

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL

PART 301—HHS ACQUISITION REGULATION SYSTEM

Subpart 301.1—Purpose, Authority, Issuance

Sec.

- 301.101 Purpose.
- 301.102 Authority.
- 301.103 Applicability.
- 301.104 Issuance.
- 301.104-1 Publication and code arrangement.
- 301.104-2 Arrangement of regulations.
- 301.104-3 Copies.
- 301.105 OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Subpart 301.2—Administration

- 301.201 Maintenance of the HHSAR.
- 301.270 Executive Committee for Acquisition.
- 301.271 Timing of HHSAR revisions.

Subpart 301.3—Agency Acquisition Regulations

- 301.301 Policy.
- 301.302 Limitations.
- 301.303 Publication and codification.
- 301.304 Agency control and compliance procedures.

Subpart 301.4—Deviations From the FAR

- 301.403 Individual deviations.
- 301.404 Class deviations.
- 301.470 Procedure.

Subpart 301.5—Agency and Public Participation

- 301.501 Solicitation of agency and public views.
- 301.501-2 Opportunity for public comments.
- 301.501-3 Exceptions.
- 301.503 Public meetings.

Subpart 301.6—Contracting Authority and Responsibility

- 301.602-3 Ratification of unauthorized commitments.
- 301.603 Selection, appointment, and termination of appointment.
- 301.603-1 General.
- 301.603-2 Selection.
- 301.603-3 Appointment.
- 301.603-4 Termination.
- 301.603-70 Delegation of contracting officer responsibilities.
- 301.670 Head of the contracting activity.
- 301.670-1 Responsibility.

- 301.670-2 Designation.
- 301.670-3 Redelegation.

Subpart 301.7—Determinations and Findings

- 301.703 Class determinations and findings.
- 301.704 Content.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

SOURCE: 49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 301.1—Purpose, Authority, Issuance

301.101 Purpose.

(a) The Department of Health and Human Services Acquisition Regulation (HHSAR) is issued to establish uniform acquisition policies and procedures for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which conform to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) System.

(b) The HHSAR implements and supplements the FAR. (Implementing material expands upon or indicates the manner of compliance with related FAR material. Supplementing material is new material which has no counterpart in the FAR.)

(c) The HHSAR contains all formal departmental policies and procedures that govern the acquisition process or otherwise control contracting relationships between the Department's contracting offices and contractors.

301.102 Authority.

The HHSAR is prescribed by the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 301 and section 205(c) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 486(c)), as delegated by the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget has redelegated the authority to establish all departmental acquisition policy and publish all acquisition regulations to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and

301.103

Acquisition. This authority is not re-delegable.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

301.103 Applicability.

The FAR and HHSAR apply to all HHS acquisitions as stated in FAR 1.103. Unless specified otherwise, these regulations apply to acquisitions within and outside the United States.

301.104 Issuance.

301.104-1 Publication and code arrangement.

(a) The HHSAR is also published in the same forms as indicated in FAR 1.104-1(a).

(b) The HHSAR is issued in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as Chapter 3 of Title 48, Department of Health and Human Services Acquisition Regulation. It may be referenced as "48 CFR Chapter 3."

301.104-2 Arrangement of regulations.

(a) *General.* The HHSAR conforms to the FAR with respect to divisional arrangements; i.e., subchapters, parts, subparts, sections, subsections, and paragraphs.

(b) *Numbering.* The FAR System of numbering permits the keying of the same or similar subject matter throughout Chapters 1 (FAR) and 3 (HHSAR). However, unlike the FAR numbering scheme, our scheme varies somewhat in the numbering to the left of the decimal point. Whereas the FAR only identifies the part number to the left of the decimal point, our corresponding reference identifies the chapter as well. For example, this corresponding paragraph in the FAR is numbered 1.104-2(b) where "1" is the part number (may be one or two digits and is followed by a decimal point), "1" (to the right of the decimal point) is the subpart number, "04" (always two digits) is the section number, "2" is the subsection number (always hyphenated), and "(b)" is the paragraph reference. The corresponding HHSAR reference is 301.104-2(b) where the "3" or first digit is the chapter number assigned to the particular department or agency (may be two digits) and the "01" represents the part number (part

numbers will always be two digits for agencies implementing the FAR). The remaining numbers are identical to and represent the same divisions as the FAR example.

