

## § 4.1

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SOURCE: 45 FR 68376, Oct. 15, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

### § 4.1 Training.

The provisions of chapter 41, of title 5, United States Code, and Office of Personnel Management implementing regulations apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

### § 4.2 Performance appraisal.

(a) The GAO shall develop one or more performance appraisal systems which provide for periodic appraisals of job performance of employees; encourages employee participation in establishing performance standards; and uses the results of performance appraisal as a basis for training, rewarding, reassigning, promoting, reducing in grade, retaining, and removing employees.

(b) Each performance appraisal system shall provide for—

(1) Establishing performance standards which will, to the maximum extent feasible, permit the accurate evaluation of job performance on the basis of job-related criteria (which may include the extent of courtesy demonstrated to the public) for each GAO employee.

(2) As soon as practicable, but not later than October 1, 1981, with respect to initial appraisal periods, and thereafter at the beginning of each following appraisal period, communicating to reach GAO employee the performance standards and the critical elements of the employee's position.

(3) Annually evaluating each employee during the appraisal period on such standards.

(4) Recognizing and rewarding employees whose performance so warrants.

(5) Assisting employees in improving unacceptable performance.

(6) Reassigning, reducing in grade, or removing employees who continue to have unacceptable performance but only after an opportunity to demonstrate acceptable performance.

### § 4.3 Removal for unacceptable performance.

GAO may reduce in grade/pay level or remove an employee for unacceptable

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performance in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(a) *Employee entitlement.* A GAO employee whose reduction in grade/pay level or removal is proposed under this section is entitled to—

(1) An advance written notice of the proposed action which identifies—

(i) Specific instances of unacceptable performance by the employee on which the proposed action is based; and

(ii) The critical elements of the employee's position involved in each instance of unacceptable performance.

(2) Be represented by an attorney or other representative.

(3) A reasonable time to answer orally and in writing.

(4) A written decision which—

(i) Specifies the instances of unacceptable performance by the employee on which the reduction in grade/pay level or removal is based.

(ii) Unless proposed by the Comptroller General or by a senior manager (e.g., the Deputy Comptroller General, an Assistant Comptroller General, or a Division or Office Director) has been concurred in by an employee who is in a higher position than the employee who proposed the action.

(b) *Decisions to retain, reduce in grade/pay level or remove.* The decision to retain, reduce in grade or remove a GAO employee—

(1) Shall be made within 30 days after the date of expiration of the notice period, and

(2) In the case of reduction in grade/pay level or removal, may be based only on those instances of unacceptable performance by the employee—

(i) Which occurred during the 1-year period ending on the date of the notice of the proposed action.

(ii) For which the notice and other requirements of this section are complied with.

(c) *Performance improvement.* If because of performance improvement by the employee during the notice period, the employee is not reduced in grade/pay level or removed, and the employee's performance continues to be acceptable for 1 year from the date of advance written notice, any records shall be retained only as prescribed by other recordkeeping requirements, such as grievances, adverse action appeals, or