

PART 1 – BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND APPLICABILITY

BACKGROUND

The Single Audit Act of 1984 established requirements for audits of states, local governments, and Indian tribal governments that administer federal financial assistance programs. In 1985, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued OMB Circular A-128, “Audits of State and Local Governments,” to provide implementing guidance. In 1990 OMB administratively extended the single audit process to non-profit organizations by issuing OMB Circular A-133, “Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Non-Profit Organizations.” On July 5, 1996, the president signed the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC Chapter 75). The 1996 Amendments extended the statutory audit requirement to non-profit organizations and substantially revised various provisions of the 1984 Act.

On June 30, 1997, OMB issued revisions to OMB Circular A-133 (62 FR 35278) to implement the 1996 Amendments, extend the circular’s coverage to states, local governments, and Indian tribal governments, and rescind OMB Circular A-128. The 1996 Amendments required the Director, OMB, to periodically review the audit threshold. On June 27, 2003, OMB amended OMB Circular A-133 (68 FR 38401) to increase the audit threshold to an aggregate expenditure of \$500,000 in federal funds and to make changes in the thresholds for cognizant and oversight agencies. Those changes took effect for fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003. OMB further amended the circular on June 26, 2007 (72 FR 35080), to (1) update internal control terminology and related definitions and (2) simplify the auditee reporting package submission requirement.

On December 26, 2013, OMB Circular A-133 was superseded by the issuance of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F. Among other things, those changes increased the audit threshold to \$750,000 for auditee fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014 and made changes to the major program determination process.

The Compliance Supplement (Supplement) is based on the requirements of the 1996 Amendments and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, which provide for the issuance of a compliance supplement to assist auditors in performing the required audits.

The Supplement is a document that identifies existing, important compliance requirements that the federal government expects to be considered as part of an audit required by the 1996 Amendments to the Single Audit Act. Without the Supplement, auditors would need to research many laws and regulations for each program under audit to determine which compliance requirements are important to the federal government and could have both a direct and material effect on a program. Providing the Supplement is a more efficient and cost-effective approach to performing this research. For the programs contained herein, the Supplement provides a source of information for auditors to understand the federal program’s objectives, procedures, and compliance requirements subject to the audit as well as audit objectives and suggested audit procedures for determining compliance with these requirements.

The 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, provides that federal agencies are responsible for annually informing OMB of any updates needed to the Supplement and working with OMB to ensure that the Supplement focuses the auditor to test the compliance requirements most likely to cause improper payments, fraud, waste, abuse, or generate audit findings for which the federal awarding agency will take sanctions. This responsibility includes ensuring that program objectives, procedures, and the compliance requirements that are to be subject to the audit (including statutory and regulatory citations) are submitted to OMB for inclusion in the Supplement; it also ensures that agencies keep this information current.

Performance Focus for Grants

Federal awarding agencies are encouraged to continue to shift their focus in grants management from one heavy on compliance to a balanced approach that includes establishing measurable program and project goals and analyzing data to improve results. To that end, starting in 2019 and continuing in 2021, the Compliance Supplement reduced the areas for compliance reviews from a maximum of 12 to a maximum of six (A and B compliance areas are counted as one). This reduction focused the agencies and the auditors on the areas that are most important for federal awarding agencies to manage programs more efficiently.

In addition, under Part 3 L, Reporting, agencies continued to add the review requirement for Performance reporting for 57 programs (versus 29 in the 2020 Compliance Supplement). This review requirement provides federal awarding agencies with another tool to ascertain that recipients comply with program performance goal reporting requirements. OMB intends to work with federal awarding agencies to identify performance reporting requirements for more federal programs to be added to future Supplements.

Furthermore, in 2020, OMB and federal awarding agencies identified fourteen new COVID-19-related programs and issued an addendum to the 2020 Compliance Supplement on December 31, 2020, to provide audit guidance on these new programs. The addendum also requires universal review of the requirement for recipients to report subawards in the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) for all programs for audit year ending after 09/30/20.

Parts 4 and 5 of the Supplement provide a stand-alone section for each program/cluster included in the Supplement, which contains program objectives, program procedures, and compliance requirements (including any Performance Reporting requirements noted in Part III, section L). For some programs, a separate section (IV, “Other Information”) also is included to communicate additional information concerning the program. For example, when a program allows funds to be transferred to another program, the “Other Information” section provides guidance on how those funds are to be treated on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and in major program determinations. See Appendix IV to the Supplement for a list of programs that contain this section.

