

AUDIT DIVISION

2021-2022 Cycle

MATERIALITY THRESHOLDS



Title 52

Authorized Committees

Sensitive and Confidential

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Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

These thresholds include criteria for referring findings to the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office (ADRO). The criteria for referring findings to ADRO are in addition to the criteria for referring findings to the Office of General Counsel (OGC) and are aimed at efficiently resolving certain violations arising from audits.

In certain instances, a concurrent Matter Under Review (MUR) or Pre-MUR may be a factor for excluding a finding from referral to ADRO. MURs and Pre-MURs must be reviewed to identify the issues involved and how close the MUR is to resolution. After discussions with the Audit Manager, a determination will be made about proposing a referral to ADRO.

If any of the findings in the Audit Report meet the criteria for referral to OGC, none of the findings will be referred to ADRO, rather all findings will be referred to OGC.

In general, the Committees that will be referred to ADRO include:

- Those where the findings breach our thresholds for inclusion in the Interim Audit Report (IAR) and the Committee's response to the finding reduces the violation to a level that exceeds the threshold for inclusion in the report but is less than the threshold for referral to OGC.
- Those findings where in response to the Audit Report, the Committee filed amended reports that materially corrected the violation, but the original magnitude of the problem was large. This document includes ADRO thresholds for Committees that file materially correct amended reports in response to the Audit Report.
- If a finding meets the criteria for referral to OGC, an evaluation of the referral should be made in conjunction with the Audit Manager to determine if the finding is better suited for the ADRO. Such cases are those where the exclusionary factors above are not present, and the case, as a whole, is not one that experience has shown would be a high priority in OGC. If the Audit Manager and the Assistant Staff Director agree, the recommended course of action will be subject to the OGC Review and Concurrence Process. The comment period will be 14 calendar days, with OGC being able to extend the review period to a maximum of 30 days. At the end of that period, if no objection is received the referral will be processed.

Clarifications

1. **Reported Amounts as basis for Threshold Amounts** - For all thresholds, the reported amount will be used if the reported amount is materially correct. If the reported amount is materially misstated, the auditor may use the committee's database provided that it has been reconciled to the committee's bank activity.
2. **Rounding Threshold Amounts** - To determine the threshold amounts, apply the threshold percentage to the appropriate reported amount and round the result up to the nearest \$100. For example, if the reported amount of contributions from individuals is \$725,000, the threshold percentage is 3.5%, the threshold amount is \$25,400 ($\$725,000 \times .035 = \$25,375$).
3. **Best Efforts** - The regulations address best efforts to obtain, maintain and submit contributor information (11 C.F.R. §104.7) and to obtain, maintain and submit records for disbursements (11 C.F.R. §102.9(d)).
4. **"Amount"** - The dollar value of the transaction.

Knowing and Willful Violations of the Act

Any matter, whether or not it meets the materiality threshold for inclusion in the Interim Audit Report or referral to the Office of General Counsel, can still be referred to OGC if the auditor suspects there is a Knowing and Willful Violation of the Act 52 U.S.C. §30109 (a)(5) and (d)). The auditor in conjunction with the Audit Manager and Assistant Staff Director will review the matter, confer with OGC (Compliance Advice Team), and decide if a referral will be made.

Receipt of Prohibited Contributions

Legal Cites

52 U.S.C. §30118, 30119, 30121 & 30122

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions from corporations, unions, national banks, government contractors, foreign nationals and non-federal funds for purposes other than payment for shared activities.
- Contributions in the name of another.

How the Threshold is applied:

- The amount of the projection of the error for UNRESOLVED apparent prohibited contributions and the UNTIMELY resolved apparent prohibited contributions are totaled and compared to the threshold below.
- The “single event threshold” may be applicable to prohibited contributions that do not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Interim Audit Report.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of the apparent prohibited contributions is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals (as reported on Line 11(a)(iii) of the Detailed Summary Page of FEC Form 3) and the amount of the apparent prohibited contributions exceeds [REDACTED] for the audit period
- OR**
- the amount of the apparent prohibited contributions is greater than [REDACTED] for the audit period.

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

A referral to OGC will be made if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the prohibited contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals or the amount to [REDACTED] or less and the required refunds were not made
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less and the required refunds were not made.

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However, a referral to OGC or ADRO will **NOT** be made if the response to the Audit Report reduces the prohibited contribution amount to:

- greater than [REDACTED] but less than or equal to [REDACTED] of contributions from individuals and the required refunds were made
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less and the required refunds were made.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

A referral to ADRO will be made if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the prohibited contribution amount to:

- less than or equal to [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals or the amount to [REDACTED] or less and the required refunds were made
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less and the required refunds were made.

