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Manual

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Distribution: REE Offices in Headquarters, Areas, & Field Locations

(Please distribute to all Purchase Cardholders)

The REE Manual has been revised to incorporate the policy on the roles and responsibilities of managerial/supervisory personnel in the REE Purchase Card Program. This revision also adds a new report entitled "List of Unapproved Transactions" and removes the "LAPC Monthly User Messages Report". Please be reminded that the REE Manual is not by itself a complete document, as it must be used in conjunction with Departmental Regulation 5013-6.

Table of Contents

1.	Policy
2.	References
3.	Definitions
	Bank Contractor
	Fundholder
	Management Unit
	Profile Accounting Code
	Profile Budget Object Class (BOC) Code
	Purchasing Agent
	Transaction Detail Listing
	REE Headquarters
4.	Special Instructions
4.	Special Instructions
	Merchant Category Code
	Software Distribution
	Prohibition on Acquiring Hazardous Items
	Record Keeping
	Accountable/Sensitive Property
	Federal Procurement Data System Reporting
	Access to the Purchase Card Management System
	LAPC/AAPC Changes
	Year-end Spending
	Reconciliation and Payment
	Reconcination and Payment
5.	Training Requirements/Certification
	Training Requirements
	Procurement Personnel
	Nonprocurement Personnel:
	Training Certification
6.	Responsibilities and Procedures

	Summary of Responsibilities	
7.	Authorized Use of Cards and Checks	17
8.	Purchase Card Management and Oversight	19
9.	Procedures to Obtain a Purchase Card	22
	Exhibit 1	24
	Exhibit 2	25
	Exhibit 3	26
	Exhibit 4	27
	Exhibit 5	28
	Exhibit 6	29
	Exhibit 7	
	Exhibit 8	
	Exhibit 9	
	Exhibit 10	
	Exhibit 11	
	Exhibit 12	
	Exhibit 13	
	Exhibit 14	
	Exhibit 15	

1. Policy

It is REE policy that:

- Fundholders or management unit personnel shall designate in writing the employees to be Cardholders. Also, ARS fundholders, in consultation with other management unit personnel, shall designate the Finance Contacts for each ARS Area/Field location/Headquarters office. For the agencies, CSREES, ERS, and NASS, Finance Contacts shall be designated by the respective management unit personnel delegated this responsibility.
- To the maximum extent practicable, purchases that fall within the micro-purchase threshold (\$2,500) shall not be forwarded to the Procurement Office for processing.
- Commercial purchase cards shall not be issued to cooperator employees.
- Commercial purchase cards shall not be used to make payments under existing contracts.

2. References

- DR 5013-6 Use of Purchase Cards and Convenience Checks
- REE P&P 210.1 Procurement and Property Management Review
- USDA/Procurement Homepage www.usda.gov/dalprocure.html
- PPD Homepage www.afm.ars.usda.gov/divisions/ppd
- APC/LAPC Purchase Card Program Guide
- PCMS/Micro-Purchase Guide

3. Definitions

Bank Contractor. A commercial financial institution which the Government has contracted to provide commercial purchase cards and related support services.

Fundholder. The person who is responsible for the effective management and use of assigned program funds and other resources as evidenced on the annual operating plan(s).

Management Unit. The person who is directly responsible for the effective management of a staff, office, branch, or division, including program funds and resources. These individuals may be Division Directors, Branch Chiefs, and/or Section Heads.

Profile Accounting Code. The accounting code that will be initially charged for the goods/services for each purchase transaction.

Profile Budget Object Class (BOC) Code. The BOC code that will be initially charged for the goods/services for each purchase transaction.

Purchasing Agent. Individuals who have been delegated authority to obligate funds on behalf of the government to make buys within designated limits for simplified acquisitions.

Transaction Detail Listing. The report from the Central Accounting System which displays data sent from Purchase Card Management System (PCMS) and other National Finance Center (NFC) feeder systems, i.e., PRCH, TRVL, etc.

REE Headquarters. The offices located in the Washington Metropolitan Area of ARS, CSREES, ERS, and NASS.

4. Special Instructions

Program Implementation. Each office (i.e., Area Agency Program Coordinator (AAPC)/Local Agency Program Coordinator (LAPC)) must be identified with the bank contractor prior to participating in the Purchase Card Program. This is accomplished by the Agency Program Coordinator (APC). First, the Area Administrative Officer (AAO) shall forward the request to establish the AAPC to the APC. When the AAPC has been established, the next office to be established is the LAPC. The AAPC shall forward the request to establish an LAPC to the APC. Both requests should include the AAPC/LAPC's complete name, user ID (if one exists), social security number (SSN), telephone number, etc. A sample request form is shown in Exhibit 1.

It is equally important to identify the Finance Contacts for each ARS field location and Area office, including the agencies of CSREES, ERS, and NASS at this time. The information needed to establish the Finance Contacts should be sent to the respective LAPC or AAPC. For ARS Headquarters and the agencies of CSREES, ERS, and NASS, the information should be forwarded to the LAPC who is located in the Policy Branch (PB), Procurement and Property Division (PPD), Beltsville, Maryland.

It is encouraged that each office designate an Alternate to manage the Program in the absence of the primary AAPC/LAPC. The same information that is needed to set up a primary AAPC/LAPC is also required to set up an Alternate.

Requests for cards/checks cannot be submitted to the bank contractor until this process has been completed.

Merchant Category Code. The Merchant Category Code restricts the types of merchants from which purchases can be made. Due to the wide variety of supplies and services acquired in support of USDA's programs, Merchant Category Code 0000, which designates all types of merchants, has been authorized.

Software Distribution. The APC will notify the designated REE Information Technology Division (ITD) representative when an update to PCMS is ready for distribution. The REE ITD representative will coordinate the distribution of the software with the ARS Area Computer Specialists and the ITD representatives from CSREES, ERS, and NASS.

Prohibition on Acquiring Hazardous Items. All purchases of firearms, ammunition, explosives or hazardous biological and radioactive substances shall be made by a Purchasing Agent. Requests for these substances shall be submitted to the servicing Procurement Office with a copy of the required approvals and licenses. In addition to the types of items identified above, nonprocurement Cardholders are restricted from using the purchase card to buy the following hazardous materials:

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1.0% 2-Acetylaminofluorene (2-AAF)
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0.1% 4-Amniodiphenyl (4-ADP)

0.1% Benzidine

1.0% 3-3'-Dichlorobenzidine (DCB)

1.0% alpha-Naphthylamine (1-NA)

0.1% beta-Naphthylamine (2-NA)

0.1% 4-Nitrobiphenyl

1.0% N-Nitrosodimethylamine (DMN)

1.0% beta-Propiolactone (BPL)

0.1% bis(Chloromethyl)ether (BCME)

1.0% 4,4'-Methylene-bis (2 - chloroaniline)

1.0% Ethyleneimine (EI)

Record Keeping. Cardholders shall keep a formal record of each purchase card transaction as support for funds control operations.

When a check is issued, annotate on the supporting documentation the date the check was issued, the convenience check number, cardholder's name, and the waiver number applicable

to the check. The Tax Identification Number (TIN) or SSN and waiver number shall also be entered into PCMS when reconciling the transaction.

