

FEDERAL ACQUISITION CIRCULAR

August 3, 2015

Number 2005-83
Effective August 3, 2015
Revised pages

Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2005-83 is issued under the authority of the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Unless otherwise specified, all Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and other directive material contained in FAC 2005-83 is effective July 2, 2015 except for item I which is effective October 1, 2015; item II which is effective November 1, 2015; and items III, IV, and VI which are effective August 3, 2015.

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FAC 2005-83 FILING INSTRUCTIONS
Revised pages

NOTE: The following pages reflect FAR amendments. Please do not file these pages until their effective date of August 3, 2015.

Remove Pages

5.2-3 and 5.2-4

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Part 13 TOC

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Insert Pages

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Part 13 TOC

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must synopsise (see [5.201](#)) all subsequent solicitations for R&D contracts, including those resulting from a previously synopsized advance notice, unless one of the exceptions in [5.202](#) applies.

(b) *Federally Funded Research and Development Centers.* Before establishing a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) (see [Part 35](#)) or before changing its basic purpose and mission, the sponsor must transmit at least three notices over a 90-day period to the GPE and the *Federal Register*, indicating the agency's intention to sponsor an FFRDC or change the basic purpose and mission of an FFRDC. The notice must indicate the scope and nature of the effort to be performed and request comments. Notice is not required where the action is required by law.

(c) *Special notices.* Contracting officers may transmit to the GPE special notices of procurement matters such as business fairs, long-range procurement estimates, prebid or pre-proposal conferences, meetings, and the availability of draft solicitations or draft specifications for review.

(d) *Architect-engineering services.* Contracting officers must publish notices of intent to contract for architect-engineering services as follows:

(1) Except when exempted by [5.202](#), contracting officers must transmit to the GPE a synopsis of each proposed contract action for which the total fee (including phases and options) is expected to exceed \$25,000.

(2) When the total fee is expected to exceed \$15,000 but not exceed \$25,000, the contracting officer must comply with [5.101\(a\)\(2\)](#). When the proposed contract action is not required to be synopsized under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the contracting officer must display a notice of the solicitation or a copy of the solicitation in a public place at the contracting office. Other optional publicizing methods are authorized in accordance with [5.101\(b\)](#).

(e) *Public-private competitions under OMB Circular A-76.* (1) The contracting officer shall make a formal public announcement for each streamlined or standard competition. The public announcement shall include, at a minimum, the agency, agency component, location, type of competition (streamlined or standard), activity being competed, incumbent service providers, number of Government personnel performing the activity, name of the Competitive Sourcing Official, name of the contracting officer, name of the Agency Tender Official, and projected end date of the competition.

(2) The contracting officer shall announce the end of the streamlined or standard competition by making a formal public announcement of the performance decision. (See OMB Circular A-76.)

(f) *Section 8(a) competitive acquisition.* When a national buy requirement is being considered for competitive acquisition limited to eligible 8(a) concerns under [Subpart 19.8](#), the contracting officer must transmit a synopsis of the proposed contract action to the GPE. The synopsis may be transmitted

to the GPE concurrent with submission of the agency offering (see [19.804-2](#)) to the Small Business Administration (SBA). The synopsis should also include information—

(1) Advising that the acquisition is being offered for competition limited to eligible 8(a) concerns;

(2) Specifying the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code;

(3) Advising that eligibility to participate may be restricted to firms in either the developmental stage or the developmental and transitional stages; and

(4) Encouraging interested 8(a) firms to request a copy of the solicitation as expeditiously as possible since the solicitation will be issued without further notice upon SBA acceptance of the requirement for the section 8(a) program.

5.206 Notices of subcontracting opportunities.

(a) The following entities may transmit a notice to the GPE to seek competition for subcontracts, to increase participation by qualified HUBZone small business, small, small disadvantaged, women-owned small business, veteran-owned small business and service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, and to meet established subcontracting plan goals:

(1) A contractor awarded a contract exceeding \$150,000 that is likely to result in the award of any subcontracts.

(2) A subcontractor or supplier, at any tier, under a contract exceeding \$150,000, that has a subcontracting opportunity exceeding \$15,000.

(b) The notices must describe—

(1) The business opportunity;

(2) Any prequalification requirements; and

(3) Where to obtain technical data needed to respond to the requirement.

5.207 Preparation and transmittal of synopses.

(a) *Content.* Each synopsis transmitted to the GPE must address the following data elements, as applicable:

(1) Action Code.

(2) Date.

(3) Year.

(4) Contracting Office ZIP Code.

(5) Product or Service Code.

(6) Contracting Office Address.

(7) Subject.

(8) Proposed Solicitation Number.

(9) Closing Response Date.

(10) Contact Point or Contracting Officer.

(11) Contract Award and Solicitation Number.

(12) Contract Award Dollar Amount.

(13) Contract Line Item Number.

(14) Contract Award Date.

(15) Contractor.

(16) Description.

(17) Place of Contract Performance.

(18) Set-aside Status.

(b) *Transmittal*. Transmissions to the GPE must be in accordance with the interface description available via the Internet at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>.

(c) *General format for "Description."* Prepare a clear and concise description of the supplies or services that is not unnecessarily restrictive of competition and will allow a prospective offeror to make an informed business judgment as to whether a copy of the solicitation should be requested including the following, as appropriate:

(1) National Stock Number (NSN) if assigned.

(2) Specification and whether an offeror, its product, or service must meet a qualification requirement in order to be eligible for award, and identification of the office from which additional information about the qualification requirement may be obtained (see [Subpart 9.2](#)).

(3) Manufacturer, including part number, drawing number, etc.

(4) Size, dimensions, or other form, fit or functional description.

(5) Predominant material of manufacture.

(6) Quantity, including any options for additional quantities.

(7) Unit of issue.

(8) Destination information.

(9) Delivery schedule.

(10) Duration of the contract period.

(11) Sustainable acquisition requirements (or a description of high-performance sustainable building practices required, if for design, construction, renovation, repair, or deconstruction) (see parts [23](#) or [36](#)).

(12) For a proposed contract action in an amount estimated to be greater than \$25,000 but not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, enter—

(i) A description of the procedures to be used in awarding the contract (e.g., request for oral or written quotation or solicitation); and

(ii) The anticipated award date.

(13) For Architect-Engineer projects and other projects for which the product or service codes are insufficient, provide brief details with respect to: location, scope of services required, cost range and limitations, type of contract, estimated starting and completion dates, and any significant evaluation factors.

(14)(i) If the solicitation will include the FAR clause at [52.225-3](#), Buy American—Free Trade Agreements—Israeli Trade Act, or an equivalent agency clause, insert the following notice in the synopsis: “One or more of the items under this acquisition is subject to Free Trade Agreements.”

(ii) If the solicitation will include the FAR clause at [52.225-5](#), Trade Agreements, or an equivalent agency clause, insert the following notice in the synopsis: “One or more of the items under this acquisition is subject to the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement and Free Trade Agreements.”

