

SUBCHAPTER I—DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

PART 870—SPECIAL PROCUREMENT CONTROLS

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AUTHORITY: 38 U.S.C. 501 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

SOURCE: 49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 870.1—Controls

870.111 Subsistence.

870.111-5 Frozen processed food products.

(a) All frozen, processed food products procured which contain meat, poultry or a significant proportion of eggs, will be processed or prepared in plants operated under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The product will be inspected and approved in accordance with the regulations of the USDA governing meat, poultry or egg inspection. A label or seal, affixed to the container, indicating compliance with these regulations will be accepted as evidence of compliance. The product must bear a label complying with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act which requires that all ingredients be listed according to the order of their predominance.

(b) All frozen, processed food products procured which contain fish or fish products will be processed or prepared in plants operated under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC). The products listed in USDC publication titled, "Approved List of Sanitarily Inspected Fish Establishments" are processed in plants

under Federal inspection of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The inspected products packed under various labels bearing the brand names are produced in accordance with current U.S. Grade Standards or official product specifications, packed under optimum hygienic conditions, and must meet Federal, State, and city sanitation and health regulations. Such brand label or USDC seal, affixed to a container, indicating compliance with USDC regulations will be accepted as evidence of compliance. In lieu thereof, the shipment may be lot inspected by the USDC and containers stamped to indicate acceptance or a Certification of Inspection issued to accompany the shipment. The product must bear a label complying with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act which requires that all ingredients be listed according to the order of their predominance.

(c) Producers of frozen bakery products which are shipped in interstate commerce are required to comply with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Therefore, it must be verified that the product, in fact was shipped interstate or that the producer ships products to other purchasers interstate. In addition, the product must bear a label complying with the Act which requires that all ingredients be listed according to the order of their predominance.

[49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 40066, Sept. 29, 1989]

870.112 Telecommunications equipment.

(a) Solicitations, including those for construction, based on detailed purchase descriptions or formal specifications for telecommunications equipment, as defined in VA Manual MP-6, Part VIII,¹ will include the clause required by 852.211-74.

¹Available at any Department of Veterans Affairs facility.

(b) The descriptive literature to be furnished by the contractor after award, required by the clause in 852.211-74, is to be reviewed and approved by the Telecommunications Support Service prior to delivery and/or installation by the contractor. Promptly upon receipt of the descriptive literature, contracting officers will forward it together with a copy of the contract, the formal specification, or the detailed purchase description to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team.

(c) Solicitations, including those for construction, for telecommunications equipment based on "brand name or equal" purchase description are subject to the following:

(1) Prior to award, contracting officers will forward to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team, the abstract of bids, one copy of each offer received, including descriptive literature and pertinent letters, and the comments and recommendations of the contracting officer.

(2) No commitments are to be made to contractors prior to receipt of Central Office reaction.

(3) Allowance of at least 30 calendar days for acceptance will be specified in the solicitation in order to allow sufficient time for the review required by this paragraph (c). (See FAR 52.214-16.)

[49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 798, Jan. 7, 1985; 54 FR 30044 and 30045, July 18, 1989; 54 FR 40066, Sept. 29, 1989; 63 FR 17339, Apr. 9, 1998]

870.113 Paid use of conference facilities.

(a) The rental of space for VA-sponsored symposia and training sessions may be unwarranted when other alternatives are available at no expense or reduced expense to the Government. After the geographical location for a VA conference has been selected, based on minimum overall travel costs for all Government participants and other relevant factors, a request for conference space will be forwarded to the servicing Supply activity. The request for conference space should afford the con-

tracting officer every opportunity to secure rent-free facilities.

(b) The following criteria for the selection of an appropriate facility will apply:

(1) A thorough effort will be made to schedule conferences and training sessions so that the conference facilities of VA installations in the city where the conference is held may be used.

(2) Where no VA space is available, the General Services Administration will be contacted to determine if there is other Government agency space which may be used.

(3) Efforts will be made to schedule conferences, where Government space is not available, through hotels and motels which offer free conference facilities in exchange for a stipulated number of lodging reservations for participants. Surcharges per lodging or increased room rates, to offset the cost of the conference room, shall be considered payment for such space.

(4) In the event none of these is available on the desired dates, consideration will be given to rescheduling the conference to avail VA of the use of facilities without payment of a fee.

(5) If none of the above is practical, rental conference space will be obtained. Complete documentation of efforts to secure free conference space, as outlined above, will be maintained in the purchase order file. The costs of coffee, refreshments, meals, lodging, tips and other supplies and services not directly related to the presentations within the conference space are not allowable.

(c) The conference coordinator of the requesting organization will continue to be responsible for individual room reservations, including any cancellations.

[49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 40066, Sept. 29, 1989]

870.114 Asbestos.

870.114-1 General.

This section applies to the purchase and use of asbestos products and equipment or materials containing asbestos products in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

870.114-2

870.114-2 Background.

Exposure to asbestos is associated with chronic and debilitating lung disease and cancer. To reduce the health hazard related to the exposure to asbestos, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) have issued specific regulations on asbestos. Although these regulations do not call for a complete ban on the use of asbestos, they do impose strict requirements on its use, airborne contamination and disposal.

870.114-3 Approving authority.

Asbestos products and equipment or materials containing asbestos products shall not be specified nor purchased for use in the Department of Veterans Affairs if any suitable substitutes are available. If suitable substitutes are not available, specific authorization to purchase and use asbestos products and equipment or materials specifying asbestos products, must be granted by the Secretary or designee. Requests for authorization will be submitted through the Director, Network Program Support (10NB). The following information will be provided:

(a) The name of the product, source of supply, and physical form of asbestos as used in the product or equipment;

(b) A description of use, including purpose, urgency, methodology, qualities, and by whom; and

(c) Safeguards being employed, with particular emphasis on the identification of the asbestos products, and procedures to be taken to prevent airborne contamination and disposal.

[49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 40066, Sept. 29, 1989; 63 FR 69223, Dec. 16, 1998]

870.114-4 Exempted products containing asbestos.

The Director, Network Program Support (10NB), VA Central Office, is responsible for maintaining a list of products containing asbestos which are

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exempted by the Secretary or designee from this policy.

[49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 40066, Sept. 29, 1989; 63 FR 69223, Dec. 16, 1998]

870.115 Food service equipment.

(a) All new food service equipment purchased for Nutrition and Food Service through other than the Defense General Supply Center (DGSC) sources must meet requirements set forth by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF).

(b) The contracting officer will accept an affixed NSF label and/or documentation of the certification by NSF from the contractor as evidence that the subject equipment meets sanitation standards issued by the Foundation.

[49 FR 12640, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 63 FR 69223, Dec. 16, 1998]

PART 871—LOAN GUARANTY AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS

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