Accountable/Sensitive Property. When accountable/sensitive property is purchased by nonprocurement personnel, cardholders shall forward the description, model number, manufacturer, serial number, property custodian, acquisition cost, acquisition date, and appropriation/accounting number to the appropriate property office. This information is required for each piece of accountable property and will be used as the official property record in the Property Management Information System.

The following is a list of property determined by REE to be sensitive property:

- Firearms (regardless of cost)
- Law enforcement badges (regardless of cost)

Purchasing agents are responsible for providing a copy of the stamped AD-700 for all accountable property purchases to their property office, indicating that the agent used the purchase card to buy accountable property. The property office needs to obtain a copy of the stamped AD-700 at the time of the buy in order to forward property documents to the accountable property officer requesting required information and properly reconcile agency suspense reports.

Cardholders and property officials will work together to ensure that property officials receive appropriate documentation when the purchase card is used to purchase accountable/sensitive property.

Proof-of-Purchase Documentation. To supplement proof-of-purchase documentation, commercial purchase card orders must be recorded on a log (Exhibit 2), which includes the following categories as a minimum:

Date ordered
Name of the supplier
Description of supplies or services
Total price
Date delivered
Purchase Card or Check Transaction

The log (manual or automated) may be modified to meet individual office requirements, but must include the categories previously listed. The log should be maintained in a manner that is consistent with the commercial purchase card billing cycle to facilitate reconciliation. The log must be forwarded to the respective Local Finance Contact (LFC) each month and will enable the posting and reconciliation of individual purchase card transactions with the NFC reports at month-end.

- **Over-the-Counter Purchases**. When cardholders make over-the-counter purchases, they must record the purchase in the log and obtain a copy of the charge slip. They should also make sure all carbons have been destroyed; the sales receipt will become the accountable document.
- **Telephone/Internet Orders**. Cardholders must record all commercial purchase card telephone/internet orders on the log and any shipping documents associated with the order will become the accountable document.

Federal Procurement Data System Reporting. Warranted procurement personnel must reconcile transactions at or above \$25,000 and actions in the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program from \$501-\$100,000 in PCMS by using code "22" in the SF-281 Code Block in the Transaction Maintenance Screen in PCMS. This does not relieve the procurement personnel of completing an SF-279 "Independent Contract Action Report." On the SF-279 form, block 4, do not enter the purchase card account number as the contracting office order number. Procurement personnel can use any combination of numbers not to exceed 15 characters as the contracting order number. It is recommended that you use two digits for the fiscal year and an additional four digits to identify your tracking sequence number (e.g., 00-XXXX).

Access to the Purchase Card Management System. User IDs/passwords are required to access the PCMS and data query tool. The LAPC is responsible for obtaining these user IDs/passwords through the Security Access Management System (SAMS). This information should be forwarded to the user in a secure manner. Exhibit 3 is an example of a memorandum for this purpose.

LAPC/AAPC Changes. When there are changes to an LAPC or AAPC, the APC must be notified to process these changes through PCMS-Cardholder Account Maintenance Screen (CAMS) and SAMS. See Exhibit 1.

The cognizant LAPC or AAPC should be notified when there are changes to a Finance Contact.

Year-end Spending. In the event that transactions are not processed in PCMS by September 30 of the current fiscal year, a period-end estimate must be submitted to cover those transactions that are not processed. The procedures in NFC's yearly year-end closing instructions and procedures memorandum should be followed to report the period-end estimate.

Cardholder Reassignment/Transfer.

• **Reassignment/Transfer within ARS Area**. The AAPC has capability to reassign/transfer an existing cardholder within the specific Area (e.g., from Orlando, FL (SAA location), to Raleigh, NC (SAA location)). This is accomplished by: (1) making

the modification to the "Unit" field in CAMS, and (2) using the "Insert SAC" option in SAMS to insert the new "Unit" number. The LAPC shall forward the request using the information in Exhibit 4 to the AAPC.

- Reassignment within ARS Headquarters, CSREES, ERS, and NASS. The LAPC
 for these offices/agencies has the capability to reassign/transfer an existing cardholder
 within the respective offices of ARS Headquarters, CSREES, ERS, and NASS, (e.g.,
 for ARS Headquarters, CSREES, ERS and NASS Headquarters—agency to agency;
 NASS field—from State to State).
- **Reassignment/Transfer within REE**. Until the APC has the capability to perform the above-mentioned reassignments/transfers within ARS, CSREES, ERS, and NASS, the AAPCs shall forward the request using the information that is shown in Exhibit 4 to the APC.

Reconciliation and Payment. Guidelines for reconciling a transaction with the PCMS/Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) interface are available in the "Cardholder PCMS Quick Guide for Reconciling Purchase Card Transactions. This guide is available from the Purchase and Fleet Card Regulations and Guides page at http://www.usda.gov/procurement/card/guide.html. When a purchase is made using the purchase card or convenience check, the transaction travels through several processes prior to reconciliation. Exhibit 5 shows the process flow of a transaction after the cardholder makes a purchase.

The cardholder should notify the LAPC when experiencing problems in reconciliation.

In the absence of a cardholder, the LAPC must obtain authorization to reconcile a cardholder's purchase card transactions. The LAPC will submit the form in Exhibit 1 with the appropriate information to the APC. The NFC will pay the electronic invoice and schedule payment with the U.S. Treasury regardless of whether the purchases are reconciled.

Accounting adjustments may be made up to 6 months after reconciliation, within the fiscal year, or by November 30 of the following fiscal year. Otherwise, accounting adjustments shall be coordinated through the fiscal office.

• Purchase Card Transactions. The mandatory fields to be completed when reconciling purchase card transactions in PCMS are: Action, Date Received, SF-281 Code (if ≥ \$2500), Item Description (for training, include the name of the employee and title of training course), Agency Reference Number (ARN), Comments and Modify (when applicable). In the ARN field, a cardholder must enter a Document Control Number (DCN) for each transaction to enable the Servicing Funds Control Office to validate PCMS transactions that appear on the Agency's FFIS Transaction Detail Listing. In order to be consistent in assigning the DCN, the cardholder will input their

first initial and last name, followed by their sequentially assigned DCN, e.g., D Jones 0002. Only the first 20 characters of the ARN will pass to FFIS and spaces or dashes are considered as characters.

• Check Transactions. The mandatory fields to be completed when reconciling check transactions in PCMS are: Merchant Address, Merchant City, Merchant State & Zip Code, Action, Date Received (enter date the check was written), SF-281 Code (if ≥ \$2500), TIN or SSN, ARN, Comments (enter applicable waiver number), and Modify (when applicable). For check fees, complete the Action, Date Received (enter date check was written), Item Description (enter check number; for training, include the name of the employee and the title of the training course), and Modify Accounting (enter BOC code).

In accordance with NFC Bulletin 96-1, dated December 10, 1996, the TIN is a 9-digit unique identifier assigned to all individuals and businesses that file tax returns in the United States. For individuals, the SSN serves as the TIN (formatted 000-00-0000). For U.S. businesses, the Employer Identification Number (formatted 00-000000), assigned by the Internal Revenue Service, serves as the TIN. For international orders, use 98-9898989.