(iii) If the solicitation will include the FAR clause at [52.225-11](#), Buy American—Construction Materials under Trade Agreements, [52.225-23](#), Required Use of American Iron, Steel, and Manufactured Goods—Buy American Statute—Construction Materials under Trade Agreements, or an equivalent agency clause, insert the following notice in the synopsis: “One or more of the items under this acquisition is subject to the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement and Free Trade Agreements.”

(15) In the case of noncompetitive contract actions (including those that do not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold), identify the intended source and insert a statement of the reason justifying the lack of competition.

(16)(i) Except when using the sole source authority at [6.302-1](#), insert a statement that all responsible sources may submit a bid, proposal, or quotation which shall be considered by the agency.

(ii) When using the sole source authority at [6.302-1](#), insert a statement that all responsible sources may submit a capability statement, proposal, or quotation, which shall be considered by the agency.

(17) If solicitations synopsisized through the GPE will not be made available through the GPE, provide information on how to obtain the solicitation.

(18) If the solicitation will be made available to interested parties through electronic data interchange, provide any information necessary to obtain and respond to the solicitation electronically.

(19) If the technical data required to respond to the solicitation will not be furnished as part of such solicitation, identify the source in the Government, such as <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>, from which the technical data may be obtained.

(d) *Set-asides*. When the proposed acquisition provides for a total or partial small business program set-aside, or when the proposed acquisition provides for a local area set-aside (see [Subpart 26.2](#)), the contracting officer shall identify the type of set-aside in the synopsis and in the solicitation.

(e) *Codes to be used in Synopses to identify services or supplies*. Contracting officers must use one of the classification codes identified at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/> to identify services or supplies in synopses.

(f) *Notice of solicitation cancellation*. Contracting officers may publish notices of solicitation cancellations (or indefinite suspensions) of proposed contract actions in the GPE.

Subpart 6.3—Other Than Full and Open Competition

6.300 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes policies and procedures, and identifies the statutory authorities, for contracting without providing for full and open competition.

6.301 Policy.

(a) [41 U.S.C. 3304](#) and [10 U.S.C. 2304\(c\)](#) each authorize, under certain conditions, contracting without providing for full and open competition. The Department of Defense, Coast Guard, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration are subject to [10 U.S.C. 2304\(c\)](#). Other executive agencies are subject to [41 U.S.C. 3304](#). Contracting without providing for full and open competition or full and open competition after exclusion of sources is a violation of statute, unless permitted by one of the exceptions in [6.302](#).

(b) Each contract awarded without providing for full and open competition shall contain a reference to the specific authority under which it was so awarded. Contracting officers shall use the U.S. Code citation applicable to their agency (see [6.302](#)).

(c) Contracting without providing for full and open competition shall not be justified on the basis of—

- (1) A lack of advance planning by the requiring activity; or
- (2) Concerns related to the amount of funds available (e.g., funds will expire) to the agency or activity for the acquisition of supplies or services.

(d) When not providing for full and open competition, the contracting officer shall solicit offers from as many potential sources as is practicable under the circumstances.

(e) For contracts under this subpart, the contracting officer shall use the contracting procedures prescribed in [6.102\(a\)](#) or (b), if appropriate, or any other procedures authorized by this regulation.

6.302 Circumstances permitting other than full and open competition.

The following statutory authorities (including applications and limitations) permit contracting without providing for full and open competition. Requirements for justifications to support the use of these authorities are in [6.303](#).

6.302-1 Only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

(a) *Authority.*(1) Citations: [10 U.S.C. 2304\(c\)\(1\)](#) or [41 U.S.C. 3304\(a\)\(1\)](#).

(2) When the supplies or services required by the agency are available from only one responsible source, or, for DoD, NASA, and the Coast Guard, from only one or a limited number of responsible sources, and no other type of supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements, full and open competition need not be provided for.

(i) Supplies or services may be considered to be available from only one source if the source has submitted an unsolicited research proposal that—

(A) Demonstrates a unique and innovative concept (see definition at [2.101](#)), or, demonstrates a unique capability of the source to provide the particular research services proposed;

(B) Offers a concept or services not otherwise available to the Government; and

(C) Does not resemble the substance of a pending competitive acquisition. (See [10 U.S.C. 2304\(d\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) and [41 U.S.C. 3304\(b\)\(1\)](#).)

(ii) Supplies may be deemed to be available only from the original source in the case of a follow-on contract for the continued development or production of a major system or highly specialized equipment, including major components thereof, when it is likely that award to any other source would result in—

(A) Substantial duplication of cost to the Government that is not expected to be recovered through competition; or

(B) Unacceptable delays in fulfilling the agency's requirements. (See [10 U.S.C. 2304\(d\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) or [41 U.S.C. 3304\(b\)\(2\)](#).)

(iii) For DoD, NASA, and the Coast Guard, services may be deemed to be available only from the original source in the case of follow-on contracts for the continued provision of highly specialized services when it is likely that award to any other source would result in—

(A) Substantial duplication of cost to the Government that is not expected to be recovered through competition; or

(B) Unacceptable delays in fulfilling the agency's requirements. (See [10 U.S.C. 2304\(d\)\(1\)\(B\)](#).)

(b) *Application.* This authority shall be used, if appropriate, in preference to the authority in [6.302-7](#); it shall not be used when any of the other circumstances is applicable. Use of this authority may be appropriate in situations such as the following (these examples are not intended to be all inclusive and do not constitute authority in and of themselves):

(1) When there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the agency's minimum needs can only be satisfied by—

(i) Unique supplies or services available from only one source or only one supplier with unique capabilities; or

(ii) For DoD, NASA, and the Coast Guard, unique supplies or services available from only one or a limited number of sources or from only one or a limited number of suppliers with unique capabilities.

(2) The existence of limited rights in data, patent rights, copyrights, or secret processes; the control of basic raw material; or similar circumstances, make the supplies and services available from only one source (however, the mere existence of such rights or circumstances does not in and of itself justify the use of these authorities) (see [Part 27](#)).

(3) When acquiring utility services (see [41.101](#)), circumstances may dictate that only one supplier can furnish the service (see [41.202](#)); or when the contemplated contract is for

construction of a part of a utility system and the utility company itself is the only source available to work on the system.

(4) When the agency head has determined in accordance with the agency’s standardization program that only specified makes and models of technical equipment and parts will satisfy the agency’s needs for additional units or replacement items, and only one source is available.

(c) *Application for brand-name descriptions.* (1) An acquisition or portion of an acquisition that uses a brand-name description or other purchase description to specify a particular brand-name, product, or feature of a product, peculiar to one manufacturer—

(i) Does not provide for full and open competition, regardless of the number of sources solicited; and

(ii) Shall be justified and approved in accordance with [6.303](#) and [6.304](#).

