

§ 247.16

sample of grant program audit examinations during each audit cycle which occurs, not less frequency than once every two years. In some audit cycles, a grant program or programs other than this Program may be audited. However, audits of the Program shall be performed at intervals frequent enough to ensure consistency with good Program management. Also, at any time, the Department, FNS or the State agency may at its discretion audit a Program if an audit appears to be warranted. If FNS in the course of Program reviews of State agency operations finds that the efficiency and effectiveness of the State agency's financial management system is in question, FNS may request the State agency to include the Program in the sample for the next audit examination.

(3) Each State agency shall make all State or local agency sponsored audit reports of Program operations under its jurisdiction available for the Department's review upon request. The cost of these audits shall be considered a part of administrative costs and funded from either State or local agency administrative funds.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0584-0063)

(44 U.S.C. 3506)

[46 FR 6341, Jan. 21, 1981, as amended at 47 FR 746, Jan. 7, 1982]

§ 247.16 Investigations.

(a) *Authority.* The Department may make an investigation of any allegation of noncompliance with this part. The investigation may include, where appropriate, a review of pertinent practices and policies of any State or local agency, the circumstances under which the possible noncompliance with this part occurred, and other factors relevant to a determination as to whether the State or local agency has failed to comply with the requirements of this part.

(b) *Confidentiality.* No State or local agency, participant, or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege under this part because the individual has made a complaint or formal allegation, or testi-

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fied, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. The identity of every complainant shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding.

§ 247.17 Claims.

If FNS determines through a review of the State agency's reports, program or financial analysis, monitoring, audit, or otherwise, that any Program funds provided to a State agency for administrative purposes were, through State agency or local agency negligence or fraud, misused or otherwise diverted from Program purposes, a claim shall be made by FNS against the State agency, and the State agency shall pay promptly to FNS a sum equal to the amount of the administrative funds so misused or diverted. Further, if FNS determines that any part of the money received by a State agency was lost as a result of thefts, embezzlements, or unexplained causes, the State agency shall, on demand by FNS, pay to FNS a sum equal to the amount of the money so lost. Claims for losses or misuse of supplemental foods shall be handled in accordance with § 250.6(m), 7 CFR part 250—Subchapter B—Food Distribution. The State agency shall have full opportunity to submit evidence, explanations or information concerning alleged instances of noncompliance or diversion before a final determination is made in such cases.

§ 247.18 Closeout procedures.

(a) *Fiscal year closeout reports.* State agencies shall submit preliminary and final closeout reports for each fiscal year or part thereof. All obligations shall be liquidated before final closure of a fiscal year grant. Obligations shall be reported for the fiscal year in which they occur State agencies shall:

(1) Submit to FNS, within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year, preliminary financial reports which show cumulative actual expenditures and obligations for the fiscal year, or part thereof, for which Program funds were made available; and