Specific BOC codes should be used in reconciling check transactions. These codes are shown in the following table.

TYPE OF ACTION	BUDGET OBJECT CODES
Purchases <\$1,000	2670 (ARS use only)
Local Travel	2115
Training (SF-182's)	2523
Check Fees	2581
Electricity	2311
Natural Gas	2312
Water, Purchased Steam, Purchased Chilled	2313
Fuel/Oil	2618
LPG/Propane	2619
Coal	2617
Registration Fees/Honorariums	2570

- Reconciliation Process. LAPC's and AAPC's have a responsibility to ensure that cardholders reconcile timely and in compliance with existing Departmental/Agency guidelines and procedures. A reconciliation process has been designed to allow a cardholder 60 days to reconcile transactions before deactivating the account. The process is as follows:
 - 1. LAPC sends a written notification to cardholders who have not reconciled their transactions within the 30-day time frame. This notification should be routed through the appropriate supervisor/manager. See enclosed Exhibit 6 for sample notification message which includes a specific date to reconcile transactions, a deactivation date if transactions have not been reconciled by that date, and information on the re-activation process.
 - (a) <u>Query Report</u>. On the 15th of each month, LAPC's and/or AAPC's will query the "unapproved" transactions of the previous month in PCMS using the "List of Unapproved Transactions Report" in the Discoverer application. This is the 30-day report.
 - (b) <u>Notify Cardholders</u>. Using this report, an LAPC will notify each card holder through the appropriate supervisor/manager. This is the only notification the cardholder and/or manager/supervisor will receive.
 - 2. Second Report (60-day). Using same date parameters as #1, run another report 30 days after the first notification. Purchase card accounts appearing on the list will be deactivated, absent extenuating circumstances.
 - 3. To re-activate the card, the cardholders supervisor must submit a request to the LAPC and include in the request an agreement from the cardholder to abide by the purchase card policy to reconcile within the 30-day time frame.

Month	Run 30-Day Report	Run 60-Day Report
OCT 1-30	NOV 15	DEC 15
NOV 1-30	DEC 15	JAN 15
DEC 1-30	JAN 15	FEB 15
JAN 1-31	FEB 15	MAR 15
FEB 1-28	MAR 15	APR 15
MAR 1-31	APR 15	MAY 15

APR 1-30	MAY 15	JUN 15	
MAY 1-31	JUN 15	JUL 15	
JUN 1-30	JUL 15	AUG 15	
JUL 1-31	AUG 15	SEPT 15	
AUG 1-31	SEPT 15	OCT 15	
SEPT 1-30	OCT 15	NOV 15	

5. Training Requirements/Certification

Training Requirements. The APC is responsible for training the AAPC and the LAPC for REE Headquarters and the agencies of CSREES, ERS, and NASS. The APC is also responsible for coordinating the training of the Finance Contacts at REE Headquarters. All participants in the Purchase Card Program must be thoroughly trained to ensure proper management and oversight of the Purchase Card Program. The AAPC is responsible for training the LAPC in the proper management of the Purchase Card Program within their respective locations. The LAPC shall have responsibility for ensuring that all prospective cardholders are trained in procedures for properly using the commercial purchase card with associated check writing feature and reconciling their transactions. Prior to issuing a card to Cardholders, all training shall have been completed.

LAPCs should also coordinate training with the LFCs at their respective field locations.

Listed below is the training that is required for each individual who has a role in the Purchase Card Program.

• **APC/AAPC/LAPC** (individuals in the 1102/1105 Series):

- review DR 5013-6 and this Manual;
- view The USDA Purchase Card Program;
- Javits-Wagner O'Day (JWOD) videos;
- APC/LAPC Purchase Card Program Guide and;
- complete Discoverer Training, PCMS Training which includes Cardholder
 Account Maintenance System Training, Security Access Management System
 Training, and PCMS Training Workbook with PCMS Cardholder Instructions.

Finance Contacts:

- view the USDA Purchase Card Program video;
- review DR 5013-6 and this Manual; and
- complete Discoverer Training.
- **Procurement Personnel** (warranted COs having completed 40 hours of simplified acquisition training):
 - review DR 5013-6 and this Manual;
 - view the USDA Purchase Card Program and JWOD videos; and
 - complete the PCMS Training Workbook with PCMS Cardholder Instructions.

• Nonprocurement Personnel:

- review DR 5013-6 and this Manual;
- view the USDA Purchase Card Program and JWOD videos;
- PCMS/Micro-Purchase Guide
- complete the Micro-Purchase Self-Test in the PCMS/Micro-Purchase Guide and the PCMS Training Workbook with PCMS Cardholder Instructions; and
- as part of training, it is recommended that cardholders be given the following brochures/booklets to assist them in complying with required sources of supplies and services: Buyers Guide to the Javits-Wagner O'Day (JWOD) Program, GSA Customer Supply Center for the Specific Region, UNICOR Quick Ship Credit Card Catalog, JWOD Skillcraft Products and Services Catalog, and "Greening the Government, Closing the Circle, A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 13101, Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention."

Training should be conducted for the Cardholders when the purchase card/check, training materials, and user ID/password have been received by the LAPC. This will allow Cardholders to receive "just-in-time" training.

Training Certification. All cardholders, LAPCs, and AAPCs should receive some form of training certification that documents successful completion of training and receipt of the training materials in support of the Purchase Card Program. Sample forms are shown in Exhibits 7 and 8 to document this training. Warranted personnel will receive credit toward their maintenance training requirements based upon the duration of time spent receiving official AAPC/LAPC and/or cardholder training as follows:

AAPC/LAPC - 16 hours Cardholder - 2 hours

6. Responsibilities and Procedures

REE Purchase Card Team. Within REE, individuals have been designated to manage and provide oversight of the Purchase Card Program at different organizational levels. The roles determine the responsibilities of the individuals. Exhibit 9 is a diagram of the REE Purchase Card Program Roles. Exhibit 10 further explains the roles for problem solving.

Summary of Responsibilities. The following are specific responsibilities associated with each role involved in the REE Purchase Card Program.

<u>APC</u>. The APC position is located in PPD, Administrative and Financial Management (AFM), Beltsville, Maryland. The following responsibilities are in addition to those listed in the APC/LAPC Purchase Card Program Guide:

- Coordinates the implementation of the program within REE through the Department's Contracting Officer Technical Representative or the Department Program Coordinator, the bank contractor, the General Services Administration, and the AAPC.
- Maintains open communication with the Financial Management Division (FMD) and ITD on policy, procedures and problems relating to the Purchase Card Program.