The Supplement also provides guidance to assist auditors in determining compliance requirements relevant to the audit, audit objectives, and suggested audit procedures for programs

not included herein. For single audits, the Supplement replaces agency audit guides and other audit requirement documents for individual federal programs.

Throughout the Supplement, the word “must,” when used in conjunction with auditor responsibilities, means that the auditor is required to do what the statement indicates. Use of the term “should” when addressing auditor responsibilities indicates a recommended action or approach. See Part 3 of the Supplement for use of terminology in that part, which addresses compliance requirements for auditees as well as auditor responsibilities.

PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY (Part 1)

Purpose

This 2021 Supplement is effective for audits of fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2020 and supersedes the 2020 Compliance Supplement (dated August 2020) and its Addendum (dated December 2020).

This 2021 Compliance Supplement adds, deletes, and modifies prior Supplement sections as usual. Further, it continues the OMB mandate adopted in the 2019 Compliance Supplement requiring that each federal agency limit the number of compliance requirements subject to the audit to six, with the exception of the Research and Development cluster, which has been permitted to identify seven compliance requirements as subject to the audit. For this purpose, the requirements relating to A. Activities Allowed and Unallowed and B. Allowable Costs and Cost Principles are treated as one requirement. The Part 2 matrix and the related program sections in parts 4 and 5 reflect this OMB mandate. Additionally, this six-requirement mandate does not apply to programs not included in this Supplement.

The 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, describes the nonfederal entity’s responsibilities for managing federal assistance programs (2 CFR section 200.508) and the auditor’s responsibility with respect to the scope of the audit (2 CFR section 200.514). Auditors are required to follow both the provisions of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, and this Supplement.

Applicability

General

Auditors must consider the Supplement and the referenced laws, regulations, and OMB Circulars/Uniform Guidance (whether codified by federal agencies in agency regulations or adopted or implemented by other means) in determining the compliance requirements subject to the audit that could have both a direct and material effect on the programs included herein. The use of the Supplement is mandatory. Accordingly, adherence to the Supplement satisfies the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F. For program-specific audits performed in accordance with a federal agency’s program-specific audit guide, the auditor must follow such program-specific audit guide. Finally, for major programs not included in the Supplement, the auditor must follow the guidance in Part 7 and use the types of compliance requirements in Part

3 to identify the applicable compliance requirements that could have both a direct and material effect on the program.

Update of Requirements

The 2 CFR section 200.513(c)(4) provides that federal agencies are responsible for annually informing OMB of any needed updates to the Supplement. However, auditors must recognize that laws and regulations change periodically and that delays will occur between such changes and revisions to the Supplement. Moreover, auditors must recognize that there may be provisions of grant agreements and contracts that are not specified in law or regulation and, therefore, the specifics of such are not included in the Supplement. For example, the grant agreement may specify a certain matching percentage or set a priority for how funds can be spent (e.g., a requirement not to fund certain size projects). Another example is a federal agency imposing additional requirements on a recipient (see 2 CFR section 200.208 regarding use of specific award conditions).

Accordingly, the auditor should perform reasonable procedures to ensure that compliance requirements identified as subject to the audit are current and to also determine whether there are any additional provisions of federal awards relevant to the compliance requirements subject to the audit that should be covered by an audit under the 1996 Amendments. Reasonable procedures would be an inquiry of nonfederal entity management and a review of the federal awards for programs selected for testing (i.e., major programs).

For example, if a program entry in the Part 2 matrix indicates that Procurement and Suspension and Debarment compliance requirement is subject to the audit, then the auditor should follow the guidance in the previous paragraph and perform the reasonable procedures described therein. However, if a program entry in the Part 2 matrix indicates that Procurement and Suspension and Debarment compliance requirement is not subject to the audit, then the procedures described in the previous paragraph would not be required by the auditor.

