

Part 18 - Emergency Acquisitions

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Parent topic: [Federal Acquisition Regulation](#)

18.000 Scope of part.

(a) This part identifies acquisition flexibilities that are available for emergency acquisitions. These flexibilities are specific techniques or procedures that may be used to streamline the standard acquisition process. This part includes-

(1) Generally available flexibilities; and

(2) Emergency acquisition flexibilities that are available only under prescribed circumstances.

(b) The acquisition flexibilities in this part are not exempt from the requirements and limitations set forth in FAR [part 3](#), Improper Business Practices and Personal Conflicts of Interest.

(c) Additional flexibilities may be authorized in an executive agency supplement to the FAR.

18.001 Definition.

“Emergency acquisition flexibilities”, as used in this part, means flexibilities provided with respect to any acquisition of supplies or services by or for an executive agency that, as determined by the head of an executive agency, may be used-

(a) In support of a contingency operation as defined in [2.101](#);

(b) To facilitate the defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack against the United States;

(c) In support of a request from the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the provision of international disaster assistance; or

(d) When the President issues an emergency declaration, or a major disaster declaration.

Subpart 18.1 - Available Acquisition Flexibilities

18.101 General.

The FAR includes many acquisition flexibilities that are available to the contracting officer when certain conditions are met. These acquisition flexibilities do not require an emergency declaration or designation of contingency operation.

18.102 System for Award Management.

(a) In accordance with [4.1102](#), contractors are not required to be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of submission of offers or quotations for—

(1) Contracts awarded without providing for full and open competition due to unusual and compelling urgency (see [6.302-2](#)); or

(2) Contracts awarded by a contracting officer—

(i) Deployed in the course of military operations;

(ii) Located outside the United States and its outlying areas, for work to be performed in support of diplomatic or developmental operations, in an area that has been designated by the Department of State as a danger pay post; or

(iii) In the conduct of emergency operations.

(b) However, contractors are required to be registered in SAM in order to gain access to the Disaster Response Registry.

(c) Contracting officers shall consult the Disaster Response Registry via <https://www.sam.gov>, Search Records, Advanced Search, Disaster Response Registry Search to determine the availability of contractors for debris removal, distribution of supplies, reconstruction, and other disaster or emergency relief activities inside the United States and outlying areas. (See [26.205](#)).

18.103 Synopses of proposed contract actions.

Contracting officers need not submit a synopsis notice when there is an unusual and compelling urgency and the Government would be seriously injured if the agency complied with the notice time periods. (See [5.202](#)(a)(2).)

18.104 Unusual and compelling urgency.

Agencies may limit the number of sources and full and open competition need not be provided for contracting actions involving urgent requirements. (See [6.302-2](#) .)

18.105 Federal Supply Schedules (FSSs), multi-agency blanket purchase agreements (BPAs), and multi-agency indefinite delivery contracts.

Streamlined procedures and a broad range of goods and services may be available under Federal Supply Schedule contracts (see [subpart 8.4](#)), multi-agency BPAs (see [8.405-3\(a\)\(6\)](#)), or multi-agency, indefinite-delivery contracts (see [16.505\(a\)\(8\)](#)). These contracting methods may offer agency advance planning, pre-negotiated line items, and special terms and conditions that permit rapid response.

18.106 Acquisitions from Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (FPI).

Purchase from FPI is not mandatory and a waiver is not required if public exigency requires immediate delivery or performance (see [8.605](#) (b)).

18.107 AbilityOne specification changes.

Contracting officers are not held to the notification required when changes in AbilityOne specifications or descriptions are required to meet emergency needs. (See [8.712](#) (d).)

18.108 Qualifications requirements.

Agencies may determine not to enforce qualification requirements when an emergency exists. (See [9.206-1](#) .)

18.109 Priorities and allocations.

The Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) supports approved national defense, emergency preparedness, and energy programs and was established to facilitate rapid industrial mobilization in case of a national emergency. (See [subpart 11.6](#) .)

18.110 Soliciting from a single source.

For purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold, contracting officers may solicit from one source under certain circumstances. (See [13.106-1](#) (b).)

18.111 Oral requests for proposals.

Oral requests for proposals are authorized under certain conditions. (See [15.203](#) (f).)

18.112 Letter contracts.

Letter contracts may be used when contract performance must begin immediately. (See [16.603](#) .)

18.113 Interagency acquisitions.

Interagency acquisitions are authorized under certain conditions. (See [subpart 17.5](#) .)

18.114 Contracting with the Small Business Administration (The 8(a) Program).

Contracts may be awarded to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for performance by eligible 8(a) participants on either a sole source or competitive basis. (See [subpart 19.8](#) .)

18.115 HUBZone sole source awards.

Contracts may be awarded to Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small business concerns on a sole source basis. (See [19.1306](#) .)

18.116 Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business (SDVOSB) sole source awards.

Contracts may be awarded to Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business (SDVOSB) concerns on a sole source basis. (See [19.1406](#) .)

18.117 Awards to economically disadvantaged women-owned small business concerns and women-owned small business concerns eligible under the Women-Owned Small Business Program.

Contracts may be awarded to economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB) concerns and women-owned small business (WOSB) concerns eligible under the WOSB Program on a competitive or sole source basis. (See [subpart 19.15](#) .)

