

satisfactory explanation, the company's default may preclude the renewal of the company's certificate of authority, or warrant prompt revocation of the existing certificate. This notice will provide opportunity to the company to demonstrate its qualification for a continuance of the certificate of authority.

[34 FR 20189, Dec. 24, 1969. Redesignated at 38 FR 22779, Aug. 24, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 8638, Feb. 11, 1977]

§ 223.19 Informal hearing on agency complaints.

(a) *Request for informal hearing.* If a company determines that the opportunity to make known its views, as provided for under § 223.18(b), is inadequate, it may, within 20 business days of the date of the notice required by § 223.18(b), request, in writing, that the Secretary of the Treasury convene an informal hearing.

(b) *Purpose.* As soon as possible after a written request for an informal hearing is received, the Secretary of the Treasury shall convene an informal hearing, at such time and place as he deems appropriate, for the purpose of determining whether revocation of the company's certificate of authority is justified.

(c) *Notice.* The company shall be advised, in writing, of the time and place of the informal hearing and shall be directed to bring all documents, records and other information as it may find necessary and relevant to substantiate its refusal to settle the claims made against it by the Federal agency making the report under § 223.18(a).

(d) *Conduct of hearings.* The hearing shall be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Secretary. The company may be represented by counsel and shall have a fair opportunity to present any relevant material and to examine the agency's evidence. Formal rules of evidence will not apply at the informal hearing.

(e) *Report.* Within 30 days after the informal hearing, the hearing officer shall make a written report to the Secretary setting forth his findings, the basis for his findings, and his recommendations. A copy of the report shall be sent to the company.

[38 FR 22779, Aug. 24, 1973]

§ 223.20 Final decisions.

If, after review of the case file, it is the judgment of the Secretary that the complaint was unfounded, the Secretary shall dismiss the complaint by the Federal agency concerned and shall so notify the company. If, however, it is the judgment of the Secretary that the company has not fulfilled its obligations to the complainant agency, he shall notify the company of the facts or conduct which indicate such failure and allow the company 20 business days from the date of such notification to demonstrate or achieve compliance. If no showing of compliance is made within the period allowed, the Secretary shall either preclude renewal of a company's certificate of authority or revoke it without further notice.

[38 FR 22779, Aug. 24, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 8638, Feb. 11, 1977]

§ 223.21 Reinstatement.

If, after one year from the date of the expiration or the revocation of the certificate of authority, under § 223.20 a company can show that the basis for the non-renewal or revocation has been eliminated and that it can comply with the requirements of 6 U.S.C. 6-13 and the regulations in this part, a new certificate of authority shall be issued without prejudice.

[38 FR 22779, Aug. 24, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 8638, Feb. 11, 1977]

§ 223.22 Fees for services of the Treasury Department.

(a) Fees shall be imposed and collected, for the services listed in paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section which are performed by the Treasury Department, regardless of whether the action requested is granted or denied. The payee of the check or other instrument shall be the Financial Management Service, Treasury Department. The amount of the fee will be based on which of the following categories of service is requested:

(1) Examination of a company's application for a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds or for a certificate of authority as an acceptable reinsuring company on such bonds (see § 223.2);

(2) Examination of a company's application for recognition as an admitted reinsurer (except on excess risks running to the United States) of surety companies doing business with the United States (see §223.12(a) and (b));

(3) Determination of a company's continuing qualifications for annual renewal of its certificate of authority (see §223.3); or

(4) Determination of a company's continuing qualifications for annual renewal of its authority as an admitted reinsurer (see §223.12(c)).

(b) In a given year a uniform fee will be collected from every company requesting a particular category of service, e.g., determination of a company's continuing qualifications for annual renewal of its certificate of authority. However, the Treasury Department reserves the right to redetermine the amounts of fees annually. Fees are determined in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25, as amended.

(c) Specific fee information may be obtained from the Assistant Commissioner, Comptroller at the address shown in §223.2. In addition, a notice of the amount of a fee referred to in §223.22(a) (1) through (4) will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as each change in such fee is made.

[43 FR 12678, Mar. 27, 1978, as amended at 49 FR 47001 and 47002, Nov. 30, 1984]

PART 224—FEDERAL PROCESS AGENTS OF SURETY CORPORATIONS

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§ 224.1 What does this part cover?

This part provides guidance on when a surety corporation must appoint a service of process agent and how the surety corporation complies with this requirement.

§ 224.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this regulation:

(a) *Principal* means the person or entity required to provide a surety bond.

(b) *Process agent* means a resident agent for service of process.

(c) *State* means a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States.

§ 224.3 When may a surety corporation provide a bond without appointing a process agent?

A surety corporation may provide a bond without appointing a process agent when the State where the bond is filed, the State where the principal resides, and the State where the surety corporation is incorporated are the same.

§ 224.4 When must a surety corporation appoint a process agent?

A surety corporation must appoint a process agent when either the State where the bond is filed or the State where the principal resides is different from the State where the surety corporation is incorporated. In such a case, the surety corporation must appoint a process agent in each such State that is different from the State where the surety is incorporated.

§ 224.5 Who may a surety corporation appoint to be a process agent?

A surety corporation may appoint either of the following as process agent—
(a) An official of the State who is authorized or appointed under the law of that jurisdiction to receive service of process on the surety corporation; or

(b) An individual who resides in the jurisdiction of the district court for the district in which a surety bond is filed and who is appointed by the surety corporation by means of a power of attorney. A certified copy of the power of attorney must be filed with the clerk of the district court for the district in which a surety bond is to be provided. In addition, the surety corporation