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MSPB POSTS SECOND COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST ON WEBSITE

Continuing its effort to help Federal agencies comply with the final orders it issues in employee appeals of personnel actions, the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) has posted a second compliance checklist on its website (www.mspb.gov). The checklist, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center (NFC), describes the information that an agency served by NFC must provide in order for NFC to process payments required by a Board order (or agreed to in a settlement).

"The National Finance Center provides payroll and other financial services to more than 120 Federal agencies," explained MSPB Chairman Beth S. Slavet. "It serves a different sector of the Government than the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, whose compliance checklist we have already posted on our website. With the addition of the NFC checklist, more Federal agencies can look to our website in order to expedite compliance with Board orders."

As part of an effort to close the Board's oldest enforcement cases, MSPB staff held meetings with officials from DFAS, NFC, and the Postal Service to discuss impediments to agency compliance with Board orders. One of the impediments identified was that responsible agency managers and personnel officials thought they had taken the steps necessary to comply with a Board order, but the payroll office lacked all the information necessary to process payments required by the order. As a result of these meetings, both DFAS and NFC provided their compliance checklists to the Board.

"The Postal Service is currently updating its internal guidance in back pay and settlement matters, and we hope to make compliance information from that agency available as well," said Chairman Slavet. "We hope that providing compliance information from these three agencies will provide Federal agencies subject to our jurisdiction with an additional tool to ensure timely and efficient compliance with Board orders. In any case, we will continue to use the other tools available to us, including, if necessary, using the Board's statutory sanctions authority in any egregious cases of non-compliance."

The DFAS and NFC checklists can be accessed from the Forms & Publications page of the MSPB website at the following address: www.mspb.gov/foia/forms-pubs/forms-pubs.html.

The MSPB is an independent, quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from personnel actions taken against them and for protecting the integrity of the civil service and other Federal merit systems. The Board also conducts studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch.