks or for which checks drawn on the Treasury of the United States are issued.

(b) *Check* means a check drawn on the United States Treasury.

(c) *Certifying Agency* means an agency for whom a Treasury disbursing officer or a non-Treasury disbursing officer makes payment in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3325. The responsibilities of a certifying official are set forth at 31 U.S.C. 3528.

(d) *Commissioner* means the Commissioner of the Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, 401 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20227.

(e) *Person* means an individual, a partnership, a corporation, a labor organization, a government or a subdivision or instrumentality thereof, and any other entity to which a check may be issued.

(f) *Replacement check* means a check issued pursuant to the recertification of payment by a certifying official.