<u>AAPC</u>. The AAPC and Alternate will be designated by the AAO for the ARS Areas in consultation with the APC. For REE Headquarters, CSREES, ERS, and NASS; the AAPC will be located in PPB and designated by the Chief of PPB. The Alternate AAPC will perform the duties of the AAPC in the absence of the AAPC. The AAPC/Alternate has the following responsibilities:

- Point of Contact for the Purchase Card Program in the Area.
- Provides training and guidance to the LAPC.
- Establishes and maintains the Purchase Card Program within his/her designated Area.
- Monitors purchases using the Discoverer software and provides the Area management with information from PCMS utilizing data query.
- Conducts random monthly:
 - cardholder reviews using established standard reports and the audit form (Exhibit 11); and

- LAPC reviews for compliance with existing purchase card policy.
- Reports cases of fraud, waste, and abuse. The USDA Office of Human Resources has provided a list of suggested penalties for specific offenses which is provided in Exhibit 12. The types of misconduct are listed with recommended disciplinary actions for inappropriate use of the purchase card and convenience checks. Offices may institute stricter but not more lenient disciplinary measures.
- Reconciles, on an emergency basis, cardholder accounts in the absence of the LAPC.
- Submits Area Quarterly Report on Purchase Card/Check Use and Reconciliation to the APC as stipulated in this Manual.

<u>LAPC</u>. The LAPC will be designated by the cognizant ARS AAO for the ARS Areas, in consultation with the APC. The following listed responsibilities are in addition to those listed in the APC/LAPC Purchase Card Program Guide:

- Submits Annual Energy Management Data Report on a yearly basis.
- Works with the cardholders, Finance Contacts, and the AAPC in the implementation and management of the program.
- Conducts random monthly cardholder reviews using established standard reports and the audit form in Exhibit 11 for compliance with existing purchase card and federal acquisition policy.
- Ensures that prospective cardholders complete appropriate training requirements in simplified acquisition and commercial purchase card procedures. Upon completion of the Micro-Purchase Self-Study Test, returns the course booklet to the cardholder for future reference.
- Establishes monthly cardholder limits, in consultation with the fundholder and appropriate management unit.
- On a case-by-case basis, approves and processes requests of cardholder's authorization for certain restricted transactions.
- Prepares and submits monthly unauthorized purchase card/convenience check reports to the AAPC. The LAPC can modify the quarterly report to reflect monthly review of purchase card data.

- Ensures that reassigned and/or departing cardholders surrender their commercial purchase cards/convenience checks in accordance with the requirements of this Manual and DR 5013-6.
- Ensures that cards issued under their authority are properly utilized for official Government business only.
- Issues warning notices for the following types of misconduct:
 - writing checks when vendor accepts purchase cards
 - failing on a consistent basis to reconcile transactions in PCMS
 - allowing or authorizing another employee to use purchase card
 - circumventing single purchase limit
 - cardholder sharing their PCMS user IDs and passwords, whereby breeching security
- Deactivate purchase card/convenience checks for repetitive misuse of purchase cards/convenience checks after consultation with cardholder's supervisor.

<u>Cardholder</u>. The cardholder has the following listed responsibilities in addition to those listed in the APC/LAPC Purchase Card Program Guide and the PCMS/Micro-Purchase Guide:

- Documents all commercial purchase card/check transactions in accordance with the requirements of this Manual and DR 5013-6.
- Makes corrections in PCMS to agency and accounting, BOC, and subaccount codes.
- Changes profile accounting at the end of the current fiscal year to reflect new fiscal year accounting (as required).
- Ensures property information is forwarded to appropriate Property Officer for accountable/sensitive property purchases.
- Prepares log and submits to the Finance Contact, when applicable.
- Reconciles weekly and selects one day to routinely reconcile on a weekly basis.
- Initiates disputes in PCMS and follows up on disputes to resolve issue, whether to the bank or merchant, in a timely manner.

<u>Manager/Supervisor</u>. These individuals determine, in writing to the LAPC, who within their organizations should receive purchase cards and convenience checks. The manager/supervisor shall have the following responsibilities:

- Determines the necessity and appropriateness of each card.
- Determines single and monthly purchase limits.
- Submits the prospective cardholder's name, work address (including all acronyms), telephone number, e-mail address, single purchase limit, monthly cardholder limit, accounting information, and check writing capability to the LAPC. Also include the direct Supervisor's name and e-mail address.
- Ensures that cards issued under their authority are properly utilized for official Government business only.
- Takes disciplinary action or other appropriate action for misuse of purchase cards when notified by the LAPC and notify the LAPC of action taken.

<u>Headquarters Finance Contact (Chief, FMD-Fiscal Operations Branch (FOB))</u>. This position is located in FMD, AFM, Beltsville, Maryland, and shall have the following responsibilities:

- Works with the APC to ensure accounting requirements are included in the purchase card policy.
- Communicates any financial concerns to the APC and NFC.
- Interacts with NFC to restore accounting related issues.
- Provides guidance and instructions to the Area Finance Contacts (AFCs) and LFCs relating to financial issues in PCMS and Discoverer tool.

<u>AFC (Area Budget and Fiscal Office)</u>. The AFC shall be designated by the AAO in consultation with the AAPC for the ARS Areas. For REE Headquarters, the AFC will be located in Fiscal Operations Branch, FMD, Beltsville, Maryland. For the offices of CSREES, ERS, and NASS, the AFC will be located in their respective Headquarters offices in Washington, D.C.

The responsibilities of the AFC are as follows:

• Reports any Transaction Detail Listing or accounting irregularities to the FMD-FOB and AAPC (for AFM, CSREES, ERS, and NASS, this is the LAPC).

- Works with the AAPC (for CSREES, ERS, and NASS, this is the LAPC) to ensure accounting requirements are communicated to the Cardholders and fundholders/management unit personnel.
- Maintains a good understanding of PCMS.
- Maintains open communication with the designated LFCs for ARS field locations on policy, procedures, and problems relating to the Purchase Card Program.

LFCs. The LFCs will be designated by the cognizant ARS AAO for the ARS Areas. The LFC has the following responsibilities:

- Reviews purchase card/check transactions using data query tool to assure the correct agency, accounting code, and benefitting subaccount, are assigned to all purchase card/check transactions befitting their management unit.
- Follow-up with Cardholders to ensure errors are corrected.

ITD Contact. The ITD Contact at REE Headquarters is responsible for:

- Conducting site surveys of Headquarters office computer equipment.
- Ensuring that PCMS software will operate on existing REE computer environments.
- Providing detailed downloading/installation instructions to Area Computer Specialists and ITD representatives from CSREES, ERS, and NASS on PCMS.
- Maintaining open communication with the Area Computer Specialists and ITD representatives from CSREES, ERS and NASS on policy, procedures, and problems relating to the Purchase Card Program.

7. Authorized Use of Cards and Checks

- a. Utilities. The purchase card may be used to pay for utilities required for the government. The Cardholder shall initiate the action to capture the utilities' usage for inclusion in the Annual Energy Management Data Report and reconcile the transaction in PCMS. The Cardholder shall:
 - (1) Contact the utility vendor to determine if the vendor will accept the purchase card. Use of the convenience check is allowed only in emergency situations and

when one of the Debt Collection Improvement Act waivers is applicable. The waivers are shown in Exhibit 13.

