

as provided in §700.13 and give preferential treatment only to the rated quantities as required by this part. This part may not be used to give preferential treatment to the unrated portion of the order.

(3) Any supplier who believes that rated and unrated orders are being combined in a manner contrary to the intent of this regulation or in a fashion that causes undue or exceptional hardship may submit a request for adjustment or exception under §700.80.

(e) A person may place a rated order for the minimum commercially procurable quantity even if the quantity needed to fill a rated order is less than that minimum. However, a person must combine rated orders as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, if possible, to obtain minimum procurable quantities.

(f) A person is not required to place a priority rating on an order for less than \$50,000, or one half of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Simplified Acquisition Threshold (see FAR 2.101), whichever amount is larger, provided that delivery can be obtained in a timely fashion without the use of the priority rating.

[49 FR 30414, July 30, 1984. Redesignated at 54 FR 601, Jan. 9, 1989, as amended at 63 FR 31923, June 11, 1998]

§700.18 Limitations on placing rated orders.

(a) *General limitations.* (1) A person may not place a DO or DX rated order unless entitled to do so under this regulation.

(2) Rated orders may not be used to obtain:

(i) Delivery on a date earlier than needed;

(ii) A greater quantity of the item than needed, except to obtain a minimum procurable quantity. Separate rated orders may not be placed solely for the purpose of obtaining minimum procurable quantities on each order;

(iii) Items in advance of the receipt of a rated order, *except* as specifically authorized by Commerce (see §700.51(c) for information on obtaining authorization for a priority rating in advance of a rated order); or

(iv) Any of the following items unless specific priority rating authority has

been obtained from a Delegate Agency or Commerce:

(A) Items for plant improvement, expansion or construction, unless they will be physically incorporated into a construction project covered by a rated order; and

(B) Production or construction equipment or items to be used for the manufacture of production equipment. [For information on requesting priority rating authority, see §700.51.]

(v) Any items related to the development of chemical or biological warfare capabilities or the production of chemical or biological weapons, unless such development or production has been authorized by the President or the Secretary of Defense.

(b) *Jurisdiction limitations.* (1) The priorities and allocations authority for certain items have been delegated under Executive Orders 12919 and 12742, other executive order, or Interagency Memoranda of Understanding to other agencies. Unless otherwise agreed to by the concerned agencies, the provisions of this part are not applicable to these items which include:

(i) Food resources, food resource facilities, and the domestic distribution of farm equipment and commercial fertilizer (Department of Agriculture) (The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce have agreed that the Department of Defense may place rated contracts and orders for food resources in support of troops, including but not limited to, meals ready to eat (MREs), "tray-packs" (T-rations), A-rations, and B-rations);

(ii) All forms of energy, including radioisotopes, stable isotopes, source material, and special nuclear material produced in Government-owned plants or facilities operated by or for the Department of Energy (Department of Energy);

(iii) Health resources (Department of Health and Human Services);

(iv) All forms of civil transportation (Department of Transportation);

(v) Water resources (Department of Defense/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers); and

(vi) Communications services (National Communications System under Executive Order 12472 of April 3, 1984).

§ 700.20

(2) The jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce and the Departments of Energy and Agriculture over certain specific items included in the categories listed above has been clarified by Interagency Memoranda of Understanding.

(3) The following items under the jurisdiction of Commerce are currently excluded from the rating provisions of this regulation; however, these items are subject to Commerce Directives. These excluded items are:

Copper raw materials
Crushed stone
Gravel
Sand
Scrap
Slag
Steam heat, central
Waste paper

[49 FR 30414, July 30, 1984. Redesignated at 54 FR 601, Jan. 9, 1989, as amended at 63 FR 31923, June 11, 1998; 71 FR 39528, July 13, 2006]

Subpart E—Industrial Priorities for Energy Programs

§ 700.20 Use of priority ratings.

(a) Section 101(c) of the Defense Production Act authorizes the use of priority ratings for projects which maximize domestic energy supplies.

(b) Projects which maximize domestic energy supplies include those which maintain or further domestic energy exploration, production, refining, and transportation; maintain or further the conservation of energy; or are involved in the construction or maintenance of energy facilities.

§ 700.21 Application for priority rating authority.

(a) For projects believed to maximize domestic energy supplies, a person may request priority rating authority for scarce, critical, and essential supplies of materials, equipment, and services (related to the production of materials or equipment, or the installation, repair, or maintenance of equipment) by submitting a request to the Department of Energy. Further information may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

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(b) On receipt of the application, the Department of Energy will:

(1) Determine if the project maximizes domestic energy supplies; and

(2) Find whether the materials, equipment, or services involved in the application are critical and essential to the project.

(c) If the Department of Energy notifies Commerce that the project maximizes domestic energy supplies and that the materials, equipment, or services are critical and essential, Commerce must find whether the items in question are scarce and whether there is a need to use the priorities and allocations authorities.

(1) Scarcity implies an unusual difficulty in obtaining the materials, equipment, or services in a timeframe consistent with the timely completion of the energy project. Among the factors to be used in making the scarcity finding will be the following:

(i) Value and volume of material or equipment shipments;

(ii) Consumption of material and equipment;

(iii) Volume and market trends of imports and exports;

(iv) Domestic and foreign sources of supply;

(v) Normal levels of inventories;

(vi) Rates of capacity utilization;

(vii) Volume of new orders; and

(viii) Lead times for new orders.

(2) In finding whether there is a need to use the priorities and allocations authorities, Commerce will consider alternative supply solutions and other measures.

(d) If Commerce does not find that the items of materials, equipment, or services are scarce, it will not proceed to analyze the need to use the priorities and allocations authorities.

(e) Commerce will inform the Department of Energy of the results of its analysis. If Commerce has made the two required findings, it will authorize the Department of Energy to grant the use of a priority rating to the applicant.

(f) Schedule I includes a list of approved programs to support the maximization of domestic energy supplies. A Department of Energy regulation