

# Introduction

Welcome to the Green Book — a comprehensive guide for financial institutions that receive ACH payments from the federal government.

Today, most federal payments are made via the Automated Clearing House (ACH). With very few exceptions, federal government ACH transactions continue to be subject to the same rules as private industry ACH payments. As a result, the Green Book continues to get smaller in size and is designed to deal primarily with exceptions or issues unique to federal government operations.

Federal agency contact information is included, and since so much information is available via the Internet, website addresses are included where appropriate. The Green Book continues to be available on the Internet and chapters can be printed as Portable Display Format (PDF) documents. We no longer print and mail hard copies. So, we encourage you to visit the website for updates and news relevant to federal government ACH transactions.

Title 31 CFR part 210 provides the basis for most of the information contained in the Green Book. However, there are other regulations that impact federal government ACH payments. The following table summarizes the relevant regulations:

Regulation	Governs
31 CFR part 210	Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House
31 CFR part 208	Management of Federal Agency Disbursements
31 CFR part 370	Electronic Transactions and Funds Transfers Relating to United States Securities

We still occasionally get asked, “Why green?” It is simple. The first publication issued in 1975 dealing with the Direct Deposit of federal government payments, when the ACH network was in its infancy, had a green cover. More than 45 years later, the world of federal government payments has changed, but the Green Book is still green! We hope you incorporate the Green Book into your daily operations and visit us frequently.

Department of the Treasury  
Bureau of the Fiscal Service  
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## *Revised on*

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