



MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE AND TRANSPARENCY THROUGH INVENTORY CONTROL IN STATE PRESCHOOL INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract: *This article provides a scientific and practical analysis of the role and importance of inventory in ensuring the preservation of state property, tangible assets, and financial resources in preschool educational institutions. The study examines the regulatory and legal foundations for organizing and conducting inventory procedures, with particular emphasis on the requirements of National Accounting Standard No. 19 “Organization and Conduct of Inventory,” approved by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan and registered with the Ministry of Justice on August 12, 2024. The article systematically explores the objectives, frequency, procedures, and commission activities involved in inventory processes, as well as the mechanisms for recording inventory results in accounting records. In addition, the study substantiates the significance of inventory as a key management tool for strengthening financial discipline, enhancing transparency and accountability, and ensuring the financial stability of preschool educational institutions.*

Keywords: *preschool education, inventory, financial control, state property, accounting, National Accounting Standards, financial discipline, transparency, financial management, budgetary organization.*

Nowadays, one of the urgent tasks in preschool educational institutions is to ensure the effective organization of their activities, the preservation of state property, and the transparency of financial and economic processes. In particular, the continuous monitoring of the targeted and rational use of food products, inventories, fixed assets, and cash resources in preschool institutions is directly related to ensuring the quality of education.

In this process, inventory, which is an essential element of accounting, plays a special role. Inventory allows preschool institutions to determine the actual condition of material assets and financial resources, compare them with accounting records, and promptly identify any shortages or surpluses. This is an important factor in strengthening financial discipline and ensuring the efficient use of both budgetary and extra-budgetary funds.

The National Accounting Standard No. 19 “Organization and Conduct of Inventory,” approved by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan and registered with the Ministry of Justice under No. 3548 on August 12, 2024, establishes the unified legal and organizational framework for conducting inventory in preschool





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

educational institutions. This standard clearly and systematically defines the procedures for conducting inventory, the timelines, the responsibilities of the participating commissions, and the rules for reconciling identified discrepancies.

Therefore, properly organizing the inventory process in preschool educational institutions, conducting it in accordance with the established regulatory and legal documents, and timely reflecting the results in accounting records are among the primary responsibilities of administrators and accounting staff. Inventory serves not only as a control tool but also as an important management instrument that ensures the financial stability and efficiency of the organization.

In the activities of preschool educational institutions, ensuring the preservation of state property and controlling the targeted use of food products, inventories, and cash resources is of paramount importance. The most effective method for achieving this is through inventory.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the National Accounting Standard No. 19 “Organization and Conduct of Inventory,” which was registered with the Ministry of Justice under No. 3548 on August 12, 2024. This document established the rules for conducting inventory in budgetary organizations, including state preschool educational institutions.

Inventory is not merely counting the items in storage; it is a complex process that determines the financial health of an organization. According to the newly approved standard, the main objectives of inventory are as follows:

Verification of the actual existence of assets. This means confirming that every item recorded in the accounting balance—whether a chair, a kilogram of rice, or a toy—physically exists in storage or in classrooms.

Comparison. Comparing the physical assets with accounting records. For example, if 100 units are listed on paper but only 95 are found, it is necessary to identify the reason for the discrepancy.

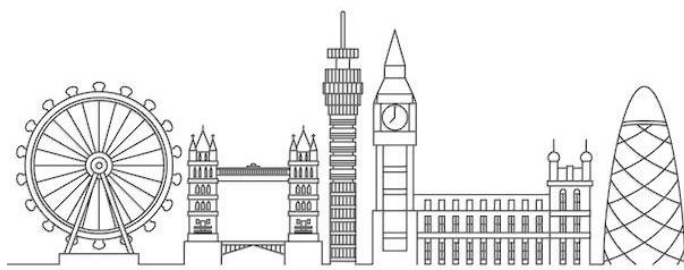
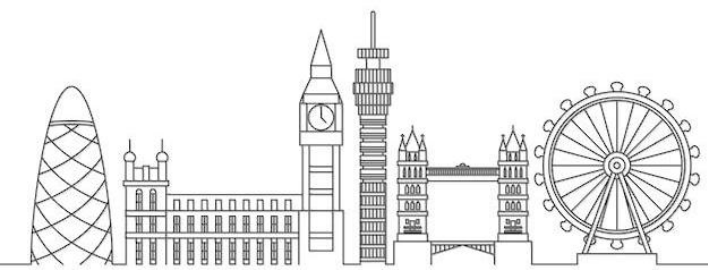
Checking liabilities. Ensuring that the organization’s obligations to creditors (suppliers) or employees are correctly reflected in the accounts.

All assets, including those temporarily held, rented, or accepted for processing, must be included in the inventory. Any assets that were previously unaccounted for must also be registered.

For preschool institution managers and accountants, the question “When should inventory be conducted?” is always relevant. Inventory is mandatory in the following situations:

When assets are rented, purchased, or sold;

Before preparing the annual financial report (usually at the end of the year). Exception: If the inventory was conducted after October 1 of the current year, it does not need to be repeated for the annual report;





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

When materially responsible persons are replaced (e.g., warehouse managers or facility managers). In such cases, inventory is conducted on the day of handover;

In cases of theft, misuse, or damage to assets;

In the event of natural disasters (fire, earthquake, flooding) or other emergencies;

When the organization is being closed or reorganized;

In collective (brigade) material responsibility, when the team leader or more than 50% of the members are changed.

Based on the characteristics of assets used in preschool institutions, the following mandatory inventory periods are established:

Food products: The most important category for preschool institutions; inventoried quarterly;

Fuel and lubricants: Quarterly;

Cash and controlled documents: Cash and documents (e.g., vouchers, registers) are inventoried monthly;

Other material stocks: At least once a year;

Fixed assets (buildings, facilities, equipment, furniture): At least once every two years;

Library collections: Once every five years.

In addition to these mandatory periods, managers may conduct unexpected (unscheduled) inventories at their discretion.

Inventory requires impartiality and must never be conducted by a single person. A commission must be established within the organization to carry out the inventory process.

1. Permanent Inventory Commission

In each preschool educational institution (PEI), a permanent inventory commission operates under the order of the head of the organization.

Composition: The commission is chaired by the head of the institution (director) or their deputy. Members include the chief accountant and other specialists. Representatives of internal audit may also be included.

Responsibilities: Although they do not carry out the actual counting, they organize the inventory process, provide instructions, oversee preventive measures for asset preservation, and verify the final results.

2. Working Inventory Commission

Working commissions are established to perform the actual counting of assets in warehouses, kitchens, or group rooms.

Composition: A representative of the head (chair), specialists (such as a goods expert, engineer, technologist, educator-methodologist, facility manager), and an accounting staff member.

Key Rule: Commission members must be experienced personnel who are familiar with the characteristics, values, and accounting of the assets being inspected.





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

Conflict of Interest Prevention: If a single materially responsible person (e.g., warehouse manager) is checked consecutively twice, the same commission chair cannot be appointed for both inspections.

During inventory, if any member of the commission is absent (e.g., due to illness), the results of the inventory are considered invalid. The commission must operate in full composition at all times.

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