Similarly, as it relates to provisions of grant agreements and contracts, if a program entry in the Part 2 matrix indicates that the Activities Allowed and Unallowed compliance requirement is subject to the audit and that the grant agreement for that program sets a priority for how funds can be spent (e.g., a requirement to not fund certain size projects), then the auditor would be expected to consider the grant agreement provisions. However, if a program entry in the Part 2 matrix indicates that the Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking compliance requirement is not subject to the audit and that the grant agreement for that program specifies a certain matching percentage requirement for the same program, then the auditor is not expected to consider the grant agreement provisions related to matching in the audit.

Safe Harbor Status

Because the suggested audit procedures were written to be able to apply to many different programs administered by many different entities, they are necessarily general in nature. Auditor judgment is necessary to determine whether the suggested audit procedures are sufficient to achieve the stated audit objectives or whether alternative audit procedures are needed. Therefore,

the auditor cannot consider the Supplement to be a “safe harbor” for identifying the audit procedures to apply in a particular engagement.

The matrices included throughout the Supplement indicate with a “Y” which types of compliance requirements are subject to the audit. The auditor can consider the Supplement a “safe harbor” for identification of those compliance requirements for the programs included herein if, as discussed above, the auditor (1) performs reasonable procedures to ensure that the requirements subject to the audit in the Supplement are current and to determine whether there are any additional provisions of federal awards relevant to the compliance requirements subject to the audit that should be covered by an audit under the 1996 Amendments, and (2) updates or augments the requirements contained in the Supplement, as appropriate.

For compliance audit purposes, an “N” in a program matrix indicates that a type of compliance requirement is not subject to the audit. Auditors are not expected to test requirements that have been noted with an “N.” However, while a requirement may not be subject to the audit for compliance audit purposes, auditors have a responsibility under GAAS and GAGAS related to noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that may have a direct and material effect on the financial statements, and also with the requirements related to the auditor’s consideration of fraud and abuse.

OVERVIEW OF THE SUPPLEMENT

Matrix of Compliance Requirements (Part 2)

The Matrix of Compliance Requirements (Matrix) identifies the federal programs and compliance requirements addressed in the Supplement and associates the programs with the applicable compliance requirements. The Matrix also identifies the applicable federal agency and the Assistance Listing (*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* (CFDA)) number for each program included in the Supplement. (**Note:** The entry for each program/cluster also is included in the program/cluster in Part 4 or Part 5 of the Supplement.)

Compliance Requirements (Part 3)

Part 3 lists and describes the 12 types of compliance requirements and, except for Special Tests and Provisions, the related audit objectives that the auditor must consider, as applicable, in every audit conducted under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, with the exception of program-specific audits performed in accordance with a federal agency's program-specific audit guide. The auditor is responsible for achieving the stated audit objectives for the applicable compliance requirements.

Suggested audit procedures are provided to assist the auditor in planning and performing tests of nonfederal entity compliance with the requirements of federal programs. The suggested audit procedures are, as the name implies, only suggested. Auditor judgment is necessary to determine whether the suggested audit procedures are sufficient to achieve the stated audit objectives and whether alternative audit procedures are needed. Determining the nature, timing, and extent of the audit procedures necessary to meet the audit objectives is the auditor's responsibility.

The compliance requirements for Special Tests and Provisions are unique to each federal program; therefore, compliance requirements, audit objectives, and suggested audit procedures for those Special Tests and Provisions—other than the audit objectives and suggested audit procedures for internal control—are not included in Part 3.

Consistent with the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, Part 3 includes audit objectives and suggested audit procedures to test internal control. However, the auditor must determine the specific procedures to test internal control on a case-by-case basis, considering factors, such as the nonfederal entity's internal control, the compliance requirements, the audit objectives for compliance, the auditor's assessment of control risk, and the audit requirement to test internal control as prescribed in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F.

Agency Program Requirements (Part 4)

For each federal program included in the Supplement, Part 4 discusses program objectives, program procedures, and compliance requirements that are specific to the program. With the exception of section III.N, "Special Tests and Provisions," the auditor must refer to Part 3 for the audit objectives and suggested audit procedures that pertain to the program-specific compliance requirements associated with the programs. Since, in general, Special Tests and Provisions are

unique to each program, the specific audit objectives and suggested audit procedures for each program are included in Part 4.

The description of program procedures is general in nature. Some programs may operate somewhat differently than described due to (1) the complexity of governing federal and state laws and regulations; (2) the administrative flexibility afforded nonfederal entities; and (3) the nature, size, and volume of transactions involved. Accordingly, the auditor must obtain an understanding of the applicable compliance requirements and program procedures in operation at the nonfederal entity to properly plan and perform the audit.

