1. PURPOSE

This Directive establishes Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) policy on the repayment of student loans.

2. BACKGROUND

Effective 2/12/2001, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued new regulations that:

   a. Permit Federal agencies to repay all or part of outstanding Federally issued student loans to recruit or retain highly qualified employees in difficult to fill positions, and
   
   b. Direct agencies to develop their own policies.

3. AUTHORITIES


   g. 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 5379 (Public Law (PL)101 - 510), National

4. POLICY

It is MRP policy that:

a. This incentive apply to academic degrees of all levels.

b. An employee does not have to earn or be awarded a degree, diploma or certificate to be eligible, and

c. An employee is not excluded from participating in this incentive if he/she has defaulted on a student loan.

5. INQUIRIES

a. Operating guidelines may be found in the Human Resources Desk Guide (HRDG), Subchapter 4537, Repayment of Student Loans.

b. General inquiries on procedural matters should be directed to the servicing personnel office through established administrative channels. Requests for policy interpretations for complex situations should be referred to the Pay Policy Specialist, Human Resources Enhancement Branch, MRPHRD.

c. This Directive can be accessed on the APHIS/AMS Administrative Issuances homepage.

/s/
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