

SAM-MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

(Continued)

NONEMPLOYEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

8776.6 (Cont. 1)

(Revised 03/14)

3. Collection Agencies—Departments may consider contracting with another department that has a collection unit or with an outside collection agency.

The State Contracting Manual, the Public Contract Code section applicable to contracts for services, and GC section 19130 should be consulted when a department is considering contracting with a collection agency. Any contract made with a collection agency must specify that all funds collected on behalf of a department will be remitted to that department. The collection agency can then be paid in one of several ways for its services - by a set fee per collection, on an hourly basis, or on a percentage basis, in arrears, based on services rendered.

Prior to assigning the debt to a collection agency, departments are required by law to notify the debtor in writing at the address of record that the alleged AR debt will be turned over for private collection unless the debt is paid or appealed within a specified time period.

4. Sale of ARs—Departments are authorized to sell ARs to private persons or entities. Departments will record the net income from the sale in their accounting records. Specific accounting entries for the sale of ARs are detailed in SAM section 10536, Standard Entry No. 36.

Prior to selling the debt, departments are required by law to notify the debtor in writing, at the address of record, that the alleged AR debt will be turned over for private collection unless the debt is paid or appealed within a specified time period.

Departments will select the collection actions that are likely to generate the highest net income and do not compromise future state income collections. In addition, departments should consult with the Franchise Tax Board or any other state department that has successfully established an effective AR collection system to develop methods for improving their collection rate.

Discharge from Accountability

If all reasonable collection procedures do not result in payment, departments may request discharge from accountability of uncollectable amounts due from private entities. Departments will review their AR, no less than quarterly, to identify receivables for discharge. If departments have identified receivables for discharge, departments will file an Application for Discharge from Accountability form, STD. 27, with the SCO, Division of Accounting and Reporting. Applications for Discharge from Accountability of uncollectable amounts of more than \$10,000 will be filed separately from applications for amounts of \$10,000 or less. The \$10,000 amount applies to the total of all amounts owed by the debtor, not to each invoice. The application for discharge shall include:

1. Statement of the nature of the amount due
2. Name(s) of the person(s) liable
3. Estimated cost of collection
4. Any other fact(s) supporting the request, including offset attempts (See SAM section 8790)
5. If the discharge from accountability is due to bankruptcy, the supporting documentation must include a copy of the court's final discharge of the debtor and evidence that the specific department is included in the petition for bankruptcy.
6. Signature, phone number, printed name, and title of person completing the STD. 27
7. Signature, printed name, and title of manager authorizing the STD. 27

The individual authorizing the Application for Discharge from Accountability should be at a level at least equivalent to that of manager of the accounting office.

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