

## SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 47, 48a, 48b, 48c of this title; title 15 section 644.

**§ 47. Duties and powers of the Committee****(a) Procurement list: publication in Federal Register; additions and removals**

(1) The Committee shall establish and publish in the Federal Register a list (hereafter in sections 46 to 48c of this title referred to as the "procurement list") of—

(A) the commodities produced by any qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or by any qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped, and

(B) the services provided by any such agency,

which the Committee determines are suitable for procurement by the Government pursuant to sections 46 to 48c of this title. Such list shall be established and published in the Federal Register before the expiration of the thirty-day period beginning on Aug. 1, 1971, and shall initially consist of the commodities contained, on such date, in the schedule of blind-made products issued by the former Committee on Purchases of Blind-Made Products under its regulations.

(2) The Committee may, by rule made in accordance with the requirements of subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of section 553 of title 5, add to and remove from the procurement list commodities so produced and services so provided.

**(b) Fair market price; price revisions**

The Committee shall determine the fair market price of commodities and services which are contained on the procurement list and which are offered for sale to the Government by any qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or any such agency for other severely handicapped. The Committee shall also revise from time to time in accordance with changing market conditions its price determinations with respect to such commodities and services.

**(c) Central nonprofit agency; designation**

The Committee shall designate a central nonprofit agency or agencies to facilitate the distribution (by direct allocation, subcontract, or any other means) of orders of the Government for commodities and services on the procurement list among qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind or such agencies for other severely handicapped.

**(d) Rules and regulations; blind-made products, priority**

(1) The Committee may make rules and regulations regarding (A) specifications for commodities and services on the procurement list, (B) the time of their delivery, and (C) such other matters as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 46 to 48c of this title.

(2) The Committee shall prescribe regulations providing that—

(A) in the purchase by the Government of commodities produced and offered for sale by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind or such agencies for other severely handicapped, priority shall be accorded to commodities produced and offered for sale by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind, and

(B) in the purchase by the Government of services offered by nonprofit agencies for the blind or such agencies for other severely handicapped, priority shall, until the end of the calendar year ending December 31, 1976, be accorded to services offered for sale by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind.

**(e) Problems and production methods; study and evaluation**

The Committee shall make a continuing study and evaluation of its activities under sections 46 to 48c of this title for the purpose of assuring effective and efficient administration of sections 46 to 48c of this title. The Committee may study (on its own or in cooperation with other public or nonprofit private agencies) (1) problems related to the employment of the blind and of other severely handicapped individuals, and (2) the development and adaptation of production methods which would enable a greater utilization of the blind and other severely handicapped individuals.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, §2, 52 Stat. 1196; June 23, 1971, Pub. L. 92-28, §1, 85 Stat. 79.)

## AMENDMENTS

1971—Pub. L. 92-28, in substituting subsections (a) to (e) for former paragraph, among other changes: extended provisions to cover commodities and services of agencies for the blind and other severely handicapped, previously limited to brooms and mops and other suitable commodities manufactured by agencies for the blind; inserted provisions incorporated in subsections (a) and (e); incorporated in subsection (b) provisions for determination of fair market price and price revisions; incorporated in subsection (c) provisions for designation of a central nonprofit agency, providing for distribution by direct allocation, subcontract, or any other means; incorporated existing provisions in subsection (d)(1), adding paragraph (2) thereof; and struck out provision that no change in prices shall become effective prior to expiration of fifteen days from date on which such change is made by the Committee.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-28 effective Aug. 1, 1971, see section 2 of Pub. L. 92-28, set out as a note under section 46 of this title.

## SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 48a of this title; title 10 sections 2410d, 2461; title 15 section 644; title 40 section 481.

**§ 48. Procurement requirements for the Government; nonapplication to prison-made products**

If any entity of the Government intends to procure any commodity or service on the procurement list, that entity shall, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Committee, procure such commodity or service, at the price established by the Committee, from a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or such an agency for other severely handicapped if the commodity or service is available within the period required by that Government entity; except that this section shall not apply with respect to the procurement of any commodity which is available for procurement from an industry established under chapter 307 of title 18, and which, under section 4124 of such title 18, is required to be procured from such industry.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, §3, 52 Stat. 1196; June 23, 1971, Pub. L. 92-28, §1, 85 Stat. 80.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1971—Pub. L. 92-28 extended provisions to cover any commodity or service on the procurement list for former provision for brooms and mops and other suitable commodities, excepted section from application to prison-made products, and deleted provision for nonapplicability of sections 46 to 58 of this title to cases where brooms and mops were available for procurement from and Federal department or agency and procurement therefrom was required under provisions of any law in effect on June 25, 1938, or to cases where brooms and mops were procured outside continental United States.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-28 effective Aug. 1, 1971, see section 2 of Pub. L. 92-28, set out as a note under section 46 of this title.