18.118 Overtime approvals.

Overtime approvals may be retroactive if justified by emergency circumstances. (See [22.103-4](#) (i).)

18.119 Trade agreements.

The policies and procedures of FAR [25.4](#) may not apply to acquisitions not awarded under full and open competition (see [25.401\(a\)\(5\)](#)).

18.120 Use of patented technology under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Requirement to obtain authorization prior to use of patented technology may be waived in circumstances of extreme urgency or national emergency. (See [27.204-1](#) .)

18.121 Bid guarantees.

The chief of the contracting office may waive the requirement to obtain a bid guarantee for emergency acquisitions when a performance bond or a performance bond and payment bond is required. (See [28.101-1](#) (c).)

18.122 Advance payments.

Agencies may authorize advance payments to facilitate the national defense for actions taken under Public Law 85-804 (see [subpart 50.1](#) , Extraordinary Contractual Actions). These advance payments may be made at or after award of sealed bid contracts, as well as negotiated contracts. (See [32.405](#) .)

18.123 Assignment of claims.

The use of the no-setoff provision may be appropriate to facilitate the national defense in the event of a national emergency or natural disaster. (See [32.803](#) (d).)

18.124 Electronic funds transfer.

Electronic funds transfer payments may be waived for acquisitions to support unusual and compelling needs or emergency acquisitions. (See [32.1103](#) (e).)

18.125 Protest to GAO.

When urgent and compelling circumstances exist, agency protest override procedures allow the head of the contracting activity to determine that the contracting process may continue after GAO has received a protest. (See [33.104](#) (b) and (c).)

18.126 Contractor rent-free use of Government property.

Rental requirements do not apply to items of Government production and research property that are part of a general program approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and meet certain criteria. (See [45.301](#) .)

18.127 Extraordinary contractual actions.

[subpart 50.1](#) prescribes policies and procedures for entering into, amending, or modifying contracts in order to facilitate the national defense under the extraordinary emergency authority granted by Public Law 85-804 ([50 U.S.C. 1431-1434](#)). This includes-

- (a) Amending contracts without consideration (see [50.103-2\(a\)](#));
- (b) Correcting or mitigating mistakes in a contract (see [50.103-2\(b\)](#)); and
- (c) Formalizing informal commitments (See [50.103-2\(c\)](#)).

Subpart 18.2 - Emergency Acquisition Flexibilities

18.201 Contingency operation.

- (a) Contingency operation is defined in [2.101](#).

(b) Micro-purchase threshold. The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to support a contingency operation. (See [2.101](#) and [13.201\(g\)](#).)

(c) Simplified acquisition threshold. The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to support a contingency operation. (See [2.101](#).)

(d) [SF 44](#), Purchase Order-Invoice-Voucher. The normal threshold for the use of the [SF 44](#) is at or below the micro-purchase threshold. Agencies may, however, establish higher dollar limitations for purchases made to support a contingency operation. (See [13.306](#).)

(e) *Simplified procedures for certain commercial items*. The threshold limits authorized for use of this authority may be increased for acquisitions to support a contingency operation. (See [13.500\(c\)](#).)

18.202 Defense or recovery from certain events.

(a) *Micro-purchase threshold*. The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to facilitate defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to facilitate provision of international disaster assistance; or to support response to an emergency or major disaster. (See [2.101](#).)

(b) *Simplified acquisition threshold.* The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to facilitate defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to facilitate provision of international disaster assistance; or to support response to an emergency or major disaster. (See [2.101](#).)

(c) *Treating certain items as commercial.* Contracting officers may treat any acquisition of supplies or services as an acquisition of commercial items if the head of the agency determines the acquisition is to be used to facilitate the defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. (See [12.102\(f\)\(1\)](#) and [13.500\(c\)](#).)

(d) *Simplified procedures for certain commercial items.* The threshold limits authorized for use of this authority may be increased when it is determined the acquisition is to facilitate defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to facilitate provision of international disaster assistance; or to support response to an emergency or major disaster. (See [13.500\(c\)](#).)

18.203 Emergency declaration or major disaster declaration.

(a) Disaster or emergency assistance activities. Preference will be given to local organizations, firms, and individuals when contracting for major disaster or emergency assistance activities when the President has made a declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Preference may take the form of local area set-asides or an evaluation preference. (See [6.208](#) and [subpart 26.2](#).)

(b) Ocean transportation by U.S. flag vessels. The provisions of the Cargo Preference Act of 1954 may be waived in emergency situations. (See [47.502\(c\)](#).)

18.204 Humanitarian or peacekeeping operation.

(a) A humanitarian or peacekeeping operation is defined in [2.101](#).

(b) Simplified acquisition threshold. The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to support a humanitarian or peacekeeping operation. (See [2.101](#).)

18.205 Resources.

(a) *National Response Framework.* The National Response Framework (NRF) is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards response. This key document establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. The Framework identifies the key response principles, roles and structures that organize national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government, the private-sector, and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. It also describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. The NRF is available at <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/>.

(b) *OFPP Guidelines.* The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) “Emergency

Acquisitions Guide” is available

at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/assets/procurement_guides/emergency_acquisitions_guide.pdf .