

and not subject to the interest penalty provisions of the Prompt Payment Act. The designated payment office will pay approved payment requests within 30 days of submittal of a proper request for payment.

(h) *Conflict between terms of offeror and clause.* In the event of any conflict between the terms proposed by the offeror in response to an invitation to propose financing terms (52.232-31) and the terms in this clause, the terms of this clause shall govern.

(End of clause)

17. Amend section 52.232-32 by revising the date of the clause and paragraph (c)(2) to read as follows:

52.232-32 Performance-based payments.

* * * * *

Performance-Based Payments (Feb 2002)

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) A payment under this performance-based payment clause is a contract financing payment under the Prompt Payment clause of this contract and not subject to the interest penalty provisions of the Prompt Payment Act. The designated payment office will pay approved requests on the _____

[Contracting Officer insert day as prescribed by agency head; if not prescribed, insert "30th"] day after receipt of the request for performance-based payment. However, the designated payment office is not required to provide payment if the Contracting Officer requires substantiation as provided in paragraph (c)(1) of this clause, or inquires into the status of an event or performance criterion, or into any of the conditions listed in paragraph (e) of this clause, or into the Contractor certification. The payment period will not begin until the Contracting Officer approves the request.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 01-30540 Filed 12-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-EP-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

48 CFR Parts 8, 44, and 52

[FAC 2001-02; FAR Case 1999-017; Item IV]

RIN 9000-A182

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act Subcontract Preference Under Service Contracts

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) have agreed on a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation to implement changes in 41 CFR 51-5.2(e) relating to preferences for award of subcontracts under service contracts to nonprofit workshops designated by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD) (41 U.S.C. 48)).

DATES: Effective Date: February 19, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC, 20405, at (202) 501-4755 for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Linda Nelson, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-1900. Please cite FAC 2001-02, FAR case 1999-017.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 65 FR 41266 on July 3, 2000. This final rule amends FAR Part 8 to extend the priority for award of service contracts that will satisfy agency requirements that are available from the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled to subcontracts when contractors purchase the services for Government use. The rule also amends FAR Part 44 to add purchase from nonprofit workshops designated by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled to the list of items a contracting officer must consider when reviewing a subcontract that is subject to the procedures at FAR Subpart 44.2, Consent to Subcontracts. The rule also amends the clause at FAR 52.208-9, Contractor Use of Mandatory Sources of Supply, to inform offerors and contractors that certain services to be provided for use by the Government are required by law to be obtained from the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. We received comments from three respondents in response to publication of the proposed rule. All comments were considered in the development of the final rule.

This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, applies to this final rule. The Councils prepared a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA), and it is summarized as follows:

The rule implements 41 CFR 51-5.2(e) relating to preferences for award of subcontracts under service contracts to nonprofit workshops designated by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD) (41 U.S.C. 48)). The rule will apply to all large and small entities that seek award of a subcontract under Government services contract. Although awards of subcontracts to certain small entities may decrease as a result of the rule, the decrease will be offset by an increase in awards to nonprofit workshops. Nonprofit workshops meet the size standards for most acquisitions. Therefore, we do not expect the total number of subcontract awards to small entities to change as a result of this rule.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the FRFA from the FAR Secretariat. The FAR Secretariat has submitted a copy of the FRFA to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the changes to the FAR do not impose information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget approval under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 8, 44, and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: December 5, 2001.

Al Matera,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR parts 8, 44, and 52 as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 8, 44, and 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

PART 8—REQUIRED SOURCES OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

2. Amend section 8.001 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

8.001 Priorities for use of Government supply sources.

* * * * *

(c) The statutory obligation for Government agencies to satisfy their requirements for supplies or services available from the Committee for

Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled also applies when contractors purchase the supplies or services for Government use.

3. Revise section 8.003 to read as follows:

8.003 Contract clause.

Insert the clause at 52.208-9, Contractor Use of Mandatory Sources of Supply and Services, in solicitations and contracts that require a contractor to provide supplies or services for Government use that are available from the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The contracting officer must identify in the contract schedule the supplies or services that must be purchased from a mandatory source and the specific source.

PART 44—SUBCONTRACTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

4. Amend section 44.202-2 by removing from the introductory text of paragraph (a) “shall” and adding “must” in its place; and by revising paragraph (a)(4) to read as follows:

44.202-2 Considerations.

- (a) * * *
- (4) Has the contractor complied with the prime contract requirements regarding—
 - (i) Small business subcontracting, including, if applicable, its plan for subcontracting with small, veteran-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, HUBZone, small disadvantaged and women-owned small business concerns (see part 19); and
 - (ii) Purchase from nonprofit agencies designated by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Javits-Wagner-O’Day Act (JWOD) (41 U.S.C. 48))(see part 8)?

* * * * *

PART 52—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

5. In section 52.208-9, revise the section and clause headings, paragraphs (a) and (b), and the second sentence in paragraph (c) to read as follows:

52.208-9 Contractor Use of Mandatory Sources of Supply or Services.

* * * * *

Contractor Use of Mandatory Sources of Supply or Services (Feb 2002)

(a) Certain supplies or services to be provided under this contract for use by the Government are required by law to be obtained from the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the Committee) under the Javits-

Wagner-O’Day Act (JWOD) (41 U.S.C. 48). Additionally, certain of these supplies are available from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the General Services Administration (GSA), or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Contractor shall obtain mandatory supplies or services to be provided for Government use under this contract from the specific sources indicated in the contract schedule.

(b) The Contractor shall immediately notify the Contracting Officer if a mandatory source is unable to provide the supplies or services by the time required, or if the quality of supplies or services provided by the mandatory source is unsatisfactory. The Contractor shall not purchase the supplies or services from other sources until the Contracting Officer has notified the Contractor that the Committee or a JWOD central nonprofit agency has authorized purchase from other sources.

(c) * * * For mandatory supplies or services that are not available from DLA/GSA/VA, price and delivery information is available from the appropriate central nonprofit agency. * * *

* * * * *

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 01-30541 Filed 12-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-EP-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 15

[FAC 2001-02; FAR Case 1999-022; Item V]

RIN 9000-AI68

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Discussion Requirements

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) have agreed to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to clarify the scope of discussions in competitive negotiated acquisitions.

DATES: *Effective Date:* February 19, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC, 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Mr.

Ralph DeStefano, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-1758. Please cite FAC 2001-02, FAR case 1999-022.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This final rule amends FAR 15.306(d) to clarify that the contracting officer is not required to discuss every area where the proposal could be improved. The rule explains that discussions of offerors’ proposals beyond deficiencies and significant weaknesses are a matter of contracting officer judgment. GAO has already interpreted the previous FAR language consistently with this clarification in MRC Federal, Inc. (B-280969, December 14, 1998), and Du & Associates (B-280283.3, December 22, 1998). The rule encourages the contracting officer to discuss other aspects of an offerors’ proposal that have the potential, if changed, to materially increase the value of the proposal to the Government (B-280283.3). However, the rule makes clear that whether these discussions would be worthwhile is within the contracting officer’s discretion.

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 65 FR 17582, April 3, 2000. Five respondents submitted comments on the proposed rule. The Councils considered all comments in the development of the final rule.

This is not a significant regulatory action, and therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule only clarifies existing policy that the scope and extent of discussions beyond the stated minimums are a matter of contracting officer judgment. We did not receive any comments regarding this determination as a result of publication of the proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 65 FR 17582, April 3, 2000.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the changes to the FAR do not impose information collection requirements that require the