



revenue procedure is not mandatory and a taxpayer may use actual allowable expenses if the taxpayer maintains adequate records or other sufficient evidence for proper substantiation. This revenue procedure does not provide rules under which the amount of an employee's lodging expenses will be deemed substantiated when a payor provides an allowance to pay for those expenses but not meal and incidental expenses.

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND AND CHANGES

.01 Section 162(a) of the Internal Revenue Code allows a deduction for all the ordinary and necessary expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year in carrying on any trade or business. Under that provision, an employee or self-employed individual may deduct expenses paid or incurred while traveling away from home in pursuit of a trade or business. However, under § 262, no portion of such travel expenses that is attributable to personal, living, or family expenses is deductible.

.02 Section 274(d) provides, in part, that no deduction shall be allowed under § 162 for any traveling expense (including meals and lodging while away from home) unless the taxpayer complies with certain substantiation requirements. The section further provides that regulations may prescribe that some or all of the substantiation requirements do not apply to an expense that does not exceed an amount prescribed by such regulations.

.03 Section 1.274(d)-1(a) of the regulations, in part, grants the Commissioner the authority to prescribe rules relating to reimbursement arrangements or per diem allowances for ordinary and necessary expenses paid or incurred while traveling away from home. Pursuant to this grant of authority, the Commissioner may prescribe rules under which such arrangements or allowances, if in accordance with reasonable business practice, will be regarded (1) as equivalent to substantiation, by adequate records or other sufficient evidence, of the amount of such travel expenses for purposes of § 1.274-5T(c), and (2) as satisfying the requirements of an adequate accounting to the employer of the amount of such travel expenses for purposes of § 1.274-5T(f).

.04 Section 1.274-5T(j) grants the Commissioner the authority to establish a method under which a taxpayer may elect to use a specified amount for

26 CFR 601.105: Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability.

(Also Part I, §§ 62, 162, 267, 274; 1.62-2, 1.162-17, 1.267(a)-1, 1.274-5T, 1.274(d)-1.)

Rev. Proc. 96-64

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

This revenue procedure updates Rev. Proc. 96-28, 1996-1 C.B. 686, by providing rules under which the amount of ordinary and necessary business expenses of an employee for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses or for meal and incidental expenses incurred while traveling away from home will be deemed substantiated under § 1.274-5T of the temporary Income Tax Regulations when a payor (the employer, its agent, or a third party) provides a per diem allowance under a reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement to pay for such expenses. This revenue procedure also provides an optional method for employees and self-employed individuals to use in computing the deductible costs of business meal and incidental expenses paid or incurred while traveling away from home. Use of a method described in this

meals paid or incurred while traveling away from home in lieu of substantiating the actual cost of meals.

.05 For purposes of determining adjusted gross income, § 62(a)(2)(A) allows an employee a deduction for expenses allowed by Part VI (§ 161 and following), subchapter B, chapter 1 of the Code, paid or incurred by the employee in connection with the performance of services as an employee under a reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement with a payor.

.06 Section 62(c) provides that an arrangement will not be treated as a reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement for purposes of § 62(a)(2)(A) if it—

(1) does not require the employee to substantiate the expenses covered by the arrangement to the payor, or

(2) provides the employee with the right to retain any amount in excess of the substantiated expenses covered under the arrangement.

Section 62(c) further provides that the substantiation requirements described therein shall not apply to any expense to the extent that, under the grant of regulatory authority prescribed in § 274(d), the Commissioner has provided that substantiation is not required for such expense.

.07 Under § 1.62–2(c)(1) a reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement satisfies the requirements of § 62(c) if it meets the requirements of business connection, substantiation, and returning amounts in excess of expenses as specified in the regulations. Section 1.62–2(e)(2) specifically provides that substantiation of certain business expenses in accordance with rules prescribed under the authority of § 1.274(d)–1(a) or 1.274–5T(j) will be treated as substantiation of the amount of such expenses for purposes of § 1.62–2. Under § 1.62–2(f)(2), the Commissioner may prescribe rules under which an arrangement providing per diem allowances will be treated as satisfying the requirement of returning amounts in excess of expenses, even though the arrangement does not require the employee to return the portion of such an allowance that relates to days of travel substantiated and that exceeds the amount of the employee’s expenses deemed substantiated pursuant to rules prescribed under § 274(d), provided the allowance is reasonably calculated not to exceed the amount of the employee’s expenses or anticipated expenses and the employee is required to return any por-

tion of such an allowance that relates to days of travel not substantiated.

