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Retail Concession Fee Manager

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Objectives to Determine if:

- The reported gross receipts were reasonable and fairly stated;
- The contractor paid the correct amount of concession fees by the due dates;
- The joint marketing fund was effectively managed and used appropriately;
- The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation requirements were met; and
- The insurance coverage and performance guarantee requirements were met.



Background:

- Services included leasing, marketing, developing, and negotiating all retail subleases;
- Coordinating design and construction of subtenant spaces;
- Collecting lease payments from the subtenants;
- Remitting the concession fees to the Airports Authority; and
- Establishing and managing a joint marketing fund for food and retail concessions at Dulles Airport.
- Contract term was for 15 years from July 1, 1995 June 30,
 2010. Term was extended through December 31, 2012.

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Areas of Compliance

- Total retail sales were stated fairly;
- Rent collected was mathematically correct and paid on time;
- DBE participation goal was met. Actual participation rate was 49.3 percent for 2011 compared to the goal of 15 percent; and
- Performance guarantee requirement was met.

Areas of Noncompliance

- Some unallowable and unsupported expenses were charged to the joint marketing fund;
- Insurance coverage requirement was not met by 1 out of 10 tenants tested; and
- Concessionaire and tenants did not submit their "monthly certified statements" with responsible representatives' certification of the submitted information.



- Recommendations/Management Responses:
 - Require accounting for marketing fund activity on a monthly or quarterly basis rather than on an annual basis. Management agrees and will conduct quarterly reviews.
 - Enhance or change current requirement to spend 95 percent of the fund during the contract term to encourage more careful planning and implementation of the concession marketing and promotions activity.
 Management agrees and will execute an amendment to the new contract to encourage better use of the marketing fund.
 - Require the contractor to perform periodic reviews of key contract requirements including proper submittal of monthly certified statements and insurance coverage using a checklist of key contract requirements and periodically inspecting the contractor's compliance reviews. Management agrees and will implement quarterly reviews for each airport under the new contract.