



**Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting
Self-assessment Tool**



Vendor Payments

Legend:

- = Successfully meets standard.
- = Does not meet standard, but making satisfactory progress towards attainment.
- = Does not meet standard; underlying issues have not been addressed
- N/A = Not applicable

Assessment For Period Ending: _____

Reviewer's Signature _____

Date: _____

Control Objectives

As public servants, it is our responsibility to use taxpayers' dollars in the most effective and efficient way possible while adhering to applicable laws and regulations. This document does not address all possible circumstances that need to be considered when establishing internal controls or assessing risk. Each government is responsible for reviewing its business practices and processes to determine where risks exist and where and how controls can be established to mitigate them.

Financial reporting control objectives are as follows:

1. Recorded transactions are valid (existence).
2. All valid transactions are recorded; none are omitted (completeness).
3. Transactions are recorded in the proper fiscal period (cut-off).
4. Transactions are in compliance with applicable laws and policies (rights & obligations).
5. Transaction amounts are accurately valued or calculated (valuation).
6. Transactions are properly classified to the correct fund and account (classification).

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
Segregation of Duties					
1. Are the individuals responsible for the requisitioning, purchasing, and receiving functions different from the individuals responsible for the invoice processing, accounts payable, and general ledger functions?					
2. Are the individuals responsible for the purchasing function different from the individuals responsible for the requisitioning and receiving functions?					
3. Are the individuals responsible for the invoice processing and accounts payable functions different from the individuals responsible for the general ledger functions?					

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
4. Are the individuals responsible for the disbursement preparation and disbursement approval functions different from the individuals responsible for recording cash disbursements and general ledger entries?					
5. Are the individuals responsible for the disbursement approval function different from the individuals responsible for the disbursement preparation function?					
6. Are the individuals responsible for entries in the cash disbursement records different from the individuals responsible for general ledger entries?					
Requisitioning procedures and controls					
7. Is the initiation of purchases of goods and services done by properly authorized requisitions bearing the approval of officials designated to authorize requisitions?					
8. Are pre-numbered requisition forms used and accounted for?					
9. Does the person requesting the purchase indicate the appropriation (budget) to be charged on the purchase requisition?					
10. Does the accounting and budget department verify there are sufficient unobligated funds remaining under the appropriation to meet the proposed expenditure before commitment?					
11. Do technical specifications accompany requests for special purpose (non-stock items) materials or personal services?					
Purchasing procedures and controls					
12. When assigning purchase authorizations, are the nature and size of purchases matched to the knowledge and experience of purchasing personnel?					
13. Are there purchase order, contract issuance, and contract approval procedures?					
14. Does a responsible employee who is independent of the purchasing department perform periodic reviews of purchase prices?					
15. Are competitive bidding procedures used?					
16. Are competitive bidding procedures documented?					
17. Are contract or purchasing officer's areas of responsibility rotated on a regular basis?					

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
18. Is an audit of contractor's costs required prior to approving payment for contracts for materials, services, or facilities acquired on other than a fixed-price basis?					
19. Are there procedures for public advertisement of non-stock item procurement in accordance with legal requirements?					
20. Are periodic reviews done by non-procurement staff of recurring purchases and documentation of the justification for informal, rather than competitive, bids performed?					
21. Are there established, documented, and distributed policies regarding conflicts of interest and acceptable business practices?					
22. Are purchase orders and contracts issued under numerical or some other control?					
23. Is it a requirement to obtain a number of price quotations before placing orders not subject to competitive bidding?					
24. Are there procedures to detect splitting orders to avoid higher levels of approval?					
25. Does the purchasing department maintain price lists and other records of price quotations?					
26. Does the purchasing department maintain a record of suppliers who have not met quality or other performance standards?					
27. Are procedures for the disbursement of funds under grants or loan agreements and related regulations imposing requirements updated when they differ from the organization's normal policies?					
28. Are there controls to identify costs and expenditures not allowable under grant programs before order entry?					
29. Is a record of open purchase orders and agreements maintained?					
30. Are purchases made for the accommodation of employees prohibited or controlled?					
31. Are bid and performance bonds considered if construction contracts are to be awarded?					
32. Are selection criteria predetermined for awarding personal service or construction contracts?					
33. Are changes to contracts or purchase orders subjected to the same controls and approvals as the original agreement?					

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
Contract administration procedures and controls					
34. Are contract programs monitored?					
35. Are the results of monitoring documented?					
36. Does the monitoring ensure that the contractors are performing in accordance with the contract?					
37. Is the reasonableness of progress payments based on work performed validated and documented?					
38. Are extra work and/or contract modifications approved only with some form of cost or price analysis?					
39. Are audits of the final costs under cost reimbursement contracts required?					
40. Are fixed price/lump-sum contracts subjected to pre-awarded cost or price analysis?					
Receiving procedures and controls					
41. Are receiving reports prepared for all purchased goods?					
42. Are claims filed against carriers or vendors for all shortages or damaged materials?					
43. Are goods received accurately counted and examined to verify they meet quality standards?					
44. Is a permanent record of material received by the receiving department maintained?					
45. Are receiving reports issued under numerical or some other control to ensure all goods received are reported to the accounting department?					
46. Are copies of receiving reports sent directly to purchasing, accounting, and (if applicable) inventory record keeping?					
47. Is a government technical representative assigned to monitor and evaluate contractor performance and to approve receipt of services with respect to procurements of special-purpose materials, services, or facilities?					
48. If a receiving department is not used, are there procedures to ensure goods have been received and meet quality standards before payment is made?					
Invoice processing procedures and controls					
49. Are copies of purchase orders and receiving reports obtained directly from issuing departments?					

