Department of Transportation
Office of the Senior Procurement Executive

No. APL-2007-01
Date 07/24/07

DOT ACQUISITION POLICY LETTER

This Acquisition Policy Letter is issued under the authority of the Senior Procurement Executive of the Department of Transportation

Subject: Common Security Configurations

References:

FAR Part 39	Acquisition of Information Technology
TAR Part 1239	Acquisition of Information Resources
TAM	Chapter 39, Acquisition of Information Technology

When is this Acquisition Policy Letter (APL) Effective?

This APL is effective 10 business days from the date of issuance.

When Does This APL Expire?

This APL remains in effect until superseded or canceled.

Who is the Point of Contact?

Contact Denise P. Wright of the Office of the Senior Procurement Executive, Business Policy Division (202) 336-4272 or by email at denise.p.wright@dot.gov.

Visit our website at http://www.dot.gov/ost/m60/ for additional information on DOT Acquisition Policy Letters and other policy issues.

What is the Purpose of this Acquisition Policy Letter?

The purpose of this Acquisition Policy Letter (APL) is to provide information, procedural guidance, and a Section H Clause to be incorporated in all IT solicitations in order to implement commonly accepted security configurations for Windows Operating Systems within the Department of Transportation.

What is the Background?

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently issued two memoranda M-07-11, Implementation of Commonly Accepted Security Configurations for Windows Operating Systems and M-07-18, Ensuring New Acquisitions Include Common Security Configurations, both affect improved IT security configurations. These memoranda are a basis for establishing a uniform framework for the application of standards for a security baseline configuration across the Federal Government. The DOT CIO's goal is

to improve the efficiency of IT operations and security which is expected to be instrumental in identifying and eliminating potential weaknesses in a recognized system. The establishment of this clause in all IT solicitations supports the DOT IT community in their effort to achieve a common security configuration environment.

Additionally, government-wide common security configuration language is in development to be included in FAR Part 39, Acquisition of Information Technology. Prior to its completion, the attached Section H Clause entitled Common Security Configurations will be used to achieve a common security configuration environment. When all FAR change details have been finalized, the Section H clause will be replaced with the resulting FAR coverage.

What is the Guidance?

Contracting officers should ensure that the Section H clause listed below is included in all IT solicitations no later than the effective date of this Acquisition Letter. The clause is designed to ensure that new acquisitions include common security configurations and information technology providers will demonstrate that their products operate effectively using these configurations.

Section H-XX Common Security Configurations

a) The provider of information technology shall demonstrate that applications are fully functional and operate correctly as intended on systems using the Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC). This includes Internet Explorer 7 configured to operate on Windows XP and Vista (in Protected Mode on Vista). For the Windows XP settings, see: http://csrc.nist.gov/itsec/guidance_WinXP.html , and for the Windows Vista settings, see: http://csrc.nist.gov/itsec/guidance_vista.html.

b) The standard installation, operation, maintenance, updates, and/or patching of software shall not alter the configuration settings from the approved FDCC configuration. The information technology should also use the Windows Installer Service for installation to the default "program files" directory and should be able to silently install and uninstall.

c) Applications designed for normal end users shall run in the standard user context without elevated system administration privileges.

for David J. Litman
Senior Procurement Executive