(A) If only a portion of the acquisition is for a brand-name product or item peculiar to one manufacturer, the justification and approval is to cover only the portion of the acquisition which is brand-name or peculiar to one manufacturer. The justification should state it is covering only the portion of the acquisition which is brand-name or peculiar to one manufacturer, and the approval level requirements will then only apply to that portion;

(B) The justification should indicate that the use of such descriptions in the acquisition or portion of an acquisition is essential to the Government’s requirements, thereby precluding consideration of a product manufactured by another company; and

(C) The justification shall be posted with the solicitation (see [5.102\(a\)\(6\)](#)).

(2) Brand-name or equal descriptions, and other purchase descriptions that permit prospective contractors to offer products other than those specifically referenced by brand-name, provide for full and open competition and do not require justifications and approvals to support their use.

(d) *Limitations.* (1) Contracts awarded using this authority shall be supported by the written justifications and approvals described in [6.303](#) and [6.304](#).

(2) For contracts awarded using this authority, the notices required by [5.201](#) shall have been published and any bids, proposals, quotations, or capability statements must have been considered.

6.302-2 Unusual and compelling urgency.

(a) *Authority.* (1) Citations: [10 U.S.C. 2304\(c\)\(2\)](#) or [41 U.S.C. 3304\(a\)\(2\)](#).

(2) When the agency’s need for the supplies or services is of such an unusual and compelling urgency that the Government would be seriously injured unless the agency is permitted to limit the number of sources from which it solicits bids or proposals, full and open competition need not be provided for.

(b) *Application.* This authority applies in those situations where—

(1) An unusual and compelling urgency precludes full and open competition; and

(2) Delay in award of a contract would result in serious injury, financial or other, to the Government.

(c) *Limitations.* (1) Contracts awarded using this authority shall be supported by the written justifications and approvals described in [6.303](#) and [6.304](#). These justifications may be made and approved after contract award when preparation and approval prior to award would unreasonably delay the acquisition.

(2) This statutory authority requires that agencies shall request offers from as many potential sources as is practicable under the circumstances.

(d) *Period of Performance.* (1) The total period of performance of a contract awarded or modified using this authority—

(i) May not exceed the time necessary—

(A) To meet the unusual and compelling requirements of the work to be performed under the contract; and

(B) For the agency to enter into another contract for the required goods and services through the use of competitive procedures; and

(ii) May not exceed one year, including all options, unless the head of the agency determines that exceptional circumstances apply. This determination must be documented in the contract file.

(2)(i) Any subsequent modification using this authority, which will extend the period of performance beyond one year under this same authority, requires a separate determination. This determination is only required if the cumulative period of performance using this authority exceeds one year. This requirement does not apply to the exercise of options previously addressed in the determination required at (d)(1)(ii) of this section.

(ii) The determination shall be approved at the same level as the level to which the agency head authority in (d)(1)(ii) of this section is delegated.

(3) The requirements in paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section shall apply to any contract in an amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold.

(4) The determination of exceptional circumstances is in addition to the approval of the justification in [6.304](#).

(5) The determination may be made after contract award when making the determination prior to award would unreasonably delay the acquisition.

6.302-3 Industrial mobilization; engineering, developmental, or research capability; or expert services.

(a) *Authority.* (1) Citations: [10 U.S.C. 2304\(c\)\(3\)](#) or [41 U.S.C. 3304\(a\)\(3\)](#).

(2) Full and open competition need not be provided for when it is necessary to award the contract to a particular source or sources in order—

(i) To maintain a facility, producer, manufacturer, or other supplier available for furnishing supplies or services in case of a national emergency or to achieve industrial mobilization;

Subpart 12.2—Special Requirements for the Acquisition of Commercial Items

12.201 General.

This subpart identifies special requirements for the acquisition of commercial items intended to more closely resemble those customarily used in the commercial marketplace, as well as other considerations necessary for proper planning, solicitation, evaluation, and award of contracts for commercial items.

12.202 Market research and description of agency need.

(a) Market research (see [10.001](#)) is an essential element of building an effective strategy for the acquisition of commercial items and establishes the foundation for the agency description of need (see [Part 11](#)), the solicitation, and resulting contract.

(b) The description of agency need must contain sufficient detail for potential offerors of commercial items to know which commercial products or services may be suitable. Generally, for acquisitions in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, an agency's statement of need for a commercial item will describe the type of product or service to be acquired and explain how the agency intends to use the product or service in terms of function to be performed, performance requirement or essential physical characteristics. Describing the agency's needs in these terms allows offerors to propose methods that will best meet the needs of the Government.

(c) Follow the procedures in [subpart 11.2](#) regarding the identification and availability of specifications, standards and commercial item descriptions.

(d) Requirements documents for electronic and information technology must comply with the applicable accessibility standards issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board at 36 CFR Part 1194 (see [subpart 39.2](#)).

(e) When acquiring information technology using Internet Protocol, agencies must include the appropriate Internet Protocol compliance requirements in accordance with [11.002\(g\)](#).

12.203 Procedures for solicitation, evaluation, and award.

Contracting officers shall use the policies unique to the acquisition of commercial items prescribed in this part in conjunction with the policies and procedures for solicitation, evaluation and award prescribed in [Part 13](#), Simplified Acquisition Procedures; [Part 14](#), Sealed Bidding; or [Part 15](#), Contracting by Negotiation, as appropriate for the particular acquisition. The contracting officer may use the streamlined procedure for soliciting offers for commercial items prescribed in [12.603](#). For acquisitions of commercial items

exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold but not exceeding \$6.5 million (\$12 million for acquisitions as described in [13.500\(c\)](#)), including options, contracting activities may use any of the simplified procedures authorized by [subpart 13.5](#).

12.204 Solicitation/contract form.

(a) The contracting officer shall use the [Standard Form 1449](#), Solicitation/Contract/Order for Commercial Items, if (1) the acquisition is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold; (2) a paper solicitation or contract is being issued; and (3) procedures at [12.603](#) are not being used. Use of the [SF 1449](#) is nonmandatory but encouraged for commercial acquisitions not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.

(b) Consistent with the requirements at [5.203\(a\)](#) and (h), the contracting officer may allow fewer than 15 days before issuance of the solicitation.

12.205 Offers.

(a) Where technical information is necessary for evaluation of offers, agencies should, as part of market research, review existing product literature generally available in the industry to determine its adequacy for purposes of evaluation. If adequate, contracting officers shall request existing product literature from offerors of commercial items in lieu of unique technical proposals.

(b) Contracting officers should allow offerors to propose more than one product that will meet a Government need in response to solicitations for commercial items. The contracting officer shall evaluate each product as a separate offer.

(c) Consistent with the requirements at [5.203\(b\)](#), the contracting officer may allow fewer than 30 days response time for receipt of offers for commercial items, unless the acquisition is covered by the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement or a Free Trade Agreement (see [5.203\(h\)](#)).