.08 Section 1.62–2(h)(2)(i)(B) provides that if a payor pays a per diem allowance that meets the requirements of § 1.62–2(c)(1), the portion, if any, of the allowance that relates to days of travel substantiated in accordance with § 1.62–2(e), that exceeds the amount of the employee’s expenses deemed substantiated for such travel pursuant to rules prescribed under § 274(d) and § 1.274(d)–1(a) or § 1.274–5T(j), and that the employee is not required to return, is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes. See §§ 31.3121(a)–3, 31.3231(e)–3, 31.3306(b)–2, and 31.3401(a)–4. Because the employee is not required to return this excess portion, the reasonable period of time provisions of § 1.62–2(g) (relating to the return of excess amounts) do not apply to this portion.

.09 Under § 1.62–2(h)(2)(i)(B)(4), the Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, prescribe special rules regarding the timing of withholding and payment of employment taxes on per diem allowances.

.10 Section 5.04 contains a description of changes to the high-cost localities for purposes of section 5.

.11 Changes to sections 3.01(3), 4.02, and 6.02 clarify that the amount of an employee’s expenses of traveling away from home may be deemed substantiated under the revenue procedure if a payor pays a per diem amount for the employee’s lodging, meal, and incidental expenses that is equal to *or less than* the amount of the Federal per diem for the locality of travel for the day (or part of the day).

.12 Changes to sections 1, 3.01(1), 6.01, and 6.06 clarify that the revenue procedure does not provide rules under which the amount of an employee’s lodging expenses will be deemed substantiated when a payor provides an allowance to pay for those expenses but not meal and incidental expenses.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

.01 *Per diem allowance.* The term “per diem allowance” means a payment under a reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement that meets the requirements specified in § 1.62–2(c)(1) and that is

(1) paid with respect to ordinary and necessary business expenses incurred, or which the payor reasonably anticipates will be incurred, by an em-

ployee for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses or for meal and incidental expenses for travel away from home in connection with the performance of services as an employee of the employer,

(2) reasonably calculated not to exceed the amount of the expenses or the anticipated expenses, and

(3) paid at or below the applicable Federal per diem rate, a flat rate or stated schedule, or in accordance with any other Service-specified rate or schedule.

.02 *Federal per diem rate.*

(1) *General rule.* The Federal per diem rate is equal to the sum of the Federal lodging expense rate and the Federal meal and incidental expense (M&IE) rate for the locality of travel. Each of these rates for a particular locality in the continental United States (“CONUS”) is set forth in Appendix A of 41 C.F.R., Chapter 301, as amended. See 41 C.F.R. Part 301–7 (1996), as amended, for specific rules regarding these Federal rates. Each of these rates is established by the Secretary of Defense for a particular nonforeign locality outside the continental United States (“OCONUS”) (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the possessions of the United States), and by the Secretary of State for a particular foreign OCONUS locality. Each of these OCONUS rates is published in the Per Diem Supplement to the Standardized Regulations (Government Civilians, Foreign Areas). See, e.g., Maximum Travel Per Diem Allowances for Foreign Areas, PD Supplement 382, issued March 1, 1996.

(2) *Locality of travel.* The term “locality of travel” means the locality where an employee traveling away from home in connection with the performance of services as an employee of the employer stops for sleep or rest.

(3) *Incidental expenses.* The term “incidental expenses” includes, but is not limited to, expenses for laundry, cleaning and pressing of clothing, and fees and tips for services, such as for porters and baggage carriers. The term “incidental expenses” does not include taxicab fares or the costs of telegrams or telephone calls.