How a committee can reduce the apparent prohibited amount

A committee must submit evidence that a contribution was not prohibited or was timely refunded.

Single Event Threshold (Referral to OGC)

Consider this threshold if the threshold for inclusion in the Audit Report is not met.

Prohibited contributions will be referred after the exit conference response period if:

- the prohibited contribution amount is greater than [REDACTED]
- AND**
- the threshold for inclusion in Interim Audit Report has not been met
- AND**
- the committee has not refunded the prohibited contribution.

Single Event Threshold (Referral to ADRO)

Consider this threshold if the threshold for inclusion in the Audit Report is not met.

Prohibited contributions will be referred after the exit conference response period if:

- the prohibited contribution amount is greater than [REDACTED]
- AND**
- the threshold for inclusion in Interim Audit Report has not been met
- AND**
- the committee has refunded the prohibited contribution (although untimely and/or subsequent to the date of the audit notification letter).

Applicable Policy

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- The Interim Audit Report must state whether the committee was in compliance with 11 C.F.R. §103.3(b)(4). To determine compliance, the **sum** of excessive and prohibited contributions must be compared to the available cash.
- The prohibited contribution amount should be refunded or disposed of not later than ■ days from the date of deposit (provided that there is sufficient assurance the contributions are being deposited within 2 or 3 days of receipt).
- If a contribution is referable to OGC or ADRO (Single Event threshold) the contribution(s) in question will be addressed at the exit conference. The committee will have the 10-day post exit conference response period to demonstrate that the contribution was not from prohibited sources.

Receipt of Contributions and Loans in Excess of the Limitation

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C §30116(a)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions received from individuals.
- Contributions received from political committees.
- Loans in excess of the contribution limitation by any person.
- Any portion of any loan endorsed or guaranteed by any person in excess of the limitation.

How the Threshold is applied:

- Each category (Individuals; Political Committees and Loans) is tested separately and the appropriate threshold is applied separately.
- For Individuals there are three separate characteristics: Non-Curable Excessives; Untimely Resolved Excessives and Curable Excessives.
- The amount of the projection of the error for “Curable” and “Untimely Resolved” is combined and compared to the thresholds below.
- The “single event threshold” may be applicable to excessive contributions that do not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Interim Audit Report.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review and Dollar Unit Sample Reviews

Contributions From Individuals (**Non-Curables**)

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of apparent excessive contributions is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals (as reported on Line 11(a)(iii) of the Detailed Summary Page of FEC Form 3) **and** the amount of the apparent excessive contributions exceeds [REDACTED]
- OR**
- the amount of the apparent excessive contributions is greater than [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Contributions From Individuals (**Untimely Resolved or Curable**)

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

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- the combined amount of apparent excessive contributions is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals (as reported on Line 11(a)(iii) of the Detailed Summary Page of FEC Form 3)

AND

- the amount of apparent excessive contributions exceeds [REDACTED].

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Contributions From Political Committees

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of apparent excessive contributions is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of contributions from political committees **and** the amount of apparent excessive contributions exceeds [REDACTED]

OR

- the amount of the apparent excessive contributions is greater than [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Audit Recommendation

The recommendation will:

- present the committee an opportunity to demonstrate that the apparent excessive contributions were not excessive or were timely resolved
- AND**
- afford the committee an opportunity to resolve any remaining unresolved apparent excessive contributions either through refund, or, if applicable, presumptive redesignation or reattribution¹ or, if reattribution and redesignation are not an option and the committee cannot refund the contributions (i.e., the contributors cannot be found), the excessive amount should be disgorged to the U.S. Treasury.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

A referral to OGC will be made if:

Contributions From Individuals (Non-Curable Excessives)

The response to the Audit Report does **not** reduce the apparent excessive contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported amount of contributions from individuals² or the aggregate amount to [REDACTED] or less **and** the recommended refunds were not made

¹ Presumptive redesignation is not applicable to multi-candidate committees.

² For individuals the determination is based on [REDACTED] of contributions from individuals; for political committees the determination is based on [REDACTED] of contributions from political committees.

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OR

- [REDACTED] or less and the recommended refunds were not made.

