

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIONNATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 31

[FAC 97-05; FAR Case 97-007; Item IX]

RIN 9000-AH76

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Travel
Reimbursement

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Interim rule adopted as final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have agreed to convert the interim rule published as Item IX of Federal Acquisition Circular 97-03 at 62 FR 64932, December 9, 1997, to a final rule without change. The rule amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to increase from \$25 to \$75 the threshold at which contractor personnel must provide a receipt to support travel expenditures. This regulatory action was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993, and is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 21, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Linda Nelson, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-1900. Please cite FAC 97-05, FAR case 97-007.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

An interim rule was published in the **Federal Register** on December 9, 1997 (62 FR 64932). The interim rule amended FAR 31.205-46 to increase from \$25 to \$75 the threshold at which contractor personnel must provide a receipt to support travel expenditures. Public comments were received from one source. All comments were considered in developing the final rule. The interim rule is converted to a final rule without change.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because most contracts awarded to small entities use simplified acquisition procedures or are awarded on a competitive, fixed-price basis, and do not require application of the cost principle contained in this rule.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) is deemed to apply because the final rule contains information collection requirements. Since the threshold at which contractor personnel must provide a receipt to support travel expenditures has been increased, a request to decrease the burden hours previously approved under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 9000-0088 was submitted to OMB under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.* Public comments concerning this request were invited through **Federal Register** notice dated December 9, 1997 (62 FR 64932). No public comments were received.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 31

Government procurement.

Dated: June 11, 1998.

Edward C. Loeb,

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without
Change

Accordingly, the interim rule amending 48 CFR Part 31, which was published at 62 FR 64932, December 9, 1997, is adopted as a final rule without change.

The authority citation for 48 CFR Part 31 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIONNATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 48

[FAC 97-05; FAR Case 96-011; Item X]

RIN 9000-AH37

Federal Acquisition Regulation; No-
Cost Value Engineering Change
Proposals

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have agreed on an interim rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to clarify that no-cost value engineering change proposals (VECPs) may be used when, in the contracting officer's judgment, reliance on other VECP approaches likely would not be more cost-effective, and the no-cost settlement would provide adequate consideration to the Government. This regulatory action was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993, and is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

DATES: Effective June 22, 1998.

Comment Date: Comments should be submitted to the FAR Secretariat at the address shown below on or before August 21, 1998 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should submit written comments to: General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Attn: Ms. Laurie Duarte, Washington, DC 20405.

E-Mail comments submitted over the Internet should be addressed to: farcase.96-011@gsa.gov.

Please cite FAC 97-05, FAR case 96-011 in all correspondence related to this case.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Linda Klein, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-3775. Please cite FAC 97-05, FAR case 96-011.