

## Office of Personnel Management

## § 575.202

sum. It shall not be considered part of an employee's rate of basic pay for any purpose.

[60 FR 33326, June 28, 1995]

### § 575.106 Service agreement.

(a) Before a recruitment bonus may be paid, an agency shall require that the employee sign a written service agreement to complete a specified period of employment with the appointing agency (or successor agency in the event of a transfer of function).

(b) The minimum period of employment to be established under a service agreement for a recruitment bonus shall be 6 months.

[60 FR 33326, June 28, 1995]

### § 575.107 Repayment of recruitment bonus.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, an employee who fails to complete the period of employment established under a service agreement shall be indebted to the Federal Government and shall repay the recruitment bonus on a pro rata basis. The amount to be repaid shall be determined by providing credit for each full month of employment completed by the employee under the service agreement.

(b) Failure to complete the period of employment established under a service agreement occurs when the employee's service with the appointing agency terminates before the employee completes the period of employment specified in the service agreement.

(c) Amounts owed by an employee under paragraph (a) of this section shall be recovered from the employee under the agency's regulations for collection by offset from an indebted Government employee under 5 U.S.C. 5514 and subpart K of part 550 of this chapter.

(d) Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply when an employee fails to complete a period of employment established under a service agreement because the employee is involuntarily separated.

(e) A right of recovery of an employee's debt under 5 U.S.C. 5514 may be waived in whole or in part by the head of the agency if he or she determines

that recovery would be against equity and good conscience or against the public interest.

### § 575.108 Internal monitoring.

Each agency shall monitor the use of recruitment bonuses to ensure that its recruitment bonus plan conforms to the requirements established under this subpart and that the payment of recruitment bonuses conforms to the criteria established under this subpart.

[60 FR 33326, June 28, 1995]

### § 575.109 Records and reports.

(a) Each agency shall keep a record of each determination required by § 575.104(c) of this part and make such records available for review upon request by OPM. Each agency shall promptly submit a report of each such determination as a part of its regular submission to OPM's Central Personnel Data File.

(b) So that OPM can evaluate agencies' use of this authority and provide the Congress and others with information regarding the use of recruitment bonuses, each agency shall maintain such other records and submit to OPM such other reports and data as OPM shall require.

## Subpart B—Relocation Bonuses

### § 575.201 Purpose.

This subpart provides regulations to implement 5 U.S.C. 5753, which authorizes payment of a relocation bonus of up to 25 percent of the annual rate of basic pay to an employee who must relocate to accept a position in a different commuting area, provided there is a determination that, in the absence of such a bonus, difficulty would be encountered in filling the position.

[60 FR 33326, June 28, 1995]

### § 575.202 Delegation of authority.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the head of an agency (or, with respect to positions not under the General Schedule, the head of an Executive agency) may pay a relocation bonus to an employee appointed to—

(1) A General Schedule position paid under 5 U.S.C. 5332;

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(2) A senior-level or scientific or professional position paid under 5 U.S.C. 5376;

(3) A Senior Executive Service position paid under 5 U.S.C. 5383 or a Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration Senior Executive Service position paid under 5 U.S.C. 3151;

(4) A position as a law enforcement officer, as defined in §550.103 of this chapter.

(5) A position under the Executive Schedule established under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, or a position the rate of pay for which is fixed by law at a rate equal to a rate for the Executive Schedule;

(6) An executive branch position filled by Presidential appointment (with or without the advice and consent of the Senate); or

(7) A prevailing rate position, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5342(a)(3).

(b) The delegation of authority under paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to the payment of a relocation bonus to—

(1) The head of an agency, including an agency headed by a collegial body composed of two or more individual members; or

(2) An employee appointed to a position in the expectation of receiving an appointment as the head of an agency.

(c) The head of an Executive agency may request that OPM authorize the payment of a relocation bonus to one or more categories of employees of his or her agency not otherwise covered by 5 U.S.C. 5753 or this subpart.

(d) When OPM finds that an agency is not paying relocation bonuses in conformance with the agency's relocation bonus plan and the criteria established under §575.204 of this part or otherwise determines that the agency is not using this authority selectively and judiciously, it may—

(1) Direct the agency to revoke or suspend the authority granted to any organizational component of the agency and with respect to any category or categories of employees and require that prior approval be secured at headquarters level before paying a relocation bonus to such employees; or

(2) Revoke or suspend the authority granted to the head of the agency by

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paragraph (a) of this section for all or any part of the agency and with respect to any category or categories of employees and require that prior OPM approval be secured before paying a relocation bonus to such employees.

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### § 575.203 Definitions.

In this subpart: *Agency* has the meaning given that term in 5 U.S.C. 5102.

*Commuting area* means the geographic area surrounding a work site that encompasses the localities where people live and reasonably can be expected to travel back and forth daily to work, as established by the employing agency based on the generally held expectations of the local community. When an employee's residence is within the standard commuting area for a work site, the work site is within the employee's commuting area. When an employee's residence is outside the standard commuting area for a proposed new work site, the employee's commuting area is deemed to include the expanded area surrounding the employee's residence and including all destinations that can be reached via a commuting trip that is not significantly more burdensome than the current commuting trip. This excludes a commuting trip from a residence where the employee planned to stay only temporarily until he or she could find a more permanent residence closer to his or her work site. For this purpose, a commuting trip to a new work site is considered significantly more burdensome if it would compel the employee to change his or her place of residence in order to continue employment, taking into account commuting time and distance, availability of public transportation, cost, and any other relevant factors.

*Employee* means—

(a) An individual in the civil service (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2101) who is relocated without a break in service upon appointment to a position in or under an agency in a different commuting area; or