

(b) The Director will first determine the costs as contemplated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section. The Director will then notify the claimant as to that amount. The claimant must indicate within 30 days its acceptance or rejection of that amount.

(1) If the determination is accepted by the claimant, this will be the final and conclusive determination of the amount of costs by the claimant in conjunction with the fire for which the claims are submitted.

(2) If the claimant rejects this amount, it must notify the Director, within 30 days, of its reasons for its rejection. Upon receipt of notification of rejection, the Director shall reconsider his determination and notify the claimant of the results of the reconsideration. The amount determined on reconsideration will constitute the costs to be used by the Director in determining the reimbursable amount.

(c) Upon receipt of documentation from the claimant on the amount of payments the Federal Government has made for the support of fire services on the property in question, the Director will, following such verification or investigation as the Director may deem appropriate, calculate the full amount to be reimbursed under the section 11 formula as set forth in §151.12(a). This calculation of the reimbursable amount is based upon the costs determined pursuant to §151.12(b) and the documentation of Federal payments that the claimant submitted.

(d) The Director's determination of the reimbursable amount will be sent to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury shall, upon receipt of the claim and determination made under §151.12 (a), (b), and (c), determine the amount authorized for payment, which shall be the amount actually available for payment from any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated but subject to reimbursement (from any appropriations which may be available or which may be made available for the purpose) by the Federal department or agency under whose jurisdiction the fire occurred. This shall be a sum no greater, although it may be less, than the reimbursable amount determined by the Di-

rector, FEMA, with respect to the claim under §151.12 (a), (b) and (c).

(e) Upon receipt of written notification from the claimant of its intention to accept the amount authorized as full settlement of the claim, accompanied by a properly executed document of release, the Director will forward the claim, a copy of the Director's determination and the claimant's document of release to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment of the claim in the amount authorized.

(f) Subject to the discovery of additional material evidence, the Director may reconsider any determination in this section, whether or not made as his final determination.

[49 FR 5929, Feb. 16, 1984, as amended at 49 FR 38119, Sept. 27, 1984]

**§ 151.13 Reconsideration of amount authorized for payment.**

(a) If the claimant elects to protest the amount authorized for payment, after the applicable procedures of §151.12 have been followed, it must within 30 days of receipt of notification of the amount authorized notify the Director in writing of its objections and set forth the reasons why the Director should reconsider the determination. The Director will upon notice of protest and receipt of additional evidence reconsider the determination of the amount of Federal payments under §151.12(a)(2) but not the determination of the amount of costs under §151.12(a)(1). The Director shall cause a reconsideration by the Secretary of the Treasury of the amount actually available and authorized for payment by the Treasury. The Director, upon receipt of the Secretary of the Treasury's reconsidered determination, will notify the claimant in writing of the amount authorized, upon reconsideration, for payment in full settlement of the claim.

(b) If the claimant elects to accept the amount authorized, upon reconsideration, for payment in full settlement of its claims, it must within 30 days (or a longer period of time acceptable to the Director) of its receipt of that determination notify the Director of its acceptance in writing accompanied by a properly executed document of release. Upon receipt of such notice and document of release, the Director will

forward the claim, a copy of the Director's final determination, and the claimant's document of release to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment of the claim in the amount of final authorization.

**§ 151.14 Adjudication.**

If the claimant, after written notice by the Director of the amount authorized for payment in full settlement of the claim and after all applicable procedures of §§ 151.12 and 151.13 have been followed elects to dispute the amount authorized, it may then initiate action in the United States Claims Court, which shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate the claim and enter judgment in accordance with section 11(d) of the Act.

**Subpart C—Administration, Penalties**

**§ 151.21 [Reserved]**

**§ 151.22 Audits.**

At the discretion of the Director, all claims submitted under section 11 of the Act and all records of the claimant will be subject to audit by the Director or his/her designee. In addition, the Comptroller General of the United States or his/her designee shall have access to all books and records of all claimants making claims under section 11.

**§ 151.23 Penalties.**

Claimant's officials or others who provide information or documentation under this part are subject to, among other laws, the criminal penalties of Title 18 of the United States Code, sections 287 and 1001, which punish the submission of false, fictitious or fraudulent claims and the making of false, fictitious or fraudulent statements and which provide for a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. For such a violation, the person is likewise subject to the civil penalties set out in 31 U.S.C. 3729 and 3730.

**PART 152—ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM**

Sec.

- 152.1 Purpose and eligible uses of grant funds.
- 152.2 Definitions.
- 152.3 Availability of funds.
- 152.4 Roles and responsibilities.
- 152.5 Review process and evaluation criteria.
- 152.6 Application review and award process.
- 152.7 Grant payment, reporting and other requirements.
- 152.8 Application submission and deadline.
- 152.9 Reconsideration.

AUTHORITY: Federal Fire Protection and Control Act, 15 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 68 FR 12547, Mar. 14, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 152.1 Purpose and eligible uses of grant funds.**

(a) This competitive grant program will provide funding directly to fire departments of a State for the purpose of enhancing departments abilities to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as that of firefighting personnel, facing fire and fire-related hazards. Eligible applicants can submit only one application per application period. Departments that submit multiple applications in one application period will have each of their applications deemed ineligible.

(b) Eligible applicants are fire departments or fire departments of a State which is defined as an agency or organization that has a "formally recognized arrangement" with a State, local or tribal authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, or other non-Federal governing body) to provide fire suppression services within a fixed geographical area. A fire department can apply for assistance for its emergency medical services unit provided the unit falls organizationally under the auspices of the fire department. A municipality or fire district may submit an application on behalf of a fire department when the fire department lacks the legal status to do so, e.g., where the fire department falls within the auspices of the municipality. When a municipality or fire district submits an application on behalf of a fire department, the fire department is precluded from submitting an