(c) *References and citations.* (1) Unless otherwise stated, references, indicate parts, subparts, sections, subsections, etc. of this regulation, the HHSAR.

(2) This regulation shall be referred to as the Department of Health and Human Services Acquisition Regulation (HHSAR). Any reference may be cited as "HHSAR" followed by the appropriate number. Within the HHSAR, the number alone will be used.

(3) Citations of authority shall be incorporated where necessary. All FAR reference numbers shall be preceded by "FAR".

301.104-3 Copies.

Copies of the HHSAR in FEDERAL REGISTER and CFR form may be purchased by the public from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. Lose-leaf copies of the HHSAR may be obtained by departmental personnel having a need for the document by placing an order with a Directives Distribution Coordinator in accordance with General Administration Manual Chapter 1-00, HHS Staff Manual System.

301.105 OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The following OMB control numbers apply to the information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in this regulation:

HHSAR segment	OMB control no.
315.4	0990-0139
324.70	0990-0136
332.406	0990-0134
342.7103	0990-0131
352.215-71	0990-0139
352.216-70	0990-0138
352.224-70	0990-0136
352.228-70	0990-0135
352.232-71	0990-0134
352.232-73	0990-0134
352.233-70	0990-0133
352.270-1	0990-0129
352.270-2	0990-0129
352.270-3	0990-0129
352.270-5	0990-0130
370.1	0990-0129
370.2	0990-0129

The OMB control number "OMB No. 0990-0115" is to be included in the upper right corner of the first page of all solicitations, purchase orders, and contracts issued by departmental contracting activities. The number represents approval of the HHS acquisition process and covers recordkeeping and reporting requirements which are unique to individual acquisitions (e.g., requirements contained in specifications, statements of work, etc.).

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 51 FR 44293, Dec. 9, 1986; 53 FR 15562, May 2, 1988]

Subpart 301.2—Administration

301.201 Maintenance of the HHSAR.

(a) The HHSAR is prepared and issued under the authority of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition. Acquisition policies and procedures which are necessary to implement, supplement, or deviate from the FAR will be issued in the HHSAR by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition when necessary to accomplish Department-wide acquisition objectives.

(b) The HHSAR is maintained by the Office of Acquisition and Grants Management. The Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management is responsible for developing and preparing for issuance all acquisition regulatory material to be included in the HHSAR.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

301.270 Executive Committee for Acquisition.

(a) The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition has established the Executive Committee for Acquisition (ECA) to assist and facilitate the planning and development of departmental acquisition policies and procedures and to assist in responding to other agencies and organizations concerning policies and procedures impacting the Federal acquisition process.

(b) The ECA consists of members and alternates from the Office of Acquisition and Grants Management, Division

of Contract Operations-OS, Office of Human Development Services, Health Care Financing Administration, Social Security Administration, Public Health Service, and, collectively, the regional offices. The ECA is chaired by the Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management. All meetings will be held at the call of the Chairman, and all activities will be carried out under the direction of the Chairman.

(c) The ECA, to facilitate the planning, development, and coordination of government-wide and department-wide acquisition policies and procedures, is to:

(1) Advise and assist the Chairman concerning major acquisition policy matters;

(2) Review and appraise, at appropriate intervals, the overall effectiveness of existing policies and procedures; and

(3) Review and appraise the impact of new major acquisition policies, procedures, regulations, and developments on current acquisition policies and procedures.

(d) The Chairman will periodically issue a list of current members and alternates specifying the name, title, organization, address, and telephone number of each. The member organizations are responsible for apprising the Chairman whenever a new member or alternate is to be appointed to the ECA.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

301.271 Timing of HHSAR revisions.

HHSAR revisions will be issued throughout the year as the need arises. HHSAR material shall become effective on the date cited in the FEDERAL REGISTER issuance or on the date of the transmittal notice which distributes it to HHSAR Staff Manual holders, unless otherwise indicated.

Subpart 301.3—Agency Acquisition Regulations

301.301 Policy.

(a)(1) The FAR and HHSAR are intended to provide all necessary regulatory guidance for the conduct of the

301.302

acquisition process within the Department. However, there may be some rare instances where regulations are necessary to implement and/or supplement the FAR and/or HHSAR at the Operating Division (OPDIV) level or lower. The Department discourages the proliferation of OPDIV and lower level issuances, but will allow lower level issuances when deemed pertinent.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985]

301.302 Limitations.

The same limitations applicable to the FAR also apply to the HHSAR.