12.206 Use of past performance.

Past performance should be an important element of every evaluation and contract award for commercial items. Contracting officers should consider past performance data from a wide variety of sources both inside and outside the Federal Government in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in [subpart 9.1](#), [13.106](#), or [subpart 15.3](#), as applicable.

12.207 Contract type.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, agencies shall use firm-fixed-price contracts or fixed-price contracts with economic price adjustment for the acquisition of commercial items.

(b) (1) A time-and-materials contract or labor-hour contract (see [subpart 16.6](#)) may be used for the acquisition of commercial services when—

(i) The service is acquired under a contract awarded using—

(A) Competitive procedures (*e.g.*, the procedures in [6.102](#), the set-aside procedures in [subpart 19.5](#), or competition conducted in accordance with [Part 13](#));

(B) The procedures for other than full and open competition in 6.3 provided the agency receives offers that satisfy the Government's expressed requirement from two or more responsible offerors; or

(C) The fair opportunity procedures in [16.505](#) (including discretionary small business set-asides under [16.505\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)\(F\)](#)), if placing an order under a multiple-award delivery-order contract; and

(ii) The contracting officer—

(A) Executes a determination and findings (D&F) for the contract, in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section (but see paragraph (c) of this section for indefinite-delivery contracts), that no other contract type authorized by this subpart is suitable;

(B) Includes a ceiling price in the contract or order that the contractor exceeds at its own risk; and

(C) Prior to increasing the ceiling price of a time-and-materials or labor-hour contract or order, shall—

(1) Conduct an analysis of pricing and other relevant factors to determine if the action is in the best interest of the Government;

(2) Document the decision in the contract or order file; and

(3) When making a change that modifies the general scope of—

(i) A contract, follow the procedures at 6.303;

(ii) An order issued under the Federal Supply Schedules, follow the procedures at 8.405-6; or

(iii) An order issued under multiple award task and delivery order contracts, follow the procedures at [16.505\(b\)\(2\)](#).

(2) Each D&F required by paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A) of this section shall contain sufficient facts and rationale to justify that no other contract type authorized by this subpart is suitable. At a minimum, the D&F shall—

(i) Include a description of the market research conducted (see [10.002\(e\)](#));

(ii) Establish that it is not possible at the time of placing the contract or order to accurately estimate the extent or duration of the work or to anticipate costs with any reasonable degree of confidence;

(iii) Establish that the requirement has been structured to maximize the use of firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment contracts (*e.g.*, by limiting

the value or length of the time-and-material/labor-hour contract or order; establishing fixed prices for portions of the requirement) on future acquisitions for the same or similar requirements; and

(iv) Describe actions planned to maximize the use of firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment contracts on future acquisitions for the same requirements.

(3) See [16.601\(d\)\(1\)](#) for additional approval required for contracts expected to extend beyond three years.

(4) See [8.404\(h\)](#) for the requirement for determination and findings when using Federal Supply Schedules.

(c)(1) Indefinite-delivery contracts (see [subpart 16.5](#)) may be used when—

(i) The prices are established based on a firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment; or

(ii) Rates are established for commercial services acquired on a time-and-materials or labor-hour basis.

(2) When an indefinite-delivery contract is awarded with services priced on a time-and-materials or labor-hour basis, contracting officers shall, to the maximum extent practicable, also structure the contract to allow issuance of orders on a firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment basis. For such contracts, the contracting officer shall execute the D&F required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, for each order placed on a time-and-materials or labor-hour basis. Placement of orders shall be in accordance with [subpart 8.4](#) or 16.5, as applicable.

(3) If an indefinite-delivery contract only allows for the issuance of orders on a time-and-materials or labor-hour basis, the D&F required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall be executed to support the basic contract and shall also explain why providing for an alternative firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment pricing structure is not practicable. The D&F for this contract shall be approved one level above the contracting officer. Placement of orders shall be in accordance with [subpart 16.5](#).

(d) The contract types authorized by this subpart may be used in conjunction with an award fee and performance or delivery incentives when the award fee or incentive is based solely on factors other than cost (see [16.202-1](#) and [16.203-1](#)).

(e) Use of any contract type other than those authorized by this subpart to acquire commercial items is prohibited.

12.208 Contract quality assurance.

Contracts for commercial items shall rely on contractors' existing quality assurance systems as a substitute for Government inspection and testing before tender for acceptance unless customary market practices for the commercial item being acquired include in-process inspection. Any in-process inspection by the Government shall be conducted in a manner consistent with commercial practice.

FAC 2005–83 AUGUST 3, 2015

PART 13—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

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| | | 13.500 | General. |
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- Subpart 13.1—Procedures**
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- 13.301 Governmentwide commercial purchase card.
- 13.302 Purchase orders.
- 13.302-1 General.
- 13.302-2 Unpriced purchase orders.

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13.000 Scope of part.

This part prescribes policies and procedures for the acquisition of supplies and services, including construction, research and development, and commercial items, the aggregate amount of which does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (see [2.101](#)). [subpart 13.5](#) provides special authority for acquisitions of commercial items exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold but not exceeding \$6.5 million (\$12 million for acquisitions as described in [13.500\(c\)](#)), including options. See [Part 12](#) for policies applicable to the acquisition of commercial items exceeding the micro-purchase threshold. See [36.602-5](#) for simplified procedures to be used when acquiring architect-engineer services.

13.001 Definitions.

As used in this part—

“Authorized individual” means a person who has been granted authority, in accordance with agency procedures, to acquire supplies and services in accordance with this part.

“Governmentwide commercial purchase card” means a purchase card, similar in nature to a commercial credit card, issued to authorized agency personnel to use to acquire and to pay for supplies and services.

“Imprest fund” means a cash fund of a fixed amount established by an advance of funds, without charge to an appropriation, from an agency finance or disbursing officer to a duly appointed cashier, for disbursement as needed from time to time in making payment in cash for relatively small amounts.

“Third party draft” means an agency bank draft, similar to a check, that is used to acquire and to pay for supplies and services. (See Treasury Financial Management Manual, Section 3040.70.)

13.002 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to prescribe simplified acquisition procedures in order to—

- (a) Reduce administrative costs;
- (b) Improve opportunities for small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, veteran-owned, HUBZone, and service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns to obtain a fair proportion of Government contracts;
- (c) Promote efficiency and economy in contracting; and
- (d) Avoid unnecessary burdens for agencies and contractors.

13.003 Policy.

(a) Agencies shall use simplified acquisition procedures to the maximum extent practicable for all purchases of supplies or services not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold (including purchases at or below the micro-purchase thresh-

old). This policy does not apply if an agency can meet its requirement using—

(1) Required sources of supply under [Part 8](#) (e.g., Federal Prison Industries, Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, and Federal Supply Schedule contracts);

(2) Existing indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts; or

(3) Other established contracts.