.03 *Flat rate or stated schedule.*

(1) *In general.* Except as provided in section 3.03(2), an allowance is paid at a flat rate or stated schedule if it is provided on a uniform and objective basis with respect to the expenses described in section 3.01. Such allowance may be paid with respect to the number

of days away from home in connection with the performance of services as an employee or on any other basis that is consistently applied and in accordance with reasonable business practice. Thus, for example, an hourly payment to cover meal and incidental expenses paid to a pilot or flight attendant who is traveling away from home in connection with the performance of services as an employee is an allowance paid at a flat rate or stated schedule. Likewise, a payment based on the number of miles traveled (e.g., cents per mile) to cover meal and incidental expenses paid to an over-the-road truck driver who is traveling away from home in connection with the performance of services as an employee is an allowance paid at a flat rate or stated schedule.

(2) *Limitation.* For purposes of this revenue procedure, an allowance that is computed on a basis similar to that used in computing the employee's wages or other compensation (e.g., the number of hours worked, miles traveled, or pieces produced) does not meet the business connection requirement of § 1.62-2(d), is not a per diem allowance, and is not paid at a flat rate or stated schedule, unless, as of December 12, 1989, (a) the allowance was identified by the payor either by making a separate payment or by specifically identifying the amount of the allowance, or (b) an allowance computed on that basis was commonly used in the industry in which the employee is employed. See § 1.62-2(d)(3)(ii).

SECTION 4. PER DIEM SUBSTANTIATION METHOD

.01 *Per diem allowance.* If a payor pays a per diem allowance in lieu of reimbursing actual expenses for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses incurred or to be incurred by an employee for travel away from home, the amount of the expenses that is deemed substantiated for each calendar day (or part of the calendar day, see section 6.04) is equal to the lesser of the per diem allowance for such day or the amount computed at the Federal per diem rate for the locality of travel for such day (or part of such day, see section 6.04).

.02 *Meals only per diem allowance.* If a payor pays a per diem allowance only for meal and incidental expenses in lieu of reimbursing actual expenses for meal and incidental expenses incurred or to be incurred by an employee for travel away from home, the amount of the

expenses that is deemed substantiated for each calendar day (or part of the calendar day, see section 6.04) is equal to the lesser of the per diem allowance for such day or the amount computed at the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel for such day (or part of such day, see section 6.04). A per diem allowance is treated as paid only for meal and incidental expenses if (1) the payor pays the employee for actual expenses for lodging based on receipts submitted to the payor, (2) the payor provides the lodging in kind, (3) the payor pays the actual expenses for lodging directly to the provider of the lodging, (4) the payor does not have a reasonable belief that lodging expenses were or will be incurred by the employee, or (5) the allowance is computed on a basis similar to that used in computing the employee's wages or other compensation (e.g., the number of hours worked, miles traveled, or pieces produced).

.03 *Optional method for meals only deduction.* In lieu of using actual expenses, employees and self-employed individuals, in computing the amount allowable as a deduction for ordinary and necessary meal and incidental expenses paid or incurred for travel away from home, may use an amount computed at the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel for each calendar day (or part thereof, see section 6.04) the employee or self-employed individual is away from home. Such amount will be deemed substantiated for purposes of paragraphs (b)(2) (travel away from home) and (c) of § 1.274-5T, provided the employee or self-employed individual substantiates the elements of time, place, and business purpose of the travel expenses in accordance with those regulations.

.04 *Special rules for transportation industry.*

(1) *In general.* This section 4.04 applies to (a) a payor that pays a per diem allowance only for meal and incidental expenses for travel away from home as described in section 4.02 to an employee in the transportation industry, or (b) an employee or self-employed individual in the transportation industry who computes the amount allowable as a deduction for meal and incidental expenses for travel away from home in accordance with section 4.03.

(2) *Rates.* A taxpayer described in section 4.04(1) may treat \$36 as the Federal M&IE rate for any locality of travel in CONUS, and/or \$40 as the

Federal M&IE rate for any locality of travel OCONUS. A payor that uses either (or both) of these special rates with respect to an employee must use the special rate(s) for all amounts subject to section 4.02 paid to that employee for travel away from home within CONUS and/or OCONUS, as the case may be, during the calendar year. Similarly, an employee or self-employed individual that uses either (or both) of these special rates must use the special rate(s) for all amounts computed pursuant to section 4.03 for travel away from home within CONUS and/or OCONUS, as the case may be, during the calendar year.