Clusters of Programs (Part 5)

A cluster of programs is a grouping of closely related programs that have similar compliance requirements. Although the programs within a cluster are administered as separate programs, a cluster of programs is treated as a single program for the purpose of meeting the audit requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F (see definition at 2 CFR section 200.1).

The types of clusters included in Part 5 are: Research and Development (R&D), Student Financial Assistance (SFA), and other clusters. “Other clusters” are as identified in the Supplement or designated in a state award document. Part 5 provides compliance requirements, audit objectives, and suggested audit procedures for the R&D and SFA clusters, and lists other clusters included in Part 4.

In planning and performing the audit, the auditor can determine whether programs administered by the nonfederal entity are part of a cluster by referring to both the provisions of Part 5 of the Supplement and the state award documents.

Internal Control (Part 6)

As a condition of receiving federal awards, nonfederal entities agree to comply with laws, regulations, and the provisions of grant agreements and contracts, and to also maintain internal control to provide reasonable assurance of compliance within these requirements. The 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F requires auditors to obtain an understanding of the nonfederal entity’s internal control over federal programs sufficient to plan the audit to support a low assessed level of control risk for major programs, plan the testing of internal control over major programs to support a low assessed level of control risk for the assertions relevant to the compliance requirements for each major program, and, unless internal control is likely to be ineffective, perform testing of internal control as planned. Part 6 addresses the objectives, principles, and components of internal control based on the “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” (“Green Book”), issued by the Government Accountability Office, and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework” (revised 2013), issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. It also includes appendices that include illustrations of entity-wide internal controls over federal awards (Appendix 1) as well as illustrations of internal controls specific to each type of compliance requirement (Appendix 2).

Guidance for Auditing Programs Not Included in this Compliance Supplement (Part 7)

Part 7 provides guidance to auditors in both identifying the compliance requirements and designing tests of compliance with such requirements for programs not included in the Supplement.

Federal Programs Excluded from Portions of 2 CFR Part 200 (Part 8, Appendix I)

Appendix I lists block grants and other programs excluded from the requirements of the “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments,” which still may be in effect for some awards/funding and specified portions of 2 CFR Part 200.

Federal Agency Codification of Governmentwide Requirements and Guidance for Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Part 8, Appendix II)

Appendix II includes regulatory citations for federal agencies’ codification of the OMB guidance on (1) “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements” (in 2 CFR Part 200) and (2) non-procurement suspension and debarment in 2 CFR Part 180.

Federal Agency Single Audit, Key Management Liaison, and Program Contacts (Part 8, Appendix III)

Appendix III identifies federal agency-level contacts—single audit and, separately, management liaisons—from whom auditors can request information about the agency’s programs generally or the audit requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F. It also includes, for each program/cluster listed in parts 4 and 5 of the Supplement, the name of a specific individual who can be contacted concerning that program, along with the individual’s contact information.

Internal Reference Tables (Part 8, Appendix IV)

Appendix IV provides a listing of programs in parts 4 and 5 that include IV, “Other Information.” This listing allows the auditor to quickly determine which programs have other information, such as guidance on Type A and Type B program determination or display on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards. This appendix also lists the seven programs currently identified as higher risk by OMB pursuant to 2 CFR section 200.519(c)(2).

List of Changes for the 2021 Compliance Supplement (Part 8, Appendix V)

Appendix V provides a list of changes from the 2020 Compliance Supplement.

Program-Specific Audit Guides (Part 8, Appendix VI)

Appendix VI includes a list of program-specific guides maintained by the federal agencies and indicates where to obtain them.

Other Audit Advisories (Part 8, Appendix VII)

Appendix VII provides information on (1) Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); (2) the effect of changes to compliance requirements and other clusters; (3) the due date for submission of audit reports and low-risk auditee criteria; (4) the treatment of National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health Awards; (5) the exceptions to the Guidance in 2 CFR Part 200; and (6) audit sampling.

Examinations of EBT Service Organizations (Part 8, Appendix VIII)

Appendix VIII provides guidance on audits of state electronic benefits transfer (EBT) service providers (service organizations) regarding the issuance, redemption, and settlement of benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Assistance Listing 10.551) in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (AT-C) section 320, *Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to User Entities' Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*.