- (2) Instruct utility vendor where to send invoice.
- (3) Maintain a record of how much energy is consumed in dollars and also energy units (i.e., gallons of gas, KW of electricity, gallons of oil, etc.), on a monthly basis, using the report in Exhibit 14. Also, include type of service, e.g., electric, gas, water. The invoice is a good source of this information. This information should be kept on file to be included in the Annual Energy Management Data Report.
- (4) Use the appropriate BOC codes for each energy type. These are listed in the table in Section 4 of this Manual.
- (5) Reconcile in PCMS. Include the waiver number and energy units in "Comments Section" of the Transaction Maintenance Screen.
- (6) Continue to use the purchase card as the method of payment, when selected, until the end of the reporting period, i.e., do not change method of payment within the reporting period once decision has been made to pay by purchase card.
- b. Federal Express. The purchase card is the preferred tool to use for payment of mail delivery services. Where the volume of transactions makes it inefficient to reconcile individual transactions through the PCMS, Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) may be used to effect payment to Federal Express (FedEx). Contact the cognizant Servicing Purchasing Office to establish the BPA with FedEx.

If the purchase card is used, the Cardholder shall initiate action to convert an existing FedEx Government account or to establish a new account to be paid by the purchase card. Since the FedEx account is linked to the purchase card account number, one Cardholder in each office/branch/staff shall be designated as the point of contact (POC) for the FedEx account. The name of the FedEx POC should be provided to the office/branch/staff. These transactions will be reconciled in PCMS.

(1) Establishment of New Account/Conversion of Existing Account

The Cardholder shall:

(i) Contact the FedEx Government Customer Account Services on 1-800-645-9424. This number is the only authorized phone number to either convert an existing FedEx Government account or to establish a new account to pay by purchase card. FedEx will provide a form to

either establish a new account or to make the transition to the purchase card.

- (ii) Complete the form and forward to FedEx as indicated on the form. For existing FedEx Government accounts, include the FedEx account number and the purchase card account number. The FedEx account number can be found on the air bill form that is used to send out packages. It takes FedEx 3-5 business days to establish or convert the account. The Cardholder will receive a faxed confirmation letter from FedEx. Once the confirmation letter has been received, the office/staff/branch should be notified of the designated FedEx POC. The purchase card shall not be used to pay FedEx until the confirmation letter has been received by the designated FedEx POC (Cardholder).
- (2) Mailing Packages. The sender shall complete the air bill form as required and not place the purchase card number on the air bill form. If the sender is not the FedEx POC, the sender shall forward a copy of the air bill to the FedEx POC.
- (3) Reconciliation. The FedEx transaction(s) shall be reconciled in PCMS by matching the air bill number from the copy of the air bill with the number in PCMS. The air bill number appears in the "Merchant City" field in PCMS.

Use of the purchase card to pay a FedEx bill without first setting up an account for payment by purchase card will result in FedEx charging commercial rates to the Cardholder's purchase card.

8. Purchase Card Management and Oversight

To aid in the review of purchase card data, several standard reports are available for the APC, AAPCs, LAPCs and supervisors/managers to use and assist with management and oversight of the Purchase Card Program. These reports are explained below:

- Purchase Card Master File (for use by APC, AAPC, and LAPC). This report includes the information pertaining to cardholder account setup requests that have been transmitted to the bank by NFC. Use this report to verify that hierarchy and purchase limit information returned from the bank is correct.
- Cardholder Monthly Transaction Comparison Report ≤ \$2500 (for use by APC, AAPC, and LAPC). This report compiles transactions less than \$2,500. Use this report to verify single purchase limit compliance.

- Aged Transaction Report (for use by APC and Manager/Supervisor). This report summarizes the number of transactions per cardholder that have not been reconciled in accordance with existing policy.
- List of Unapproved Transactions (for use by LAPC, AAPC and APC). Use this report to verify timely reconciliations. This report also displays the transactions by cardholder listed in the "Aged Transaction Report" that have not been reconciled.
- Cardholder Monthly Reconciliation Report (for use by LAPC, AAPC, APC, and Manager/Supervisor). This report lists all transactions purchased by the cardholder. Use this report to verify fund adjustments, select transactions for statistical sampling, check for split transactions, and whether transactions (i.e., card/check) are reconciled properly (i.e., all required data has been entered into PCMS). LAPCs will be required to review at least 10 percent of their cardholder transactions each month.
- Check Report (for use by APC). This report is used for reviewing check transactions.

The chart identifies the responsible individual and frequency of the reports.

Type of Report	Responsible Individual	Report Frequency
Purchase Card Master File	LAPC	As required
Cardholder Monthly Transaction Comparison Report	APC	Monthly
Aged Transaction Report	APC	Every 45 days
List of Unapproved Transactions	LAPC, AAPC	Monthly
Cardholder Monthly Reconciliation Report	LAPC, AAPC	Monthly
(Also used for Stat Sampling)	APC	Quarterly
Monthly Cardholder Management Report for Managers/Supervisors	LAPC	Monthly
Check Report	APC	Quarterly

Program Reviews. Management and oversight of the Purchase Card Program within a specific Area/Field location/Office/Agency is the responsibility of the LAPC/AAPC. Random cardholder and LAPC reviews are to be performed monthly.

<u>APC Review</u>. The APC shall conduct program reviews and monthly cardholder reviews using established standard reports. In conjunction with the Procurement and Property Management Reviews, PPD reviews purchase card transactions.

AAPC Review. The AAPC shall conduct random monthly cardholder reviews using established standard reports and LAPC file reviews for compliance with existing purchase card policy. In addition to the random/monthly cardholder and LAPC file reviews, the AAPC will annually conduct a review of LAPC files. The LAPC file review shall be commensurate with the number of LAPCs and cardholders in the Area. It is encouraged that the AAPC keep a separate file copy of the cardholder accounts with supporting documentation selected for review. When requested, forward this entire file to the APC for review.

<u>LAPC</u> Review. The LAPC shall conduct random monthly cardholder reviews using established standard reports. The cardholder review should be commensurate with the number of cardholders at the location. LAPCs are to report monthly review findings to the AAPC.

<u>Supervisor/Manager/Fundholder Review</u>. These individuals shall conduct a review of purchase card data of cardholders in their offices using standard reports to ensure cards are properly utilized for official Government business.

APC, AAPC, and LAPC review findings are to be incorporated in the applicable Monthly or Quarterly Report on Purchase Card/Check Use and Reconciliation. This report is shown as Exhibit 15. The monthly report is submitted to the AAPC and the quarterly report is submitted to the APC. Negative reports are required. The quarterly reports are required as follows:

Reporting Date
January 31
October-December
April 30
January-March
July 31
April-June
October 31
July-September

Unauthorized use of the Governmentwide commercial purchase card/convenience check shall result in disciplinary action (Exhibit 12).

9. Procedures to Obtain a Purchase Card

Responsible Person/Office	Action
APC	1. In consultation with AAPC's, identifies and establishes each office (LAPC) with the bank contractor using PCMS.
Fundholder or Management Unit Personnel	 Identifies, in writing to the LAPC, the names of the prospective cardholder(s) and finance contact(s) after: Ensuring that the requested number of cardholders is consistent with the fundholder's purchasing requirements. Reviewing the need and appropriateness of the requested number of cardholders and check writers. Requiring that the finance contacts be familiar with DR 5013-6, this Manual, and the Discoverer tool for managing funds in PCMS.
LAPC	 Uses PCMS to electronically submit the requests for purchase cards/checks directly to NFC for transmission to the Bank contractor. Orders training materials for the cardholders and forwards the PCMS/Micro-Purchase Guide to prospective cardholders.
Prospective Cardholder	4. Completes the Micro-Purchase Self-Test and forwards to LAPC for review. (This test is located in Appendix B of the PCMS/Mirco-Purchase Guide).
LAPC	5. Upon receipt of the purchase cards/checks and training materials, LAPC trains the prospective cardholders in accordance with this Manual. The self-study test shall be returned to the cardholder after review.
	Issues training certificate to document successful completion of training.

