



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20420

IL 049-03-6
March 17, 2003

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION LETTER

TO: Under Secretaries for Health, Benefits, and Memorial Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Management; Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management; Veterans Integrated Service Network Directors; Directors, VA Medical Center Activities, Domiciliary, Outpatient Clinics, Medical and Regional Office Centers, and Regional Offices; Directors, Denver Distribution Center, Austin Automation Center, Records Management Center, VBA Benefits Delivery Centers, and the VA Health Administration Center; and the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, VA National Acquisition Center

ATTN: Head of the Contracting Activity
All VA Contracting Officers

SUBJECT: Parameters of Contracting Authority

1. In the conduct of acquisition services on behalf of Other Government Agencies (OGAs), contracting authority shall be limited to goods, services, equipment, and construction normally obtained by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for VA in the course of carrying out its mission.

2. The VA mission is to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, social support, and lasting memorials promoting the health, welfare, and dignity of all veterans in recognition of their service to this Nation.

3. The Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management's specific mission is:

To support our Nation's veterans, we provide our customers with quality products, services, and expertise; delivered in a timely fashion, for a reasonable price, and at the right place.

2.

IL 049-03-6

March 17, 2003

4. Items and services not normally acquired in the course of our support to VA's mission are expressly prohibited. More specifically, contracts for goods and services that are expressly prohibited without exception include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Ship construction, overhaul, and repair
- Weapons or weapons systems
- Combat aircraft or combat vehicles
- Component parts for above

5. Any procurement entered into on behalf of OGAs under the authority of the Economy Act must be in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 17.5, VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR), and all internal instructions.

6. Any requirement outside the standard set forth above requires the approval of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management.

7. Questions regarding this information letter should be directed to Patrick W. Mannion, Executive Assistant (049A), at (202) 273-6052.

/s/David S. Derr
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Acquisitions

Distribution: RPC 7029