301.303 Publication and codification.

(a) The HHSAR shall be codified in Chapter 3 of Title 48, Code of Federal Regulations. Any OPDIV or lower implementation or supplementation of the HHSAR or FAR shall also be codified as part of Chapter 3. Implementing material is that which expands upon or indicates the manner of compliance with related higher level material. Supplementing material is that for which there is no counterpart. Where material in the FAR requires no implementation, there will be no corresponding number in the HHSAR. Thus, there are gaps in the HHSAR sequence of numbers where the FAR, as written, is deemed adequate. Supplementary material shall be numbered as specified in FAR 1.303.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985]

301.304 Agency control and compliance procedures.

(a) Whenever an OPDIV or lower level organization determines a need for an acquisition regulation not covered by the FAR or HHSAR or wishes to implement or supplement the coverage in either, the organization shall prepare a memorandum that explains the need, background, justification, and significant aspects of the proposed regulation and send it, together with an outline, to the Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management. The Director will analyze the request to determine if it has applicability to the HHSAR or FAR; if not, the Direc-

48 CFR Ch. 3 (10-1-99 Edition)

tor will either approve or disapprove the request for incorporation into the organization's acquisition regulation. If the request is approved, the organization must prepare the proposed regulation in FEDERAL REGISTER format, obtain all necessary concurrences, including Office of General Counsel—Business and Administrative Law Division, and send it to the Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management for review and approval. The regulation must be prepared for signature by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition. All regulations will be required to be processed through the public rulemaking process in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) Only the organizations listed in paragraph (d) are authorized to establish acquisition regulations. As of the date of issuance of the HHSAR, no acquisition regulations below the HHSAR level exist, and the procedures detailed in paragraph (a) must be followed to initiate the establishment of an OPDIV or lower level regulation.

(c) Under no circumstances shall any organization's implementation or supplementation of the FAR or HHSAR conflict with, supersede, or repeat, paraphrase, or otherwise restate policies or procedures prescribed by these regulatory issuances. OPDIV or lower level material shall follow the numbering system, format, and arrangement of the FAR and HHSAR and will be applicable only within the organization issuing it. One copy of all OPDIV or lower level material issued in loose-leaf format shall be furnished the Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management at the times of issuance.

(d) Material issued by OPDIV or lower level organizations to implement and supplement the HHSAR and FAR shall be identified by prefixes to the digit 3 (indicating Chapter 3-HHSAR) as follows, and shall use the same numbering system as the HHSAR:

Organization	Prefix
Office of the Secretary	OS
Health Care Financing Administration	HCFA
Office of Human Development Services	OHDS
Public Health Service	PHS
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration	ADAMHA
Centers for Disease Control	CDC
Food and Drug Administration	FDA

Organization	Prefix
Health Resources and Services Administration.	HRSA
Indian Health Service	IHS
National Institutes of Health	NIH
Social Security Administration	SSA

Each OPDIV or lower level acquisition regulation will be included in its entirety as a separate appendix to 48 CFR Chapter 3. The Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management will assign the appendix designation upon approval of the initial request to establish the OPDIV or lower level acquisition regulation.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 49 FR 36110, Sept. 14, 1984; 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 53 FR 43206, Oct. 26, 1988, 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

Subpart 301.4—Deviations From the FAR

301.403 Individual deviations.

Requests for individual deviations to either the FAR or HHSAR shall be prepared in accordance with 301.470 and forwarded through administrative channels to the Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants Management for review and approval.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

301.404 Class deviations.

Requests for class deviations to either the FAR or HHSAR shall be prepared in accordance with 301.470 and forwarded through administrative channels to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition for review and approval.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

301.470 Procedure.

(a) When a contracting activity or contracting office determines that a deviation is needed, it shall prepare a deviation request in memorandum form and forward it through administrative channels to the official designated as stated in 301.403 or 301.404. In an exigency situation, the contracting activity or contracting office may re-

quest a deviation verbally, but is required to confirm the request in writing as soon as possible.

