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# Treasury Financial Manual

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Transmittal Letter No. 647

Volume I

To: Heads of Government Departments, Agencies, and Others Concerned

## 1. Purpose

This transmittal letter releases revised TFM Volume I, Part 4, Chapter 10000: Delegation of Disbursing Authority. In accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3321(b), this chapter prescribes procedures and policies by which the Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service (FMS), delegates officers and employees of other Federal agencies with the authority to disburse public money. It is consistent with FMS's continuing oversight over agencies that are delegated disbursing authority. This chapter also establishes review and reporting requirements and specifies certain responsibilities and liabilities of such agencies.

This chapter does not pertain to Federal agencies that are granted authority to disburse public money by statute. See 31 U.S.C. § 3321(c).

## 2. Page Changes

### Remove

I TFM 4-10000 (T/L 624)

Table of Contents for Part 4 (T/L 640)

### Insert

I TFM 4-10000

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## 3. Effective Date

This chapter is effective immediately.

## 4. Inquiries

Direct questions concerning this transmittal letter to:

Office of the Chief Disbursing Officer  
Financial Management Service  
Department of the Treasury  
Liberty Center Building, Room 336  
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Judith R. Tillman  
Commissioner

Date: November 3, 2008

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## Part 4—Chapter 10000

# DELEGATION OF DISBURSING AUTHORITY

In accordance with 31 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 3321(b), this chapter prescribes procedures and policies by which the Department of the Treasury (Treasury), Financial Management Service (FMS), delegates officers and employees of other Federal agencies with the authority to disburse public money. It is consistent with FMS's continuing oversight over agencies that are delegated disbursing authority. This chapter also establishes review and reporting requirements and specifies certain responsibilities and liabilities of such agencies.

This chapter does not pertain to Federal agencies that are granted authority to disburse public money by statute. See 31 U.S.C. § 3321(c).

### Section 10010—Authority

Title 31 U.S.C. § 3321(b) provides that, for economy and efficiency, the Secretary of the Treasury may delegate the authority to disburse public money to officers and employees of other Federal agencies.

Chief Disbursing Officer (CDO). The request must include adequate documentation that provides assurance to Treasury that the agency, if delegated disbursing authority, will maintain effective internal controls and will comply with pertinent security guidelines.

finalize amendments to the Delegated Disbursing Authority Document.

### Section 10015—Standards for Delegating Disbursing Authority

FMS delegates disbursing authority in limited cases for purposes of “economy and efficiency,” consistent with the requirements of 31 U.S.C. § 3321(b). Thus, FMS approves an executive agency's request for delegated disbursing authority only if, among other things:

- An agency requires a particular level of service for disbursing funds that FMS cannot provide;
- The delegation would be more efficient and cost effective to the Federal Government and the public;

AND

- The requesting agency submits its request for delegated disbursing authority, in writing, to Treasury's

### Section 10020—Delegated Disbursing Authority Document

In those limited cases when FMS, in its sole discretion, determines that an agency has met the requirements to be delegated disbursing authority, FMS executes a written Delegated Disbursing Authority Document. The Delegated Disbursing Authority Document sets forth specific terms, conditions, and limitations of the particular delegation.

FMS has the authority to amend the specific terms of the Delegated Disbursing Authority Document, as necessary and appropriate. Before FMS finalizes any amendment, it provides advance notice to the agency, in writing, setting forth the specific purpose and reasons for the proposed amendment. FMS gives the agency the opportunity to submit comments on any proposed amendment. However, FMS retains sole decisionmaking authority to

### Section 10025—Authorities of Treasury's CDO

When Treasury's CDO delegates disbursing authority to an agency in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3321(b), the CDO:

- Maintains oversight authority over the disbursing function as demonstrated, in part, by the terms of this chapter. Consistent with this authority, the CDO retains the authority to revoke an agency's disbursing authority delegation.
- Has the right to require that the agency's operations be inspected and examined to ensure compliance with delegated disbursing authority requirements.
- Prescribes and approves procedures for disbursing functions such as TFM Volume I, Part 4, and the agency compliance self-certification guide at [http://www.fms.treas.gov/tfm/vol1/agency\\_self-certification\\_guide\\_11-28-07.pdf](http://www.fms.treas.gov/tfm/vol1/agency_self-certification_guide_11-28-07.pdf).

