

H. PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Compliance Requirements

Federal awards may specify a time period during which the non-Federal entity may use the Federal funds. Where a funding period is specified, a non-Federal entity may charge to the award only costs resulting from obligations incurred during the funding period and any pre-award costs authorized by the Federal awarding agency. Also, if authorized by the Federal program, unobligated balances may be carried over and charged for obligations of the subsequent funding period. Obligations means the amounts of orders placed, contracts and subgrants awarded, goods and services received, and similar transactions during a given period that will require payment by the non-Federal entity during the same or a future period (A-102 Common Rule, §___23; OMB Circular A-110, §___28).

Non-Federal entities subject to the A-102 Common Rule shall liquidate all obligations incurred under the award not later than 90 days after the end of the funding period (or as specified in a program regulation) to coincide with the submission of the annual Financial Status report (SF-269). The Federal agency may extend this deadline upon request (A-102 Common Rule, §___23).

An example used by a program to determine when an obligation occurs (is made) is found under Part 4, Department of Education, CFDA 84.000 (Cross-Cutting Section).

Audit Objective

1. Obtain an understanding of internal control, assess risk, and test internal control as required by OMB Circular A-133 §___500(c).
2. Determine whether Federal funds were obligated within the period of availability and obligations were liquidated within the required time period.

Suggested Audit Procedures – Internal Control

1. Using the guidance provided in Part 6 – Internal Control, perform procedures to obtain an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan the audit to support a low assessed level of control risk for the program.
2. Plan the testing of internal control to support a low assessed level of control risk for period of availability of Federal funds and perform the testing of internal control as planned. If internal control over some or all of the compliance requirements is likely to be ineffective, see the alternative procedures in §___500(c)(3) of OMB Circular A-133, including assessing the control risk at the maximum and considering whether additional compliance tests and reporting are required because of ineffective internal control.
3. Consider the results of the testing of internal control in assessing the risk of noncompliance. Use this as the basis for determining the nature, timing, and extent (e.g., number of transactions to be selected) of substantive tests of compliance.

Suggested Audit Procedures – Compliance

1. Review the award documents and regulations pertaining to the program and determine any award-specific requirements related to the period of availability and document the availability period.
2. Test a sample of transactions charged to the Federal award after the end of the period of availability and verify that the underlying obligations occurred within the period of availability and that the liquidation (payment) was made within the allowed time period.
3. Test a sample of transactions that were recorded during the period of availability and verify that the underlying obligations occurred within the period of availability.
4. Select a sample of adjustments to the Federal funds and verify that these adjustments were for transactions that occurred during the period of availability.

Note: The suggested audit procedures above for internal control and compliance testing may be accomplished using dual-purpose testing.