(b)(1) Acquisitions of supplies or services that have an anticipated dollar value exceeding \$3,000 (\$15,000 for acquisitions as described in [13.201\(g\)\(1\)](#)) but not exceeding \$150,000 (\$300,000 for acquisitions described in paragraph (1) of the simplified acquisition threshold definition at [2.101](#)) are reserved exclusively for small business concerns and shall be set aside (see [19.000](#), [19.203](#), and [subpart 19.5](#)).

(2) The contracting officer may make an award to a small business concern under the—

(i) 8(a) Program (see [subpart 19.8](#));

(ii) Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Program (but see [19.1305](#) and [19.1306\(a\)\(4\)](#));

(iii) Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Program (see [subpart 19.14](#)); or

(iv) Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program (see [subpart 19.15](#)).

(3) The following contracting officer’s decisions for acquisitions at or below the simplified acquisition threshold are not subject to review under [subpart 19.4](#):

(i) A decision not to make an award under the 8(a) Program.

(ii) A decision not to set aside an acquisition for HUBZone small business concerns, service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, or EDWOSB concerns and WOSB concerns eligible under the WOSB Program.

(4) Each written solicitation under a set-aside shall contain the appropriate provisions prescribed by [part 19](#). If the solicitation is oral, however, information substantially identical to that in the provision shall be given to potential quoters.

(c)(1) The contracting officer shall not use simplified acquisition procedures to acquire supplies and services if the anticipated award will exceed—

(i) The simplified acquisition threshold; or

(ii) \$6.5 million (\$12 million for acquisitions as described in [13.500\(c\)](#)), including options, for acquisitions of commercial items using [subpart 13.5](#).

(2) Do not break down requirements aggregating more than the simplified acquisition threshold (or for commercial items, the threshold in [subpart 13.5](#)) or the micro-purchase threshold into several purchases that are less than the applicable threshold merely to—

(i) Permit use of simplified acquisition procedures; or

(ii) Avoid any requirement that applies to purchases exceeding the micro-purchase threshold.

(d) An agency that has specific statutory authority to acquire personal services (see [37.104](#)) may use simplified acquisition procedures to acquire those services.

(e) Agencies shall use the Governmentwide commercial purchase card and electronic purchasing techniques to the maximum extent practicable in conducting simplified acquisitions (but see [32.1108\(b\)\(2\)](#)).

(f) Agencies shall maximize the use of electronic commerce when practicable and cost-effective (see [subpart 4.5](#)). Drawings and lengthy specifications can be provided off-line in hard copy or through other appropriate means.

(g) Authorized individuals shall make purchases in the simplified manner that is most suitable, efficient, and economical based on the circumstances of each acquisition. For acquisitions not expected to exceed—

(1) The simplified acquisition threshold for other than commercial items, use any appropriate combination of the procedures in [Parts 13, 14, 15, 35, or 36](#), including the use of [Standard Form 1442](#), Solicitation, Offer, and Award (Construction, Alteration, or Repair), for construction contracts (see [36.701\(a\)](#)); or

(2) \$6.5 million (\$12 million for acquisitions as described in [13.500\(c\)](#)), for commercial items, use any appropriate combination of the procedures in [Parts 12, 13, 14, and 15](#) (see paragraph (d) of this section).

(h) In addition to other considerations, contracting officers shall—

(1) Promote competition to the maximum extent practicable (see [13.104](#));

(2) Establish deadlines for the submission of responses to solicitations that afford suppliers a reasonable opportunity to respond (see [5.203](#));

(3) Consider all quotations or offers that are timely received. For evaluation of quotations or offers received electronically, see [13.106-2\(b\)\(3\)](#); and

(4) Use innovative approaches, to the maximum extent practicable, in awarding contracts using simplified acquisition procedures.

13.004 Legal effect of quotations.

(a) A quotation is not an offer and, consequently, cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Therefore, issuance by the Government of an order in response to a supplier's quotation does not establish a contract. The order is an offer by the Government to the supplier to buy certain supplies or services upon specified terms and conditions. A contract is established when the supplier accepts the offer.

(b) When appropriate, the contracting officer may ask the supplier to indicate acceptance of an order by notification to the Government, preferably in writing, as defined at [2.101](#). In

other circumstances, the supplier may indicate acceptance by furnishing the supplies or services ordered or by proceeding with the work to the point where substantial performance has occurred.

(c) If the Government issues an order resulting from a quotation, the Government may (by written notice to the supplier, at any time before acceptance occurs) withdraw, amend, or cancel its offer. (See [13.302-4](#) for procedures on termination or cancellation of purchase orders.)

13.005 List of laws inapplicable to contracts and subcontracts at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.

(a) The following laws are inapplicable to all contracts and subcontracts (if otherwise applicable to subcontracts) at or below the simplified acquisition threshold pursuant to [41 U.S.C. 1905](#):

(1) [41 U.S.C. 8703](#) and (Kickbacks statute). (Only the requirement for the incorporation of the contractor procedures for the prevention and detection of violations, and the contractual requirement for contractor cooperation in investigations are inapplicable.)

(2) [40 U.S.C. 3131](#) (Bonds statute). (Although the Bonds statute does not apply to contracts at or below the simplified acquisition threshold, alternative forms of payment protection for suppliers of labor and material (see [28.102](#)) are still required if the contract exceeds \$30,000 ([40 U.S.C. 3132](#))).

(3) [40 U.S.C. chapter 37 et seq.](#) (Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards-Overtime Compensation).

(4) [41 U.S.C. 8102\(a\)\(1\)](#) (Drug-Free Workplace), except for individuals.

(5) [42 U.S.C. 6962](#) (Solid Waste Disposal Act). (The requirement to provide an estimate of recovered material utilized in contract performance does not apply unless the contract value exceeds \$150,000.)

(6) [10 U.S.C. 2306\(b\)](#) and [41 U.S.C. 3901\(b\)](#) (Contract Clause Regarding Contingent Fees).

(7) [10 U.S.C. 2313](#) and [41 U.S.C. 7406](#) (Authority to Examine Books and Records of Contractors).

(8) [10 U.S.C. 2402](#) and [41 U.S.C. 4704](#) (Prohibition on Limiting Subcontractors Direct Sales to the United States).

(9) [15 U.S.C. 631](#) note (HUBZone Act of 1997), except for [15 U.S.C. 657a\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#), which is optional for the agencies subject to the requirements of the Act.

(10) [31 U.S.C. 1354\(a\)](#) (Limitation on use of appropriated funds for contracts with entities not meeting veterans' employment reporting requirements).

(b) The Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council will include any law enacted after October 13, 1994, that sets forth policies, procedures, requirements, or restrictions for the acquisition of property or services, on the list set forth in paragraph (a) of this section. The FAR Council may make

(4) There is no existing requirements contract for the same supply or service that the contracting activity is required to use.

(b) After determining a BPA would be advantageous, contracting officers shall—

(1) Establish the parameters to limit purchases to individual items or commodity groups or classes, or permit the supplier to furnish unlimited supplies or services; and

(2) Consider suppliers whose past performance has shown them to be dependable, who offer quality supplies or services at consistently lower prices, and who have provided numerous purchases at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.

