

Subpart A—Authority for Personnel Actions in Agencies

§ 250.101 Standards and requirements for agency personnel actions.

In taking a personnel action authorized by this chapter, each agency shall comply with the qualification standards and regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management, the instructions published by OPM in the Federal Personnel Manual, and the provisions of any agreement development between OPM and the agency in connection with delegation of a specific authority. When a personnel action is being taken as a result of an order of a Court or a settlement agreement, or a decision or order of or a settlement agreement or an arbitral award reached under the labor arbitration process or the rules and regulations of the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, or OPM, the agency shall follow the instructions in Federal Personnel Manual Chapter 296, and must comply with all other relevant substantive and documentary requirements, including those applicable to retirement, life insurance, and health benefits.

§ 250.102 Delegation agreements.

In certain circumstances, an agency will receive authorities through a delegation agreement developed between the agency and OPM. The agreement will set forth the conditions for application of the delegated authorities. The agreement will include a description of minimum standards of performance and the system of oversight to be used by the agency and by OPM in monitoring the use of each delegated authority.

§ 250.103 Taking corrective action or suspending or withdrawing agency authority.

If OPM finds that an agency has taken an action contrary to a law, rule, regulation, or standard which OPM administers, it may require the agency to take corrective action. OPM may suspend or withdraw any authority granted under this chapter to an agency, including any authority grant-

ed by delegation agreement, when it finds that the agency has not complied with qualification standards issued by OPM, the instructions published by OPM in the Federal Personnel Manual, or the regulations in this chapter; or that the suspension or withdrawal is in the interest of the service for any other reason. OPM may suspend or revoke a delegation agreement established under § 250.102 at any time, if it judges that the agency is not adhering to the provisions of the agreement.

PART 251—AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1104; 5 U.S.C. Chap 7; 5 U.S.C. 7135; 5 U.S.C. 7301; and E.O. 11491.

SOURCE: 61 FR 32915, June 26, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 251.101 Introduction.

(a) The regulations in this part apply to all Federal executive branch departments and agencies and their officers and employees.

(b) This part provides a framework for consulting and communicating with non-labor organizations representing Federal employees and with other organizations on matters related to agency operations and personnel management.

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(c) The purposes of consultation and communication are: the improvement of agency operations, personnel management, and employee effectiveness; the exchange of information (e.g., ideas, opinions, and proposals); and the establishment of policies that best serve the public interest in accomplishing the mission of the agency.

(d) An agency's consultation and communication with organizations representing Federal employees and with other organizations under this part may not take on the character of negotiations or consultations regarding conditions of employment of bargaining unit employees, which is reserved exclusively to labor organizations as provided for in Chapter 71 of title 5 of the U.S. Code or comparable provisions of other laws. The regulations in this part do not authorize any actions inconsistent with Chapter 71 of the U.S. Code or comparable provisions of other laws.

(e) The head of a Federal agency may determine that it is in the interest of the agency to consult, from time to time, with organizations other than labor organizations and associations of management officials and/or supervisors to the extent permitted by law. Under section 7(d)(2) and (3) of Executive Order 11491, as amended, recognition of a labor organization does not preclude an agency from consulting or dealing with a veterans organization, or with a religious, social, fraternal, professional, or other lawful association, not qualified as a labor organization, with respect to matters or policies which involve individual members of the organization or association or are of particular applicability to it or its members.

(f) Federal employees, including management officials and supervisors, may communicate with any Federal agency, officer, or other Federal entity on the employee's own behalf. However, Federal employees should be aware that 18 U.S.C. 205, in pertinent part, restricts Federal employees from acting, other than in the proper discharge of their official duties, as agents or attorneys for any person or organization other than a labor organization, before any Federal agency or other Federal entity in connection

with any matter in which the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest. An exception to the prohibition found in 18 U.S.C. 205 permits Federal employees to represent certain nonprofit organizations before the Government except in connection with specified matters. Agency officials and employees are therefore advised to consult with their designated agency ethics officials for guidance regarding any conflicts of interest that may arise.

[61 FR 32915, June 26, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 2306, Jan. 15, 1998]

§ 251.102 Coverage.

To be covered by this part, an association or organization:

(a) Must be a lawful, nonprofit organization whose constitution and bylaws indicate that it subscribes to minimum standards of fiscal responsibility and employs democratic principles in the nomination and election of officers;

(b) Must not discriminate in terms of membership or treatment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicapping condition;

(c) Must not assist or participate in a strike, work stoppage, or slowdown against the Government of the United States or any agency thereof or impose a duty or obligation to conduct, assist, or participate in such strike, work stoppage, or slowdown; and

(d) Must not advocate the overthrow of the constitutional form of Government of the United States.

§ 251.103 Definitions.

(a) *Organization representing Federal employees and other organizations* means an organization other than a labor organization that can provide information, views, and services which will contribute to improved agency operations, personnel management, and employee effectiveness. Such an organization may be an association of Federal management officials and/or supervisors, a group representing minorities, women or persons with disabilities in connection with the agencies' EEO programs and action plans, a professional association, a civic or consumer group, and organization concerned with special social interests, and the like.