Contributions From Individuals (Untimely Resolved or Curable Excessives)

The response to the Audit Report does not reduce the apparent excessive contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported amount of contributions from individuals

OR

- the aggregate amount to [REDACTED] or less

AND

- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Contributions From Political Committees

The response to the Audit Report does not reduce the apparent excessive contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported amount of contributions from political committees or the aggregate amount to [REDACTED] or less **and** the committee has not made the recommended refunds

OR

- [REDACTED] or less and the recommended refunds were **not** made.

A referral to OGC or ADRO will **NOT** be made if the response to the Audit Report reduces the excessive contribution amount to:

- greater than [REDACTED] but less than or equal to [REDACTED] of contributions from individuals and the required refunds were made

OR

- [REDACTED] or less and the required refunds were made.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

A referral to ADRO will be made if:

Contributions From Individuals (Non- Curable Excessives)

The response to the Audit Report does not reduce the apparent excessive contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported amount of contributions from individuals and the committee has made the recommended refunds

OR

- [REDACTED] or less and the committee made the recommended refunds.

Contributions From Individuals (Untimely Resolved or Curable Excessives)

The response to the Audit Report does not reduce the apparent excessive contribution amount to:

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- [REDACTED] or less of total reported amount of contributions from individuals
- AND**
- the committee complied with the recommendation.

Contributions From Political Committees

The response to the Audit Report does not reduce the apparent excessive contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported amount of contributions from political committees or the aggregate amount to [REDACTED] or less and the committee complied with the recommendation
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less and the committee complied with the recommendation.

How a committee can reduce the apparent excessive amount

A committee must submit either evidence that a contribution was not excessive or evidence that the contribution was timely redesignated or reattributed (either written or presumptive), or timely refunded.

Single Event Threshold (Referral to OGC)

Consider this threshold if the threshold for inclusion in the Audit Report is not met.

Excessive contributions will be referred after the exit conference response period if:

- the apparent excessive contribution amount is greater than [REDACTED] (individuals); greater than [REDACTED] (multicandidate committees)
- AND**
- the threshold for inclusion in Interim Audit Report has not been met
- AND**
- the committee has not refunded, reattributed, or redesignated the excessive contribution. Contributions that have been untimely resolved may be referred to ADRO.

Single Event Threshold (Referral to ADRO)

Consider this threshold if the threshold for inclusion in the Audit Report is not met.

Excessive contributions will be referred after the exit conference response period if:

- the apparent excessive contribution amount exceeds the relevant limitation by more than [REDACTED] (individuals); greater than [REDACTED] (multicandidate committees)
- AND**
- the threshold for inclusion in Interim Audit Report has not been met
- AND**
- the committee has untimely refunded, reattributed, or redesignated the excessive contribution.

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Applicable Policy

- The Interim Audit Report must state whether the committee was in compliance with 11 C.F.R. §103.3(b)(4). To determine compliance, the **sum** of excessive and prohibited contributions must be compared to the available cash.
- The excessive contribution may be redesignated to another election, reattributed to another accountholder (either presumptive or written authorization) or refunded within █ days of deposit (provided that there is sufficient assurance the contributions are being deposited within 2 to 3 days of receipt).
- If a contribution is referable to OGC or ADRO (Single Event threshold) the contribution(s) in question will be addressed at the exit conference. The committee will have the 10-day post exit conference response period to demonstrate that the contribution was not excessive.

Use of General Election Contributions for Primary Expenditures

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §102.9(e)

Applicable to the following:

- The use of general election contributions received before the primary election for primary expenses. This can also apply to runoff election contributions.

How the Threshold is applied:

- This is determined by subtracting the cumulative amount of general election contributions (less any general election expenses) from the committee's daily cash balance to determine if general election contributions were used to pay primary expenses.
- If the adjusted cash balance from this calculation is negative on any day, then general election contributions were used.
- The same calculation is used to determine if contributions received for a runoff election were used for another election prior to the runoff.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

Account maintained with both Primary/General contributions:

- The sum of all negative daily cash balances during the primary election period exceeds [REDACTED] of the total pre-primary general election contributions received
- AND
- The sum of all negative balances during the primary election period is at least [REDACTED]
- AND
- The daily cash balance was negative [REDACTED] during the primary election period.

Separate accounts:

- Withdrawals (excluding contribution refunds or the transfer of redesignated contributions) during the primary election period that exceed [REDACTED] of the total pre-primary general election contributions received

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AND

- The aggregate amount total is at least [REDACTED]

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

A referral to OGC will be made if the response to the Audit Report:

- does not reduce the aggregate negative daily balances to less than [REDACTED] of the total pre-primary general election contributions received

AND

- does not reduce the aggregate negative cash balance to less than [REDACTED]

Receipt of Contributions of Currency in Excess of the Limitation

Legal Cites

52 U.S.C. §30123 and 11 C.F.R. §110.4(c)

Applicable to the following:

- Currency contributions and contributions using a gift card or similar instrument in excess of \$100 per contributor for a campaign for nomination or for election.
- Anonymous cash contributions in excess of \$50.