(b) A deviation request shall clearly and precisely set forth the:

- (1) Nature of the needed deviation;
- (2) Identification of the FAR or HHSAR from which the deviation is needed;
- (3) Circumstances under which the deviation would be used;
- (4) Intended effect of the deviation;
- (5) Time-frame; and
- (6) Reasons which will contribute to complete understanding and support of the requested deviation. A copy of pertinent background papers such as a form or contractor's request should accompany the deviation request.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985; 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

Subpart 301.5—Agency and Public Participation

301.501 Solicitation of agency and public views.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985]

301.501-2 Opportunity for public comments.

(b) Public opportunity for comment on proposed changes or additions to the HHSAR or lower level acquisition regulations will be offered whenever the proposed regulation will have an impact on the public and/or contractors. This will be accomplished by publishing a notice of proposed rule-making in the FEDERAL REGISTER which will include the proposed language and the background and rationale for the proposed regulation. Comments will not be solicited directly from professional or industry associations or other interested parties; they will be expected to respond based upon the FEDERAL REGISTER notification. Normally, the public will be given 45 days to comment. Proposed changes or additions to the HHSAR or FAR shall be staffed to the Executive Committee

for Acquisition in accordance with 301.270.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985]

301.501-3 Exceptions.

(e) Comments will not be solicited from the public when the change or addition to the HHSAR or lower level acquisition regulation is deemed procedural in nature and concerns internal administrative directions aimed at departmental personnel (see FAR 1.301(b)).

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984, as amended at 49 FR 36110, Sept. 14, 1984. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 23126, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985]

301.503 Public meetings.

Public meetings will not normally be used to solicit comments or views on HHSAR or lower level acquisition regulations. However, when the topic is so controversial that the Department or OPDIV believes a public meeting would be beneficial, public meetings will be convened.

[49 FR 13961, Apr. 9, 1984. Redesignated at 50 FR 23127, May 31, 1985; 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985]

Subpart 301.6—Contracting Authority and Responsibility

SOURCE: 53 FR 15562, May 2, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

301.602-3 Ratification of unauthorized commitments.

(b) *Policy.* (1) The Government is not bound by agreements or contractual commitments made to prospective contractors by persons to whom contracting authority has not been delegated. However, execution of otherwise proper contracts made by individuals without contracting authority, or by contracting officers in excess of the limits of their delegated authority, may be later ratified. The ratification must be in the form of a written document clearly stating that ratification of a previously unauthorized act is intended and must be signed by the head of the contracting activity (HCA).

(2) The HCA or his/her designee is the official authorized to ratify an unauthorized commitment (but see (b)(3), below).

(3) Ratification authority may be re-delegated by the HCA, but not below the level of the principal official responsible for acquisition (PORA).

(c) *Limitations.* (5) The concurrence of legal counsel concerning the payment issue is optional.

(7) The ratification shall be in written document form containing verification of each limitation stated in FAR 1.602-3(c)(1)-(6), and shall be processed in accordance with 301.602-3(e) *Procedures.*

(e) *Procedures.* (1) The individual who made the unauthorized contractual commitment shall furnish the reviewing contracting officer all records and documents concerning the commitment and a complete written statement of facts, including, but not limited to: a statement as to why the contracting office was not used, a statement as to why the proposed contractor was selected, a list of other sources considered, a description of work to be performed or products to be furnished, the estimated or agreed contract price, a citation of the appropriation available, and a statement of whether the contractor has commenced performance.

(2) The contracting officer will review the submitted material, and prepare the ratification document if he/she determines that the commitment may be ratifiable. The contracting officer shall forward the ratification document and the submitted material to the HCA or designee with any comments or information which should be considered in evaluation of the request for ratification. If legal review is desirable, the HCA or designee will coordinate the request for ratification with the Office of General Counsel, Business and Administrative Law Division.

(3) If ratification is authorized by the HCA or designee, the file will be returned, along with the ratification document, to the contracting officer for issuance of a purchase order or contract, as appropriate.

(4) HCA's or their designees will report the number and dollar value of requests for ratifications received and

ratiications authorized each calendar quarter. Reports shall be submitted in an original and one copy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition to arrive no later than 30 calendar days after the close of each calendar quarter.

[53 FR 43206, Oct. 26, 1988]

301.603 Selection, appointment, and termination of appointment.

301.603-1 General.

