

§ 0.735-7 Special requirements of the Department.

The close and sensitive relationship between the Department of Commerce and the Nation's business community calls for special vigilance on the part of all officers and employees to avoid even any appearance of impropriety. The regulations set forth in this part have been adopted in order to promote the efficiency of the service in the light of the particular ethical and administrative problems arising out of the work of the Department.

§ 0.735-8 Limitations on private activities and interests.

It is the policy of the Department to place as few limitations as possible on private activities or interests consistent with the public trust and the effective performance of the official business of the Department. There is no general statutory or regulatory limitation on the conduct of private activities for compensation by officers or employees of the Department, when the private activity is not connected with any interest of the Government. When the private activity does not touch upon some interest, it may be conducted if it falls outside applicable statutory limitations and regulatory limitations.

Subpart C—Statutory Limitations Upon Employee Conduct**§ 0.735-9 Employee responsibilities.**

Each employee and special Government employee has a positive duty to acquaint himself with the numerous statutes relating to the ethical and other conduct of employees and special employees of the Department and of the Government Appendix A of this part contains a listing of the more important statutory provisions of general applicability. In case of doubt on any question of statutory application to fact situations that may arise, the employee should consult the text of the statutes, which will be made available to him by his organization unit, and he should also avail himself of the legal counseling provided by this part.

Subpart D—Regulatory Limitations Upon Employee Conduct**§ 0.735-10 Administrative extension of statutory limitations.**

The provisions of the statutes identified in this part which relate to the ethical and other conduct of Federal employees are adopted and will be enforced as administrative regulations, violations of which may in appropriate cases be the basis for disciplinary action, including removal. The fact that a statute which may relate to employee conduct is not identified in this part does not mean that it may not be the basis for disciplinary action against an employee.

§ 0.735-10a Proscribed actions.

An employee shall avoid any action, whether or not specifically prohibited by this subpart, which might result in, or create the appearance of:

- (a) Using public office for private gain;
- (b) Giving preferential treatment to any person;
- (c) Impeding Government efficiency or economy;
- (d) Losing complete independence or impartiality;
- (e) Making a government decision outside official channels; or
- (f) Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Government.

§ 0.735-11 Gifts, entertainment, and favors.

(a) *General limitations.* Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (f) of this section, an employee shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan, payment of expenses, fee, compensation, or any other thing of monetary value, for himself or another person, from a person who:

- (1) Has, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with the Department of Commerce;
- (2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the Department of Commerce; or
- (3) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's