How the Threshold is applied:

- The amount of the errors for excessive currency contributions and excessive anonymous contributions are combined and compared to the threshold below for the audit period.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of the excessive currency and the amount of excessive anonymous contributions (added together) is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals
- AND**
- the amount of the excessive currency exceeds [REDACTED].

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

A referral to OGC will be made if:

- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of the excessive amount to [REDACTED] or less of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals
- OR**
- the aggregate excessive amount to [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

A referral to ADRO will be made if:

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- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of the excessive amount to [REDACTED] or less of the total reported amount of contributions from individuals
- OR**
- the aggregate excessive amount to [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did comply with the recommendation.

How a committee can reduce the apparent excessive amount

A committee can reduce the amount of the errors by submitting evidence that a contribution was not excessive or evidence that the contribution was timely refunded or disposed of. To be timely, contributions must be refunded or disposed of in an acceptable manner within [REDACTED] days of deposit, provided that there is sufficient assurance that contributions are being deposited within 2 to 3 days of receipt.

Contributions from Unregistered Political Organizations

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §102.5(b)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions received from unregistered political organizations (excludes unregistered local party committees) in excess of [REDACTED] per election, per contributor. (for both excessive and permissibility purposes)
- Contributions received from unregistered local party committees in excess of [REDACTED] per election, per contributor, when combined with the shared limit for affiliated State, local and district party committees. (for excessive purposes only)
- Contributions received from unregistered local party committees in excess of [REDACTED] per election, per contributor. (for permissibility purposes only)

How the Threshold is applied:

- The recipient political committee must demonstrate that the funds it received from the unregistered political organization were from *permissible sources* (such as a letter from the contributing organization attesting to the permissibility of the contribution). Although the contribution may be deemed permissible, it will still be considered excessive if in excess of the relevant limit noted above.
- The excessive amount for each election is added together and applied against the threshold for the audit period.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of the apparent prohibited/excessive contribution is greater than [REDACTED] of total reported contributions (The sum of Lines 11a(iii), 11(b), 11(c))
- AND**
- the amount of the prohibited/excessive contributions exceeds [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

A referral to OGC will be made if the response to the Audit Report does **not** reduce the prohibited contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported contributions (The sum of Lines 11a(iii), 11(b), 11(c))

OR

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- the aggregate excessive amount to [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

A referral to ADRO will be made if the response to the Audit Report does **not** reduce the prohibited contribution amount to:

- [REDACTED] or less of total reported contributions (The sum of Lines 11a(iii), 11(b), 11(c))
- OR**
- the aggregate excessive amount to [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did comply with the recommendation.

How a committee can reduce the apparent prohibited amount

A committee must submit the following

- Evidence that the contributing organization's funds were from permissible sources
- OR**
- Evidence that the contribution was timely refunded or disposed of. To be timely, contributions must be refunded or disposed of in an acceptable manner within [REDACTED] days of deposit, provided that there is sufficient assurance that contributions are being deposited within 2 to 3 days of receipt.

Untimely Deposits of Contributions

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §103.3(a)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions from individuals.
- Contributions from political committees and party committees.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

This matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the total amount of the untimely deposits is greater than [REDACTED] of the total amount of all deposits
- AND
- the amount of the untimely deposits exceeds [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

A referral to ADRO will be made if the response to the Audit Report does **not** reduce the amount of untimely deposits to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the total amount of all deposits
- AND
- the amount of the untimely deposits exceeds [REDACTED].

How a committee can demonstrate contributions were not errors

To reduce the amount of untimely deposits a committee must demonstrate that the deposits were made timely.