(a) The appointment and termination of appointment of contracting officers shall be made by the principal official responsible for acquisition (PORA). This authority is not delegable. The head of the contracting activity shall ensure that only the PORA is redelegated, and exercises, this authority.

(b) Only GS-1105 and 1106 and GS/GM-1101 and 1102 personnel shall be appointed as contracting officers (see 301.603-3(b)).

(c) The appointment of contracting officers shall be made at one of the four levels specified under the HHS Acquisition Certification Program (see 301.603-3(b)).

(d) An individual shall be appointed only in instances where a valid organizational need for a contracting officer can be demonstrated or a replacement position is to be filled. Factors to be considered in assessing the need for a contracting officer appointment include volume of actions, complexity of work, and structure of the organization.

301.603-2 Selection.

(a) When an organizational need for a contracting officer is determined or a replacement is required, an official (usually the prospective contracting officer's immediate supervisor) will nominate a contracting officer candidate. The nomination shall be accompanied by the candidate's current Standard Form (SF) 171, Personal Qualifications Statement, that contains all relevant information, to include that stated in FAR 1.603-2, a copy of the nominee's most recent performance appraisal, and a copy of the certificate issued under the HHS Acquisition Certification Program indicating the current level of certification.

(b) The PORA shall review the submitted material to determine the candidate's ability to perform the contracting functions required to meet the organizational need. If the PORA requires additional information to make the decision, it shall be provided expeditiously by the nominating official.

301.603-3 Appointment.

(a) Contracting officer appointments shall become effective when the PORA signs the Standard Form 1402, Certificate of Appointment. SF 1402's shall be prepared and maintained in accordance with FAR 1.603-3.

(b) Appointments shall be made at one of the four levels established by the HHS Acquisition Certification Program. Therefore, the contracting officer candidate must meet the minimum eligibility requirements of certification for one of the four stated levels. The level will be determined by the organizational need or position being refilled (replacement). The four levels are as follows:

(1) *Level I—Purchasing Agent.* Mandatory for all personnel who have signature authority for small purchases (GS-1102, 1105, and 1106), including orders from GSA sources.

(2) *Level II—Acquisition Official.* Mandatory for those in the GS-1102 series. Sufficient for delegation of contracting officer authority to a maximum of \$100,000.

(3) *Level III—Senior Acquisition Official.* Mandatory for those in the GS-1102 series for delegation of contracting officer authority above \$100,000.

(4) *Level IV—Acquisition Manager.* Mandatory for preaward review and approval authority as specified in HHSAR Subpart 304.71.

(c) Changes to contracting officer appointments, either increasing or decreasing the warrant limitations, shall be made by the PORA. Changes must be made from one of the four certification levels to another, or within one of the certification levels, and must be implemented by the PORA's issuance of a new SF 1402 to replace the existing SF 1402.

(d) Personnel shall not ordinarily be appointed as contracting officers if they do not meet the qualifications

prescribed for one of the four certification levels. However, if it is essential to appoint a contracting officer who does not fully meet the certification qualifications, an interim appointment may be granted by the PORA. The PORA shall require as a condition of the interim appointment that all training or experience requirements be met within a six month time period. Usually, interim appointments shall not exceed six months. Failure to successfully complete the necessary training requirements or gain the experience within this time frame will result in termination of the appointment, unless the PORA determines that unusual circumstances prevented the attainment of either. In this instance, one additional six month interim appointment may be issued, but no more shall be allowed. The PORA shall fully document all interim appointment actions.

(e) The original SF 1402 shall be provided to the contracting officer, and a copy shall be retained by the PORA. Another copy of the SF 1402 along with the SF 171 material shall be forwarded to the servicing personnel office for inclusion in the individual's personnel file folder. Files on individuals should not be established by the PORA.

301.603-4 Termination.

Termination of contracting officer appointments shall be executed by the PORA in accordance with FAR 1.603-4.

301.603-70 Delegation of contracting officer responsibilities.

(a) Non-GS/GM-1101 or 1102 or GS-1105 or 1106 personnel shall only be delegated contracting officer responsibilities when determined necessary by a warranted contracting officer (holder of a valid SF 1402), and in accordance with this subsection. Personnel, such as a contracting officer's representative or an ordering officer, shall be delegated only the needed responsibilities by the warranted contracting officer in a written memorandum of delegation which clearly states any limitations on the delegation. Personnel who are not in the GS/GM-1101 or 1102 or GS-1105 or 1106 job series shall not be issued a SF 1402, Certificate of Appointment.