Compliance Supplement Core Team (Part 8, Appendix IX)

Appendix IX provides a listing of the Compliance Supplement Core Team members who were responsible for the production of the Supplement.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION**Page Numbering Scheme**

The following page numbering scheme is used in the Supplement:

- a. Each page included in parts 1, 2, 3 (Introduction), 6, and 7 is identified by a label that represents the part number and sequential page number. A hyphen (-) separates the part number from the page number. For example, Part 1 is numbered as follows: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and so on.
- b. In the 2021 Supplement, Part 3 is divided into 12 compliance areas 3-A-1, 3-A-2, 3-A-3, and so on.
- c. Each page included in parts 4 and 5 (other than the Introductions to those parts) is identified by a label that represents the part number, section number identifier, and sequential page number. The section number identifier for Part 4 represents the Assistance Listing number of the applicable program. For example, the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance program, Assistance Listing 17.225, is numbered 4-17.225-1, 4-17.225-2, 4-17.225-3, and so on.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

The CFR is a codification of the rules issued by federal agencies. The CFR is divided into 50 titles, which comprise the broad areas subject to federal regulation. Each title is further divided into parts and sections, with most references to the CFR being made at this level.

Portions of the CFR are revised daily and these changes are published in the *Federal Register*. However, a revised version of the CFR is published only once each calendar year, on a quarterly basis as follows: titles 1–16 on January 1, titles 17–27 on April 1, titles 28–41 on July 1, and titles 42–50 on October 1.

In the event that changes to a particular section of a title have changed since the last published update of that section, a notation is made in the List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA), which is published monthly. The LSA cites the *Federal Register* page number that contains the changes to the CFR section.

In order to obtain the most current regulations, the user should consult not only the latest version of the CFR, but also the LSA issued in the current month. The Federal Digital System home page (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>) offers links to both the *Federal Register* and the CFR. An electronic CFR (e-CFR) is available at <http://www.ecfr.gov>. The e-CFR is a compilation of CFR material and *Federal Register* amendments. It is a current, daily updated version of the CFR; however, it is not an official legal edition of the CFR.

HOW TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Guidance to assist auditors in performing audits in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, can be obtained from the following sources.

Office of Management and Budget

The following information is located under the grants management heading on the Office of Federal Financial Management's home page ([Office of Federal Financial Management | The White House](#)):

- OMB publications, including 2 CFR Part 200 and the Supplement for audits under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F.
- SF-SAC, *Data Collection Form for Reporting on Audits of States, Local Governments, Indian Tribes, Institutions of Higher Education and Non-Profit Organizations*.

General Services Administration (GSA)

- *Assistance Listing (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)).*

Assistance Listing has replaced the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). As a result of this terminology change the Supplement has now replaced all references to CFDA with Assistance Listing, including program titles. For example, the CHIP program, previously titled CFDA 93.767 CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP), is now titled ASSISTANCE LISTING 93.767 CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP). A searchable copy of the Assistance Listing and a PDF version are available through the Internet on the GSA home page (<https://beta.sam.gov>). Note that if the Assistance Listing indicates under a program entry (Post Assistance Requirements – Audit) that audit is “Not Applicable” or the program is not subject to 2 CFR Part 200 (**Note:** Some Assistance Listing entries still may refer to OMB Circular A-133), the auditee should contact the federal agency single audit office/official indicated in Appendix III of the Supplement.

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

- Government Auditing Standards, July 2018 Revision (GAO-18-568G). (<http://www.gao.gov/yellowbook>)

Inspectors General

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Home Page (<http://www.ignet.gov>) contains an Inspector General Directory and the Inspector General Act.

Federal Audit Clearinghouse

The Federal Audit Clearinghouse acts as an agent for OMB to (1) establish and maintain a government-wide database of single audit results and related federal award information; (2) serve as the federal repository for single audit reports; and (3) distribute single audit reports to federal agencies.

The Clearinghouse maintains a site on the Internet at <https://harvester.census.gov/facweb>. For Data Collection Form (SF-SAC) and single audit submission questions, contact the Federal Audit Clearinghouse by e-mail (govs.fac.ides@census.gov) or telephone (866-306-8779).