(3) *Periodic rule.* A payor described in section 4.04(1) may compute the amount of the employee's expenses that is deemed substantiated under section 4.02 periodically (not less frequently than monthly), rather than daily, by comparing the total per diem allowance paid for the period to the sum of the amounts computed at the Federal M&IE rate(s) for the localities of travel for the days (or partial days, see section 6.04) the employee is away from home during the period. For example, assume an employee in the transportation industry travels away from home within CONUS on 17 days (including partial days under section 6.04) during a calendar month and receives a per diem allowance only for meal and incidental expenses from a payor that uses the special rule under section 4.04(2). The amount deemed substantiated under section 4.02 is equal to the lesser of the total per diem allowance paid for the month or \$612 (17 days at \$36 per day).

(4) *Transportation industry defined.* For purposes of this section 4.04, an employee or self-employed individual is "in the transportation industry" only if the employee's or individual's work (a) is of the type that directly involves moving people or goods by airplane, barge, bus, ship, train, or truck, and (b) regularly requires travel away from home which, during any single trip away from home, usually involves travel to localities with differing Federal M&IE rates. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a payor must determine that an employee or a group of employees is "in the transportation industry" by using a method that is consistently applied and in accordance with reasonable business practice.

**SECTION 5. HIGH-LOW
SUBSTANTIATION METHOD**

.01 *General rule.* If a payor pays a per diem allowance in lieu of reimbursing actual expenses for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses incurred or to be incurred by an employee for travel away from home and the payor uses the high-low substantiation method described in this section 5 for travel within CONUS, the amount of the expenses that is deemed substantiated for each calendar day (or part of the calendar day, see section 6.04) is equal to the lesser of the per diem allowance for

such day or the amount computed at the rate set forth in section 5.02 for the locality of travel for such day (or part of such day, see section 6.04). This high-low substantiation method may be used in lieu of the per diem substantiation method provided in section 4.01, but may not be used in lieu of the meals only substantiation method provided in section 4.02 or 4.03.

.02 *Specific high-low rates.* The per diem rate set forth in this section 5.02 is \$166 for travel to any “high-cost locality” specified in section 5.03, or \$109 for travel to any other locality within CONUS. Whichever per diem

rate applies, it is applied as if it were the Federal per diem rate for the locality of travel. For purposes of applying the high-low substantiation method, the Federal M&IE rate shall be treated as \$40 for a high-cost locality and \$32 for any other locality within CONUS.

.03 *High-cost localities.* The following localities have a Federal per diem rate of \$138 or more for all or part of the calendar year, and are high-cost localities for all of the calendar year or the portion of the calendar year specified in parenthesis under the key city name:

<i>Key city</i>	<i>County and other defined location</i>
Arizona	
Grand Canyon	All points in the Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest within Coconino County
Phoenix/Scottsdale (October 1–May 14)	Maricopa
California	
Gualala/Point Arena	Mendocino
Los Angeles	Los Angeles, Kern, Orange, and Ventura Counties; Edwards Air Force Base; Naval Weapons Center and Ordnance Test Station, China Lake
Palo Alto/San Jose	Santa Clara
San Francisco	San Francisco
South Lake Tahoe	El Dorado
Yosemite Nat’l Park (April 1–October 31)	Mariposa
Colorado	
Aspen (January 15–March 31)	Pitkin
Keystone/Silverthorne	Summit
Steamboat Springs (December 1–March 31)	Routt
Telluride	San Miquel
Vail (November 1–March 31)	Eagle
District of Columbia	
Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.; the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax, and the counties of Arlington, Loudoun, and Fairfax in Virginia; and the counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges in Maryland
Florida	
Key West	Monroe
Illinois	
Chicago	Du Page, Cook, and Lake
Indiana	
Nashville (June 1–October 31)	Brown
Maine	
Bar Harbor (July 1–September 14)	Hancock
Maryland	
Ocean City (May 1–September 30)	Worcester

