

period corresponding to the payment date. A severance payment is subject to appropriate deductions for income and Social Security taxes. Severance payments are the responsibility of the agency employing the recipient at the time of the involuntary separation that triggered the current entitlement to severance pay.

(c) When an individual receives severance pay as the result of an involuntary separation from a qualifying time-limited appointment, the severance payment is based on the rate of basic pay received at the time of that separation. Severance payments are the responsibility of the agency that employed the individual under the qualifying time-limited appointment.

(d) When an individual is in a nonpay status immediately before separation, the amount of the severance payment is determined using the basic pay that he or she would have received if he or she had been in a pay status at the time of separation.

(e) When an individual's severance pay fund is computed under § 550.707(b) using an average rate of basic pay, that average rate is used to determine the amount of the severance payment. Exception: In the case of a seasonal employee, the agency may choose instead to use the employee's rate of basic pay at separation (as computed based on the employee's work schedule during the established seasonal work period) and then authorize severance payments only during that seasonal work period.

(f) In the case of individuals who become employed by a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard under the conditions described in 5 U.S.C. 5595(h)(4), payment of severance pay may be suspended consistent with the rules in 5 U.S.C. 5595(h) and any supplemental regulations issued by the Department of Defense.

(g) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, an agency may pay severance pay in a single lump sum if expressly authorized by law.

[64 FR 69177, Dec. 10, 1999]

§ 550.710 Suspension of severance pay.

When an individual entitled to severance pay is employed by the Government of the United States or the gov-

ernment of the District of Columbia under a nonqualifying time-limited appointment, severance pay must be suspended during the life of the appointment. Severance pay resumes, without any recomputation, when the employee separates from the nonqualifying time-limited appointment. The resumed severance payments are the responsibility of the agency that originally triggered the individual's severance pay entitlement by separating the individual while he or she was serving under a qualifying appointment.

[64 FR 69178, Dec. 10, 1999]

§ 550.711 Termination of severance pay entitlement.

Entitlement to severance pay ends when—

(a) The individual entitled to severance pay is employed by the Government of the United States or the government of the District of Columbia, unless employed under a nonqualifying time-limited appointment as described in § 550.710; or

(b) The severance pay fund is exhausted.

[64 FR 69178, Dec. 10, 1999]

§ 550.712 Reemployment; recredit of service.

(a) When a former employee is reemployed, the employing agency shall record on the appointment document the number of weeks of severance pay received (including partial weeks).

(b) If an employee again becomes entitled to severance pay, the agency in which entitlement arises shall recompute the severance pay allowance on the basis of all creditable service and current age and deduct from the number of weeks it would take to exhaust the allowance the number of weeks for which severance pay previously was received.

§ 550.713 Records.

Agencies shall maintain records, by fiscal year, of the number of employees who receive severance pay and the total amount of severance pay paid. The Office of Personnel Management

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may require agencies to report such information to the Office.

[55 FR 6593, Feb. 26, 1990, as amended at 64 FR 69178, Dec. 10, 1999]

§ 550.714 Panama Canal Commission employees.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subpart, an employee separated from employment with the Panama Canal Commission as a result of the implementation of any provision of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements shall not be entitled to severance pay if he or she—

(1) Receives a written offer of reasonably comparable employment when such offer is made before separation from Commission employment;

(2) Accepts reasonably comparable employment within 30 days after separation from Commission employment; or

(3) Was hired by the Commission on or after December 18, 1997.

(b) The term *reasonably comparable employment* means a position that meets all the following conditions:

(1) The position is with the Panamanian public entity that assumes the functions of managing, operating, and maintaining the Panama Canal as a result of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977;

(2) The rate of basic pay of the position is not more than 10 percent below the employee's rate of basic pay as a Panama Canal Commission employee;

(3) The position is within the employee's commuting area;

(4) The position carries no fixed time limitation as to length of appointment; and

(5) The work schedule (that is, part-time or full-time) of the position is the same as that of the position held by the employee at the Panama Canal Commission.

(c) A Panama Canal Commission employee who resigns prior to receiving an official written notice that he or she will not be offered reasonably comparable employment shall be considered to be voluntarily separated. Section 550.706(a) shall be applied, as appropriate, to any employee who resigns after receiving such notice.

(d) Except as otherwise provided by paragraphs (a) through (c) of this sec-

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tion, the provisions of this subpart remain applicable to Panama Canal Commission employees.

[62 FR 49127, Sept. 19, 1997]

Subpart H—Back Pay

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5596(c); Pub. L. 100-202, 101 Stat. 1329.

§ 550.801 Applicability.

(a) This subpart contains regulations of the Office of Personnel Management to carry out section 5596 of title 5, United States Code, which authorizes the payment of back pay, interest, and reasonable attorney fees for the purpose of making an employee financially whole (to the extent possible) when, on the basis of a timely appeal or an administrative determination (including a decision relating to an unfair labor practice or a grievance), the employee is found by an appropriate authority to have been affected by an unjustified or unwarranted personnel action that resulted in the withdrawal, reduction, or denial of all or part of the pay, allowances, and differentials otherwise due to the employee. This subpart should be read together with this section of law.

(b) This subpart does not apply to any reclassification action.

[46 FR 58275, Dec. 1, 1981, as amended at 53 FR 18072, May 20, 1988]

§ 550.802 Coverage.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, this subpart applies to employees, as defined in § 550.803 of this subpart.

(b) This subpart does not apply to—

(1) Employees of the government of the District of Columbia; and

(2) Employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

[46 FR 58275, Dec. 1, 1981]

§ 550.803 Definitions.

In this subpart:

Agency has the meaning given that term in section 5596(a) of title 5, United States Code.

Appropriate authority means an entity having authority in the case at hand to correct or direct the correction of an