

## 36.203 Government estimate of construction costs.

(a) An independent Government estimate of *construction* costs *shall* be prepared and furnished to the *contracting officer* at the earliest practicable time for each proposed contract and for each *contract modification* anticipated to exceed the *simplified acquisition threshold*. The *contracting officer* may require an estimate when the cost of required work is not anticipated to exceed the *simplified acquisition threshold*. The estimate *shall* be prepared in as much detail as though the Government were competing for award.

(b) When two-step sealed bidding is used, the independent Government estimate *shall* be prepared when the contract requirements are definitized.

(c) Access to information concerning the Government estimate *shall* be limited to Government personnel whose official duties require knowledge of the estimate. An exception to this rule *may* be made during contract negotiations to allow the *contracting officer* to identify a specialized task and disclose the associated cost breakdown figures in the Government estimate, but only to the extent deemed necessary to arrive at a fair and reasonable price. The overall amount of the Government's estimate *shall* not be disclosed except as permitted by agency regulations.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 36.2 - Special Aspects of Contracting for Construction](#)