

§ 301-71.1

Subpart C—Travel Claims for Reimbursement

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Subpart A—General

§ 301-71.1 What is the purpose of an agency travel accounting system?

To:

- (a) Pay authorized and allowable travel expenses of employees;
- (b) Provide standard data necessary for the management of official travel; and
- (c) Ensure adequate accounting for all travel and transportation expenses for official travel.

§ 301-71.2 What are the standard data elements and when must they be captured on a travel accounting system?

The data elements are listed in appendix C of this chapter and must be on any travel claim form authorized for use by your employees.

§ 301-71.3 May we use electronic signatures on travel documents?

Yes, if you meet the security and privacy requirements established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for electronic data interchange.

Subpart B—Travel Authorization

§ 301-71.100 What is the purpose of the travel authorization process?

The purpose is to:

- (a) Provide the employee information regarding what expenses you will pay;

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(b) Provide travel service vendors with necessary documentation for the use of travel programs;

(c) Provide financial information necessary for budgetary planning; and

(d) Identify purpose of travel.

§ 301-71.101 What travel may we authorize?

You may authorize only travel which is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Government effectively and economically. This must be communicated to any official who has the authority to authorize travel.

§ 301-71.102 May we issue a single authorization for a group of employees?

Yes. You may issue a single authorization for a group of employees when they are traveling together on a single trip. However, you must attach a list of all travelers to the authorization.

§ 301-71.103 What information must be included on all travel authorizations?

You must include:

(a) The name of the employee(s);

(b) The signature of the proper authorizing official;

(c) Purpose of travel;

(d) Any conditions of or limitations on that authorization;

(e) An estimate of the travel costs (for open authorizations it should include an estimate of the travel costs over the period covered); and

(f) A statement that the employee(s) is (are) authorized to travel.

§ 301-71.104 Who must sign a travel authorization?

Your agency head or an official to whom such authority has been delegated. This authority may be delegated to any person(s) who is aware of how the authorized travel will support the agency's mission, who is knowledgeable of the employee's travel plans and/or responsible for the travel funds paying for the travel involved.

§ 301-71.105 Must we issue a written or electronic travel authorization in advance of travel?

Yes, except when advance written or electronic authorization is not possible or practical and approval is in accordance with §§ 301-2.1 and 301-2.5 for:

(a) Use of other than coach-class service accommodation on common carriers or use of other than lowest first-class accommodation on ships;

(b) Use of a foreign air carrier;

(c) Use of reduced fares for group or charter arrangements;

(d) Use of cash to pay for common carrier transportation;

(e) Use of extra-fare train service;

(f) Travel by ship;

(g) Use of a rental car;

(h) Use of a Government aircraft;

(i) Payment of a reduced rate per diem;

(j) Payment of actual expenses (see § 301-70.201 for when you may issue a blanket actual expense authorization);

(k) Travel expenses related to emergency travel;

(l) Transportation expenses related to threatened law enforcement/investigative employees and members of their immediate families;

(m) Travel expenses related to travel to a foreign area, except as provided by agency mission;

(n) Acceptance of payment from a non-Federal source for travel expenses (see chapter 304 of this title); and

(o) Travel expenses related to attendance at a conference.

NOTE TO § 301-71.105: You should establish procedures for travel situations where it is not practical or possible to issue a written authorization in advance, except for paragraphs (c), (i), (n), and (o), which always require written or electronic advance authorization.

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§ 301-71.106 Who must sign a trip-by-trip authorization?

The appropriate official is determined as follows: