FAR Alert Notice (FAN) Issuance of Proposed Rules and Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-78

This *FAR Alert Notice (FAN)* provides awareness to the acquisition workforce about upcoming regulatory changes.¹ This FAN highlights noteworthy proposed rules, and interim and final rules recently published in the released Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) that impact the acquisition workforce.²

A brief description of each rule is provided below with hyperlinks to an expanded version of the rules. Agencies are encouraged to disseminate this FAN widely across their acquisition workforce.

Rules at a Glance

<u>Proposed Rules</u> FAR Case 2014–022, Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Thresholds

FAR Case 2013-020, Information on Corporate Contractor Performance and Integrity

FAC 2005-78 (published on November 25, 2014) FAR Case 2014-001, Incorporating Section K in Contracts FAR Case 2014-011, Streamlining Claims Processing FAR Case 2014-006, Year Format FAR Case 2012-032, Higher-Level Contract Quality Requirements

Proposed Rules

FAR Case 2014-022, *Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Thresholds*, published on November 25, 2014. This proposed rule will amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to further implement the inflation adjustment of acquisition-related dollar thresholds. Section 807 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005 requires an adjustment every five years of acquisition-related thresholds for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, except for thresholds governed by the Davis-Bacon Act, the Service Contract Act, and trade agreement thresholds.

FAR Case 2013-020, *Information on Corporate Contractor Performance and Integrity*, published on December 4, 2014. This proposed rule will amend the FAR to implement a section of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2013 to include in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), to the extent practicable, identification of any immediate owner or subsidiary, and all predecessors of an offeror that held a Federal contract or grant within the last three years.

Final Rules

FAC 2005-78 (Published on November 25, 2014)

FAR Case 2014-001, *Incorporating Section K in Contracts*.

This final rule amends the FAR to standardize the incorporation by reference of representations and certifications in contracts.

FAR Case 2014-011, Streamlining Claims Processing.

This final rule amends the FAR to implement the streamlining claims processing for the Federal Contractor Employees Act which amends the United States Code (U.S.C.) to transfer certain functions from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to the Department of Labor (DOL) relating to the

¹This FAR Alert was established by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) in 2012 to help improve agency awareness of regulatory changes. GSA prepares the FAN for dissemination to the acquisition workforce via the FAI website. Questions about the individual rules should be directed to the analyst in the Federal Register Notice.

² Proposed rules announce future changes being considered to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), include proposed regulatory text, and solicit public comments. Interim rules announce immediate changes to the CFR are effective immediately upon publication, or on a specified date after publication, but may be amended based on public comment. Final rules make permanent changes to the FAR after considering public comment. Final rules are effective on a specified date after publication.

processing of claims for the payment of workers who were not paid appropriate wages under certain provisions of the U.S.C.

FAR Case 2014-006, <u>Year Format</u>.

This final rule amends the FAR to delete obsolete regulations relating to the year 2000 compliance.

FAR Case 2012-032, *Higher-Level Contract Quality Requirements*.

This final rule amends the FAR to clarify when to use higher-level quality standards in solicitations and contracts. The rule also updates the examples of higher-level quality standards by removing obsolete standards and adding new industry standards that pertain to quality assurance for avoidance of counterfeit items.