- Requires agencies with delegated disbursing authority to submit immediately to the CDO any irregularity in their accounts involving such disbursement activity.

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### **Section 10030—Responsibilities and Liabilities of an Agency With Delegated Disbursing Authority**

An agency that is delegated disbursing authority by the CDO under 31 U.S.C. § 3321(b) assumes significant responsibilities and liabilities, including but not limited to:

- Responsibilities and liabilities of a disbursing official and cashier as set forth under 31 U.S.C. § 3322, § 3325, and § 3528.
- Full accountability and liability for all disbursements issued under the delegation. The agency must not delegate the duties and functions related to the delegation to another party without consultation and prior written approval by the CDO.
- Reporting of all disbursements made under the delegation in the agency's payment accounting reports to FMS, using the appropriate agency accounting codes, as authorized by FMS. As stated in Section 10025, the agency must submit immediately to the CDO any irregularity in accounts involving disbursement activity. Furthermore, the agency must resolve any irregularities or discrepancies associated with such reports.
- Forwarding of the SF 1179: Month End Check Issue Summary, is no longer required, but it is required that the Disbursing Officer maintains copies of the SF 1179 on file for research, reconciliation, and audit purposes. See TFM Volume I, Part 4, Chapter 6000.

In addition, an agency with delegated disbursing authority must comply with the following:

- The mandates of Executive Order 13224.
- Applicable Treasury offset guidelines established under the authority of 31 U.S.C. § 3716(c).
- FMS guidelines concerning applicable requirements to include a payee's taxpayer identifying number on payment vouchers in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3325(d).
- All applicable electronic funds transfer system requirements, including those related to message authentication and enhanced security, unless explicitly waived in writing by the CDO.
- All applicable regulations and payment, accounting, and reconciliation policies and procedures set forth by Treasury and the Federal Reserve System.

The agency must practice effective security and internal control measures as prescribed by FMS (in Treasury Directive 71-10, etc.), the Government Accountability Office, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

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### **Section 10035—Oversight Requirements**

#### **10035.10—Review and Self-Certification Reporting Requirements**

Every 2 years, the agency with delegated disbursing authority must conduct a review of its disbursing operations to ensure compliance with the following:

- Requirements set out in any applicable Delegation of Disbursing Authority Document executed in accordance with Section 10020 of this chapter.

- Pertinent statutory, regulatory, and TFM requirements.
- The Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (FMFIA), Public Law No. 97-255 (31 U.S.C. § 3512).
- The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (FFMIA), 31 U.S.C. § 3512, note.

Following such review, agencies must submit a self-certification report to FMS stating whether or not they comply with these requirements. FMS advises agencies of the due date of these reports and provides them with the self-certification template to be included in the report. To the extent that an agency cannot certify that it complies with a specific requirement, the report must document the agency's planned corrective action to achieve compliance within an identified timeframe.

With regard to FMFIA, the self-certification form focuses solely on FMFIA Section 2 reports (internal controls) and Section 4 reports (financial management systems). See 31 U.S.C. § 3512(d)(2) and (d)(2)(B); see also OMB Circular Nos. A-123 and A-127 for further information on Section 2 and Section 4 requirements. Specifically, an agency must self-certify that its Section 2 and Section 4 reports provide reasonable assurance that the agency is in compliance with FMFIA Section 2 and Section 4 requirements. To the extent that an agency self-certifies "noncompliance" or "qualified assurance" with Section 2 and Section 4 requirements, it must identify all material weaknesses and its corrective action plan to achieve compliance within an identified timeframe.

