

card issuers to pay purchase card invoices early.

(bb) *Receiving office* means the entity which physically receives the goods or services, and may be separate from the accepting entity.

(cc) *Receiving report* means written or electronic evidence of receipt of goods or services by a Government official. Receiving reports must meet the requirements of § 1315.9(c).

(dd) *Recurring payments* means payments for services of a recurring nature, such as rents, building maintenance, transportation services, parking, leases, and maintenance for equipment, pagers and cellular phones, etc., which are performed under agency-vendor agreements providing for payments of definite amounts at fixed periodic intervals.

(ee) *Settlement date* means the date on which an EFT payment is credited to the vendor's financial institution.

(ff) *Taxpayer Identifying Number (TIN)* means the nine digit Employer Identifying Number or Social Security Number as defined in Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 6109).

(gg) *Utilities and telephones* means electricity, water, sewage services, telephone services, and natural gas. Utilities can be regulated, unregulated, or under contract.

(hh) *Vendor* means any person, organization, or business concern engaged in a profession, trade, or business and any not-for-profit entity operating as a vendor (including State and local governments and foreign entities and foreign governments, but excluding Federal entities).

[64 FR 52586, Sept. 29, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 78404, Dec. 15, 2000]

§ 1315.3 Responsibilities.

Each agency head is responsible for the following:

(a) *Issuing internal procedures.* Ensuring that internal procedures will include provisions for monitoring the causes of late payments and any interest penalties incurred, taking necessary corrective action, and handling inquiries.

(b) *Internal control systems.* Ensuring that effective internal control systems are established and maintained as re-

quired by OMB Circular A-123, "Management Accountability and Control."¹ Administrative activities required for payments to vendors under this part are subject to periodic quality control validation to be conducted no less frequently than once annually. Quality control processes will be used to confirm that controls are effective and that processes are efficient. Each agency head is responsible for establishing a quality control program in order to quantify payment performance and qualify corrective actions, aid cash management decision making, and estimate payment performance if actual data is unavailable.

(c) *Financial management systems.* Ensuring that financial management systems comply with OMB Circular A-127, "Financial Management Systems."² Agency financial systems shall provide standardized information and electronic data exchange to the central management agency. Systems shall provide complete, timely, reliable, useful and consistent financial management information. Payment capabilities should provide accurate and useful management reports on payments.

(d) *Reviews.* Ensuring that Inspectors General and internal auditors review payments performance and systems accuracy, consistent with the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act requirements.

(e) *Timely payments and interest penalties.* Ensuring timely payments and payment of interest penalties where required.

§ 1315.4 Prompt payment standards and required notices to vendors.

Agency business practices shall conform to the following standards:

(a) *Required documentation.* Agencies will maintain paper or electronic documentation as required in § 1315.9.

(b) *Receipt of invoice.* For the purposes of determining a payment due date and the date on which interest will begin to accrue if a payment is late, an invoice shall be deemed to be received:

- (1) On the later of:

¹For availability of OMB circulars, see 5 CFR 1310.3.

²See footnote 1 in § 1315.3(b).