11.603 Procedures.

(a) There are two levels of priority for *rated orders* established by the DPAS, identified by the rating symbols "DO" and "DX". All DO *rated orders* have equal priority with each other and take preference over unrated orders. All DX *rated orders* have equal priority with each other and take preference over DO rated and unrated orders (see 15 CFR 700.11). The DPAS regulation contains provisions concerning the elements of a *rated order* (see 15 CFR 700.12); acceptance and rejection of *rated orders* (see 15 CFR 700.13); preferential scheduling (see 15 CFR 700.14); extension of priority ratings (flowdown) (see 15 CFR 700.15); changes or cancellations of priority ratings and *rated orders* (see 15 CFR 700.16); use of *rated orders* (see 15 CFR 700.17); and limitations on placing *rated orders* (see 15 CFR 700.18).

(b) The *Delegate Agencies* have been given authority by the Department of Commerce to place *rated orders* in support of *approved programs* (see Schedule I of the DPAS). Other U.S. Government agencies, Canada, and foreign nations *may* apply for priority rating authority.

(c) *Rated orders shall* be placed in accordance with the provisions of the DPAS.

(d) *Agency heads shall* ensure compliance with the DPAS by *contracting activities* within their agencies.

(e) *Agency heads shall* provide *contracting activities* with specific guidance on the issuance of *rated orders* in support of approved agency programs, including the general limitations and jurisdictional limitations on placing *rated orders* (see 15 CFR 700.18 and Executive Order 12919).

(f) *Contracting officers shall* follow agency procedural instructions concerning the use of *rated orders* in support of approved agency programs.

(g) *Contracting officers*, contractors, or subcontractors at any tier, that experience difficulty placing *rated orders*, obtaining timely delivery under *rated orders*, locating a contractor or supplier to fill a *rated order*, ensuring that *rated orders* receive preferential treatment by contractors or suppliers, or require rating authority for items not automatically ratable under the DPAS, *should* promptly seek special priorities assistance in accordance with agency procedures (see 15 CFR 700.50-700.55 and 700.80).

(h) The Department of Commerce *may* take specific official actions (Ratings Authorizations, Directives, Letters of Understanding, Administrative Subpoenas, Demands for Information, and *Inspection* Authorizations) to implement or enforce the provisions of the DPAS (see 15 CFR 700.60-700.71).

(i) *Contracting officers shall* report promptly any violations of the DPAS in accordance with agency procedures to the Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3876, Washington, DC 20230, Ref: DPAS; telephone: (202) 482-3634 or fax: (202) 482-5650.

Parent topic: Subpart 11.6 - Priorities and Allocations