Failure to Itemize Receipts or Expenditures

Legal Cites

52 U.S.C. §30104(b) & (e)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions from Individuals (including in-kind and earmarked), (Schedule A, Line 11(a)(i))
- Transfers from Other Authorized Committees (Schedule A, Line 12)
- Offsets to Operating Expenditures (refunds, rebates, returns of deposits) (Schedule A, Line 14)
- Other Receipts (dividends, interests, etc.) (Schedule A, Line 15)
- Operating Expenditures (Schedule B, Line 17)
- Transfers to Other Authorized Committees (Schedule B, Line 18)
- Refunds of Contributions (Schedule B, Line 20)
- Other Disbursements (Schedule B, Line 21)

How the Threshold is applied:

- The categories of receipts or categories of expenditures should be combined, whenever possible.
- For example, all itemization errors for receipts should be evaluated against the threshold calculated based on total itemized receipts.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the aggregate amount of receipts/expenditures that were required to be itemized but were not, is greater than [REDACTED] of the total amount of all transactions itemized for the specific category (receipts/disbursements) and the aggregate amount exceeds [REDACTED]
- OR**
- the amount of the receipts/expenditures that were required to be itemized but were not, is greater than [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if the response to the Audit Report does **not** reduce the unitemized amount to:

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- [REDACTED] or less of the total amount of all transactions itemized for the specific category (receipts/disbursements) and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]

OR

- [REDACTED] or less for the specific category (receipts/disbursements)

AND

- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The matter will be referred to ADRO if the aggregate amount of receipts or expenditures that were required to be itemized but were not is:

- greater than [REDACTED] of the amount of transactions itemized for the specific category and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]

OR

- greater than [REDACTED] for the specific category

AND

- the committee did comply with the recommendation.

How a committee can demonstrate a transaction was itemized:

The committee can reduce the amount in error by demonstrating that the transactions were itemized on reports filed prior to the audit notification letter or show the transactions were not required to be itemized.

Failure to Itemize Loans, Loan Repayments & Debts and Obligations

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C. §30104(b)

Applicable to the following:

Tested 100% Only

- Loans Received (Schedules A and C, Line 13)
- Loans Repayments Made (Schedule B, Line 19)

Tested 100% or DUS

- Debts and Obligations owed by the Committee (Schedule D, Line 10)
- Debts and Obligations owed to the Committee (Schedule D, Line 9)

How the Threshold is applied:

- This threshold is applied separately to each category. Errors are compared against the population (specific category or categories) tested.
- For Debts and Obligations owed by the Committee (Schedule D, Line 10) tested on a sample basis, all disbursement sample items are testable for potential debt reporting.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be address in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the aggregate amount of the unreported amount for the category tested is greater than [REDACTED] of the aggregate amount of transactions that should have been reported (correct reportable) for each category and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED] during the audit period
- OR**
- the amount of the transactions not itemized for the category tested is greater than [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the aggregate amount of the unreported amount for the category tested to:

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- [REDACTED] or less of the total amount of disbursements and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The matter will be referred to ADRO if the response to the Audit Report does **not** reduce the aggregate amount of the unreported amount for the category tested to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the total amount of disbursements and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did comply with the recommendation.

How a committee can demonstrate a transaction was itemized:

The committee can reduce the amount in error by demonstrating that the transactions were itemized on reports filed prior to the audit notification letter or by showing that the transaction did not require itemization.

Failure to Itemize Contributions from Political Committees

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C. §30104(b) & (e)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions received from political committees.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be included in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of contributions from political committees not itemized is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of the contributions received from political committees and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]

OR

- the amount of the contributions from political committees not itemized is greater than [REDACTED]

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of contributions from political committee that were not itemized to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the total reported amount of contributions received from political committees and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]

OR

- [REDACTED] or less

AND

- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The matter will be referred to ADRO if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of contributions from political committees that were not itemized to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the total reported amount of contributions received from political committees and the aggregate amount is greater than [REDACTED]

OR

- [REDACTED] or less

AND

- the committee complied with the recommendation.

How a committee can demonstrate a transaction was itemized:

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To reduce the amount of contributions from political committees that were not itemized a committee must demonstrate that the contributions were itemized on reports filed prior to the audit notification letter or by showing that the transaction did not require itemization.

Omission of Disclosure Information for Receipts and Disbursements

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C. §30104(b)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions from Individuals (including in-kind and earmarked), (Schedule A, Line 11(a)(i))
- Contributions from Political Committees (Schedule A, Lines 11(b) and (c))
- Transfers from Other Authorized Committees (Schedule A, Line 12)
- Offsets to Operating Expenditures (refunds, rebates, returns of deposits) (Schedule A, Line 14)
- Other Receipts (dividends, interests, etc.) (Schedule A, Line 15)
- Operating Expenditures (Schedule B, Line 17)
- Transfers to Other Authorized Committees (Schedule B, Line 18)
- Refunds of Contributions (Schedule B, Line 20)
- Other Disbursements (Schedule B, Line 21)
- Debts and Obligations (Schedule D)

How the Threshold is applied:

- Best Efforts-If during the review “best efforts” are documented for those items lacking adequate disclosure information, such items will not be considered errors.
- The categories of receipts/expenditures should be combined, whenever possible. For example, all receipt disclosure errors should be evaluated against the threshold calculated based on total receipts.
- The threshold is applied to transactions that are itemized (including memo entries) on the committee’s disclosure reports.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the aggregate amount of disclosure errors is greater than [REDACTED] of the total reported amount of receipts/expenditures itemized on the committee’s reports and the aggregate amount exceeds [REDACTED]

OR

- the amount of the disclosure errors is greater than [REDACTED]

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Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of disclosure errors to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the amount of receipts/expenditures itemized on the committee’s reports and the aggregate amount of disclosure errors is greater than [REDACTED]
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee did not comply with the recommendation.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The matter will be referred to ADRO if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of disclosure errors to:

- [REDACTED] or less of the amount of receipts/expenditures itemized on the committee’s reports and the aggregate amount of disclosure errors is greater than [REDACTED]
- OR**
- [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the committee complied with the recommendation.

How a committee can demonstrate a transaction was correctly disclosed

To reduce the amount of disclosure errors, the committee must demonstrate that the disclosure was correct or that best efforts were made to obtain, maintain and submit the required information.

Omission of Occupation and Name of Employer

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C. §30104(b)

Applicable to the following:

- The threshold is applied to contributions from individuals that are itemized (including memo entries) on the committee’s disclosure reports.

How the Threshold is applied:

- Best Efforts-If during the review “best efforts” are documented for those items lacking adequate disclosure information, such items will **not** be considered errors.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of itemized contributions having missing or inadequate occupation/name of employer is greater than [REDACTED] of the amount of all itemized contributions requiring such disclosure
- AND**
- the aggregate amount exceeds [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The matter will be referred to ADRO if:

- the aggregate amount of itemized contributions having missing or inadequate occupation/name of employer is greater than [REDACTED] of all itemized contributions requiring such disclosure
- AND**
- the aggregate amount exceeds [REDACTED]

Misstatement of Financial Activity – Most Recent Reports Filed

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C. §30104(b)

Applicable to the following:

- Discrepancies between the financial activity disclosed on the most recently filed reports as of the date of the Audit Notification Letter (receipts, disbursements, and cash on hand) and the correct reportable activity according to the bank reconciliation.

How the Misstatement is Presented in the Report:

- If only receipts or disbursements are materially misstated, the finding will explain the beginning cash on hand, ending cash on hand, receipts and disbursements misstatements in order for the committee to file complete and accurate amendments.
- If only cash on hand is materially misstated, the committee will be requested to amend its latest report filed to correct the cash on hand balance. Receipt and disbursement discrepancies should be presented to the committee at the exit conference even though these will not appear in the Audit Report.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

Misstated Activity (Receipts or Expenditures) Threshold

- the reported amount of receipt or expenditures, when compared to the correct reportable amount per the bank, is misstated by greater than [REDACTED]

AND

- the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures is greater than [REDACTED]

Absolute Value of Misstated Activity (Receipts or Expenditures) Threshold

- the sum of the absolute values of the identified receipt or expenditure errors (disregarding signs), when compared to the correct reportable amount of receipts or expenditures per the bank, is greater than [REDACTED]

AND

- the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures (disregarding signs) is greater than [REDACTED]

Cash on Hand Threshold

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- the reported amount of cash on hand (either beginning or ending) is misstated by greater than [REDACTED] of either the correct reportable amount of receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater
- AND**
- the misstated amount exceeds [REDACTED]

Criteria for Referral to the Office General Counsel

After determining if the response to the Audit Report has reduced the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures (See “How a committee can reduce the misstated amount”), the matter will be referred to OGC if any of the conditions are met in #1, #2 or #3 below:

1. Receipts and Expenditures

- the reported amount of receipts or expenditures was misstated by greater than [REDACTED]
- AND**
- the reported amount of receipts or expenditures was misstated by more than [REDACTED]

2. Receipts and Expenditures

- Amended reports do not reduce the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures to less than the threshold for inclusion in the Interim Audit Report.

3. Absolute Value of Misstated Activity (Receipts or Expenditures)³

- the sum of the absolute values of the identified receipt or expenditure errors (disregarding signs) was greater than [REDACTED] of the respective correct reportable amounts.

