



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2005**

2005-23

**OMB ISSUES NEW GOVERNMENT-WIDE GUIDANCE FOR
FEDERAL CHARGE CARDS**

WASHINGTON -- Today the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued new charge card policies to Executive Branch agencies in order to help reduce the risk of fraud, misuse and late payments. Entitled, "Improving Government Charge Card Management" and released as Appendix B to OMB Circular A-123, *Management's Responsibility for Internal Control*, the new requirements consolidate and update government charge card program guidance previously issued by OMB, the General Services Administration, and other Federal agencies.

"This new Guidance will help ensure that Federal charge cards aren't misused, that the government pays its charge card debts on time, and that government managers implement strategies for making smarter procurement decisions," said OMB Controller Linda Combs.

"The Federal Government has significantly improved the integrity and cost effectiveness of our charge card programs in the past few years, and this new Guidance will build on and reinforce this success," Combs added.

The new Guidance applies to all Executive Branch departments and agencies, establishing standard minimum requirements and suggested best practices in areas such as planning, training, risk management, data collection, credit worthiness, and strategic sourcing. In addition to helping prevent fraud and misuse, the Guidance is also expected to yield cost efficiencies through reduced administrative costs, as well as increased refunds and tax recoveries.

The requirements in this Guidance become effective on October 1, 2005, concurrent with other revisions to OMB Circular A-123.

To view Appendix B to OMB Circular A-123, visit http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/financial/fia_travel.html. For additional information, please contact OMB Communications at 202-395-7254.

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