

Management shall prescribe regulations necessary for the administration of this section.”

[51 FR 8419, Mar. 11, 1986, as amended at 59 FR 40793, Aug. 10, 1994; 60 FR 33098, June 27, 1995]

§ 531.402 Employee coverage.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, this subpart applies to employees who occupy permanent positions classified and paid under the General Schedule and who are paid less than the maximum rate of their grades.

(b) This subpart does not apply to:

(1) Members of the Senior Executive Service established under subchapter II of chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) Individuals appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(3) Employees of the government of the District of Columbia.

[46 FR 2319, Jan. 9, 1981, as amended at 50 FR 35499, Aug. 30, 1985; 58 FR 65536, Dec. 15, 1993; 60 FR 43947, Aug. 23, 1995]

§ 531.403 Definitions.

In this subpart:

Acceptable level of competence means performance by an employee that warrants advancement of the employee’s rate of basic pay to the next higher step of the grade or the next higher rate within the grade (as defined in this section) of his or her position, subject to the requirements of § 531.404 of this subpart, as determined by the head of the agency.

Agency means an agency defined in section 5102 of title 5, United States Code.

Calendar week means a period of any seven consecutive calendar days.

Critical element has the meaning given that term in § 430.203 of this chapter.

Employee means an employee of an agency.

Equivalent increase means an increase or increases in an employee’s rate of basic pay equal to or greater than the difference between the employee’s rate of basic pay and the rate of pay for the next higher step of that grade or the next higher rate within the grade (as defined in this section).

Next higher rate within the grade for a GM employee (as defined in § 531.202) means the rate of basic pay which exceeds an employee’s existing rate of basic pay by one-ninth of the difference between the minimum and maximum rates of pay for the applicable General Schedule grade or special salary rate schedule established under section 5305 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed the maximum rate for the grade.

Permanent position means a position filled by an employee whose appointment is not designated as temporary by law and does not have a definite time limitation of one year or less. “Permanent position” includes a position to which an employee is promoted on a temporary or term basis for at least one year.

Rate of basic pay means the rate of pay fixed by law or administrative action for the position held by an employee before any deductions and exclusive of additional pay of any kind.

Scheduled tour of duty means any work schedule established for an employee in accordance with the regular procedures for the establishment of workweeks in § 610.111 of this chapter. For a full-time employee this includes the basic 40-hour workweek. For a part-time employee this is any regularly scheduled work of less than 40-hours during the administrative workweek.

Waiting period means the minimum time requirement of creditable service to become eligible for consideration for a within-grade increase.

Within-grade increase is synonymous with the term “step increase” used in section 5335 of title 5, United States Code, and means—

(1) A periodic increase in an employee’s rate of basic pay from one step of the grade of his or her position to the next higher step of that grade in accordance with section 5335 of title 5, United States Code, and this subpart; or

(2) For a GM employee (as defined in § 531.202), a periodic increase in an employee’s rate of basic pay from his or her current rate to the next higher rate