(c) BPAs may be established with—

(1) More than one supplier for supplies or services of the same type to provide maximum practicable competition;

(2) A single firm from which numerous individual purchases at or below the simplified acquisition threshold will likely be made in a given period; or

(3) Federal Supply Schedule contractors, if not inconsistent with the terms of the applicable schedule contract.

(d) BPAs should be prepared without a purchase requisition and only after contacting suppliers to make the necessary arrangements for—

- (1) Securing maximum discounts;
- (2) Documenting individual purchase transactions;
- (3) Periodic billings; and
- (4) Incorporating other necessary details.

13.303-3 Preparation of BPAs.

Prepare BPAs on the forms specified in [13.307](#). Do not cite accounting and appropriation data (see [13.303-5\(e\)\(4\)](#)).

(a) The following terms and conditions are mandatory:

(1) *Description of agreement.* A statement that the supplier shall furnish supplies or services, described in general terms, if and when requested by the contracting officer (or the authorized representative of the contracting officer) during a specified period and within a stipulated aggregate amount, if any.

(2) *Extent of obligation.* A statement that the Government is obligated only to the extent of authorized purchases actually made under the BPA.

(3) *Purchase limitation.* A statement that specifies the dollar limitation for each individual purchase under the BPA (see [13.303-5\(b\)](#)).

(4) *Individuals authorized to purchase under the BPA.* A statement that a list of individuals authorized to purchase under the BPA, identified either by title of position or by name of individual, organizational component, and the dollar limitation per purchase for each position title or individual shall be furnished to the supplier by the contracting officer.

(5) *Delivery tickets.* A requirement that all shipments under the agreement, except those for newspapers, maga-

zines, or other periodicals, shall be accompanied by delivery tickets or sales slips that shall contain the following minimum information:

- (i) Name of supplier.
- (ii) BPA number.
- (iii) Date of purchase.
- (iv) Purchase number.
- (v) Itemized list of supplies or services furnished.
- (vi) Quantity, unit price, and extension of each item, less applicable discounts (unit prices and extensions need not be shown when incompatible with the use of automated systems, provided that the invoice is itemized to show this information).
- (vii) Date of delivery or shipment.

(6) *Invoices.* One of the following statements shall be included (except that the statement in paragraph (a)(6)(iii) of this subsection should not be used if the accumulation of the individual invoices by the Government materially increases the administrative costs of this purchase method):

(i) A summary invoice shall be submitted at least monthly or upon expiration of this BPA, whichever occurs first, for all deliveries made during a billing period, identifying the delivery tickets covered therein, stating their total dollar value, and supported by receipt copies of the delivery tickets.

(ii) An itemized invoice shall be submitted at least monthly or upon expiration of this BPA, whichever occurs first, for all deliveries made during a billing period and for which payment has not been received. These invoices need not be supported by copies of delivery tickets.

(iii) When billing procedures provide for an individual invoice for each delivery, these invoices shall be accumulated, provided that—

(A) A consolidated payment will be made for each specified period; and

(B) The period of any discounts will commence on the final date of the billing period or on the date of receipt of invoices for all deliveries accepted during the billing period, whichever is later.

(iv) An invoice for subscriptions or other charges for newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals shall show the starting and ending dates and shall state either that ordered subscriptions have been placed in effect or will be placed in effect upon receipt of payment.

(b) If the fast payment procedure is used, include the requirements stated in [13.403](#).

13.303-4 Clauses.

(a) The contracting officer shall insert in each BPA the clauses prescribed elsewhere in this part that are required for or applicable to the particular BPA.

(b) Unless a clause prescription specifies otherwise (e.g., see [22.305\(a\)](#), [22.605\(a\)\(5\)](#), or [22.1006](#)), if the prescrip-

tion includes a dollar threshold, the amount to be compared to that threshold is that of any particular order under the BPA.

13.303-5 Purchases under BPAs.

(a) Use a BPA only for purchases that are otherwise authorized by law or regulation.

(b) Individual purchases shall not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold. However, agency regulations may establish a higher threshold consistent with the following:

(1) The simplified acquisition threshold and the \$6.5 million limitation for individual purchases (\$12 million for purchases entered into under the authority of 12.102(f)(1)) do not apply to BPAs established in accordance with [13.303-2\(c\)\(3\)](#).

(2) The limitation for individual purchases for commercial item acquisitions conducted under [subpart 13.5](#) is \$6.5 million (\$12 million for acquisitions as described in [13.500\(c\)](#)).

(c) The existence of a BPA does not justify purchasing from only one source or avoiding small business set-asides. The requirements of 13.003(b) and [subpart 19.5](#) also apply to each order.

(d) If, for a particular purchase greater than the micro-purchase threshold, there is an insufficient number of BPAs to ensure maximum practicable competition, the contracting officer shall—

(1) Solicit quotations from other sources (see [13.105](#)) and make the purchase as appropriate; and

(2) Establish additional BPAs to facilitate future purchases if—

(i) Recurring requirements for the same or similar supplies or services seem likely;

(ii) Qualified sources are willing to accept BPAs; and

(iii) It is otherwise practical to do so.

(e) Limit documentation of purchases to essential information and forms as follows:

(1) Purchases generally should be made electronically, or orally when it is not considered economical or practical to use electronic methods.

(2) A paper purchase document may be issued if necessary to ensure that the supplier and the purchaser agree concerning the transaction.

(3) Unless a paper document is issued, record essential elements (*e.g.*, date, supplier, supplies or services, price, delivery date) on the purchase requisition, in an informal memorandum, or on a form developed locally for the purpose.

(4) Cite the pertinent purchase requisitions and the accounting and appropriation data.

(5) When delivery is made or the services are performed, the supplier’s sales document, delivery document, or invoice may (if it reflects the essential elements) be used for the purpose of recording receipt and acceptance of the supplies or services. However, if the purchase is assigned to

another activity for administration, the authorized Government representative shall document receipt and acceptance of supplies or services by signing and dating the agency specified form after verification and after notation of any exceptions.

13.303-6 Review procedures.

(a) The contracting officer placing orders under a BPA, or the designated representative of the contracting officer, shall review a sufficient random sample of the BPA files at least annually to ensure that authorized procedures are being followed.

(b) The contracting officer that entered into the BPA shall—

(1) Ensure that each BPA is reviewed at least annually and, if necessary, updated at that time; and

(2) Maintain awareness of changes in market conditions, sources of supply, and other pertinent factors that may warrant making new arrangements with different suppliers or modifying existing arrangements.

(c) If an office other than the purchasing office that established a BPA is authorized to make purchases under that BPA, the agency that has jurisdiction over the office authorized to make the purchases shall ensure that the procedures in paragraph (a) of this subsection are being followed.

13.303-7 Completion of BPAs.

