

Department of Veterans Affairs

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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

(3) The organization has complied with laws and regulations that may have material effect on its financial statements and on each major Federal assistance program.

(Authority: Pub. L. 98-502)

§ 41.7 Frequency of audit.

Audits shall be made annually unless the State or local government has, by January 1, 1987, a constitutional or statutory requirement for less frequent audits. For those governments, the cognizant agency shall permit biennial audits, covering both years, if the government so requests. It shall also honor requests for biennial audits by governments that have an administrative policy calling for audits less frequent than annual, but only for fiscal years beginning before January 1, 1987.

(Authority: Pub. L. 98-502)

§ 41.8 Internal control and compliance reviews.

The Single Audit Act requires that the independent auditor determine and report on whether the organization has internal control systems to provide reasonable assurance that it is managing Federal assistance programs in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(a) *Internal control review.* In order to provide this assurance the auditor must make a study and evaluation of internal control systems used in administering Federal assistance programs. The study and evaluation must be made whether or not the auditor in-

tends to place reliance on such systems. As part of this review, the auditor shall:

(1) Test whether these internal control systems are functioning in accordance with prescribed procedures.

(2) Examine the recipient's systems for monitoring subrecipients and obtaining and acting on subrecipient audit reports.

(b) *Compliance review.* The law also requires the auditor to determine whether the organization has complied with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on each major Federal assistance program.

(1) In order to determine which major programs are to be tested for compliance, State and local governments shall identify in their accounts all Federal funds received and expended and the programs under which they were received. This shall include funds received directly from Federal agencies and through other State and local governments.

(2) The review must include the selection and testing of a representative number of charges from each major Federal assistance program. The selection and testing of transactions shall be based on the auditor's professional judgment considering such factors as the amount of expenditures for the program and the individual awards; the newness of the program or changes in its conditions; prior experience with the program, particularly as revealed in audits and other evaluations (e.g., inspections, program reviews); the extent to which the program is carried out through subrecipients; the extent to which the program contracts for goods or services; the level to which the program is already subject to program reviews or other forms of independent oversight; the adequacy of the controls for ensuring compliance; the expectation of adherence or lack of adherence to the applicable laws and regulations; and the potential impact of adverse findings.

(i) In making the test of transactions, the auditor shall determine whether:

(A) The amounts reported as expenditures were for allowable services, and

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(B) The records show that those who received services or benefits were eligible to receive them.

(ii) In addition to transaction testing, the auditor shall determine whether:

(A) Matching requirements, levels of effort and earmarking limitations were met,

(B) Federal financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements contain information that is supported by the books and records from which the basic financial statements have been prepared, and

(C) Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with OMB Circular A-87, "Cost principles for State and local governments," and Attachment F of Circular A-102, "Uniform requirements for grants to State and local governments."

(iii) The principal compliance requirements of the largest Federal aid programs may be ascertained by referring to the *Compliance Supplement for Single Audits of State and Local Governments*, issued by OMB and available from the Government Printing Office. For those programs not covered in the Compliance Supplement, the auditor may ascertain compliance requirements by researching the statutes, regulations, and agreements governing individual programs.

(3) Transactions related to other Federal assistance programs that are selected in connection with examinations of financial statements and evaluations of internal controls shall be tested for compliance with Federal laws and regulations that apply to such transactions.

(Authority: Pub. L. 98-502)

§41.9 Subrecipients.

State or local governments that receive Federal financial assistance and provide \$25,000 or more of it in a fiscal year to a subrecipient shall:

(a) Determine whether State or local subrecipients have met the audit requirements of these regulations and whether subrecipients covered by Circular A-110, "Uniform requirements for grants to universities, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations," have met that requirement;

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(b) Determine whether the subrecipient spent Federal assistance funds in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. This may be accomplished by reviewing an audit of the subrecipient made in accordance with these regulations, Circular A-110, or through other means (e.g., program reviews) if the subrecipient has not yet had such an audit;

(c) Ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken within six months after receipt of the audit report in instances of non-compliance with Federal laws and regulations;

(d) Consider whether subrecipient audits necessitate adjustment of the recipient's own records; and

(e) Require each subrecipient to permit independent auditors to have access to the records and financial statements as necessary to comply with these regulations.

(Authority: Pub. L. 98-502)

§41.10 Relation to other audit requirements.

The Single Audit Act provides that an audit made in accordance with these regulations shall be in lieu of any financial or financial compliance audit required under individual Federal assistance programs. To the extent that a single audit provides Federal agencies with information and assurances they need to carry out their overall responsibilities, they shall rely upon and use such information. However, a Federal agency shall make any additional audits which are necessary to carry out its responsibilities under Federal law and regulation. Any additional Federal audit effort shall be planned and carried out in such a way as to avoid duplication.

(a) The provisions of these regulations do not limit the authority of Federal agencies to make, or contract for audits and evaluations of Federal financial assistance programs, nor do they limit the authority of any Federal agency Inspector General or other Federal audit official.

(b) The provisions of these regulations do not authorize any State or local government or subrecipient thereof to constrain Federal agencies, in any manner, from carrying out additional audits.