

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

TO: Financial Aid Officers
Student Loan Officers

FROM: Ruth T. Vincent, Chief Administrator
Guaranteed Loan Division

DATE: August 5, 2002

SUBJECT: COMMON MANUAL, *Unified Student Loan Policy Bulletin 55*

Each policy statement included in this package represents clarification, revision, or correction to an existing policy. The retroactive effective date associated with each provision is noted at the end of each section.

Enclosed you will find the following according to the order in which the policies were passed:

Reference # 608 – Delivery Restrictions
Reference # 609 – CommonLine Network
Reference # 610 – Delayed Delivery Requirements

If you have any questions about the attached common bulletin, please contact Audra Head by phone at 770-724-9139 or email at audrah@mail.gsfc.state.ga.us.



COMMON BULLETIN 55
August 5, 2002

The nation's guarantors provide the following summaries to inform schools, lenders, and servicers of the latest Common Manual policy changes. These changes will appear in the manual's next annual update in 2003. However, these changes are effective before the next update is scheduled to be delivered.

Delivery Restrictions

The Common Manual has been updated to remove the prescriptive process for confirming borrower eligibility.. The revised policy clarifies that a school may deliver the proceeds of any loan disbursement only if it determines that the student has maintained continuous eligibility for the loan period certified by the school.

- Affected Sections: 6.3.E
Effective Date: July 1, 2001..
Basis: §668.164(b); §682.604(b)(2)(i)—as published in Part V of the Federal Register dated November 1, 2000, pages 65615 - 65622.
Policy Information: 608/Batch 94
Guarantor Comments: None.

CommonLine Network

The Common Manual has been revised to reflect that all guarantors accept electronic data transmission in the CommonLine format and to provide updated information on the steps in the CommonLine process. In addition, revised policy adds a definition of "File Transfer Protocol (FTP)" to the glossary.

- Affected Sections: 5.8.F, appendix G
Effective Date: Acceptance of the CommonLine format is retroactive to the implementation of the Common Manual.. The steps in the CommonLine process were effective on or after September 30, 1998.
Basis: None.
Policy Information: 609/Batch 94
Guarantor Comments: None.

Delayed Delivery Requirements

The Common Manual has been updated to align text in subsection 6.3.E, 6.3.I, and appendix G with text in subsection 6.3.H that states that the first disbursement of a Stafford loan subject to the delayed delivery requirement may not be made until the student completes the first 30 days of his or her program of study.

- Affected Sections: 6.3.E, 6.3.I, appendix G
Effective Date: Retroactive to the implementation of the Common Manual.
Basis: None.
Policy Information: 610/Batch 94
Guarantor Comments: None.