An individual BPA is considered complete when the purchases under it equal its total dollar limitation, if any, or when its stated time period expires.

13.303-8 Optional clause.

The clause at [52.213-4](#), Terms and Conditions—Simplified Acquisitions (Other Than Commercial Items), may be used in BPAs established under this section.

13.304 [Reserved]

13.305 Imprest funds and third party drafts.

13.305-1 General.

Imprest funds and third party drafts may be used to acquire and to pay for supplies or services. Policies and regulations concerning the establishment of and accounting for imprest funds and third party drafts, including the responsibilities of designated cashiers and alternates, are contained in Part IV of the Treasury Financial Manual for Guidance of Departments and Agencies, Title 7 of the GAO Policy and Procedures Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, and the agency implementing regulations. Agencies also shall be guided by the Manual of Procedures and Instructions for Cashiers, issued by the Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury.

Subpart 13.5—Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items

13.500 General.

(a) This subpart authorizes the use of simplified procedures for the acquisition of supplies and services in amounts greater than the simplified acquisition threshold but not exceeding \$6.5 million (\$12 million for acquisitions as described in 13.500(c)), including options, if the contracting officer reasonably expects, based on the nature of the supplies or services sought, and on market research, that offers will include only commercial items. Contracting officers may use any simplified acquisition procedure in this part, subject to any specific dollar limitation applicable to the particular procedure. The purpose of these simplified procedures is to vest contracting officers with additional procedural discretion and flexibility, so that commercial item acquisitions in this dollar range may be solicited, offered, evaluated, and awarded in a simplified manner that maximizes efficiency and economy and minimizes burden and administrative costs for both the Government and industry ([10 U.S.C. 2304\(g\)](#) and [2305](#) and [41 U.S.C. 3305, 3306](#), and chapter 37, Awarding of Contracts.

(b) When acquiring commercial items using the procedures in this part, the requirements of [part 12](#) apply subject to the order of precedence provided at [12.102\(c\)](#). This includes use of the provisions and clauses in [subpart 12.3](#).

(c) Under [41 U.S.C. 1903](#), the simplified acquisition procedures authorized in this subpart may be used for acquisitions that do not exceed \$12 million when—

(1) The acquisition is for commercial items that, as determined by the head of the agency, are to be used in support of a contingency operation or to facilitate the defense against or recovery from nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; or

(2) The acquisition will be treated as an acquisition of commercial items in accordance with [12.102\(f\)\(1\)](#).

13.501 Special documentation requirements.

(a) *Sole source (including brand name) acquisitions.*

(1) Acquisitions conducted under simplified acquisition procedures are exempt from the requirements in [part 6](#). However, contracting officers must—

(i) Conduct sole source acquisitions, as defined in [2.101](#), (including brand name) under this subpart only if the need to do so is justified in writing and approved at the levels specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section;

(ii) Prepare sole source (including brand name) justifications using the format at [6.303-2](#), modified to reflect that

the procedures in FAR [subpart 13.5](#) were used in accordance with [41 U.S.C. 1901](#) or the authority of [41 U.S.C. 1903](#);

(iii) Make publicly available the justifications (excluding brand name) required by [6.305\(a\)](#) within 14 days after contract award or in the case of unusual and compelling urgency within 30 days after contract award, in accordance with [6.305](#) procedures at paragraphs (b), (d), (e), and (f); and

(iv) Make publicly available brand name justifications with the solicitation, in accordance with [5.102\(a\)\(6\)](#).

(2) Justifications and approvals are required under this subpart for sole-source (including brand-name) acquisitions or portions of an acquisition requiring a brand-name. If the justification is to cover only the portion of the acquisition which is brand-name, then it should so state; the approval level requirements will then only apply to that portion.

(i) For a proposed contract exceeding \$150,000, but not exceeding \$650,000, the contracting officer's certification that the justification is accurate and complete to the best of the contracting officer's knowledge and belief will serve as approval, unless a higher approval level is established in accordance with agency procedures.

(ii) For a proposed contract exceeding \$650,000, but not exceeding \$12.5 million, the advocate for competition for the procuring activity, designated pursuant to [6.501](#); or an official described in [6.304\(a\)\(3\)](#) or (a)(4) must approve the justification and approval. This authority is not delegable.

(iii) For a proposed contract exceeding \$12.5 million but not exceeding \$62.5 million or, for DoD, NASA, and the Coast Guard, not exceeding \$85.5 million, the head of the procuring activity or the official described in [6.304\(a\)\(3\)](#) or (a)(4) must approve the justification and approval. This authority is not delegable.

(iv) For a proposed contract exceeding \$62.5 million or, for DoD, NASA, and the Coast Guard, \$85.5 million, the official described in [6.304\(a\)\(4\)](#) must approve the justification and approval. This authority is not delegable except as provided in [6.304\(a\)\(4\)](#).

(b) *Contract file documentation.* The contract file must include—

(1) A brief written description of the procedures used in awarding the contract, including the fact that the procedures in FAR [subpart 13.5](#) were used;

(2) The number of offers received;

(3) An explanation, tailored to the size and complexity of the acquisition, of the basis for the contract award decision; and

(4) Any justification approved under paragraph (a) of this section.

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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 attacks.

(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 nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. (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 nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. (See [2.101](#).)

(c) *Commercial items to facilitate defense and recovery*. 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 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 nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. (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 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 http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/procurement_guides/emergency_acquisitions_guide.pdf.

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Subpart 22.10—Service Contract Labor Standards

22.1000 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes policies and procedures implementing the provisions of [41 U.S.C. chapter 67](#), Service Contract Labor Standards (formerly known as the Service Contract Act of 1965), the applicable provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended ([29 U.S.C. 201, et seq.](#)), and related Secretary of Labor regulations and instructions (29 CFR parts 4, 6, 8, and 1925).

22.1001 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

“Contractor” includes a subcontractor at any tier whose subcontract is subject to the provisions of the statute.

“Multiple year contracts” means contracts having a term of more than 1 year regardless of fiscal year funding. The term includes multi year contracts (see [17.103](#)).

“United States” means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Johnston Island, Wake Island, and the outer Continental Shelf as defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act ([43 U.S.C. 1331, et seq.](#)), but does not include any other place subject to U.S. jurisdiction or any U.S. base or possession within a foreign country (29 CFR 4.112).

“Wage and Hour Division” means the unit in the Employment Standards Administration of the Department of Labor to which is assigned functions of the Secretary of Labor under the Service Contract Labor Standards statute.

“Wage determination” means a determination of minimum wages or fringe benefits made under [41 U.S.C. 6703](#) or 6707(c) applicable to the employment in a given locality of one or more classes of service employees.

22.1002 Statutory and Executive Order requirements.

22.1002-1 General.

Service contracts over \$2,500 shall contain mandatory provisions regarding minimum wages and fringe benefits, safe and sanitary working conditions, notification to employees of the minimum allowable compensation, and equivalent Federal employee classifications and wage rates. Under [41 U.S.C. 6707\(d\)](#), service contracts may not exceed 5 years.