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The matter will be referred to ADRO if:

Receipts and Expenditures

- the threshold for referral to OGC has not been breached
- AND**
- the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures is between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- AND**
- the misstated amount is greater than [REDACTED]

Absolute Value of Misstated Activity (Receipts or Expenditures)

³ Only applies to findings based on absolute value.

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- the sum of the absolute values of the identified receipt/expenditure errors (disregarding signs) is between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

How a committee can reduce the misstated amounts:

The committee can reduce the misstated amount by demonstrating that the audited reports were materially correct or misstated by a lesser amount prior to the audit notification letter.

Applicable Policy

- The calculation of the amount of the absolute value does **not** include the amount of “unexplained differences.”
- If differences between bank and reported amounts are the result of timing differences, discuss with the Audit Manager the option of not pursuing this part of the misstatement finding. For example, [REDACTED] in contributions are received on December 15, 2021, not deposited until January 15, 2022 and reported in the report covering January.

Increased Financial Activity (Corrected)⁴

Legal Cite

52 U.S.C. §30104(b)

Applicable to the following:

- Any Committee that was assigned a RAD referral point(s) for ‘**increased reported activity**’ (Receipts or Disbursements)-Refer to RAD audit referral.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

Misstated Activity (Receipts or Expenditures) Threshold

- the reported amount of receipts or expenditures disclosed on the **original reports**, when compared to the correct reportable per bank for receipts or expenditures, is misstated by greater than [REDACTED] for the audit period
AND
- the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures is greater than [REDACTED].

Criteria for Referral to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office:

The matter will be referred to ADRO if:

Receipts and Expenditures

- receipts or expenditures as **originally reported** when compared to the correct reportable per bank is misstated by greater than [REDACTED] for the audit period
AND
- the misstated amount of receipts or expenditures is greater than [REDACTED], excluding amounts previously referred to ADRO by RAD for the audit period.

Applicable Policy

- For increased activity, the original reports filed are compared to the correct reportable per the bank.

⁴ If amendments filed prior to the Audit Notification Letter are materially correct, include “(Corrected)” in title of the finding.

Recordkeeping - Receipts

Legal Cites

52 U.S.C. § 30102(c) and (d)

Applicable to the following:

- The failure to maintain contributor records (copies of contributor checks for amounts > \$50 or credit card processing records) or other documentation for receipts.

How the Threshold is applied:

- Best Efforts-If during the review “best efforts” are documented for those items lacking records, such items will not be considered errors.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of the undocumented receipts (other than loans) is greater than [REDACTED] of the total amount of reported receipts (other than loans)
- AND**
- the amount of the undocumented receipts (other than loans) exceeds [REDACTED]

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if:

- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of undocumented receipts (other than loans) to [REDACTED] or less
- AND**
- the amount of the undocumented receipts (other than loans) is greater than [REDACTED]

How a committee can reduce the amount of undocumented receipts:

The committee can reduce the amount of undocumented receipts (other than loans) by locating and submitting the missing documents, or by demonstrating best efforts. See the

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Error Definitions for the procedure to be followed in obtaining missing records without compromising the sample.

Recordkeeping - Disbursements

Legal Cites

52 U.S.C. § 30102(c) and (d)

Applicable to the following:

- The failure to obtain and maintain canceled checks, invoices, and other documentation for expenditures.

How the Threshold is applied:

- Best Efforts-If during the review “best efforts” are documented for those items lacking records, such items will not be considered errors.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% and Dollar Unit Sample Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of the undocumented disbursements is greater than [REDACTED] of the total amount of reported disbursements
AND
- the amount of the undocumented disbursements exceeds [REDACTED].

Tolerable Sampling Error = [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the sample error rate, whichever is greater

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if:

- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the undocumented amount of disbursements to [REDACTED] or less
AND
- the amount of the undocumented disbursements is greater than [REDACTED]

How a committee can reduce the amount of undocumented disbursements:

The committee can reduce the amount of undocumented disbursements by locating and submitting the missing documents or by demonstrating best efforts. Obtaining records from a third party does not demonstrate that the committee’s records were complete.

Failure to File 48 - Hour Notices

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §104.5(f)

Applicable to the following:

- Contributions of \$1,000 or more received after the 20th day but more than 48 hours, before 12:01 A.M. of the day of an election.

How the Threshold is applied:

- Tested separately on a 100% basis.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be included in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the amount of the notices **not** filed and/or filed late (added together) is greater than [REDACTED] of the total amount of notices required to be filed
- AND**
- the amount of notices not filed or filed late (added together) is greater than [REDACTED].