#### § 48a. Audit

The Comptroller General of the United States, or any of his duly authorized representatives, shall have access, for the purpose of audit and examination, to any books, documents, papers, and other records of the Committee and of each agency designated by the Committee under section 47(c) of this title. This section shall also apply to any qualified nonprofit agency for the blind and any such agency for other severely handicapped which have sold commodities or services under sections 46 to 48c of this title but only with respect to the books, documents, papers, and other records of such agency which relate to its activities in a fiscal year in which a sale was made under sections 46 to 48c of this title.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, §4, as added June 23, 1971, Pub. L. 92-28, §1, 85 Stat. 81.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Aug. 1, 1971, see section 2 of Pub. L. 92-28, set out as an Effective Date of 1971 Amendment note under section 46 of this title.

#### § 48b. Definitions

For purposes of sections 46 to 48c of this title—

(1) The term “blind” refers to an individual or class of individuals whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose visual acuity, if better than 20/200, is accompanied by a limit to the field of vision in the better eye to such a degree that its widest diameter subtends an angle of no greater than 20 degrees.

(2) The terms “other severely handicapped” and “severely handicapped individuals” mean an individual or class of individuals under a physical or mental disability, other than blindness, which (according to criteria established by the Committee after consultation with appropriate entities of the Government and taking into account the views of non-Government entities representing the handicapped) constitutes a substantial handicap to employment and is of such a nature as to prevent the individual under such disability from currently engaging in normal competitive employment.

(3) The term “qualified nonprofit agency for the blind” means an agency—

(A) organized under the laws of the United States or of any State, operated in the interest of blind individuals, and the net income of which does not inure in whole or in part to the benefit of any shareholder or other individual;

(B) which complies with any applicable occupational health and safety standard prescribed by the Secretary of Labor; and

(C) which in the production of commodities and in the provision of services (whether or not the commodities or services are procured under sections 46 to 48c of this title) during the fiscal year employs blind individuals for not less than 75 per centum of the man-hours of direct labor required for the production or provision of the commodities or services.

(4) The term “qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped” means an agency—

(A) organized under the laws of the United States or of any State, operated in the interest of severely handicapped individuals who are not blind, and the net income of which does not inure in whole or in part to the benefit of any shareholder or other individual;

(B) which complies with any applicable occupational health and safety standard prescribed by the Secretary of Labor; and

(C) which in the production of commodities and in the provision of services (whether or not the commodities or services are procured under sections 46 to 48c of this title) during the fiscal year employs blind or other severely handicapped individuals for not less than 75 per centum of the man-hours of direct labor required for the production or provision of the commodities or services.

(5) The term “direct labor” includes all work required for preparation, processing, and packing of a commodity, or work directly relating to the performance of a service, but not supervision, administration, inspection, or shipping.

(6) The term “fiscal year” means the twelve-month period beginning on October 1 of each year.

(7) The terms “Government” and “entity of the Government” include any entity of the legislative branch or the judicial branch, any executive agency or military department (as such agency and department are respectively defined by sections 102 and 105 of title 5), the United States Postal Service, and any nonappropriated fund instrumentality under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces.

(8) The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, §5, as added June 23, 1971, Pub. L. 92-28, §1, 85 Stat. 81; amended July 25, 1974, Pub. L. 93-358, §1(3), 88 Stat. 393; Apr. 21, 1976, Pub. L. 94-273, §3(22), 90 Stat. 377.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-273 substituted “October” for “July” in par. (6).

1974—Pub. L. 93-358 added par. (5) defining “direct labor”, struck out former par. (6) which defined “direct labor” without reference to work directly relating to the performance of a service, and redesignated former pars. (7), (8), and (9) as (6), (7), and (8), respectively.