With regard to FFMIA, the self-certification form focuses solely on FFMIA, Section 803(a), which requires each agency to "implement and maintain financial management systems that comply substantially with Federal financial management systems

requirements.” Specifically, the agency must certify that it complies with FFMIA, Section 803(a) requirements, if applicable, and that this determination has been verified by independent audit, as referenced under FFMIA, Section 803(b). See 31 U.S.C. § 3512, note. To the extent that an agency self-certifies “noncompliance” with Section 803(a), it must identify “resources, remedies, and intermediate target dates necessary to bring the agency’s financial management systems into substantial compliance” with Section 803(a). See FFMIA, Section 803(c)(3) discussing the requirement for a remediation plan to achieve compliance.

The self-certification form includes a checklist and appropriate space for the agency to provide information on corrective or remediation plans, if necessary. FMS provides guidance to agencies on format and procedures for submitting the self-certification report in the agency compliance self-certification guide at [http://www.fms.treas.gov/tfm/vol1/agency\\_self-certification\\_guide\\_11-28-07.pdf](http://www.fms.treas.gov/tfm/vol1/agency_self-certification_guide_11-28-07.pdf).

### 10035.20—Risk Assessment

When an agency’s self-certification report indicates the agency is not in compliance with one or more stated requirements, FMS, in its sole discretion, may determine it is necessary that a risk assessment of the agency’s disbursing system(s) be conducted. In making such a determination, FMS may consider such factors as the status and utility of the corrective and remedial plans identified by the agency to achieve compliance. The risk assessment is intended to evaluate, among other things, agency-identified deficiencies or material weaknesses in financial management systems, operations, and accounting and reconciliation procedures that may adversely affect the agency’s disbursing performance. The agency develops, and submits to

FMS, a plan for conducting the risk assessment. The plan must identify the party who will conduct the assessment. Risk assessments are conducted in accordance with FMS’s risk assessment guide or another guide that meets Treasury’s standards and is approved by FMS. At FMS’s discretion, agencies must provide FMS with a copy of their FMFIA Section 2 and Section 4 reports, FFMIA Section 803(a) reports, and other audit information as part of any risk assessment.

### 10035.30—Failure To Submit Required Self-Certification Reports and Information Required by a Risk Assessment

If an agency does not comply with the review and self-certification reporting requirements provided under subsection 10035.10, or does not respond to requests for information in connection with a risk assessment as provided under subsection 10035.20, Treasury’s CDO notifies the agency, in writing, of a final date certain for complying with such requirements. The CDO reserves the right to revoke the agency’s disbursing authority delegation in accordance with Section 10040, if the agency fails to respond adequately to the terms of this written notice by the indicated final date certain.

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### Section 10040—Termination of Delegated Disbursing Authority

The CDO may terminate an agency’s delegation of disbursing authority if FMS determines, in its sole discretion, that:

- The risk assessment conducted under subsection 10035.20 warrants such action;

- The agency fails to respond adequately to the terms of the written notice from the CDO referenced in subsection 10035.30;
- The agency fails to comply with any of the responsibilities and liabilities of an agency with delegated disbursing authority, including but not limited to, those responsibilities and liabilities listed under Section 10030;

OR

- The agency fails to comply with the terms of the Delegated Disbursing Authority Document executed under the authority of Section 10020.

In addition, the CDO periodically reviews whether the agency continues to meet the standards for delegation of disbursing authority as set forth under 31 U.S.C. § 3321(b) and Section 10015. The CDO may terminate an agency’s delegation of disbursing authority when FMS determines, in its sole discretion, that the agency no longer meets such standards.

The CDO notifies the agency, in writing, that its delegation of disbursing authority is being terminated. Before any termination action is taken, FMS and the agency work together to resolve all outstanding questions and issues. If this effort is unsuccessful, FMS consults with the agency to determine an appropriate effective date for termination and the resumption of Treasury disbursement services. In determining the effective termination date, FMS and the agency consider the mission of the agency and the needs of its payees. If FMS and the agency cannot reach a mutual decision on the effective date for termination, FMS determines the effective date and notifies the agency.

## **Contacts**

***Direct inquiries concerning this chapter and submit required reports and self-certification documents to:***

Office of the Chief Disbursing Officer  
Financial Management Service  
Department of the Treasury  
Liberty Center Building, Room 336  
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Telephone: 202-874-6790

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**DELEGATION OF DISBURSING AUTHORITY**

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