



IMPORTANT UPDATE

TO: Financial Aid Officers
Student Loan Officers

FROM: Jessie Cooper, Compliance Officer
Georgia Student Finance Commission

DATE: December 15, 2006

SUBJECT: COMMON MANUAL, *Unified Student Loan Policy Bulletin 93*

The attached policy change summaries have been prepared by the nation's guarantors in order to clarify, revise or correct existing policies contained in the Common Manual. The effective date associated with each provision is noted at the end of each section.

The following summaries are listed in the order that the policy changes were passed:

Reference # 908 – Effects of Unallocated Consolidation Amounts on New
Stafford Loan Eligibility

Reference # 910 – Unpaid Refund

If you have any questions about the attached bulletin, please contact Jessie Cooper at 770-724-9139 or jessiec@gsfc.org.

Attachment

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. These changes will also be incorporated into the *Integrated Common Manual*. The *Integrated Common Manual* is available on several guarantor websites, and it is also available on Common Manual's website at www.commonmanual.org. Please carefully note the effective date of each policy change.

Effects of Consolidation Loan on New Stafford Loan Eligibility

The *Common Manual* has been revised to reflect a change in the treatment of the unallocated amount of a Consolidation loan by the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). The unallocated amount of a Consolidation loan is no longer included in the aggregate subsidized, unsubsidized, and outstanding principal balances on NSLDS. In addition, the financial aid administrator is no longer required to investigate whether an unallocated amount might impact a student's eligibility for additional Stafford loans, unless the school has information that conflicts with NSLDS data. If the school has conflicting information at the point at which it is certifying the loan, the school must resolve the conflict and must include the result of that resolution in the school's calculations regarding the student's eligible loan amount. The school is not required, at the point of loan delivery, to double-check NSLDS to determine if the financial aid history has changed. If, however, the school obtains conflicting information that may affect the student's eligibility in the interim between the loan certification and the delivery of funds, the school is required to resolve the conflicting information and adjust the loan amount, if necessary.

Affected Sections:	6.11.G Effects of Consolidation Loan on New Stafford Loan Eligibility
Effective Date:	January, 2006.
Basis:	DCL GEN-96-13, Q&A #13 and #14; NSLDS Newsletter Number 11, February 2006.
Policy Information:	908/Batch 135
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Unpaid Refund

The *Common Manual* has been revised to reflect that a borrower is no longer required to submit a separate sworn statement of declarations along with the Loan Discharge Application: Unpaid Refund form because the application includes that sworn statement of declarations.

Affected Section:	13.8.F Unpaid Refund
Effective Date:	Retroactive to the approval of the common Loan Discharge Application: Unpaid Refund.
Basis:	Loan Discharge Application: Unpaid Refund.
Policy Information:	910/Batch 135
Guarantor Comments:	None.