Cardholder	6	Upon receipt of the Commercial Purchase Card/Checks, the Cardholder must:			
		a. Check the commercial purchase card/check for accuracy of information. If correct, activate the card using the Bank's voice response unit in accordance with the instructions provided.			
		b. If the commercial purchase card/check information is incorrect, the cardholder must notify the LAPC who will notify the bank contractor using PCMS.			
		c. Log into PCMS at the Profile Accounting Screen to verify that profile accounting information has been established. If profile accounting information is missing or incorrect enter profile accounting information at that time.			

LARRY R. CULLUMBER

Director

Procurement and Property Division

Exhibits

1	Request for Assistance
2	Purchase Card/Check Log
3	Security Letter
4	Reassignment/Transfer Request
5	Transaction Process Flow Chart
6	Notification of Unreconciled Transactions in PCMS
7	Training Check List and Certification for Cardholders
8	Training Check List and Certification for LAPCs/AAPCs
9	REE Purchase Card Program Roles
10	REE Purchase Card Program Roles for Problem Solving
11	Audit-Statistical Sampling
12	Recommended Disciplinary Action
13	Debt Collection Improvement Act Waivers for Check Writing Purposes
14	Monthly Energy Management Data Report
15	Quarterly Report on Purchase Card/Check Use and Reconciliation

Request for Assistance*

(LAPC/AAPC) Date of Request: Type of Request: () Establishment of AAPC (forward to APC) () Establishment of LAPC (forward to APC) () Request for APC assistance (forward to APC) () Request for NFC or Bank Assistance (see below)*	
Type of Request: () Establishment of AAPC (forward to APC) () Establishment of LAPC (forward to APC) () Request for APC assistance (forward to APC)	
Name: (Enter name of individual)	
Telephone No.: (Enter telephone no. of individual)	
Role: (Enter either CH, LAPC, AAPC, or Finance Contact)	
Program: (Enter first six digits of purchase card number)	
Dept: (Enter 12 for USDA)	
Agency: (Enter 03=ARS, 18=ERS, 20=NASS, 22=CSREES)	
Region: (Enter two-digit assigned region no.)	
Unit: (Enter two-digit assigned unit no.)	
Subunit: (Enter 0000)	
Account No.: (Enter last 10 digits of purchase card number. Leave Blank for LAPC/A	AAPC/Finance
User ID: Enter existing NFC User ID.	
SSN: Enter social security number	
(Complete for Establishment of AAPC/LAPC only): Series: Enter 1102 or 1105. If not in 1102/1105 series, state if training requirements (CO Warrant System) will be met to quality.	
(Complete for NFC Assistance (complex problems only)): Problem: State the problem.	

^{*}After completion, fax to NFC at 504-255-5525. For Bank assistance, fax to 301-504-1739.

Purchase Card Transaction Log for the Month of
--

Name of C	Name of Cardholder: Profile Accounting Code:										
Order Number	Req. Number	Date Purch.	Vendor	Item Description	Trans. Amount	Check Number	Object Class Code	Accounting Code	Sub Account	Dollar Amount	Date Received

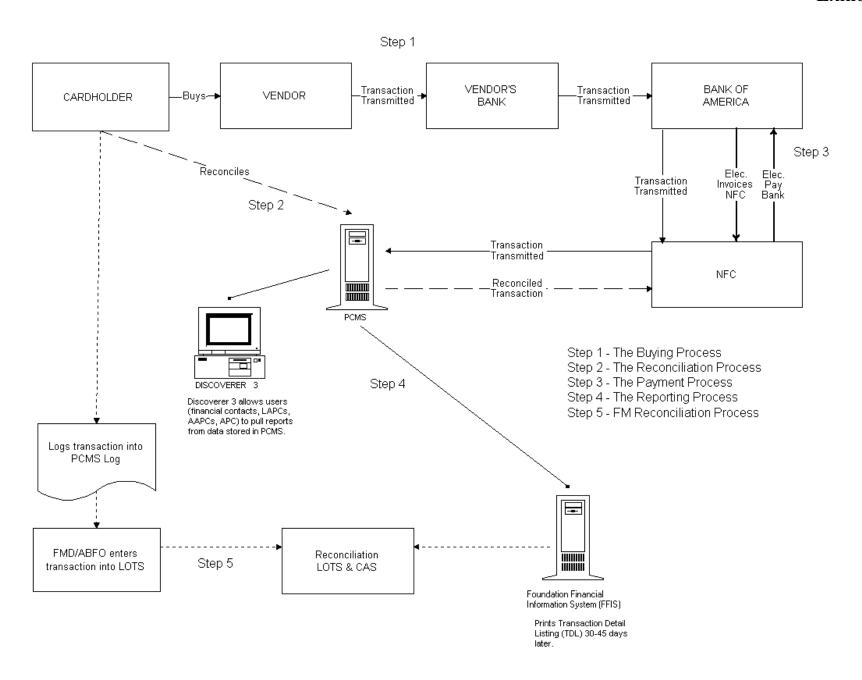
A copy of this record must be sent to the Local Finance Center or AFC by the 1st workday of the month.

SECURITY LETTER

SUBJECT:	Access to the Purchase Card Management System				
TO:	REE Purchase Cardholders/LAPCs/AAPCs/Finance Contacts				
FROM:LAPC/AAPC/APC					
PCMS, you a	en given access to the Purchase Card Management System (PCMS). To gain access to are required to use a User ID/password. Your User ID/password is e your password immediately since you have been given a generic password for this				
with anyone	consibility to safeguard your User ID/password at all times. Never share this information since this increases risk and reduces accountability. If you feel your User ID/password has mised in any way, please call (insert LAPC/AAPC/APC telephone number)				
•	nter problems with your User ID/password, i.e., password has expired or needs to be reset, it me at the above listed telephone number.				
	e with existing National Finance Center (NFC) Security regulations, listed below are a few its to remember:				
1.	Passwords should be uniqueat least 8 characters long and must contain at least one numeric character.				
2.	Passwords should be changed every 90 days. You will be alerted in PCMS to change your password.				
3.	Passwords are suspended after three attempts to log on.				
4.	NFC requires that the first four characters of your password be different from the previous password				

REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER REQUEST

Submitted by:		Date:		
<i>,</i>	(LAPC or AAPC)		_	
Type of Request: () Reassignment/Transfer w	assignment/Transfer within REE (forward request to APC) ssignment/Transfer within Area (forward to AAPC) p LAPC/AAPC. User no longer works for REE. (forward to APC)		
User's Name:				
User's ID:				
Role:				
Program Code:				
Account Number:		(Cardholders only)		
Complete for Reassi	ignment/Transfer: FROM	TO		
Agency:				
Region:				
Unit:				
Subunit:				
New Address:				
Telephone:				



SUBJECT: Notification of Unreconciled

Transactions in PCMS

THROUGH: (Cardholder's Supervisor)

TO: (Name of Cardholder)

FROM: (Name of LAPC)

Enclosed is a report of your unreconciled transactions which shows (insert number of transactions) unreconciled transaction for the period <u>(insert date)</u>. This is to advise that unless all of these transactions are reconciled 30 calendar days from the date of this message your purchase card account will be deactivated for failure to reconcile transactions in a timely manner.

