

*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Topic 7: AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY BUREAU

The Executive Committee at its 31st Meeting recommended, and the X Meeting of the Directing Council approved, revisions to Article IV, Regulations 4.3 and 4.4, of the Financial Regulations of the PASB. These items relate to the period during which appropriations remain available after the end of the financial year to discharge outstanding legal obligations as of 31 December of that year. The revisions reduced the period from 24 months to 12 months.

The foregoing revisions were recommended on the basis of experience and have proven satisfactory, except for their application to the fellowship program, where greater flexibility is needed.

The expansion of the education and training program of the Pan American Health Organization has multiplied the number of fellowship awards. Of these fellowships some involve awards for a full year of study commencing in the following year and terminating in the second year. For example, a fellowship awarded in November or December of 1958 for a full year of study starting in 1959 will not be completed until early in 1960. Unless provision is made for a longer period during which obligations for fellowships may be carried after the end of the financial year, it will be necessary to split an award into two parts, making the second part in the following year. This would create obvious additional administrative work and, more important, would create budgetary problems.

In connection with the above-described problem the World Health Organization, while under its Financial Regulations generally limits the availability of appropriations to 12 months following the end of the fiscal year (WHO Financial Regulation 4.3), provides an exception for fellowships in WHO Financial Rule 105.8, which reads:

"The award of a fellowship shall be considered to be a legal obligation and the amount of the obligation shall be the full estimated cost of each individual award. Notwithstanding the provisions of Financial Regulation 4.3, these obligations shall remain available for expenditure until the fellowship is completed."

In order to provide the necessary flexibility for PAHO fellowships, as explained above, an addition to the PASB Financial Regulations is recommended. To accomplish this, the Executive Committee may wish to consider a resolution along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

The Executive Committee,

Having considered that the Financial Regulations of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, while satisfactory in other respects, should be revised to provide the necessary flexibility in the administration of the PAHO fellowship program; and

Taking into account the desirability of providing uniform rules and procedures for the administration of PAHO and WHO fellowships,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Directing Council amend the Financial Regulations of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Article IV, paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4, effective beginning with the fiscal year 1959, to read as follows:

"Article IV - Appropriations

4.3 Appropriations shall remain available for twelve months following the end of the financial year to which they relate, to the extent that they are required to discharge the outstanding legal obligations as of 31 December of that year, except for amounts obligated for fellowship awards, which shall remain available until the fellowship is completed. Any remaining balance of appropriations will revert to the Working Capital Fund.

4.4 At the end of the twelve-month period provided in Regulation 4.3, the remaining balance of any appropriations will revert to the Working Capital Fund. Except for obligations in respect to fellowships as provided in Regulation 4.3, any unliquidated obligations of the prior twelve months shall at that time be canceled; where the obligation remains a valid charge, it shall be transferred as an obligation against current appropriations."