



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:

We have prepared a report to the Congress on the emphasis needed on the Government's efforts to standardize data elements and codes for computer systems. We think you will find this report of interest, and we are enclosing a copy for your information and use.

The report contains recommendations regarding the need for more attention toward the development and use of data standards which could help reduce the high costs of collecting, processing, and disseminating data to Federal agencies. The report suggests that each agency incorporate Federal data standards when designing new systems and/or redesigning old ones. Also, each agency needs to

- identify agency needs in those areas where data standards would be most beneficial,
- accept responsibility for developing data standards in areas which they have an interest in, and
- support and cooperate with the Department of Commerce in the Government-wide program for data element standardization.

We shall be pleased to provide additional information about our report if desired.

*James B. Stacks*

Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosure

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