Timely reconciliation of transactions is your responsibility and was addressed in purchase card training. Departmental Regulation 5013-6, Use of the Purchase Card and Convenience Check, Section 6, Paragraph j, states, "Requirement to Timely and Accurately Reconcile. It is USDA policy that cardholders shall reconcile their accounts not later than 30 calendar days after a transaction appears in PCMS, absent extenuating circumstances. Failure to timely and accurately reconcile may cause inaccuracies in agency status of funds information. In addition, failure to cite correct budget object classification codes, and for convenience check recipients, Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) for Social Security Numbers (SSNs), may cause 1099's to erroneously be issued to USDA employees and vendors. Failure to timely and accurately reconcile shall constitute grounds for management to revoke purchase card and convenience check privileges, and possible disciplinary action. For additional information on cardholder responsibilities, refer to the PCMS/Micro-Purchase Guide."

This is the only notification you will receive in regards to the unreconciled transactions listed on the enclosed report. If all transactions are not reconciled within this 30-day period, you must submit the purchase card, all unused convenience checks, the check register, and check carbons to me by ____(insert date) ___. Your purchase card account will be deactivated for a minimum of 30 days or until all transactions are reconciled. The account may then be re-activated based on the written request of your supervisor assuming that all transactions are reconciled at that time. If the transactions are not reconciled within 60 days, the account is subject to cancellation.

Please be advised that it is REE policy that purchases that fall within the micro-purchase threshold (\$2,500) shall not be forwarded to the servicing Procurement Office for processing. Deactivation of your card will affect your ability to obtain needed supplies and/or services in a timely manner.

If there are any extenuating circumstances preventing you from reconciling, please contact me on (LAPC's telephone number). Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Enclosure

cc:

Cardholder's supervisor AAPC

CARDHOLDER TRAINING CHECK LIST AND CERTIFICATION

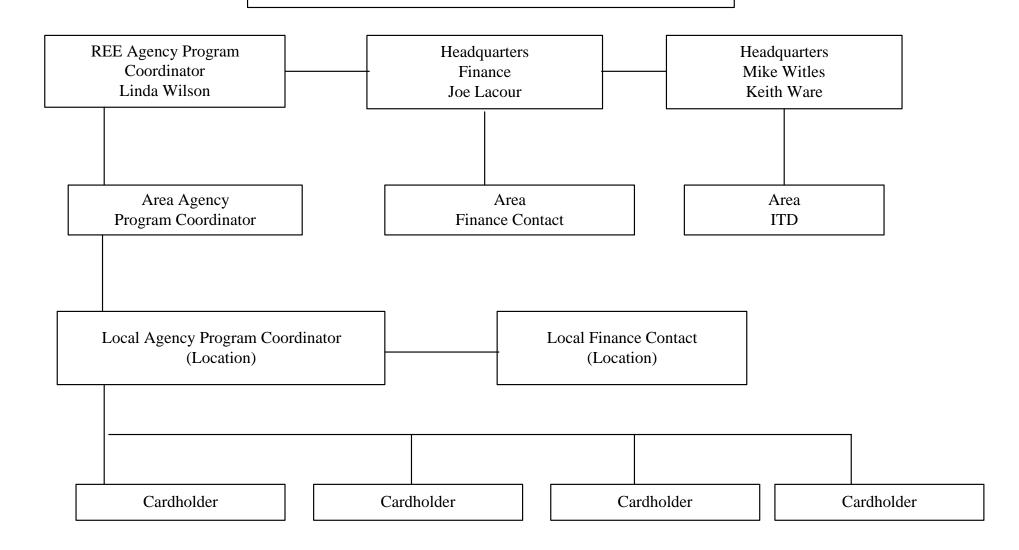
NAME:	Date of Training:
TRAINING MATERIALS	DATE GIVEN TO TRAINEE
USDA PURCHASE CARD VIDEO	
PCMS TRAINING WHICH INCLUDES TRIFOLD/PCMS TR WORKBOOK	RAINING
PCMS/MICRO-PURCHASE GUIDE	
BUYERS GUIDE TO JWOD	
GSA CUSTOMER SUPPLY CENTER CATALOG	
UNICOR QUICK SHIP CATALOG	
JWOD SKILLCRAFT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES CATAI	Log
GREENING THE GOVERNMENT	
SECURITY LETTER	
DR 5013-6	
REE MANUAL 213.3M, PURCHASE CARD PROGRAM	
JWOD VIDEO	
CARDHOLDER PCMS USER'S GUIDE	
CARDHOLDER PCMS QUICK GUIDE FOR RECONCILING PURCHASE CARD TRANSACTIONS	G
PURCHASE CARD QUICK GUIDE TO PROPER USE OF T PURCHASE CARD AND CONVENIENCE CHECKS	НЕ
PCMS QUICK GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE RELATED BETWEEN 1099s, TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (TINBUDGET OBJECT CLASSIFICATION CODES (BOCCs)	
I certify that I reviewed and understand the above list effectively support the USDA Purchase Card Progran	n.
Signature of Trainee	

LAPC/AAPC TRAINING CHECK LIST AND CERTIFICATION

NAME:	Date of Training:		
TRAINING MATERIALS	DATE GIVEN TO TRAINER		
USDA PURCHASE CARD VIDEO			
PCMS TRAINING WHICH INCLUDES TRIFOLD/PCM WORKBOOK	AS TRAINING		
PCMS/MICRO-PURCHASE GUIDE			
BUYERS GUIDE TO JWOD			
GSA CUSTOMER SUPPLY CENTER CATALOG			
UNICOR QUICK SHIP CATALOG			
JWOD SKILLCRAFT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES CA	ATALOG		
GREENING THE GOVERNMENT			
SECURITY LETTER			
DR 5013-6			
REE MANUAL 213.3M, PURCHASE CARD PROGRA	aM		
JWOD VIDEO			
APC/LAPC PURCHASE CARD PROGRAM GUIDE			
DISCOVERER TRAINING			
CARDHOLDER ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE TRAINI	ING		
SECURITY ACCESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TRAI - SAMS USER'S GUIDE FOR THE PURCHASE CARI - PURCHASE CARD QUICK GUIDE TO THE SECUR ACCESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SAMS) (TRIF	D RITY		
APC/LAPC PCMS USER'S GUIDE - APC/LAPC PCMS QUICK GUIDE FOR MANAGING PURCHASE CARDHOLDER ACCOUNTS			