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
50. Are invoice quantities, prices, and terms compared with those on the purchase order?					
51. Are invoice quantities compared with those on the receiving report?					
52. Is the accuracy of all calculations checked?					
53. Is timely payment of invoices required, to avail the entity of available discounts?					
54. Are all invoices from vendors received in a central location, such as the accounting department?					
55. Are there procedures to ensure the accounts payable system is properly accounting for unmatched receiving reports and invoices?					
56. Are contractors' requests for progress payments under long-term contracts compared to the contractors' efforts and results?					
57. Are there procedures for processing invoices for materials or supplies (for example, lease or rental payments, utility bills, etc.)?					
58. Are vendor monthly statements compared with accounts payable balances?					
59. Are subsidiary ledgers reconciled monthly with control accounts?					
60. Do only employees authorized to make changes have access to the EDP master vendor file?					
61. Is a current list of individuals authorized to approve expenditures maintained by the accounting department?					
62. Are there procedures for submission and approval of reimbursement to employees for travel and other expenses?					
63. Are there procedures to identify and report taxable fringe benefits in accordance with IRS rules for travel or other taxable employee reimbursements?					
64. Are invoices date stamped and recorded by the accounting department before releasing them for departmental approval and other processing?					
65. Is a review of the distribution of charges in the accounting department done by an individual with the knowledge and experience to determine the correctness of the distribution?					
66. Does a senior employee review and approve invoices (vouchers) for completeness of supporting documents and required clerical checking?					

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
67. When an invoice is received from a supplier not previously dealt with, are steps taken to verify the supplier actually exists?					
68. Are payments made only on the basis of original invoices?					
69. Are transactions monitored to ensure all cash discounts are taken and, if applicable, exemptions from sales, federal excise, and other taxes are claimed?					
70. Are differences in invoice and purchase order price, terms, shipping arrangements, or quantities referred to the purchasing department for review and approval?					
71. Does the accounting department record and follow up on partial deliveries?					
72. Are both the accounting and purchasing departments promptly notified of returned purchases?					
73. Are returned purchases matched with vendor credit advices?					
74. Are the program and expenditure accounts to be charged reviewed for propriety and budget conformity?					
75. Do check signers or other responsible officials determine restricted revenues are expended only for restricted purposes?					
Disbursements procedures and controls					
76. Are warrants, sight drafts, and checks signed after disbursements have had final approval?					
77. Control of warrant, sight draft, and check-signing- machine signature plates and usage restricted?					
78. Are there procedures for immediate notification, as applicable, to banks or the treasurer of newly authorized warrant, sight draft, and check signers?					
79. Are there procedures for immediate notification, as applicable, when authorized signers leave the unit or are otherwise no longer authorized to sign?					
80. Is the signer furnished with the invoices and supporting documents prior to signing the warrant, sight draft, or check?					
81. Are limits set on amounts payable by facsimile signature?					

Description of Control				N/A	Comments / Responsible Individual
82. Are two signatures required on warrants, sight drafts, or checks over a stated amount?					
83. Are signature plates or stamps kept in the custody of the person whose facsimile signature is on the plate, when the plate is not in use?					
84. Does only the person whose facsimile signature is on the plate use signature plates or stamps?					
85. Are readings of signing machine controlled and recorded by the signer, or an appropriate designee, to ascertain all signed warrants, sight drafts, or checks are properly accounted for, by comparing to document control totals?					
86. Are invoices and supporting documents cancelled by, or in the presence of, the signer at time of signing?					
87. Are signed warrants, sight drafts, or checks delivered directly to the mail room, making them inaccessible to persons who requested, prepared, or recorded them?					
88. Are warrants, sight drafts, and checks cross-referenced to vouchers?					
89. Are warrants, sight drafts, and checks controlled and accounted for, with safeguards over those unused and voided?					
90. Is drawing warrants, sight drafts, or checks to "cash" or "bearer" prohibited?					
91. Are signed and issued warrants, sight drafts, and checks promptly recorded?					
Accounts payable encumbrances or obligations procedures and controls					
92. Are regular comparisons of statements from vendors with recorded amounts payable performed?					
93. Are monthly reconciliations of outstanding purchase orders to the reserve for encumbrances performed?					
94. Is recording encumbrance entries based only on approved purchase orders?					
95. Are there procedures to ensure department heads are notified of payments made against accounts payable and encumbrances?					
96. Are there procedures to ensure adjustment of the reserve for encumbrances, if applicable, when invoices are prepared for payment?					

