

§ 30.14

other administrative costs if collection is being made for another Federal agency or unit.

(c) *Late payment penalties.* A penalty charge of 6 percent a year will be assessed on a debt, a payment, or any portion thereof that is more than 90 days overdue. Late payment penalty charges will accrue from the date the debt, or portion thereof, became overdue until the overdue amount is paid. These charges will be assessed monthly, or per payment period. See also § 30.14.

(d) *Social Security Act debts.* (1) Unless specifically authorized by statute, regulations or written agreement, or unless the debts arise from, or involve, fraud or criminal activity, the Secretary will not charge interest on debts arising from payments to beneficiaries under Titles II, XVI and XVIII of Social Security Act. The charging of interest is appropriate on debts arising from section 1862(b) of the Act for Medicare payments for which a beneficiary has been reimbursed by a liable third party, in which case the charging of interest would be appropriate.

(2) The Secretary will charge administrative costs or late payment penalties on debts arising under the Social Security Act where authorized by statute, regulations, or written agreement.

(e) *Other debts not covered by 31 U.S.C. 3717.* The Secretary will charge administrative costs or late payment penalties on debts arising under a contract executed prior to, and in effect on October 25, 1982, or debts owed by State or local governments where authorized by statute, regulation, or written agreement.

(f) *Allocation of payments.* Partial or installment payments will be applied first to outstanding administrative cost charges and late payment penalties, second to accrued interest and third to outstanding principal.

(g) *Inactive claims.* Interest, but not administrative cost charges or late payment penalties, will continue to accrue when collection of a debt is suspended under § 30.33(a).

(h) *Waivers.* The Secretary may waive collecting all or part of interest, administrative costs or late payment penalties, if—

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(1) The debt or the charges resulted from the agency's error, action or inaction (other than normal processing delays), and without fault on the part of the debtors; or

(2) Collection in any manner authorized under this regulation would defeat the overall objectives of a Departmental program.

§ 30.14 Interest and charges pending waiver or review.

(a) *Rule.* A debtor may either pay the debt, or be liable for interest on the uncollected debt, while a waiver determination, a bona fide dispute or a formal or informal review of the debt is pending. If a final determination is to the effect that any amount was properly a debt to HHS and the debtor chose to retain the amount in dispute, the Secretary shall collect or offset from any future payments to the debtor, an amount equal to the amount of the debt plus interest (as calculated under § 30.13(a)) on such debt amount starting from the date the debtor was first made aware of the debt and ending when such debt is repaid. The debtor will also be assessed administrative cost charges and late payment penalties on the unpaid debt for this period if the reviewing or hearing officer determines in writing that the request for a waiver, a hearing or other form of review was spurious.

(b) *Exception.* Interest, late payment penalties and administrative cost charges will not be assessed pending consideration of waiver or review under a statute which prohibits collection of the debt during this period, unless the reviewing or hearing officer determines in writing that the request for a waiver, a hearing or other form of review was spurious.

§ 30.15 Administrative offset.

(a) *Rule.* The Secretary will collect debts owed to the Department by administrative offset if—

(1) The debt is liquidated or certain in amount;

(2) Offset is not expressly or implicitly prohibited by statute or regulation;

(3) Offset is cost-effective or has significant deterrent value;