

§ 25.3

affecting amounts of benefit payments), and any other provisions not directly affecting the amounts of the benefit payments, in such local plans, shall not apply, but in lieu thereof the pertinent provisions of the FECA shall apply, unless modified in this section.

(2) However, the Director may at any time modify, limit or redesignate the class or classes of beneficiaries entitled to death benefits, including the designation of persons, representatives or groups entitled to payment under local statute or custom whether or not included in the classes of beneficiaries otherwise specified by this subchapter.

(c) Compensation in all cases of such employees paid and closed prior to January 4, 1999 shall be deemed compromised and paid under 5 U.S.C. 8137. In all other cases, compensation may be adjusted to conform with the regulations in this part, or the beneficiary may by compromise or agreement with the Director have compensation continued on the basis of a previous adjustment of the claim.

(d) Persons employed in a country or area having no well-defined workers' compensation benefits structure shall be accorded the benefits provided—either by local law or special schedule—in a nearby country as determined by the Director. In selecting the benefit structure to be applied, equity and administrative ease will be given consideration, as well as local custom.

(e) Compensation for disability and death of non-citizens outside the United States under this part, whether paid under local law or special schedule, shall in no event exceed that generally payable under the FECA.

§ 25.3 What is the authority to settle and pay such claims?

In addition to the authority to receive, process and pay claims, when delegated such representative or agency receiving delegation of authority shall, in respect to cases adjudicated under this part, and when so authorized by the Director, have authority to make lump-sum awards (in the manner prescribed by 5 U.S.C. 8135) whenever such authorized representative shall deem such settlement to be for the best interest of the United States, and to compromise and pay claims for any

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benefits provided for under this part, including claims in which there is a dispute as to questions of fact or law. The Director shall, in instructions to the particular representative concerned, establish such procedures in respect to action under this section as he or she may deem necessary, and may specify the scope of any administrative review of such action.

§ 25.4 What type of evidence is required to establish a claim under this part?

Claims of employees of the United States who are neither citizens nor residents of the United States, any territory or Canada, if otherwise compensable, shall be approved only upon evidence of the following nature without regard to the date of injury or death for which claim is made:

(a) Appropriate certification by the Federal employing establishment; or

(b) An armed service's casualty or medical record; or

(c) Verification of the employment and casualty by military personnel; or

(d) Recommendation of an armed service's "Claim Service" based on investigations conducted by it.

§ 25.5 What special rules does OWCP apply to claims of third and fourth country nationals?

(a) *Definitions.* A "third country national" is a person who is neither a citizen nor resident of the United States who is hired by the United States in the person's country of citizenship or residence for employment in another foreign country, or in a possession or territory of the United States. A "fourth country national" is a person who is neither a citizen nor resident of either the country of hire or the place of employment, but who otherwise meets the definition of third country national. "Benefits applicable to local hires" are the benefits provided in this part by local law or special schedule, as determined by the Director. With respect to a United States territory or possession, "local law" means only the law of the particular territory or possession.

(b) *Benefits payable.* Third and fourth country nationals shall be paid the benefits applicable to local hires in the