<i>Key city</i>	<i>County and other defined location</i>
Saint Michaels	Talbot
Massachusetts	
Boston	Suffolk
Cambridge/Lowell	Middlesex
Hyannis	Barnstable
(July 1–September 30)	
Martha’s Vineyard/Nantucket	Dukes and Nantucket
Michigan	
Leland	Leelanau
(May 1–September 30)	
Mackinac Island	Mackinac
(June 1–September 30)	
Nevada	
Incline Village	Incline Village
Stateline	Douglas
New Jersey	
Atlantic City	Atlantic
(April 1–November 30)	
Ocean City/Cape May	Cape May
(May 15–September 30)	
New Mexico	
Santa Fe	Santa Fe
(May 1–October 31)	
New York	
New York City	The boroughs of Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island; Nassau and Suffolk Counties
White Plains	Westchester
North Carolina	
Duck/Outer Banks	Dare
(May 1–September 30)	
Ohio	
Sandusky	Erie
(May 1–September 30)	
Pennsylvania	
Chester/Radnor	Delaware
Philadelphia	Philadelphia; city of Bala Cynwyd in Montgomery County
Rhode Island	
Newport/Block Island	Newport and Washington
(May 1–October 14)	
Utah	
Bullfrog	Garfield
(April 1–October 31)	
Park City	Summit
(December 1–March 31)	
Virginia	
Virginia Beach	Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Chesapeake
(May 1–September 30)	
Wintergreen	Nelson
Wisconsin	
Wisconsin Dells	Columbia
(June 1–September 14)	
Wyoming	
Jackson	Teton
(June 1–October 14)	

.04 *Changes in high-cost localities.* The list of high-cost localities in section 5.03 of this Revenue Procedure differs from the list of high-cost localities in section 5.03 of Rev. Proc. 96-28. The following localities have been added to the list of high-cost localities: Saint Michaels, Maryland; Chester/Radnor, Pennsylvania; and Block Island, Rhode Island. The portion of the year for which the following are high-cost localities has been changed: Yosemite National Park, California (April 1–October 31); Steamboat Springs, Colorado (December 1–March 31); Telluride, Colorado (all year); Vail, Colorado (November 1–March 31); Ocean City/Cape May, New Jersey (May 15–September 30); Santa Fe, New Mexico (May 1–October 31). The following localities have been removed from the list of high-cost localities: Gulf Shores, Alabama; Santa Barbara, California; Boulder, Colorado, and Denver, Colorado; Bridgeport/Danbury, Connecticut; Naples, Florida; Rockport, Maine; Annapolis, Maryland, and Baltimore, Maryland; Detroit, Michigan, and Traverse City, Michigan; Newark, New Jersey, Parsippany/Dover, New Jersey, and Princeton/Trenton, New Jersey; Lake Placid, New York; Crater Lake/Klamath Falls, Oregon; Valley Forge/Malvern, Pennsylvania; Providence, Rhode Island; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

.05 *Specific limitation.* A payor that uses the high-low substantiation method with respect to an employee must use that method for all amounts paid to that employee for travel away from home within CONUS during the calendar year. However, with respect to that employee, the payor may still reimburse actual expenses or use the meals only per diem method described in section 4.02 for any travel away from home, and may use the per diem substantiation method described in section 4.01 for any OCONUS travel away from home.

SECTION 6. LIMITATIONS AND SPECIAL RULES

.01 *In general.* The Federal per diem rate and the Federal M&IE rate described in section 3.02 for the locality of travel will be applied in the same manner as applied under the Federal Travel Regulations, 41 C.F.R. Part 301-7 (1996), except as provided in sections 6.02 through 6.04.

.02 *Federal per diem rate.* A receipt for lodging expenses is not required in

determining the amount of expenses deemed substantiated under section 4.01 or 5.01.

.03 *Federal per diem or M&IE rate.* A payor is not required to reduce the Federal per diem rate or the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel for meals provided in kind, provided the payor has a reasonable belief that meal and incidental expenses were or will be incurred by the employee.

