

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

• Agency Web Site: <http://www.acqnet.gov/far/ProposedRules/proposed.htm>. Click on the FAR case number to submit comments.

• E-mail: farcase.2004-020@gsa.gov. Include FAC 2001-25, FAR case 2004-020 in the subject line of the message.

• Fax: 202-501-4067.

• Mail: General Services

Administration, Regulatory Secretariat (V), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, ATTN: Laurie Duarte, Washington, DC 20405.

Instructions: Please submit comments only and cite FAC 2001-25, FAR case 2004-020, in all correspondence related to this case. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.acqnet.gov/far/ProposedRules/proposed.htm>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat at (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Linda Nelson, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-1900. Please cite FAC 2001-25, FAR case 2004-020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that the Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) developed, procured, maintained, or used by the Federal Government provide individuals with disabilities access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access and use of information and data by individuals without disabilities. The law was implemented first through standards developed by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, ("Access Board") and then incorporated into the FAR.

Initially, the FAR exempted micropurchases from the 508 requirements until January 1, 2003. (See FAR Case 1999-607, 66 FR 20894, April 25, 2001.) The rule's preamble gave notice that the Government would revisit the issue prior to the sunset date. This deadline was extended (FAR Case 2002-012, 67 FR 80321, December 31, 2002 and 68 FR 43872, July 24, 2003) and is due to expire October 1, 2004.

The FAR Council is extending the micropurchase exception from October 1, 2004, to April 1, 2005, and no additional extensions will be granted. Agencies have had three years of experience with Section 508, and

industry continues to make investments in accessible technology to support the requirements. The extension until April 1, 2005, will provide agencies time to update their purchase card training modules on the 508 requirements and train their personnel. Free, online training developed by GSA, in collaboration with the Section 508 Executive Steering Committee, is available at <http://www.section508.gov>.

The FAR Council received public comments on the first extension to October 1, 2004. None of the comments received took issue with extending the micropurchase exemption. Extending the micropurchase exemption will not cause a significant impact on the disability community or industry.

This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The interim rule is not expected 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 proposed rule continues the status quo for another six months. When the FAR Council last extended the exception through October 1, 2004, none of the comments received took issue with extending the micropurchase exception. Also, extending the micropurchase exception will not cause a significant impact on the disability community or industry.

Therefore, an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis has not been performed. The Councils will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected FAR Part 39 in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Interested parties must submit such comments separately and should cite 5 U.S.C 601, *et seq.* (FAC 2001-25, FAR case 2004-020), in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

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

D. Determination to Issue an Interim Rule

A determination has been made under the authority of the Secretary of Defense (DoD), the Administrator of General Services (GSA), and the Administrator

of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that urgent and compelling reasons exist to promulgate this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. This action is necessary because the rule extends an exception that would otherwise impose training burdens that the acquisition community may be challenged to meet by October 1, 2004. The extension until April 1, 2005, will provide agencies time to update their purchase card training modules on the 508 requirements and train their personnel. However, pursuant to Public Law 98-577 and FAR 1.501, the Councils will consider public comments received in response to this interim rule in the formation of the final rule.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 39

Government procurement.

Dated: September 28, 2004.

Ralph J. De Stefano,

Acting Director, Contract Policy Division.

■ Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR part 39 as set forth below:

PART 39—ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 39 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 121(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

39.204 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend section 39.204 in the first sentence of paragraph (a) by removing "October 1, 2004" and adding "April 1, 2005" in its place.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 14 and 52

[FAC 2001-25; Item V]

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document makes amendments to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in order to make editorial changes.

DATES: *Effective Date:* October 5, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC, 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. Please cite FAC 2001-25, Technical Amendments.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 14 and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: September 28, 2004.

Ralph J. De Stefano,

Acting Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

■ Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR parts 14 and 52 as set forth below:

■ 1. The authority citations for 48 CFR parts 14 and 52 are revised to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 121(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

PART 14—SEALED BIDDING

■ 2. In section 14.403, revise paragraph (c) to read as follows:

14.403 Recording of Bids.

* * * * *

(c) The forms identified in paragraph (a) of this section need not be used by the Defense Energy Support Center for acquisitions of coal or petroleum products or by the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia for perishable subsistence items.

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PART 52—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

52.212-5 [Amended]

■ 3. Amend section 52.212-5 in paragraph (b)(34)(ii) by removing “(Apr 1984)” and adding “(Apr 2003)” in its place.

52.215-15 [Amended]

■ 4. Amend section 52.215-15 by revising the date of the clause to read “(OCT 2004)”.

52.217-5 [Amended]

■ 5. Amend section 52.217-5 in the introductory paragraph by removing “17.208(c)(1)” and adding “17.208(c)” in its place.

52.219-4 [Amended]

■ 6. Amend section 52.219-4 by revising the date of the clause to read “(OCT 2004)” and removing “will be will be” from paragraph (d)(3) of the clause and adding “will be” in its place.

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and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Small Entity Compliance Guide.

SUMMARY: This document is issued under the joint authority of the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services and the Administrator for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This Small Entity Compliance Guide has been prepared in accordance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. It consists of a summary of rules appearing in Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2001-25 which amend the FAR. An asterisk (*) next to a rule indicates that a regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared. Interested parties may obtain further information regarding these rules by referring to FAC 2001-25 which precedes this document. These documents are also available via the Internet at <http://www.acqnet.gov/far>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurie Duarte, FAR Secretariat, (202) 501-4225. For clarification of content, contact the analyst whose name appears in the table below.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Chapter 1

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA),

LIST OF RULES IN FAC 2001-25

Item	Subject	FAR case	Analyst
I	Elimination of the Standard Form 1417	2002-017	Davis.
II	Free Trade Agreements—Chile and Singapore, and Trade Agreements Thresholds	2003-016	Davis.
III	Telecommuting for Federal Contractors (Interim)	2003-025	Zaffos.
IV	Section 508 Micropurchase Exemption (Interim)	2004-020	Nelson.
V	Technical Amendments.		

Item I—Elimination of the Standard Form 1417 (FAR Case 2002-017)

This final rule eliminates the use of the Standard Form 1417, Pre-Solicitation Notice (Construction Contract), in contracts for construction, alteration or repair, dismantling, demolition, or removal of improvements. The use of this form has become unnecessary because contracting officers provide access to presolicitation notices through the Governmentwide point of entry (GPE)

via the Internet at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov> pursuant to FAR 5.204. Elimination of the form increases reliance on electronic business practices and reduces the estimated information collection requirement burden hours imposed on offerors.

Item II—Free Trade Agreements—Chile and Singapore, and Trade Agreements Thresholds (FAR Case 2003-016)

The interim rule to implement new Free Trade Agreements with Chile and Singapore, published in the **Federal**

Register at 69 FR 1050, January 7, 2004, is converted to a final rule with changes. The interim rule included in each Trade Agreements clause the statement that United States law will apply to resolve any claim of breach of contract. At the request of the Department of Justice, the final rule relocates this statement into a separate clause to be included in all contracts. All contracting officers must be aware of this new requirement.