

(B) No further modification or extension may be made to the contract until the evaluation is complete.

(ii) If, as a result of this evaluation, it is determined that an economically feasible substitute substance or alternative technology is available, the contracting officer shall modify the contract to require the use of the substitute substance or alternative technology.

(iii) If a substitute substance or alternative technology is not available, a written determination shall be made to that effect at a level no lower than a general or flag officer or a member of the Senior Executive Service of the requiring activity.

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

252.223-7004 [Amended]

14. Section 252.223-7004 is amended in the introductory text by removing “223.570-4” and adding in its place “223.570-2”.

[FR Doc. 05-7093 Filed 4-11-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 213

[DFARS Case 2003-D059]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Use of the Governmentwide Commercial Purchase Card for Micro-Purchases

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: DoD is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update requirements for use of the Governmentwide commercial purchase card for actions at or below the micro-purchase threshold. This proposed rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before June 13, 2005, to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by DFARS Case 2003-D059, using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Defense Acquisition Regulations Web site: <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: dfars@osd.mil. Include DFARS Case 2003-D059 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: (703) 602-0350.

- Mail: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Robin Schulze, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

- Hand Delivery/Courier: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Crystal Square 4, Suite 200A, 241 18th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-3402.

All comments received will be posted to <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Schulze, (703) 602-0326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dfars/transf.htm>.

This proposed rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The proposed rule amends DoD policy for use of the Governmentwide commercial purchase card for actions at or below the micro-purchase threshold to—

- Lower the approval level for exceptions to the policy, from a general or flag officer or a member of the Senior Executive Service, to the chief of the contracting office; and
- Add a new blanket exception to the policy that applies if an authorized official renders the agency's or activity's purchase card program inactive.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD does not expect this rule to 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 the rule pertains only to internal DoD review and approval requirements for exceptions to DoD policy for use of the Governmentwide commercial purchase card. Therefore, DoD has not performed an initial regulatory flexibility analysis. DoD invites comments from small businesses and other interested parties. DoD also will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subpart in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 2003-D059.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 213

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Therefore, DoD proposes to amend 48 CFR Part 213 as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Part 213 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 213—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

2. Section 213.270 is amended as follows:

- a. By revising paragraph (b);
- b. By redesignating paragraph (c) as paragraph (d); and
- c. By adding a new paragraph (c) to read as follows:

213.270 Use of the Governmentwide commercial purchase card.

* * * * *

(b)(1) The chief of the contracting office of the cardholder activity makes a written determination that—

(i) The source or sources available for the supply or service do not accept the purchase card; and

(ii) The contracting office is seeking a source that accepts the purchase card.

(2) To prevent mission delays, if an activity does not have a resident chief of the contracting office, delegation of this authority to the level of the senior local commander or director is permitted;

(c) An authorized official renders the agency's or activity's purchase card program inactive; or

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 05-7094 Filed 4-11-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Parts 213 and 253

[DFARS Case 2003-D075]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Simplified Acquisition Procedures

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: DoD is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update text addressing the use of simplified acquisition procedures. This proposed rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before June 13, 2005, to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by DFARS Case 2003-D075, using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Defense Acquisition Regulations Web site: <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: dfars@osd.mil. Include DFARS Case 2003-D075 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: (703) 602-0350.

- Mail: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Robin Schulze, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

- Hand Delivery/Courier: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Crystal Square 4, Suite 200A, 241 18th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-3402.

All comments received will be posted to <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Schulze, (703) 602-0326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change

the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dfars/transf.htm>.

This proposed rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The proposed changes—

- Update and consolidate text on the use of imprest funds and third-party drafts at DFARS 213.305;
- Delete unnecessary cross-references at DFARS 213.7001 and 213.7003-2; and

- Delete guidance on the use of unilateral contract modifications at DFARS 213.302-3, and delete procedures for use of forms at DFARS 213.307, 253.213, and 253.213-70. This text will be relocated to the new DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information, available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/pgi>.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD does not expect this rule to 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 the rule makes no significant change to DoD contracting policy. Therefore, DoD has not performed an initial regulatory flexibility analysis. DoD invites comments from small businesses and other interested parties. DoD also will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subparts in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 2003-D075.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 213 and 253

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Therefore, DoD proposes to amend 48 CFR Parts 213 and 253 as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Parts 213 and 253 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 213—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

2. Section 213.302-3 is amended by revising paragraph (2) to read as follows:

213.302-3 Obtaining contractor acceptance and modifying purchase orders.

* * * * *

(2) See PGI 213.302-3 for guidance on the use of unilateral modifications.

* * * * *

213.305-1 [Removed]

3. Section 213.305-1 is removed.

4. Section 213.305-3 is revised to read as follows:

213.305-3 Conditions for use.

(d)(i) On a very limited basis, installation commanders and commanders of other activities with contracting authority may be granted authority to establish imprest funds and third party draft (accommodation check) accounts. Use of imprest funds and third party drafts must comply with—
(A) DoD 7000.14-R, DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 5, Disbursing Policy and Procedures; and
(B) The Treasury Financial Manual, Volume I, Part 4, Chapter 3000.

(ii) Use of imprest funds requires approval by the Director for Financial Commerce, Office of the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), except as provided in paragraph (d)(iii) of this subsection.

(iii) Imprest funds are authorized for use without further approval for—

(A) Overseas transactions at or below the micro-purchase threshold in support of a contingency operation as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13) or a humanitarian or peacekeeping operation as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2302(7); and
(B) Classified transactions.

5. Section 213.307 is revised to read as follows:

213.307 Forms.

See PGI 213.307 for procedures on use of forms for purchases made using simplified acquisition procedures.