

requests would be unduly burdensome to a contractor.

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 232 and 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

■ Therefore, 48 CFR parts 232 and 252 are amended as follows:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 232 and 252 continues to read as follows:

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

PART 232—CONTRACT FINANCING

■ 2. Section 232.7002 is revised to read as follows:

232.7002 Policy.

(a) Contractors shall submit payment requests in electronic form, except for—

(1) Purchases paid for with a Governmentwide commercial purchase card;

(2) Awards made to foreign vendors for work performed outside the United States;

(3) Classified contracts or purchases when electronic submission and processing of payment requests could compromise the safeguarding of classified information or national security;

(4) Contracts awarded by deployed contracting officers in the course of military operations, including, but not limited to, contingency operations as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13) or humanitarian or peacekeeping operations as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2302(8), or contracts awarded by contracting officers in the conduct of emergency operations, such as responses to natural disasters or national or civil emergencies;

(5) Purchases to support unusual or compelling needs of the type described in FAR 6.302–2;

(6) Cases in which DoD is unable to receive payment requests in electronic form; or

(7) Cases in which the contracting officer administering the contract for payment has determined, in writing, that electronic submission would be unduly burdensome to the contractor.

(b) DoD officials receiving payment requests in electronic form shall process the payment requests in electronic form. Any supporting documentation necessary for payment, such as receiving reports, contracts, contract modifications, and required certifications, also shall be processed in electronic form. Scanned documents are acceptable forms for processing supporting documentation.

(c) When payment requests will not be submitted in electronic form—

(1) Payment requests shall be submitted by facsimile or conventional mail. The contracting officer shall consult with the payment office and the contract administration office regarding the method of payment request to be used; and

(2) Section G of the contract shall specify the method of payment request.

232.7003 [Amended]

■ 3. Section 232.7003 is amended in paragraph (a)(3) by removing “<http://www.dod.mil/dfas/>” and adding in its place “<http://www.dod.mil/dfas/contractorpay/electroniccommerce.html>”.

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

■ 4. Section 252.232–7003 is amended as follows:

■ a. By revising the clause date and paragraphs (b)(3)(ii) and (c);

■ b. By redesignating paragraph (d) as paragraph (e); and

■ c. By adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

252.232–7003 Electronic Submission of Payment Requests.

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ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT REQUESTS (MAR 2007)

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(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(ii) EDI implementation guides are available on the Internet at <http://www.dod.mil/dfas/contractorpay/electroniccommerce.html>.

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(c) The Contractor may submit a payment request in non-electronic form only when—

(1) DoD is unable to receive a payment request in electronic form; or

(2) The Contracting Officer administering the contract for payment has determined, in writing, that electronic submission would be unduly burdensome to the Contractor. In such cases, the Contractor shall include a copy of the Contracting Officer's determination with each request for payment.

(d) The Contractor shall submit any non-electronic payment requests using the

method or methods specified in Section G of the contract.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

48 CFR Part 252

RIN 0750–AF49

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Free Trade Agreements—Guatemala and Bahrain (DFARS Case 2006–D028)

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has adopted as final, without change, an interim rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement with respect to Guatemala. The Free Trade Agreements waive the applicability of the Buy American Act for some foreign supplies and construction materials and specify procurement procedures designed to ensure fairness.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 27, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DARS), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062. Telephone (703) 602–0328; facsimile (703) 602–0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2006–D028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD published an interim rule at 71 FR 58541 on October 4, 2006, to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, with respect to Guatemala, and the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement. The rule amended the appropriate DFARS provisions and clauses to reflect the addition of Guatemala and Bahrain as Free Trade Agreement countries.

DoD received no comments on the interim rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the interim rule as a final rule without change.

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 certifies 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.* Although the rule opens up DoD procurement to the products of Guatemala and Bahrain, DoD does not believe there will be a significant economic impact on U.S. small businesses. DoD applies the trade agreements to only those non-defense items listed at DFARS 225.401–70, and procurements that are set aside for small businesses are exempt from application of the trade agreements.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule affects the certification and information collection requirements in the provisions at DFARS 252.225–7020 and 252.225–7035, currently approved under Office of Management and Budget Control Number 0704–0229. The impact, however, is negligible.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without Change

■ Accordingly, the interim rule amending 48 CFR Part 252, which was published at 71 FR 58541 on October 4, 2006, is adopted as a final rule without change.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

48 CFR Part 252

RIN 0750–AF57

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; New Designated Countries (DFARS Case 2006–D062)

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: DoD has issued an interim rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement

(DFARS) to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement with respect to the Dominican Republic. The rule also adds Bulgaria and Romania to the list of countries covered by the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement.

DATES: *Effective date:* March 27, 2007.

Comment date: Comments on the interim rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before May 29, 2007, to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by DFARS Case 2006–D062, using any of the following methods:

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

- *E-mail:* dfars@osd.mil. Include DFARS Case 2006–D062 in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* (703) 602–0350.

- *Mail:* Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Attn: Ms. Amy Williams, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DARS), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Crystal Square 4, Suite 200A, 241 18th Street, Arlington, VA 22202–3402.

Comments received generally will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, (703) 602–0328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This interim rule amends DFARS clauses relating to trade agreements to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA–DR) with respect to the Dominican Republic. Congress approved the CAFTA–DR in the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109–53). The CAFTA–DR waives the applicability of the Buy American Act for some foreign supplies and construction materials and specifies procurement procedures designed to ensure fairness.

The rule adds the Dominican Republic to the definitions of “designated country” and “Free Trade Agreement country.” In addition, the rule removes the Dominican Republic from the list of Caribbean Basin countries, because, in accordance with Section 201(a)(3) of Public Law 109–53, when the CAFTA–DR enters into force with respect to a country, that country

is no longer designated as a beneficiary country for purposes of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act.

The rule also adds Bulgaria and Romania to the list of World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement countries, based upon direction from the United States Trade Representative.

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.* Although the rule opens up DoD procurement to the products of Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, and Romania, DoD does not believe there will be a significant economic impact on U.S. small businesses. DoD applies the trade agreements to only those non-defense items listed at DFARS 225.401–70, and procurements that are set aside for small businesses are exempt from application of the trade agreements. 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 2006–D062.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule affects the certification and information collection requirements in the provisions at DFARS 252.225–7020 and 252.225–7035, currently approved under Office of Management and Budget Control Number 0704–0229. The impact, however, is negligible.

D. Determination To Issue an Interim Rule

A determination has been made under the authority of the Secretary of Defense that urgent and compelling reasons exist to publish an interim rule prior to affording the public an opportunity to comment. This interim rule implements the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement with respect to the Dominican Republic, which became effective on March 1, 2007. The rule also implements the addition of Bulgaria and Romania to the countries covered by the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement, which became effective on