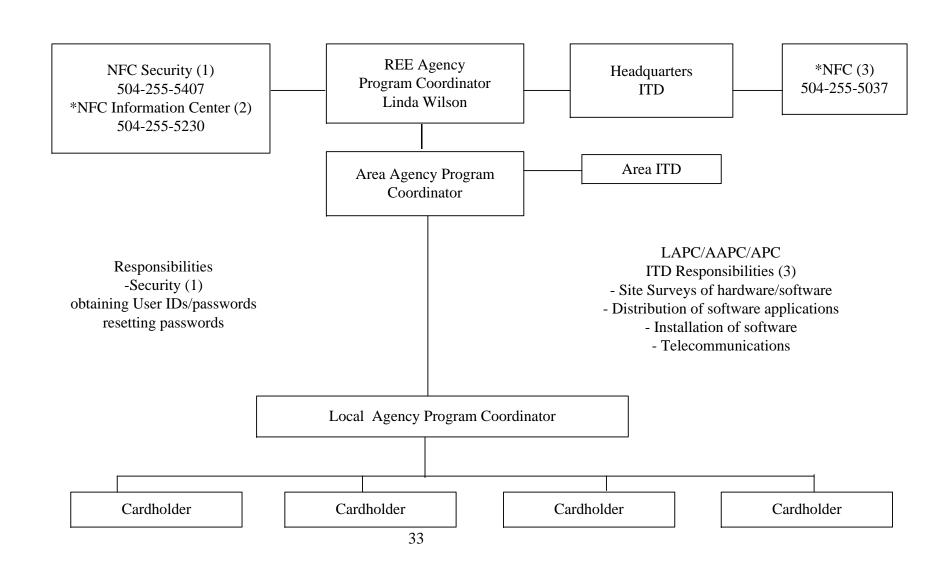
I certify that I reviewed and understand the above listed training materials and received training to effectively support the USDA Purchase Card Program.

REE PURCHASE CARD PROGRAM ROLES



REE PURCHASE CARD PROGRAM ROLES FOR PROBLEM SOLVING

REE PURCHASE CARD PROGRAM ROLES FOR PROBLEM SOLVING



AUDIT - STATISTICAL SAMPLING

Cardholder N	Name	Account	Number	SPL
Reg/Unit		Date		_
Indicate type	of transaction: [] Check [] Purchase C	ard	
Is the transac	ction reconciled in	PCMS: [] Yes []	No	
Purchase Dat	te:		Amount of Purchase: \$	
Merchant Na	ime:		TIN:	(applicable only to checks
		Accou	ınting Data	
Agency	Station	Accounting Code	Object Class	Dist. Amount
3. Account	ing and budget ob	ter textual description of the pure	te?[]Y[]N	Books [] Emergency Salary
		by valid documentation? []		
5. What ty	pe of documentation	on supports this transaction? []		4 [] SF-182 [] AD-202 s [] Pkg-Slip [] AD-700
6. Receipts	were attached?	[]Y []N		
7. Employe	e₃ SSN was enter	ed?[]Y[]N		
8. Is approv	al for the purchase	e documented? [] Y [] N		
9. Was purc	hased approved pr	rior to purchase date? [] Y [] N	
10. Is transa	ction within the si	ngle purchase limit? [] Y []	N	
11. Is purch	ase recorded in In	ventory? []Y []N		
12. Comme	nts. Explain any i	Vo answer.		

RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

TYPE OF MISCONDUCT	PENALTY FOR FIRST OFFENSE	PENALTY FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE
Use of (or authorizing the use of) employees or Government-owned, leased or provided property, facilities, services or purchase cards/convenience checks, for inappropriate or nonofficial purposes.	Letter of Reprimand to Removal	5-day Suspension to Removal.
Writing checks when vendor accepts purchase card.	Verbal warning from LAPC	Written warning from supervisor, APC or DPC to loss of purchase card privileges.
Failing on a consistent basis to reconcile transactions in PCMS.	Verbal warning from LAPC	Written warning to loss of purchase card privilege.
Allowing or authorizing another employee to use purchase card.	Verbal warning from LAPC	Written warning from supervisor, APC, or DPC to loss of purchase card privileges.
Splitting purchases to circumvent threshold, writing checks for spot awards, emergency salary payments, and/or transit subsidies.	Verbal warning from LAPC	Written warning from APC or DPC to loss of purchase card privileges.

Debt Collection Improvement Act Waivers for Check Writing Purposes

Waiver No.	Short Description	Long Description	
01	Individual Determination	Where an individual determines, in his/her sole discretion that use of the purchase card would cause a financial hardship or impose a hardship due to a physical or mental disability, or a geographic, language, or literacy barrier. (Agency personnel may not challenge an individual's hardship determination).	
02	Agency Makes One Payment	Where the agency does not expect to make more than one payment to the same recipient within a one-year period (e.g., spot awards, emergency salary payments).	
03	Foreign Country Infrastructure	Where the infrastructure of a foreign country does not support electronic transfers.	
04	Transaction in Disaster Area	Where the transaction is with a vendor/recipient in a declared disaster area.	
05	Threat to National Security	Where a threat may be posed to national security, the life or physical safety of any individual may be endangered, or a law enforcement action may be compromised.	
06	Unusual and Compelling Urgency	Where an agency's need for goods and services is of such unusual and compelling urgency that the Government would be seriously injured unless the transaction is processed by other than electronic means.	
07	One Source for Required Supplies or Services	Where there is only one source for the required supplies or services and the Government would be seriously injured unless the transaction is processed by other than electronic means.	

MONTHLY ENERGY MANAGEMENT DATA REPORT

Conversion Factors: All data must be submitted in the following reporting units for each energy type.

Reporting Unit	Conversion Factor
(Megawatt Hours)	3,412 Btu/kilowatt hour
(Thousands of Gallons)	138,700 Btu/gallon
(Thousand Cubic Feet)	1,031 Btu/cubic foot
(Thousands of Gallons)	95,500 Btu/gallon
(Short Ton)	24,580,000 Btu/short ton
(Billion Btu)	1,000 Btu/pound
	(Megawatt Hours) (Thousands of Gallons) (Thousand Cubic Feet) (Thousands of Gallons) (Short Ton)

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PURCHASE CARD/CHECK USE AND RECONCILIATION

Completed by:			Date:	
	(Area/Location)			
Month:		Quarterly:	() () ()	October - December January - March April - June July - September

Type of* No. of Occurrences Unauthorized Use Description of Action(s) Taken *Mark in column labeled "Type of Unauthorized Use", one of the following: Cash Advance or Travel Advances (1) Long term leases/rentals (2) (3) Airline, train, bus, or common carrier tickets, or individual travel expenses (4) Major telephone systems Allowing others to use card or account number (5) Fuel and related supplies and services (6) Circumventing thresholds/splitting transactions (7) Purchase of hazardous items (8) (9) Personal purchases/identification (10)Writing checks to self or for cash (11)Paying in advance for supplies or services, except when authorized by law (12)Writing checks when vendor accepts purchase card Failing to reconcile within 30 days (13)(14) Other unauthorized purchases: Greeting cards Memberships in an individual's name Insurance of items being shipped to or for the Government Shipment of household goods Writing checks for spot awards (15)Writing checks for transit subsidies (16)(17)Writing checks for emergency salary payments