22.1002-2 Wage determinations based on prevailing rates.

Contractors performing on service contracts in excess of \$2,500 to which no predecessor contractor’s collective bargaining agreement applies shall pay their employees at least

the wages and fringe benefits found by the Department of Labor to prevail in the locality or, in the absence of a wage determination, the minimum wage set forth in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

22.1002-3 Wage determinations based on collective bargaining agreements.

(a) Successor contractors performing on contracts in excess of \$2,500 for substantially the same services performed in the same locality must pay wages and fringe benefits (including accrued wages and benefits and prospective increases) at least equal to those contained in any bona fide collective bargaining agreement entered into under the predecessor contract. This requirement is self-executing and is not contingent upon incorporating a wage determination or the wage and fringe benefit terms of the predecessor contractor’s collective bargaining agreement in the successor contract. This requirement will not apply if the Secretary of Labor determines—

(1) After a hearing, that the wages and fringe benefits are substantially at variance with those which prevail for services of a similar character in the locality; or

(2) That the wages and fringe benefits are not the result of arm’s length negotiations.

(b) Paragraphs in this [subpart 22.10](#) which deal with this statutory requirement and the Department of Labor’s implementing regulations are [22.1010](#), concerning notification to contractors and bargaining representatives of procurement dates; [22.1012-2](#), explaining when a collective bargaining agreement will not apply due to late receipt by the contracting officer; and [22.1013](#) and [22.1021](#), explaining when the application of a collective bargaining agreement can be challenged due to a variance with prevailing rates or lack of arm’s length bargaining.

22.1002-4 Application of the Fair Labor Standards Act minimum wage.

No contractor or subcontractor holding a service contract for any dollar amount shall pay any of its employees working on the contract less than the minimum wage specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ([29 U.S.C. 206](#)).

22.1002-5 Executive Order 13658.

Executive Order 13658 establishes minimum wages for certain workers. The wage rate is subject to annual increases by an amount determined by the Secretary of Labor. See [subpart 22.19](#). The clause at [52.222-55](#), Minimum Wages under Executive Order 13658, requires the Executive Order 13658 minimum wage rate to be paid if it is higher than other minimum wage rates, such as the [subpart 22.10](#) statutory wage determination amount.

22.1003 Applicability.**22.1003-1 General.**

This [subpart 22.10](#) applies to all Government contracts, the principal purpose of which is to furnish services in the United States through the use of service employees, except as exempted in [22.1003-3](#) and [22.1003-4](#) of this section, or any subcontract at any tier thereunder. This subpart does not apply to individual contract requirements for services in contracts not having as their principal purpose the furnishing of services. The nomenclature, type, or particular form of contract used by contracting agencies is not determinative of coverage.

22.1003-2 Geographical coverage of the Act.

The Service Contract Labor Standards statute applies to service contracts performed in the United States (see [22.1001](#)). The Service Contract Labor Standards statute does not apply to contracts performed outside the United States.

22.1003-3 Statutory exemptions.

The Service Contract Labor Standards statute does not apply to—

(a) Any contract for construction, alteration, or repair of public buildings or public works, including painting and decorating;

(b) Any work required to be done in accordance with the provisions of [41 U.S.C. chapter 65](#), Contracts for Materials, Supplies, Articles, and Equipment Exceeding \$15,000;

(c) Any contract for transporting freight or personnel by vessel, aircraft, bus, truck, express, railroad, or oil or gas pipeline where published tariff rates are in effect;

(d) Any contract for furnishing services by radio, telephone, telegraph, or cable companies subject to the Communications Act of 1934;

(e) Any contract for public utility services;

(f) Any employment contract providing for direct services to a Federal agency by an individual or individuals; or

(g) Any contract for operating postal contract stations for the U.S. Postal Service.

22.1003-4 Administrative limitations, variations, tolerances, and exemptions.

(a) The Secretary of Labor may provide reasonable limitations and may make rules and regulations allowing reasonable variations, tolerances, and exemptions to and from any or all provisions of the Service Contract Labor Standards statute other than [41 U.S.C. 6707\(f\)](#). These will be made only in special circumstances where it has been determined that the limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption is necessary and proper in the public interest or to avoid the serious impairment of Government business, and is in accord with the remedial purpose of the Service Contract Labor Standards statute to protect prevailing labor standards ([41 U.S.C. 6707\(b\)](#)). See 29 CFR 4.123 for a listing of administrative exemptions, tolerances, and variations. Requests for limitations, variances,

tolerances, and exemptions from the Service Contract Labor Standards statute shall be submitted in writing through contracting channels and the agency labor advisor to the Wage and Hour Administrator.

(b) In addition to the statutory exemptions cited in [22.1003-3](#) of this subsection, the Secretary of Labor has exempted the following types of contracts from all provisions of the Service Contract Labor Standards statute:

(1) Contracts entered into by the United States with common carriers for the carriage of mail by rail, air (except air star routes), bus, and ocean vessel, where such carriage is performed on regularly scheduled runs of the trains, airplanes, buses, and vessels over regularly established routes and accounts for an insubstantial portion of the revenue therefrom.

(2) Any contract entered into by the U.S. Postal Service with an individual owner-operator for mail service if it is not contemplated at the time the contract is made that the owner-operator will hire any service employee to perform the services under the contract except for short periods of vacation time or for unexpected contingencies or emergency situations such as illness, or accident.

(3) Contracts for the carriage of freight or personnel if such carriage is subject to rates covered by section 10721 of the Interstate Commerce Act.

(c) *Contracts for maintenance, calibration or repair of certain equipment.*— (1) *Exemption.* The Secretary of Labor has exempted from the Service Contract Labor Standards statute contracts and subcontracts in which the primary purpose is to furnish maintenance, calibration, or repair of the following types of equipment, if the conditions at paragraph (c)(2) of this subsection are met:

(i) Automated data processing equipment and office information/word processing systems.

(ii) Scientific equipment and medical apparatus or equipment if the application of micro-electronic circuitry or other technology of at least similar sophistication is an essential element (for example, Product or Service Code (PSC) 6515, “Medical and Surgical Instruments, Equipment, and Supplies;” PSC 6525, “Imaging Equipment and Supplies: Medical, Dental, Veterinary;” PSC 6630, “Chemical Analysis Instruments;” and PSC 6655, “Geophysical Instruments;” are largely composed of the types of equipment exempted in this paragraph).

(iii) Office/business machines not otherwise exempt pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this subsection, if such services are performed by the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment.

(2) *Conditions.* The exemption at paragraph (c)(1) of this subsection applies if all the following conditions are met for a contract (or a subcontract):

(i) The items of equipment to be serviced under the contract are used regularly for other than Government purposes and are sold or traded by the contractor in substantial quantities to the general public in the course of normal business operations.