

# Subpart 42.2 - Contract Administration Services

**Parent topic:** [Part 42 - Contract Administration and Audit Services](#)

## 42.201 Contract administration responsibilities.

(a) For each contract assigned for administration, the *contract administration office* (CAO) (see [2.101](#)) shall-

(1) Perform the functions listed in [42.302\(a\)](#) to the extent that they apply to the contract, except for the functions specifically withheld;

(2) Perform the functions listed in [42.302\(b\)](#) only when and to the extent specifically authorized by the *contracting officer*; and

(3) Request supporting contract administration under [42.202\(e\)](#) and (f) when it is required.

(b) The Defense Contract Management Agency and other agencies *offer* a wide variety of contract administration and support services.

## 42.202 Assignment of contract administration.

(a) *Delegating functions.* As provided in agency procedures, *contracting officers* may delegate contract administration or specialized support services, either through interagency agreements or by direct request to the cognizant CAO listed in the Federal Directory of Contract Administration Services *Components*. The delegation *should* include-

(1) The name and address of the CAO designated to perform the administration (this information also *shall* be entered in the contract);

(2) Any special instructions, including any functions withheld or any specific authorization to perform functions listed in [42.302\(b\)](#);

(3) A copy of the contract to be administered; and

(4) Copies of all *contracting* agency regulations or directives that are-

(i) Incorporated into the contract by reference; or

(ii) Otherwise necessary to administer the contract, unless copies have been provided previously.

(b) *Special instructions.* As necessary, the *contracting officer* also *shall* advise the contractor (and other activities as appropriate) of any functions withheld from or additional functions delegated to the CAO.

(c) *Delegating additional functions.* For individual contracts or groups of contracts, the *contracting office* may delegate to the CAO functions not listed in [42.302](#), provided that-

- (1) Prior coordination with the CAO ensures the availability of required resources;
- (2) In the case of authority to issue orders under provisioning procedures in existing contracts and under basic ordering agreements for items and services identified in the schedule, the *head of the contracting activity* or designee approves the delegation; and
- (3) The delegation does not require the CAO to undertake new or follow-on *acquisitions*.
- (d) *Rescinding functions*. The *contracting officer* at the *requesting agency* may rescind or recall a delegation to administer a contract or perform a contract administration function, except for functions pertaining to cost accounting standards and negotiation of forward *pricing* rates and *indirect cost rates* (also see [42.003](#)). The *requesting agency* must coordinate with the ACO to establish a reasonable transition period prior to rescinding or recalling the delegation.

(e) Secondary delegations of contract administration.

(1) A CAO that has been delegated administration of a contract under paragraph (a) or (c) of this section, or a *contracting office* retaining contract administration, *may* request supporting contract administration from the CAO cognizant of the contractor location where performance of specific contract administration functions is required. The request *shall*-

- (i) Be *in writing*;
- (ii) Clearly state the specific functions to be performed; and
- (iii) Be accompanied by a copy of pertinent contractual and other necessary documents.

(2) The prime contractor is responsible for managing its subcontracts. The CAO's review of subcontracts is normally limited to evaluating the prime contractor's management of the subcontracts (see [part 44](#)). Therefore, supporting contract administration *shall* not be used for subcontracts unless-

- (i) The Government otherwise would incur undue cost;
- (ii) Successful completion of the prime contract is threatened; or
- (iii) It is authorized under paragraph (f) of this section or elsewhere in this regulation.

(f) *Special surveillance*. For *major system acquisitions* (see [part 34](#)), the *contracting officer* may designate certain high risk or critical subsystems or *components* for special surveillance in addition to requesting supporting contract administration. This surveillance *shall* be conducted in a manner consistent with the policy of requesting that the cognizant CAO perform contract administration functions at a contractor's facility (see [42.002](#)).

(g) *Refusing delegation of contract administration*. An agency *may* decline a request for contract administration services on a case-by-case basis if resources of the agency are inadequate to accomplish the tasks. Declinations *shall* be *in writing*.

## **42.203 Contract administration services directory.**

The Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) maintains the Federal Directory of Contract Administration Services *Components*. The directory lists the names and telephone numbers of those DCMA and other agency offices that *offer* contract administration services within designated geographic areas and at specified contractor plants. *Federal agencies may* access it on the Internet at <https://piee.eb.mil/pcm/xhtml/unauth/index.xhtml>. For additional information contact-

Defense Contract Management Agency 3901 A Avenue Building 10500 Ft. Lee, VA 23801-1809.