

Relocation Allowances

§ 302-17.7

(b) *Determination of amount of reimbursement subject to withholding.* Under IRS regulations, income resulting from reimbursements for nondeductible moving expenses is subject to withholding of Federal income taxes. (See IRS Publication 521, "Moving Expenses.") There are some moving expenses which may be reimbursed but are not covered taxable reimbursements (see definition in § 302-17.5(d) for purposes of the WTA and RIT allowance calculations, such as extended storage of household goods. (See exclusions in § 302-17.4.) Therefore, the actual amount of the covered taxable reimbursements may be different than the amount of nondeductible moving expenses subject to Federal income tax withholding. The difference in these amounts should not be substantial; therefore, the amount of nondeductible moving expenses subject to Federal income tax withholding, as determined by the agency pursuant to IRS regulations, may be used in calculating the WTA. (Note that the RIT calculation procedure in § 302-17.8 requires determination of covered taxable reimbursements.)

(c) *Determination of Federal withholding tax rate (FWTR).* Moving expense reimbursements constitute supplemental wages for Federal income tax purposes. Therefore, an agency must withhold at the withholding rate applicable to supplemental wages. Currently, the supplemental wages withholding rate is 28 percent. The supplemental wages withholding rate should be used in calculating the WTA unless under an agency's withholding procedure a different withholding rate is used pursuant to IRS tax regulations. In such cases, the applicable withholding rate shall be substituted for the supplemental wages withholding rate in the calculation shown in paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Calculation of the WTA.* The WTA is calculated by substituting the amounts determined in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section into the following WTA gross-up formula:

Formula:

$$Y = \frac{X}{1 - X} (N)$$

Where:

Y = WTA

X = FWTR (generally, 28 percent)

N = nondeductible moving expenses/covered taxable reimbursements

Example:

If:

X = 28 percent

N = \$20,000

Then:

$$Y = \frac{.28}{1.00 - .28} (\$20,000)$$

Y = .3889 (\$20,000)

Y = \$7778.00

(e) *WTA payment and employee agreement for repayment.* (1) The WTA may be calculated several times within Year 1 if reimbursements for moving expenses are made on more than one travel voucher. Each time an employee is reimbursed for moving expenses which are subject to Federal tax withholding in accordance with the IRS regulations, the WTA will be calculated and paid unless the employee fails to comply with the requirements in paragraph (e)(2) of this section.

(2) The employee shall be required to agree in writing to repay any excess amount paid to him/her in Year 1 (see §§ 302-17.8(f)(5) and 302-17.9(b)(3)), and submit the required certified tax information and claim for his/her RIT allowance within a reasonable length of time (as determined by the agency) after the close of Year 1. Failure of the employee to comply with this requirement will preclude the agency's payment of the WTA. The entire WTA will be considered an excess payment if the RIT allowance claim is not submitted in a timely manner to settle the RIT allowance account.

(f) *Determination of employee's withholding tax on WTA.* Since the amount of the WTA is considered income to the employee, it is subject to the same tax withholding requirements as all other moving expense reimbursements. (See Treasury Financial Manual, Section 4080, Moving Expense Reimbursements, for withholding requirements.)

(g) *End of year reporting.* At the end of the year, agencies generally are required to issue IRS Form(s) W-2 for each employee showing total gross