52.247–60 Guaranteed Shipping Characteristics.

* * * * *

Guaranteed Shipping Characteristics (JAN 2017)

(a) * * * *(x) * * *

Number of complete units (line item) to be shipped in carrier’s equipment.

* * * * *

■ 51. Amend section 52.248–1 in Alternate II by revising the date of the alternate and removing from paragraph (a) “contract line items” and adding “line items” in its place to read as follows:

52.248–1 Value Engineering.

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Alternate II (JAN 2017) * * *

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[FR Doc. 2016–31495 Filed 1–12–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6820–EP–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 2, 13, and 19

[FAC 2005–95; FAR Case 2016–004; Item II; Docket No. 2016–0004, Sequence No. 1]

RIN 9000–AN18

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Acquisition Threshold for Special Emergency Procurement Authority

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD, GSA, and NASA are issuing a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement a section of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to raise the simplified acquisition threshold for special emergency procurement authority.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Camara Francis, Procurement Analyst, at 202–550–9393, for clarification of content. For information pertaining to status or publication schedules, contact the Regulatory Secretariat Division at 202–501–4755. Please cite FAC 2005–95, FAR Case 2016–004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on June 20, 2016, to implement section 816 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Pub. L. 114–92). FAR 2.101, 13.003, 19.203, and 19.502–2 are being revised to increase the simplified acquisition threshold for special emergency procurement authority from $300,000 to $750,000 (within the United States) and from $1 million to $1.5 million (outside the United States). The rule would apply to acquisitions of supplies or services that, as determined by the head of the agency, are to be used to support a contingency operation or to facilitate defense against or recovery from nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. Two respondents provided comments on the proposed rule.

II. Discussion and Analysis

A. Summary of Changes

There was no change made to the rule as a result of the comments received. There were no comments on the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis.

B. Analysis of Public Comments

1. Small Business

Comment: The respondent identified that the proposed rule did not recognize that the automatic set-asides for small business would apply up to the threshold in paragraph (1)(iii) of the simplified acquisition threshold definition at FAR 2.101 in the case of an emergency acquisition in an outlying area as defined in FAR 2.101.

Response: The proposed rule did not address the issue of the outlying areas. While the comment is out of scope of this rule, the Councils will take the comment under consideration.

2. Increased Simplified Acquisition Threshold

Comment: The respondent opposes the increase in the special emergency procurement threshold, because increases to the acquisition threshold threaten to compromise the integrity of the Berry amendment, outsourcing critical portions of the domestic industrial base, and hurt American manufacturers.

Response: The Councils appreciate the comment and acknowledge the concern; however, the increase in the special emergency procurement threshold is statutory in nature.

III. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Orders (E.O.s) 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

IV. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD, GSA, and NASA have prepared a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) consistent with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, et seq. The FRFA is summarized as follows:

This final rule implements section 816 of the National Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, Public Law 114–92. Therefore, the FAR is revised to raise the simplified acquisition thresholds for special emergency procurement authority.

The objective of this final rule is to increase the simplified acquisition thresholds for special emergency procurement authority from $300,000 to $750,000 (within the United States) and $1 million to $1.5 million (outside the United States) for acquisitions of supplies or services that, as determined by the head of the agency, are to be used to support a contingency operation or to facilitate defense against or recovery from nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack.

The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (the Councils) reviewed the public comments in the development of the final rule. A discussion of the comments is provided.

A. Summary of Changes

There was no change made to the rule as a result of the comments received. There were no comments on the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis.

B. Analysis of Public Comments

1. Small Business

Comment: The respondent identified that the proposed rule did not recognize that the automatic set-asides for small business would apply up to the threshold in paragraph (1)(iii) of the simplified acquisition threshold definition at FAR 2.101 in the case of an emergency acquisition in an outlying area as defined in FAR 2.101.

Response: The proposed rule did not address the issue of the outlying areas. While the comment is out of scope of this rule, the Councils will take the comment under consideration.

2. Increased Simplified Acquisition Threshold

Comment: The respondent opposes the increase in the special emergency procurement threshold, because increases to the acquisition threshold threaten to compromise the integrity of the Berry amendment, outsourcing critical portions of the domestic industrial base, and hurt American manufacturers.

Response: The Councils appreciate the comment and acknowledge the concern; however, the increase in the special emergency procurement threshold is statutory in nature.
PART 19—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

19.203 [Amended]

4. Amend section 19.203 by removing from paragraph (b) “$300,000” and adding “$750,000” in its place.

19.502–2 [Amended]

5. Amend section 19.502–2 by removing from paragraph (a) “$300,000” and adding “$750,000” in its place.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 3, 4, and 52

[FR DOC. 2005–95; FAR Case 2015–012; Item III; Docket No. 2015–0012, Sequence No. 1]

RIN 9000–AN04

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contractor Employee Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD, GSA, and NASA are issuing a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement a section of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, that prohibits the use of funds, appropriated or otherwise made available, for a contract with an entity that requires employees or subcontractors to sign an internal confidentiality agreement that restricts such employees or subcontractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated Government representative authorized to receive such information.


Applicability: This rule applies to all solicitations and contracts, using fiscal year 2015 or subsequent fiscal year funds that do not already contain a comparable provision/clause.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the Federal Register at 81 FR 3763 on January 22, 2016, to implement section 743 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113–235) and its successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts (and as extended in continuing resolutions) (i.e., section 743 of Division E of Pub. L. 114–113). Section 743 prohibits the use of funds appropriated or otherwise made available by Division E or any other Act for a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with an entity that requires employees or subcontractors of such entity seeking to report waste, fraud, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or subcontractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

Four respondents submitted comments on the interim rule.

II. Discussion and Analysis

The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (the Councils) reviewed the public comments in the development of the final rule. A discussion of the comments and the changes made to the rule as a result of those comments are provided as follows:

A. Summary of Significant Changes From the Proposed Rule

The following significant changes are included in the final rule:

- Adds definitions of “internal confidentiality agreement or statement,” “subcontract,” and “subcontractor” (FAR 3.901, 52.203–18(a), and 52.203–19(a)).
- Clarifies that the representation applies to future internal confidentiality agreements or statements that restrict reporting of waste, fraud, or abuse related to the performance of a Government contract, and specifically cites the agency Office of the Inspector General as a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information (FAR 3.909–2, 52.203–18(d), 52.203–19(b), and 52.212–38(s)(3)).