Criteria for Referral to the Reports Analysis Division

The matter will be referred to the Administrative Fines Program through RAD if:

- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount of the notices **not** filed and/or filed late (added together) to [REDACTED] or less of the total amount of notices required to be filed
- AND**
- the amount of notices not filed or filed late is greater than [REDACTED]

How a committee can reduce the amount of 48- hour notices not filed:

The committee can reduce the amount of 48-hour notices not filed by demonstrating that the notices were in fact filed timely or that the contributions were received outside of the 48- hour notice period and did not require a notice.

If the Final Audit Report contains other matters that are being referred to OGC, this matter will still be referred to RAD.

Advances Made by Committee Staff & Other Individuals

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §116.5

Criteria for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

- the unreimbursed amount is greater than [REDACTED] of total amount of reported contributions from individuals
- OR**
- the unreimbursed amount per individual is greater than [REDACTED], at any time.

Criteria for Referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if:

- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the unreimbursed amount to [REDACTED] or less of the total reported contributions from individuals
- OR**
- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the unreimbursed amount per individual to [REDACTED] or less.

Extensions of Credit Made by Commercial Vendors

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §116.3

How to apply this Threshold

- If you are using a combination of invoices, each invoice must be outstanding for more than [REDACTED] days.
- This threshold is applied *separately* to each vendor.

Criterion for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if:

[REDACTED] or more is owed and outstanding for greater than [REDACTED] days from the date of incurrence; generally the invoice date.

Criteria for referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if:

- the committee has not demonstrated that the vendor has acted in the ordinary course of the vendor's business
- OR**
- the response to the Audit Report does not reduce outstanding amount owed to less than [REDACTED] or the number of days to [REDACTED] or less.

How a committee can demonstrate a vendor acted in the ordinary course of business:

The committee or vendor submits documentation that the committee was treated like any other client, to include billing practices, attempts to collect the outstanding amount, etc.

For a committee to reduce the outstanding amount owed or the number of days an amount was outstanding, it must demonstrate the amount owed was less than [REDACTED] or that the amount was not outstanding more than [REDACTED] days.

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Personal Use of Funds

Legal Cite

11 C.F.R. §113.1(g)

How to apply this Threshold

- Any use of funds in a campaign account of a present or former candidate to fulfill a commitment, obligation or expense of any person that would exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or duties as a Federal officeholder.

Criterion for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if the amount of identified personal use of funds exceeds [REDACTED]

Criterion for referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if the response to the Audit Report does not reduce the amount representing personal use of funds to less than [REDACTED]

How a committee can demonstrate the funds were not spent on personal use:

The committee can submit documentation or information which demonstrates that the transactions represent expenses that were incurred in connection with the campaign.

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Bank Depository

Legal Cites

52 U.S.C. § 30102(h)(1) and 11 C.F.R. §103.2

How to apply this Threshold

- Any committee that does not maintain a campaign depository during the audit period, and, consequently, neither deposits receipts, nor makes disbursements from its depository account.

Criterion for Inclusion in the Audit Report:

100% Review

The matter will be addressed in the Interim Audit Report if the campaign did not maintain a bank depository to deposit campaign receipts and/or make a disbursement for a period of more than ■ days.

Criterion for referral to the Office of General Counsel

The matter will be referred to OGC if the response to the Audit Report does not demonstrate that there was no period of time greater than ■ days during which the campaign did not maintain a campaign depository.

How a committee can demonstrate a campaign depository was maintained:

The committee can submit campaign bank statements for the audited period.

Other Errors or Omissions

Applicable to the following:

The errors or omissions detailed below generally would not be mentioned in the Audit Report, unless (1) the Committee fails to amend its filings or practices; or (2) there appears to be a willful violation of the Act with respect to the error or omission.

- Failure to include the 52 U.S.C. §30120 notice.
- Imperfections relating to FEC Form 2 and amendments thereto (i.e., disclosure of authorized committees, etc.).
- Disclosure of receipts or expenditures on the incorrect FEC Form 3 line number.

Applicable to the following:

The matters detailed below generally will be mentioned in the Interim Audit Report and may result in a referral to the Office of General Counsel.

- Commingling of personal funds and Committee funds 52 U.S.C. § 30102(b)(3).
- Termination with debts outstanding if total amount is greater than [REDACTED] (11 C.F.R. § 102.3).
- Expenditures of over [REDACTED] in currency, if the excessive amount(s) totals more than [REDACTED] 52 U.S.C. §30102(h)(2)
- Debt settlement not disclosed and approved in accordance with proper Commission procedures (11 C.F.R. §116.4).