§ 1260.2 Purpose.

(a) This subpart A of the NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook (also subpart A of 14 CFR part 1260), provides supplemental NASA policies that clarify and amplify government-wide regulations for awarding and administering grants and cooperative agreements with educational and non-profit organizations. The government-wide regulations that this subpart supplements are set forth in OMB Circular A–110 "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations." (NASA has adopted OMB Circular A–110 as subpart B of this part 1260.)

(b) As required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), NASA has also adopted the standards set forth in OMB Circular No. A–133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

§ 1260.3 Definitions.

(a) The following definitions are a supplement to the subpart B definitions set forth at §1260.102. Additional definitions applicable to specific categories of grants and cooperative agreements are set forth at 14 CFR 1273.3 and 14 CFR 1274.102.

(b) Throughout subpart A to this part 1260, the term “grant” includes “cooperative agreement” unless otherwise indicated.

Administrative grant officer means a Federal employee delegated responsibility for grant administration; e.g., a NASA grant officer who has retained grant administration responsibilities, or an Office of Naval Research (ONR) grant officer delegated grant administration by a NASA grant officer.

Amendment means any document used to effect modifications to grants and cooperative agreements. Amendments may be issued unilaterally at the discretion of the grant officer.

Commercial firm means any corporation, trust or other organization which is organized primarily for profit.

Effective date means the date work can begin, which could be earlier or later than the date of signature on a basic award or modification. Expenditures made prior to award of a grant are incurred at the recipient’s risk.

Expiration date means the date of completion specified in the grant, after which expenditures may not be charged against the grant except to satisfy obligations to pay allowable costs committed on or before that date.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities means institutions determined by the Secretary of Education to meet the requirements of 34 CFR 608.2 and listed therein.

Minority educational institution means an institution determined by the Secretary of Education to meet the requirements of 34 CFR 637.4.


Progress report means a concise statement of work accomplished during the report period (see §§1260.22 and 1260.75(a)(3)).

Recipient acquired equipment means equipment purchased or fabricated with grant funds by a recipient for the performance of work under its grant.

Small business concern means a concern, including its affiliates, which is independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is bidding, and qualifies as a small business under the criteria and size standards in 13 CFR part 121.

Small disadvantaged business concern means a small business concern owned and controlled by individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged and meets the criteria set forth at 13 CFR part 121.

Women-owned small business concern means a small business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by women.
§ 1260.4 Applicability.

(a) Subparts A and B of this part 1260 establish policies and procedures for grants and cooperative agreements awarded by NASA to institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations.

(b) Subject to the special considerations in this paragraph, subparts A and B of this part 1260 are also applicable to NASA grants and cooperative agreements awarded to commercial firms which do not involve cost sharing. (This does not prohibit voluntary cost sharing.) When the commercial firm is expected to receive substantial compensating benefits for performance of the work, resource contributions are required for the award of a grant or cooperative agreement. For policies on cooperative agreements with commercial organizations requiring resource contributions by the Recipient, see 14 CFR part 1274.

(1) The allowability of costs incurred by commercial firms is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR part 31.

(2) NASA does not allow for payment of profit or fee to commercial firms under grant awards.

(3) When applying the policies set forth under §1260.74, the grant officer shall vest title to any equipment purchased under the grant with the Government. The special condition at §1260.67, Equipment and Other Property Under Grants With Commercial Firms, shall be incorporated into all grants with commercial firms in place of the provision at §1260.27, Equipment and Other Property.

(4) Due to differing NASA patent policies applicable to large businesses, special conditions at §1260.57, New Technology, and §1260.58, Designation of New Technology Representative and Patent Representative, shall be incorporated into all grants with commercial firms other than those with small businesses, in place of the provision at §1260.28, Patent Rights. Grants with small businesses should retain the §1260.28 provision.

(5) Payments under grants with commercial firms will be made based on incurred costs. NASA Form 272 is not required. Commercial firms will be required to submit invoices on a no more than quarterly basis. Payments to be made on a more than quarterly basis require the written approval of the grant officer. The center finance office should also be informed when payments are to be made on other than a quarterly basis. The special condition at §1260.68, Invoices and Payments Under Grants With Commercial Firms, shall be incorporated into all grants with commercial firms in place of the provision at §1260.26, Financial Management.

(6) Payments will be made to commercial firms via electronic funds transfer. The special condition at §1260.69, Electronic Funds Transfer Payment Method, shall be incorporated into all grants with commercial firms.

(7) Delegation of grant administration functions consistent with the policies set forth at §1260.70 (i.e., property administration and closeout are to be delegated) will be made to the cognizant field office of the Defense Contract Management Agency instead of to the Office of Naval Research. Delegations will be made using NASA Form 1674, Letter of Delegation, for the Administration of Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Exhibit F to subpart A of this part 1260, available at the address given in Exhibit F). Cognizant offices for performing administration under individual grants are set forth in the “DoD Directory of Contract Administration Services Components,” which is available on the internet at: http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/casbook/casbook.htm.

§ 1260.5 Amendment.

This part 1260 will be amended by publication of changes in the Federal Register. Changes will be issued as Grant Notices and incorporated into the official version of the handbook located at the internet web site.