This document has been archived. The “Why and When” list at the AAPD Archive identifies why the document has been archived and where current guidance may be found. Internal users may also access the OAA Policy Division webpage to locate current policy and regulations.
Because of the possible dangers involved in purchasing oral rehydration salts (ORS) from unreliable sources, AID has instituted some controls and safeguards. A central contract is in place to handle AID's procurement of ORS. Also, because ORS is considered to be a pharmaceutical, AID/W approval is required prior to purchase. The requirement for AID/W approval is set forth in Handbook 1, Supplement B, Chapter 4C. The requirement for prior approval is levied on grantees through special provisions which mandate grant officer prior approval of certain types of commodities including all pharmaceutical purchases.

It has come to our attention that grantees and USAIDs may not be aware that ORS is considered a pharmaceutical and, thus, are not implementing the requirement for prior approval. We recognize that neither the current grant standard provisions, nor the AID Commodity Eligibility Listing make it clear that ORS should be treated as a pharmaceutical. We will be implementing appropriate changes to clarify that ORS is considered a pharmaceutical.

Until these changes are implemented, for any grant which could conceivably encompass the purchase of ORS, grant officers should revise the standard provisions, "AID Eligibility Rules for Goods and Services" and "Local Cost Financing" by annotating the list of restricted goods to specify that pharmaceuticals includes ORS.