.04 *Proration of the Federal per diem or M&IE rate.* Pursuant to the Federal Travel Regulations, in determining the Federal per diem rate or the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel, the full applicable Federal M&IE rate is available for a full day of travel from 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 midnight. For purposes of determining the amount deemed substantiated under section 4 or 5 with respect to partial days of travel away from home, either of the following methods may be used to prorate the Federal M&IE rate to determine the Federal per diem rate or the Federal M&IE rate for the partial days of travel:

(1) Such rate may be prorated using the method prescribed by the Federal Travel Regulations. Currently the Federal Travel Regulations allow one-fourth of the applicable Federal M&IE rate for each 6-hour quarter of the day (i.e., midnight to 6 a.m., 6 a.m. to noon, noon to 6 p.m., and 6 p.m. to midnight) during any portion of which the employee or self-employed individual is traveling away from home in connection with the performance of services as an employee or self-employed individual; or

(2) Such rate may be prorated using any method that is consistently applied and in accordance with reasonable business practice. For example, if an employee travels away from home from 9 a.m. one day to 5 p.m. the next day, a method of proration that results in an amount equal to 2 times the Federal M&IE rate will be treated as being in accordance with reasonable business practice (even though only 1½ times the Federal M&IE rate would be allowed under the Federal Travel Regulations). Similarly, if a self-employed individual travels away from home from 7 p.m. one day to 9 p.m. the next day, a method of proration that results in an amount equal to 1½ times the Federal M&IE rate will be treated as being in accordance with reasonable business practice (even though only 1¼ times the Federal M&IE rate would be allowed under the Federal Travel Regulations).

.05 *Application of the 50-percent limitation on meal expenses.* When a per diem allowance is paid only for meal and incidental expenses or when an amount for meal and incidental expenses is computed pursuant to section 4.03, an amount equal to the lesser of the per diem allowance for each calendar day (or part of the calendar day, see section 6.04) or the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel for such day (or part of such day, see section 6.04) is treated as an expense for food and beverages. When a per diem allowance is paid for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses, the payor must treat an amount equal to the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel for each calendar day (or part of the calendar day, see section 6.04) the employee is away from home as an expense for food and beverages. For purposes of the preceding sentence, when a per diem allowance for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses for a full day of travel is paid at a rate that is less than the Federal per diem rate for the locality of travel, the payor may treat an amount equal to 40 percent of such per diem allowance for a full day of travel as the Federal M&IE rate for the locality of travel.

.06 *No double reimbursement or deduction.* If a payor pays a per diem allowance in lieu of reimbursing actual expenses for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses or for meal and incidental expenses in accordance with section 4 or 5, any additional payment with respect to such expenses is treated as paid under a nonaccountable plan, is included in the employee's gross income, is reported as wages or other compensation on the employee's Form W-2, and is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes. Similarly, if an employee or self-employed individual computes the amount allowable as a deduction for meal and incidental expenses for travel away from home in accordance with section 4.03 or 4.04, no other deduction is allowed to the employee or self-employed individual with respect to such expenses. For example, assume an employee receives a per diem allowance from a payor for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses or for meal and incidental expenses incurred while traveling away from home. During that trip, the employee pays for dinner for the employee and two business associates. The payor reimburses as a business entertainment meal expense the

meal expense for the employee and the two business associates. Because the payor also pays a per diem allowance to cover the cost of the employee's meals, the amount paid by the payor for the employee's portion of the business entertainment meal expense is treated as paid under a nonaccountable plan, is reported as wages or other compensation on the employee's Form W-2, and is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes.

.07 *Related parties.* Sections 4.01, 4.02, 4.04 (to the extent it relates to section 4.02), and 5 of this revenue procedure will not apply in any case in which a payor and an employee are related within the meaning of § 267(b), but for this purpose the percentage of ownership interest referred to in § 267(b)(2) shall be 10 percent.

SECTION 7. APPLICATION

.01 If the amount of travel expenses is deemed substantiated under the rules provided in section 4 or 5, and the employee actually substantiates to the payor the elements of time, place, and business purpose of the travel expenses in accordance with paragraphs (b)(2) (travel away from home) and (c) (other than subparagraph (2)(iii)(A) thereof) of § 1.274-5T, the employee is deemed to satisfy the adequate accounting requirements of § 1.274-5T(f) as well as the requirement to substantiate by adequate records or other sufficient evidence for purposes of § 1.274-5T(c). See § 1.62-2(e)(1) for the rule that an arrangement must require business expenses to be substantiated to the payor within a reasonable period of time.

