

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Monica R. Valentine
(202) 512-7362

ValentineM@fasab.gov

July 7, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

AAPC Issues a Records Retention Timeframes for Property, Plant, & Equipment Research Report.

The Chairman of the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee (AAPC), Wendy Payne, announced today that the AAPC has issued a *Records Retention Timeframes for Property, Plant, & Equipment Research Report*. The report provides recommendations, but is not an authoritative source of generally accepted accounting principles.

The Accounting and Audit Policy Committee established the General Property, Plant, & Equipment (G-PP&E) task force to assist in developing implementation guidance for federal G-PP&E. The Record Retention Subgroup of the AAPC G-PP&E Task Force addressed record retention timeframes and methods (hardcopy vs. electronic) for document retention that supports property, plant & equipment (PP&E) reported in agencies' general purpose financial statements. The subgroup considered multi-aspects of record retention such as permanent PP&E records, transactional PP&E records, and hard copy vs. electronic records. The subgroup performed research on record retention practices and requirements and guidance related to the subject in federal government and private sector accounting and other standards. In particular, the subgroup reviewed the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) record retention regulations and guidance applicable to federal agencies and visited with NARA's record retention specialist.

The subgroup's recommendations to NARA are not intended as guidance for the audit/oversight community. For example, the recommendations are not meant to address the sufficiency of evidence to be able to draw conclusions, measure the validity of evidence, or infringe on the judgment of the oversight community. The report is intended for agency management as general guidance to assist with consistency across government regarding PP&E record retention. The AAPC has forwarded its recommendations on record retention timeframes the NARA.

The report is available at <http://www.fasab.gov/accounting-standards/other-sources-of-information/other-reports-documents/>.

ABOUT AAPC

The Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee (AAPC) was organized in May 1997 by the Department of the Treasury, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Government Accountability Office (GAO) [formerly the General Accounting Office], the Chief Financial Officers' Council (CFOC), and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) [formally the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE)], as a body to research accounting and auditing issues requiring guidance.

The AAPC serves as a permanent committee established by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB). The mission of the FASAB is to develop accounting standards after considering the financial and budgetary information needs of congressional oversight groups, executive agencies, and the needs of other users of Federal financial information. The mission of the AAPC is to assist the Federal government in improving financial reporting through the timely identification, discussion, and recommendation of solutions to accounting and auditing issues as they relate to the specific application of existing authoritative literature.

The AAPC is intended to address issues that arise in implementation, which are not specifically or fully discussed in Federal accounting and auditing standards. The AAPC's guidance is cleared by FASAB before being published.

For more information on AAPC and FASAB, please visit our website: www.fasab.gov.