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such improvements by sale or abandonment.

(iv) Waiver by the lessor of any and all claims for restoration of the leased premises.

(v) Use of the property for ''Government purposes'' rather than for a specific military purpose.

(5) Property required for facilities for the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces, provided such property can be acquired by lease containing provisions detailed in paragraph (f)(4) of this section. Whenever possible, the insertion in a lease of a provision restricting the use of land to a specific purpose will be avoided; use a term such as ''Government purposes''.

(6) Property required for air defense sites, provided such property can be acquired by lease containing provisions in paragraphs (f)(4)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section and the right of continuous use by the Government under a firm term or right of renewal for as long as required for defense purposes.

(7) Assistant Secretary of Defense (MRA&L) approval is required when leases for air bases, Reserve Components facilities, or air defense sites can be obtained containing some but not all of the above listed provisions. Such approval is also required for leases for all other types of installations upon which permanent construction is to be placed by the Government when leases can be obtained containing similar provisions. In all cases, it must be in the best interest of the Government to acquire a lesser interest than fee title.

(8) Construction projects estimated to cost less than $25,000 will not be considered a permanent construction for purposes of the above policy.

(g) *GSA Reimbursement.* Reimbursement to GSA for Standard Level User Charges (SLUC) and other costs incident to leasing will be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Federal Property Management Regulation.

(h) *Nominal Rent Leases.* (1) Where premises are occupied by the Government at a nominal rent or rent-free basis, any alterations, improvements, and repairs necessary for occupancy may be considered as a cost of occupancy, i.e., in lieu of rent, for each year of the rental term. However, the total cost of such alterations, improvements, and repairs, plus the nominal rental, during any year of the rental term may not exceed 15 percent of the fair market value at the date of the lease, unless the total cost plus nominal rental does not exceed $2,000 per annum.

(2) When rental plus amounts to be spent by the Government for alterations, improvements, and repairs total more than $2,000 and more than 15 percent of the fair market value of the premises at the date of the lease, a Certificate of Necessity is required.

(3) A Certificate of Necessity is not required for the cost of installing equipment, apparatus, appliances, machinery, fixtures, movable partitions, etc., which are not intended to become an integral part of the building and which may be removed without injuring or defacing the item or the building. Such property is considered to be the property of the Government. The lease or a supplement thereto should provide for the installation and removal of such equipment, etc.

(4) Under the limitations in 40 U.S.C. 278a, not more than 25 percent of the net rental for the original lease period, if less than one year, may be expended before a lease is actually renewed. If the whole period, including renewals, is less than a year, not more than 25 percent of the rent for such whole period may be expended for alterations, repairs, and improvements (20 Comp. Gen. 30; 29 Comp. Gen. 299). Where a lease, entered into by the Government for an original term of less than a year, is renewed for the following fiscal year, the net rental for the first year of the rental term, as distinguished from the original term, is for consideration in the computation of the amount that may be paid under the 25 percent limitation, after the lease is actually renewed.

(i) *Items Not Within the Purview of the Economy Act.* (1) The limitations in 40 U.S.C. 278a are not applicable to leases of unimproved land (38 Comp. Gen. 143).

(2) Where fixtures, alterations, and improvements are of such characters to be of a temporary nature, and are not permanently attached to the realty so as to prevent removal thereof without destroying their usefulness or damaging them or the realty, they do not

constitute alterations or improvements of the leased premises within the meaning of 40 U.S.C. 278a and therefore do not fall within the 25 percent limitation of that Act. Title to such temporary fixtures, alterations, and improvements remains in the Government (18 Comp. Gen. 144; 20 Comp. Gen. 105).

(3) Upon termination of leases, restoration of leased premises to the original condition is not considered an alteration within the purview of 40 U.S.C. 278a.

(4) When the Government is required by the terms of the lease to maintain the leased premises, such maintenance, together with the cost of such improvements and alterations as may be made by the Government, may not exceed the 25 percent restriction of the Act.

(5) Leaseholds acquired through condemnation proceedings are excluded from the purview of the Act of 30 June 1932, as amended (40 U.S.C. 278a).

(j) *Architectural Barriers Act.* The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90–480), 82 Stat. 718, 142 U.S.C. 4151, *et seq.*, as amended, requires that when Federal funding is used in the design, construction, or alteration of certain buildings or facilities, the buildings or facilities must be designed, constructed or altered to insure that physically handicapped persons will have ready access to, and use of, such buildings. In the Corps' leasing program, when Federal funds are used to make improvements to leased premises, it is necessary that the plans and specifications for the construction or alteration work be approved in accordance with guidelines published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as implemented by DOD Construction Criteria Manual 4270.1–M, Section 5–1.6.

§ 644.142 Lease forms and instructions.

ENG Form 856 will be used for Corps of Engineers leases in the United States and possessions, and overseas, for the leasing of unimproved land. ENG Form 527 is recommended for leases of improved property in overseas areas. Standard Forms 2, 2A, or 2B (short form) will be used for all Corps of Engineers leases of improved property in the United States and possessions. Standard Form 2B is limited to rentals not exceeding $3,600 per annum. The General Provisions are on the reverse side of the short form lease.

(a) *Mandatory Clauses.* The following clauses must be included in all Corps of Engineers leases:

(1) Officials Not to Benefit clause (para 15 of ENG Form 527) is required by 18 U.S.C. 431.

(2) Gratuities clause (para 16a of ENG Form 527) is required by 5 U.S.C. 174d.

(3) Covenant against Contingent Fees (para 14, ENG Form 527) is required by 10 U.S.C. 2306(b).

(4) An Examination of Records clause (para 17, ENG Form 527) is required by 10 U.S.C. 2313(b). Exceptions to the use of this clause in 10 U.S.C. 2313(c) are permitted when the contractor is a foreign Government or agency thereof, or when the laws of the country involved preclude it. Also, if the Head of the Agency determines, with the concurrence of the Comptroller General, that the use of the clause would not be in the public interest, it may be omitted in leases covering land in foreign countries.

(5) The Nondiscrimination clause (Executive Order 11063, dated 20 November 1962) is required in all leases in the United States. It is desirable, but is not considered mandatory in overseas leases.

(b) *Hold Harmless Clauses.* ''Hold harmless'' clause will not normally be added to the lease forms. Where lessors insist upon such a clause, however, the following is suggested for use: ''The Lessors (licensors) shall not be responsible or liable for injuries to persons or damage to property when such injuries or damage are caused by or result from the Government's use of the premises under the terms of this agreement and are not due to the negligence of the Lessors.''

(c) *Escalator Clauses.* In those cases where a lessor expresses an unwillingness to enter into a lease, extending for a number of years, with a rental consideration that includes a fixed amount for utilities, the following clause may be inserted in the standard lease:

After the first term of the lease, the Lessor or the Government may, by giving notice at lease 90 days prior to the anniversary date of the lease, request an adjustment in rental payments based on an increase or decrease in