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(c) If the surety offers to complete the contract work, this should normally be permitted unless the contracting officer has reason to believe that the persons or firms proposed by the surety to complete the work are not competent and qualified and the interests of the Government would be substantially prejudiced.

(d) Because of the possibility of conflicting demands for unpaid prior earnings (retained percentages and unpaid progress estimates) of the defaulting contractor, the surety may condition its offer of completion upon the execution by the Government of a *takeover* agreement fixing the surety's rights to payment from those funds. In that event, the contracting officer may (but not before the effective date of termination) enter into a written agreement with the surety. The contracting officer should consider including in the agreement both the surety and the defaulting contractor in order to eliminate any disagreement concerning the contractor's residual rights, including assertions to unpaid prior earnings.

(e) The agreement shall provide for the surety to complete the work according to all the terms and conditions of the contract and for the Government to pay the surety the balance of the contract price unpaid at the time of default, but not in excess of the surety's costs and expenses, in the manner provided by the contract subject to the following conditions:

(1) Any unpaid earnings of the defaulting contractor, including retained percentages and progress estimates for work accomplished before termination, shall be subject to debts due the Government by the contractor, except to the extent that such unpaid earnings may be required to permit payment to the completing surety of its actual costs and expenses incurred in the completion of the work, exclusive of its payments and obligations under the payment bond given in connection with the contract.

(2) The agreement shall not waive or release the Government's right to liquidated damages for delays in completion of the work, except to the extent that they are excusable under the contract.

(3) If the contract proceeds have been assigned to a financing institution, the surety may not be paid from unpaid earnings, unless the assignee consents to the payment in writing.

(4) The surety shall not be paid any amount in excess of its total expenditures necessarily made in completing the work and discharging its liabilities under the payment bond of the defaulting contractor. Furthermore, payments to the surety to reimburse it for discharging its liabilities under the payment bond of the defaulting contractor shall be only on authority of—

(i) Mutual agreement between the Government, the defaulting contractor, and the surety;

(ii) Determination of the Comptroller General as to payee and amount; or

(iii) Order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

49.405 Completion by another contractor.

If the surety does not arrange for completion of the contract, the contracting officer normally will arrange for completion of the work by awarding a new contract based on the same plans and specifications. The new contract may be the result of sealed bidding or any other appropriate contracting method or procedure. The contracting officer shall exercise reasonable diligence to obtain the lowest price available for completion.

[48 FR 42447, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 50 FR 1746, Jan. 11, 1985; 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985]

49.406 Liquidation of liability.

The contract provides that the contractor and the surety are liable to the Government for resultant damages. The contracting officer shall use all retained percentages of progress payments previously made to the contractor and any progress payments due for work completed before the termination to liquidate the contractor's and the surety's liability to the Government. If the retained and unpaid amounts are insufficient, the contracting officer shall take steps to recover the additional sum from the contractor and the surety.