

3.10.1-18 Notification of Changes (February 2003)

(a) Definitions.

"Contracting Officer," as used in this clause, does not include any representative of the Contracting Officer. Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), as used in this clause, means any person the Contracting Officer has so designated by written notice (a copy of which may be requested by to the Contractor) which shall refer to this subparagraph and shall be issued to the designated representative before the COR exercises such authority.

(b) Notice. The primary purpose of this clause is to obtain prompt reporting of Government conduct that the Contractor considers to constitute a change to this contract. Except for changes identified as such in writing and signed by the Contracting Officer, the Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer in writing promptly, within 10 calendar days from the date that the Contractor identifies any Government conduct (including actions, inactions, and written or oral communications) that the Contractor regards as a change to the contract terms and conditions. On the basis of the most accurate information available to the Contractor, the notice shall state--

- (1) The date, nature, and circumstances of the conduct regarded as a change;
- (2) The name, function, and activity of each Government individual and Contractor official or employee involved in or knowledgeable about such conduct;
- (3) The identification of any documents and the substance of any oral communication involved in such conduct;
- (4) In the instance of alleged acceleration of scheduled performance or delivery, the basis upon which it arose;
- (5) The particular elements of contract performance for which the Contractor may seek an equitable adjustment under this clause, including-
 - (i) What contract line items have been or may be affected by the alleged change;
 - (ii) What labor or materials or both have been or may be added, deleted, or wasted by the alleged change;
 - (iii) To the extent practicable, what delay and disruption in the manner and sequence of performance and effect on continued performance have been or may be caused by the alleged change;
 - (iv) What adjustments to contract price, delivery schedule, and other provisions affected by the alleged change are estimated;
- (6) The Contractor's estimate of the time by which the Government must respond to the Contractor's notice to minimize cost, delay or disruption of performance.

(c) Continued performance. Following submission of the notice required by (b) above, the Contractor shall diligently continue performance of this contract to the maximum extent possible in accordance with its terms and conditions as construed by the Contractor, unless the notice reports a direction of the Contracting Officer or a communication from a COR of the Contracting Officer, in either of which events the Contractor shall continue performance; provided, however, that if the Contractor regards the direction or communication as a change as described in (b) above, notice shall be given in the manner provided. All directions, communications, interpretations, orders and similar actions of the COR shall be reduced to writing promptly and copies furnished to the Contractor and to the Contracting Officer. The Contracting Officer shall promptly countermand any action which exceeds the authority of the COR.

(d) Government response. The Contracting Officer shall respond, within 10 calendar days after receipt of notice, in writing. In responding, the Contracting Officer shall either--

(1) Confirm that the conduct of which the Contractor gave notice constitutes a change and when necessary direct the mode of further performance;

(2) Countermand any communication regarded as a change;

(3) Deny that the conduct of which the Contractor gave notice constitutes a change and when necessary direct the mode of further performance; or

(4) In the event the Contractor's notice information is inadequate to make a decision under (1), (2), or (3) above, advise the Contractor what additional information is required, and establish the date by which it should be furnished and the date thereafter by which the Government will respond.

(e) Equitable adjustments.

(1) If the Contracting Officer confirms that Government conduct effected a change as alleged by the Contractor, and the conduct causes an increase or decrease in the Contractor's cost of, or the time required for, performance of any part of the work under this contract, whether changed or not changed by such conduct, an equitable adjustment shall be made--

(i) In the contract price or delivery schedule or both; and

(ii) In such other provisions of the contract as may be affected.

(2) The contract shall be modified in writing accordingly. In the case of drawings, designs or specifications which are defective and for which the Government is responsible, the equitable adjustment shall include the cost and time extension for delay reasonably incurred by the Contractor in attempting to comply with the defective drawings, designs or specifications before the Contractor identified, or reasonably should have identified, such defect. When the cost of property made obsolete or excess as a result of a change confirmed by the Contracting Officer under this clause is included in the equitable adjustment, the Contracting Officer shall have the right to prescribe the manner of disposition of the property. The equitable adjustment shall not include increased costs or time extensions for delay resulting from the Contractor's failure to provide notice or to continue performance as provided, respectively, in (b) and (c) above.

Note: The phrases contract price and cost wherever they appear in the clause, may be appropriately modified to apply to cost-reimbursement or incentive contracts, or to combinations thereof.

(End of clause)

PRESCRIPTION

May be used in RFI/RFP's and contracts for negotiated supply contracts. The Contracting Officer should insert appropriate information in the clause.