.02 An arrangement providing per diem allowances will be treated as satisfying the requirement of § 1.62-2(f)(2) with respect to returning amounts in excess of expenses if the employee is required to return within a reasonable period of time (as defined in § 1.62-2(g)) any portion of such an allowance that relates to days of travel not substantiated, even though the arrangement does not require the employee to return the portion of such an allowance that relates to days of travel substantiated and that exceeds the amount of the employee's expenses deemed substantiated. For example, assume a payor provides an employee an advance per diem allowance for meal and incidental expenses of \$200, based on an anticipated 5 days of business travel at \$40 per day to a locality for which the Federal

M&IE rate is \$34, and the employee substantiates 3 full days of business travel. The requirement to return excess amounts will be treated as satisfied if the employee is required to return within a reasonable period of time (as defined in § 1.62-2(g)) the portion of the allowance that is attributable to the 2 unsubstantiated days of travel (\$80), even though the employee is not required to return the portion of the allowance (\$18) that exceeds the amount of the employee's expenses deemed substantiated under section 4.02 (\$102) for the 3 substantiated days of travel. However, the \$18 excess portion of the allowance is treated as paid under a nonaccountable plan as discussed in section 7.04.

.03 An employee is not required to include in gross income the portion of a per diem allowance received from a payor that is less than or equal to the amount deemed substantiated under the rules provided in section 4 or 5 if the employee substantiates the business travel expenses covered by the per diem allowance in accordance with section 7.01. See § 1.274-5T(f)(2)(i). In addition, such portion of the allowance is treated as paid under an accountable plan, is not reported as wages or other compensation on the employee's Form W-2, and is exempt from the withholding and payment of employment taxes. See § 1.62-2(c)(2) and (c)(4).

.04 An employee is required to include in gross income only the portion of the per diem allowance received from a payor that exceeds the amount deemed substantiated under the rules provided in section 4 or 5 if the employee substantiates the business travel expenses covered by the per diem allowance in accordance with section 7.01. See § 1.274-5T(f)(2)(ii). In addition, the excess portion of the allowance is treated as paid under a nonaccountable plan, is reported as wages or other compensation on the employee's Form W-2, and is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes. See § 1.62-2(c)(3)(ii), (c)(5), and (h)(2)(i)(B).

.05 If the amount of the expenses that is deemed substantiated under the rules provided in section 4.01, 4.02, or 5 is less than the amount of the employee's business expenses for travel away from home, the employee may claim an itemized deduction for the amount by which the business travel expenses exceed the amount that is deemed substantiated, provided the employee substantiates all the business travel expenses, includes on

Form 2106, Employee Business Expenses, the deemed substantiated portion of the per diem allowance received from the payor, and includes in gross income the portion (if any) of the per diem allowance received from the payor that exceeds the amount deemed substantiated. See § 1.274-5T(f)(2)(iii). However, for purposes of claiming this itemized deduction with respect to meal and incidental expenses, substantiation of the amount of the expenses is not required if the employee is claiming a deduction that is equal to or less than the amount computed under section 4.03 minus the amount deemed substantiated under section 4.02 and section 7.01. The itemized deduction is subject to the 50-percent limitation on meal and entertainment expenses provided in § 274(n) and the 2-percent floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions provided in § 67.

.06 An employee who does not receive a per diem allowance for meal and incidental expenses may deduct an amount computed pursuant to section 4.03 only as an itemized deduction. This itemized deduction is subject to the 50-percent limitation on meal and entertainment expenses provided in § 274(n) and the 2-percent floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions provided in § 67.

.07 A self-employed individual may deduct an amount computed pursuant to section 4.03 in determining adjusted gross income under § 62(a)(1). This deduction is subject to the 50-percent limitation on meal and entertainment expenses provided in § 274(n).

.08 If a payor's reimbursement or other expense allowance arrangement evidences a pattern of abuse of the rules of § 62(c) and the regulations thereunder, all payments under the arrangement will be treated as made under a nonaccountable plan. Thus, such payments are included in the employee's gross income, are reported as wages or other compensation on the employee's Form W-2, and are subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes. See § 1.62-2(c)(3), (c)(5), and (h)(2).

SECTION 8. WITHHOLDING AND PAYMENT OF EMPLOYMENT TAXES.

.01 The portion of a per diem allowance, if any, that relates to the days of business travel substantiated and that exceeds the amount deemed substantiated for those days under section 4.01, 4.02, or 5 is subject to withholding and

payment of employment taxes. See § 1.62-2(h)(2)(i)(B).