(b) Non-acquisition personnel who are delegated acquisition responsibilities shall be required to have the training, experience, and education requirements necessary for the responsibilities assigned. If, for example, responsibility is to be delegated for making small purchases, the training, education, and experience for Level I—Purchasing Agent, or its equivalent as determined by the PORA, shall be required.

301.670 Head of the contracting activity.

301.670-1 Responsibility.

The head of the contracting activity (HCA) is responsible for conducting an effective and efficient acquisition program. Adequate controls shall be established to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and the dictates of good management practices. Periodic reviews shall be conducted by qualified personnel, preferably assigned to positions other than in the contracting office being reviewed, to determine the extent of adherence to prescribed policies and regulations, and to detect a need for guidance and/or training.

301.670-2 Designation.

Each OPDIV head and PHS agency head has been designated as HCA along with the following officials:

- (a) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Acquisition; and
- (b) Each Regional Director.

[53 FR 15562, May 2, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 24342, June 7, 1989]

301.670-3 Redelegation.

(a) The heads of contracting activities may redelegate their HCA authorities to the extent that redelegation is not prohibited by the terms of their respective delegations of authority, by law, by the Federal Acquisition Regulation, by the HHS Acquisition Regulation, or by other regulations. However, HCA and other contracting approvals and authorities shall not be redelegated below the levels specified in the HHS Acquisition Regulation or, in the

absence of coverage in the HHS Acquisition Regulation, the Federal Acquisition Regulation. To ensure proper control of redelegated acquisition authorities, HCA's shall maintain a file containing successive delegations of HCA authority through and including the contracting officer level.

(b) Personnel delegated responsibility for acquisition functions must possess a level of experience, training, and ability commensurate with the complexity and magnitude of the acquisition actions involved.

Subpart 301.7—Determinations and Findings

SOURCE: 50 FR 23127, May 31, 1985 (interim rule) and 50 FR 38004, Sept. 19, 1985 (final rule), unless otherwise noted.

301.703 Class determinations and findings.

(b) All class determinations and findings (D&F's) shall be limited to a period of one year or less.

301.704 Content.

An example of a D&F format may be found in 316.301-3(c). All D&F's shall be prepared using the referenced format and shall include the information required by FAR 1.704(a)-(g).

PART 302—DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND TERMS

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

Subpart 302.1—Definitions

302.100 Definitions of terms.

Chief of the contracting office (CCO) is a mid-level management official in charge of a contracting office who controls and oversees the daily contracting operation of an Operating Division (OPDIV) or major component of an OPDIV. The CCO is subordinate to the principal official responsible for acquisition and is located at a management level above other contracting personnel, usually as a branch chief.

Head of the agency or *agency head* means the head of the Operating Division (OPDIV) for HCFA, OHDS, PHS, and SSA, or the Assistant Secretary

for Management and Budget (ASMB) for the Office of the Secretary (OS).

Head of the contracting activity (HCA)—see 301.670-2.

Principal official responsible for acquisition (PORA) is defined in terms of certain organizational positions within the Office of Management and Acquisition (OMAC-OS), Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Office of Human Development Services (OHDS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Indian Health Service (IHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Social Security Administration (SSA), and the Regional Offices (RO's), as follows:

OMAC-OS—Director, Division of Contract Operations

HCFA—Director, Office of Acquisition and Grants, Office of Budget and Administration

OHDS—Director, Grants and Contracts Management Division, Office of Management Services

OASH—Director, Division of Acquisitions Management, Administrative Services Center, Office of Management

ADAMHA—Director, Division of Grants and Contracts Management, Office of the Administrator

CDC—Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Office of the Center Director

FDA—Director, Division of Contracts and Grants Management, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Management and Operations

HRSA—Director, Division of Grants and Procurement Management, Office of Management

IHS—Director, Division of Contracts and Grants Policy, Office of Administration and Management

NIH—Director, Division of Contracts and Grants, Office of Administration

SSA—Associate Commissioner, Office of Acquisition and Grants

RO's—Director, Regional Administrative Support Center

The PORA is subordinate to the head of the contracting activity and is the official in charge of the major contracting operation activity within the