

§ 203.15

the financial institution was timely and that the taxpayer satisfied the conditions imposed by the financial institution pursuant to § 203.11(b). Treasury also may assess interest where a financial institution failed to respond to an ACH prenotification entry on an ACH debit as required in § 203.12(b) or failed to originate an ACH prenotification or zero dollar entry on an ACH credit as described in § 203.12(c) which then resulted in a late payment.

(b) *Calculation of interest assessment.* Any interest assessed under this section will be at the TT&L rate. The interest will be assessed from the day the taxpayer specified that its payment should settle to the Treasury until the receipt of the payment by Treasury, subject to the following limitations: For ACH debit transactions, interest will be limited to no more than seven calendar days; for ACH credit and same-day transactions, interest will be limited to no more than 45 calendar days. The limitation of liability in this paragraph does not apply to any interest assessment in which there is an indication of fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation or embezzlement on the part of the financial institution or any employee or agent of the financial institution.

(c) *Authorization to assess interest.* A financial institution that processes Federal tax payments made by electronic payment methods under this subpart is deemed to authorize the FRB to debit its Federal Reserve account or the account of its designated correspondent financial institution for any interest assessed under this section. Upon the direction of Treasury, the FRB shall debit the Federal Reserve account of the financial institution or the account of its designated correspondent financial institution for the amount of the assessed interest.

(d) *Circumstances not subject to the assessment of interest.* (1) Treasury will not assess interest on a taxpayer's financial institution if a taxpayer fails to meet a tax due date because the taxpayer has not satisfied conditions imposed by the financial institution pursuant to § 203.11(b) and the financial institution has not contributed to the delay. The burden is on the financial institution to establish, pursuant to

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the procedures in § 203.16, that the taxpayer has not satisfied the conditions and that the financial institution has not contributed to the delay.

(2) Treasury will not assess interest on a financial institution if the delay causing the interest assessment is due to the FRB or the TFA and the financial institution did not contribute to the delay. The burden is on the financial institution to establish, pursuant to the procedures in § 203.16, that it did not cause or contribute to the delay.

§ 203.15 Prohibited debits through the Automated Clearing House.

(a) *General.* The Treasury has instituted operational safeguards to scrutinize all entries that remove funds from the TGA. In the event funds are removed from the TGA without authority, this section sets forth the liability of financial institutions originating such entries. Accordingly, a financial institution shall not originate an ACH transaction to debit the TGA without the prior written permission of Treasury. Unauthorized entries under this section do not include reversal entries of previously initiated ACH credits authorized in § 203.12(d).

(b) *Liability.* A financial institution that originates an unauthorized ACH entry that debits the TGA shall be liable to Treasury for the amount of the transaction and shall be liable for interest charges as specified in paragraph (d) of this section.

(c) *Authorization to recover principal and assess interest charge.* By initiating unauthorized debits to the TGA through the ACH, a financial institution is deemed to authorize the FRB to debit its Federal Reserve account or the account of its designated correspondent financial institution for any principal and, if applicable, an interest charge assessed by Treasury under this section.

(d) *Interest charge calculation.* The interest charge shall be at a rate equal to the Federal funds rate plus two percent. The interest charge shall be assessed for each calendar day from the day the TGA was debited to the day the TGA is recredited with the full amount of principal due.