.02 In the case of a per diem allowance paid as a reimbursement, the excess described in section 8.01 is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes in the payroll period in which the payor reimburses the expenses for the days of travel substantiated. See § 1.62-2(h)(2)(i)(B)(2).

.03 In the case of a per diem allowance paid as an advance, the excess described in section 8.01 is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes no later than the first payroll period following the payroll period in which the days of travel with respect to which the advance was paid are substantiated. See § 1.62-2(h)(2)(i)(B)(3). If some or all of the days of travel with respect to which the advance was paid are not substantiated within a reasonable period of time and the employee does not return the portion of the allowance that relates to those days within a reasonable period of time, the portion of the allowance that relates to those days is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes no later than the first payroll period following the end of the reasonable period. See § 1.62-2(h)(2)(i)(A).

.04 In the case of a per diem allowance only for meal and incidental expenses for travel away from home paid to an employee in the transportation industry by a payor that uses the rule in section 4.04(3), the excess of the per diem allowance paid for the period over the amount deemed substantiated for the period under section 4.02 (after applying section 4.04(3)), is subject to withholding and payment of employment taxes no later than the first payroll period following the payroll period in which the excess is computed. See § 1.62-2(h)(2)(i)(B)(4).

.05 For example, assume that an employer pays an employee a per diem allowance to cover business expenses for meals and lodging for travel away

from home at a rate of 120 percent of the Federal per diem rate for the localities to which the employee travels. The employer does not require the employee to return the 20 percent by which the reimbursement for those expenses exceeds the Federal per diem rate. The employee substantiates 6 days of travel away from home: 2 days in a locality in which the Federal per diem rate is \$100 and 4 days in a locality in which the Federal per diem rate is \$125. The employer reimburses the employee \$840 for the 6 days of travel away from home ($2 \times (120\% \times \$100) + 4 \times (120\% \times \$125)$), and does not require the employee to return the excess payment of \$140 ($(2 \text{ days} \times \$20 (\$120 - \$100) + 4 \text{ days} \times \$25 (\$150 - \$125))$). For the payroll period in which the employer reimburses the expenses, the employer must withhold and pay employment taxes on \$140. See section 8.02.

SECTION 9. EFFECT ON OTHER DOCUMENTS

Rev. Proc. 96-28 is hereby superseded for per diem allowances paid to an employee on or after January 1, 1997 with respect to lodging, meal, and incidental expenses or with respect to meal and incidental expenses paid or incurred for travel while away from home on or after January 1, 1997 and, for purposes of computing the amount allowable as a deduction, for meal and incidental expenses paid or incurred by an employee or self-employed individual for travel while away from home on or after January 1, 1997.

DRAFTING INFORMATION

The principal author of this revenue procedure is Edwin B. Cleverdon of the Office of Assistant Chief Counsel (Income Tax and Accounting). For further information regarding this revenue procedure, contact Mr. Cleverdon on (202) 622-4920 (not a toll-free call).

Social Security Contribution and Benefit Base

Under authority contained in the Social Security Act (“the Act”), the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, has determined and announced (61 F.R. 55346, dated October 25, 1996) that the contribution and benefit base for remuneration paid in 1997, and self-employment income earned in taxable years beginning in 1997 is \$65,400.

“Old-Law” Contribution and Benefit Base

General. The 1997 “old-law” contribution and benefit base is \$48,600. This is the base that would have been effective under the Act without the enactment of the 1977 amendments. The base is computed under section 230(b) of the Act as it read prior to the 1977 amendments.

The “old-law” contribution and benefit base is used by:

(a) the Railroad Retirement program to determine certain tax liabilities and tier II benefits payable under that program to supplement the tier I payments which correspond to basic Social Security benefits,

(b) the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to determine the maximum amount of pension guaranteed under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (as stated in section 230(d) of the Act),

(c) Social Security to determine a year of coverage in computing the special minimum benefit, as described earlier, and

(d) Social Security to determine a year of coverage (acquired whenever earnings equal or exceed 25 percent of the “old-law” base for this purpose only) in computing benefits for persons who are also eligible to receive pensions based on employment not covered under section 210 of the Act.