

32.602 Responsibilities.

(a) The *contracting officer* has primary responsibility for identifying and demanding payment of contract debts except those resulting from errors made by the payment office. The *contracting officer shall* not collect contract debts or otherwise agree to *liquidate* contract debts (*e.g.*, offset the amount of the debt against existing unpaid bills due the contractor, or allow contractors to retain contract debts to cover amounts that *may* become payable in future periods).

(b) The payment office has primary responsibility for-

- (1) Collecting contract debts identified by *contracting officers*;
- (2) Identifying and collecting duplicate and erroneous payments; and
- (3) Authorizing the liquidation of contract debts in accordance with agency procedures.

Parent topic: [Subpart 32.6 - Contract Debts](#)