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AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-106, div. E, title LV, §5502(c), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 699, substituted “of a formal protest or other challenge” for “of a protest” in item 1558.

1992—Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1054(e)(1), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2503, substituted “Definitions; applicability of subchapter” for “Definitions and application” in item 1551 and “Procedure for appropriation accounts available for definite periods” for “Audit, control, and reporting” in item 1552.

1990—Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, §1405(a)(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1679, substituted “Audit, control, and reporting” for “Procedure for appropriation accounts available for definite periods” in item 1552 and for “Review of appropriation accounts” in item 1554, “Closing of appropriation accounts available” for “Withdrawal of unobligated balances of appropriations” in item 1555, “General: reports” for “General reports” in item 1556, and “Authority for exemptions in appropriation laws” for “Authorization to exempt” in item 1557.

1989—Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title VIII, §813(b), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1494, added item 1558.

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL

§ 1501. Documentary evidence requirement for Government obligations

(a) An amount shall be recorded as an obligation of the United States Government only when supported by documentary evidence of—

(1) a binding agreement between an agency and another person (including an agency) that is—

(A) in writing, in a way and form, and for a purpose authorized by law; and

(B) executed before the end of the period of availability for obligation of the appropriation or fund used for specific goods to be delivered, real property to be bought or leased, or work or service to be provided;

(2) a loan agreement showing the amount and terms of repayment;

(3) an order required by law to be placed with an agency;

(4) an order issued under a law authorizing purchases without advertising—

(A) when necessary because of a public exigency;

(B) for perishable subsistence supplies; or

(C) within specific monetary limits;

(5) a grant or subsidy payable—

(A) from appropriations made for payment of, or contributions to, amounts required to be paid in specific amounts fixed by law or under formulas prescribed by law;

(B) under an agreement authorized by law; or

(C) under plans approved consistent with and authorized by law;

(6) a liability that may result from pending litigation;

(7) employment or services of persons or expenses of travel under law;

(8) services provided by public utilities; or

(9) other legal liability of the Government against an available appropriation or fund.

(b) A statement of obligations provided to Congress or a committee of Congress by an agency shall include only those amounts that are obligations consistent with subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 97-258, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 927.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1501(a)	31:200(a).	Aug. 26, 1954, ch. 935, §1311(a), (e), 68 Stat. 830, 831.
1501(b)	31:200(e).	

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words “After August 26, 1954” are omitted as executed. In clause (1), the words “an agency and another person (including an agency)” are substituted for “the parties thereto, including Government agencies” for clarity. In clause (2), the word “valid” is omitted as unnecessary. In clause (6), the words “brought under authority of law” are omitted as surplus. In clause (9), the word “legally” is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “consistent with” are substituted for “as defined in” for clarity and for consistency with section 1108 of the revised title. The word “valid” is omitted as unnecessary.

§ 1502. Balances available

(a) The balance of an appropriation or fund limited for obligation to a definite period is available only for payment of expenses properly incurred during the period of availability or to complete contracts properly made within that period of availability and obligated consistent with section 1501 of this title. However, the appropriation or fund is not available for expenditure for a period beyond the period otherwise authorized by law.

(b) A provision of law requiring that the balance of an appropriation or fund be returned to