

§ 550.183

agency policies and procedures. Placing the investigator in availability status is not considered scheduling the investigator for overtime hours compensated under 5 U.S.C. 5542 and § 550.111. Availability hours may include hours during which an investigator places himself or herself in availability status to meet the needs of the agency, subject to agency policies and procedures (including any requirements for after-the-fact validation or approval). A special agent in the Diplomatic Security Service may not be credited with availability hours and will be credited with only hours actually worked.

(e) *Ensuring availability.* Except as provided in paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section, an employing agency shall ensure that each criminal investigator's hours of unscheduled duty are sufficient to enable the investigator to meet the substantial hours requirement in § 550.183 and make the certification required under § 550.184.

(f) *Voluntary opt-out.* Notwithstanding paragraph (d) of this section, an employing agency may, at its discretion, approve a criminal investigator's voluntary request that the investigator generally be assigned no overtime work (including unscheduled duty) for a designated period of time because of a personal or family hardship situation. The investigator must sign a written statement documenting this request and his or her understanding that availability pay will not be payable during the designated period.

(g) *When availability pay is suspended.* The employing agency is not subject to the requirement of paragraph (d) of this section in the case of a criminal investigator for whom availability pay is suspended in accordance with § 550.184(d) due to denial or cancellation of the required certification based on—

(1) Failure to perform unscheduled duty as assigned or reported; or

(2) Inability to perform unscheduled duty for an extended period because of a physical or health condition.

[59 FR 66151, Dec. 23, 1994, as amended at 64 FR 4520, Jan. 29, 1999]

5 CFR Ch. I (1–1–01 Edition)

§ 550.183 Substantial hours requirement.

(a) A criminal investigator shall be eligible for availability pay only if the annual average number of hours of unscheduled duty per regular workday is 2 hours or more, as certified in accordance with § 550.184. This average is computed by dividing the total unscheduled duty hours for the annual period (numerator) by the number of regular workdays (denominator).

(b) For the purpose of this section, *regular workday* means each day in the criminal investigator's basic workweek during which the investigator works at least 4 hours, excluding—

(1) Overtime hours compensated under 5 U.S.C. 5542 and § 550.111;

(2) Unscheduled duty hours compensated by availability pay under 5 U.S.C. 5545a and this subpart; and

(3) Hours during which an investigator is engaged in agency-approved training, is traveling under official travel orders, is on approved leave, or is on excused absence with pay (including paid holidays).

(c) In computing average hours under paragraph (a) of this section, the total unscheduled duty hours in the numerator shall include—

(1) Any unscheduled duty hours on a regular workday; and

(2) Any unscheduled duty hours actually worked by an investigator on days that are not regular workdays.

[59 FR 66151, Dec. 23, 1994]

§ 550.184 Annual certification.

(a) Each newly hired criminal investigator who will receive availability pay and the appropriate supervisory officer (as designated by the head of the agency or authorized designee) shall make an initial certification to the head of the agency attesting that the investigator is expected to meet the substantial hours requirement in § 550.183 during the upcoming 1-year period. A similar certification shall be made for a criminal investigator who will begin receiving availability pay after a period of nonreceipt (e.g., a designated voluntary opt-out period under § 550.182(e)).