

The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the Administrator or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action required to comply with § 105-8.160 would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with handicaps receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

§§ 105-8.161—105-8.169 [Reserved]

§ 105-8.170 Compliance procedures.

§ 105-8.170-1 Applicability.

Except as provided in § 105-8.170-2, §§ 105-8.170 through 105-8.170-13 apply to all allegations of discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs or activities conducted by the agency.

§ 105-8.170-2 Employment complaints.

The agency shall process complaints alleging violations of section 504 with respect to employment according to the procedures established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 29 CFR part 1613 pursuant to section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791).

§ 105-8.170-3 Responsible Official.

The Responsible Official shall coordinate implementation of §§ 105-8.170 through 105-8.170-13.

§ 105-8.170-4 Filing a complaint.

(a) *Who may file a complaint.* Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part may by him or herself or by his or her authorized representative file a complaint with the Official. Any persons who believes that any specific class of persons has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part and who is a member of that class or the authorized representa-

tive of a member of that class may file a complaint with the Official.

(b) *Confidentiality.* The Official shall hold in confidence the identity of any person submitting a complaint, unless the person submits written authorization otherwise, and except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or proceeding under this part.

(c) *When to file.* Complaints shall be filed within 180 days of the alleged act of discrimination. The Official may extend this time limit for good cause shown. For purposes of determining when a complaint is timely filed under this section, a complaint mailed to the agency shall be deemed filed on the date it is postmarked. Any other complaint shall be deemed filed on the date it is received by the agency.

(d) *How to file.* Complaints may be delivered or mailed to the Administrator, the Responsible Official, or other agency officials. Complaints should be sent to the Director of Civil Rights, Civil Rights Division (AKC), General Services Administration, 18th and F Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20405. If any agency official other than the Official receives a complaint, he or she shall forward the complaint to the Official immediately.

§ 105-8.170-5 Notification to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

The agency shall prepare and forward comprehensive quarterly reports to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board containing information regarding complaints received alleging that a building or facility that is subject to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151-4157), is not readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. The agency shall not include in the report the identity of any complainant.

§ 105-8.170-6 Acceptance of complaint.

(a) The Official shall accept a complete complaint that is filed in accordance with § 105-8.170-4 and over which the agency has jurisdiction. The Official shall notify the complainant and

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the respondent of receipt and acceptance of the complaint.

(b) If the Official receives a complaint that is not complete, he or she shall notify the complainant within 30 days of receipt of the incomplete complaint that additional information is needed. If the complainant fails to complete the complaint within 30 days of receipt of this notice, the Official shall dismiss the complaint without prejudice.

(c) The Official may reject a complaint, or a position thereof, for any of the following reasons:

(1) It was not filed timely and the extension of the 180-day period as provided in § 105-8.170-4(c) is denied;

(2) It consists of an allegation identical to an allegation contained in a previous complaint filed on behalf of the same complainant(s) which is pending in the agency or which has been resolved or decided by the agency; or

(3) It is not within the purview of this part.

(d) If the Official receives a complaint over which the agency does not have jurisdiction, the Official shall promptly notify the complainant and shall make reasonable efforts to refer the complaint to the appropriate Government entity.

§ 105-8.170-7 Investigation/conciliation.

(a) Within 180 days of the receipt of a complete complaint, the Official shall complete the investigation of the complaint, attempt informal resolution, and if no informal resolution is achieved, issue a letter of findings. The 180-day time limit may be extended with the permission of the Assistant Attorney General. The investigation should include, where appropriate, a review of the practices and policies that led to the filing of the complaint, and other circumstances under which the possible noncompliance with this part occurred.

(b) The Official may require agency employees to cooperate in the investigation and attempted resolution of complaints. Employees who are required by the Official to participate in any investigation under this section shall do so as part of their official du-

ties and during the course of regular duty hours.

(c) The Official shall furnish the complainant and the respondent a copy of the investigative report promptly after receiving it from the investigator and provide the complainant and the respondent with an opportunity for informal resolution of the complaint.

(d) If a complaint is resolved informally, the terms of the agreement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the complainant and respondent. The agreement shall be made part of the complaint file with a copy of the agreement provided to the complainant and the respondent. The written agreement may include a finding on the issue of discrimination and shall describe any corrective action to which the complainant and the respondent have agreed.

(e) The written agreement shall remain in effect until all corrective actions to which the complainant and the respondent have agreed upon have been completed. The complainant may reopen the complaint in the event that the agreement is not carried out.

§ 105-8.170-8 Letter of findings.

If an informal resolution of the complaint is not reached, the Official shall, within 180 days of receipt of the complete complaint, notify the complainant and the respondent of the results of the investigation in a letter sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. The letter shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Findings of fact and conclusions of law;

(b) A description of a remedy for each violation found;

(c) A notice of the right of the complainant and the respondent to appeal to the Special Counsel for Ethics and Civil Rights; and

(d) A notice of the right of the complainant and the respondent to request a hearing.

§ 105-8.170-9 Filing an appeal.

(a) Notice of appeal to the Special Counsel for Ethics and Civil Rights, with or without a request for hearing, shall be filed by the complainant or the