

adjustment clause (other than a pre-approved VA clause) based on a cost index of material or labor (e.g., the urban consumer price index (CPI-U) (see FAR 16.203-4(d)) or where one of the economic price adjustment clauses specified in FAR 16.203-4 are used.

(4) Proposed multi-year contracts where the cancellation ceiling exceeds 20 percent of the contract amount, regardless of the dollar value of the proposed contract (see 817.105-1(b)).

(5) Proposed solicitations where the contract term total of the basic and option periods may exceed 5 years, regardless of the dollar value of the proposed acquisition (see 817.204).

(6) Proposed membership agreements in a group purchasing organization.

(7) A proposed termination settlement or determination of amounts due the contractor under a terminated contract that involves the expenditure of \$100,000 or more of Government funds. Acquisition Resources Service staff shall obtain legal review (see 849.111-70).

(8) Consignment agreements with an anticipated expenditure of \$250,000 or more per year (except for a consignment agreement established under, and provided for in, a Federal Supply Schedule contract).

(c) Contracting officers, including purchase card holders, must obtain technical and legal review of all proposed contracts with hotels or similar facilities for conferences or similar functions (e.g., training, meetings) where VA's commitment, expenditure, and liability (combined) exceed \$25,000. This dollar figure is based on the combination of all direct costs to VA under the contract (e.g., conference rooms, audio-visual charges, refreshments, catering) and all potential liability (e.g., room guarantee liability, cancellation costs). Even if there is no direct cost to VA, if the proposed contract includes a guarantee on room usage or a cancellation fee that could potentially exceed \$25,000, the proposed contract requires legal and technical review. Signing a contract committing VA to hold a conference at a particular hotel is a procurement and procurement laws and regulations must be followed.

801.602-73 Review requirements for scarce medical specialist contracts and contracts for health-care resources.

For contracts to be awarded under the authority of either 38 U.S.C. 7409 or 38 U.S.C. 8153, contracting officers must obtain technical and legal reviews from the Medical Sharing Office, OGC, and Acquisition Resources Service staff of the following documents:

(a) Each competitive solicitation, quotation, proposed contract, or agreement with an anticipated contract award value of \$1,500,000 or more, inclusive of options.

(b) Each noncompetitive solicitation, quotation, proposed contract, or agreement with an anticipated contract award value of \$500,000 or more, inclusive of options.

801.602-74 Review requirements for an interagency agreement.

Contracting officers or other staff must obtain technical review from Acquisition Operations Service staff of the following documents:

(a) Each proposed VA Central Office interagency agreement with another Federal agency to be awarded under authority of the Economy Act, regardless of dollar value. For VA Central Office, only the DSPE or designee may sign an interagency agreement.

(b) Each proposed VA field facility interagency agreement with another Federal agency awarded under authority of the Economy Act involving an anticipated expenditure of VA funds of \$250,000 or more. A VA field facility contracting officer or a contracting officer at the VA National Acquisition Center or the Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center may sign an interagency agreement if the dollar threshold is within the contracting officer's warrant limit.

801.602-75 Review requirements—OGC.

(a) Contracting officers must obtain legal review or concurrence from OGC for the following categories of proposed contractual actions.

(1) Each contract termination, final decision, cure letter, or "show cause" notice proposed under any contract where the total value of the contract is

\$100,000 or more. A contracting officer may not sign or release a document subject to this provision until OGC has concurred.

(2) Each dispute or claim from a contractor involving a potential total dollar value of \$100,000 or more. A contracting officer may not sign or release a document subject to this provision until OGC has concurred.

(3) Each proposed contract modification, including any proposed modification to a supply or service contract, where the total value of the modification is \$100,000 or more (e.g., a modification for a \$60,000 increase and a \$50,000 decrease equals \$110,000). Contract modifications issued only to exercise contract options are exempt from this review requirement.

(4) Each proposed contract modification granting a time extension of more than 60 days. The Director, Acquisition Resources Service, may waive the pre-approval requirement under this paragraph for an individual facility when the Director determines that the facility has obtained appropriate "consideration" for past time extensions and the extensions were otherwise appropriately granted.

(5) Each proposed modification increasing the value of a letter contract, regardless of dollar value.

(6) Each proposed contract modification for which the contractor takes exception to the accord and satisfaction language specified by VA. The contracting officer may not execute any proposed contract modification under this requirement until the contracting officer receives OGC's concurrence in the proposed language.

(7) An assignment of claims (see FAR Subpart 32.8).

(8) Each change or revision to a FAR or VAAR provision or clause or an internal VA-approved clause (e.g., architect/engineer "SP" clauses) not specifically authorized by the regulations.

(9) Each change or revision to a prescribed VA contract form.

(10) A proposed utility construction or connection contract with an anticipated contract award value of \$50,000 or more.

(11) Each proposed novation and change-of-name agreement (see 842.1203).

(b) For an action specified in paragraph (a)(1) or (2) of this section, OGC may comment or concur in writing or by telephone.

(c) When a Central Office contracting activity requests legal assistance, the contracting officer will brief OGC on the facts and points of issue to facilitate prompt resolution.

(d) For each solicitation or contract awarded and administered by a Central Office contracting activity, that contracting activity will ask OGC to participate in conferences where legal problems or modifications to contract provisions may be considered and in meetings attended by legal representatives of private parties or other Government agencies. The contracting activity will request assigned procurement counsel participation in drafting correspondence involving significant controversial or sensitive contractual matters.

(e) OGC will prepare any response to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on GAO bid protests. (See 833.104).

801.602-76 Business clearance review.

(a) A business clearance review is a technical review of all solicitation and contract award or modification documents immediately prior to contract award or modification over the specified dollar threshold.

(b) All VA contracting officers must obtain a business clearance review prior to award of any contract, task or delivery order, or blanket purchase agreement or execution of any contract modification with a value of \$5 million or more or prior to award of any lease with a value of \$300,000 or more per year.

(c) The dollar threshold in this paragraph is based on the total dollar value of all awards expected under a single solicitation, not the value of each individual award under a solicitation. For example, a solicitation for home oxygen for a Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) might result in multiple awards, each of which has a value of less than \$5 million. If the total of all awards under that solicitation will exceed \$5 million, the contracting officer must obtain a business clearance