

## § 180.450

(a) Terminate the transaction for material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the transaction; or

(b) Pursue any other available remedies, including suspension and debarment.

### **§ 180.450 What action may I take if a lower tier participant fails to disclose the information required under § 180.355 to the next higher tier?**

If you as a Federal agency official determine that a lower tier participant failed to disclose information, as required by § 180.355, at the time it entered into a covered transaction with a participant at the next higher tier, you may pursue any remedies available to you, including the initiation of a suspension or debarment action.

## **Subpart E—Excluded Parties List System**

### **§ 180.500 What is the purpose of the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS)?**

The EPLS is a widely available source of the most current information about persons who are excluded or disqualified from covered transactions.

### **§ 180.505 Who uses the EPLS?**

(a) Federal agency officials use the EPLS to determine whether to enter into a transaction with a person, as required under § 180.430.

(b) Participants also may, but are not required to, use the EPLS to determine if—

(1) Principals of their transactions are excluded or disqualified, as required under § 180.320; or

(2) Persons with whom they are entering into covered transactions at the next lower tier are excluded or disqualified.

(c) The EPLS is available to the general public.

### **§ 180.510 Who maintains the EPLS?**

The General Services Administration (GSA) maintains the EPLS. When a Federal agency takes an action to exclude a person under the nonprocurement or procurement debarment and suspension system, the agency enters

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the information about the excluded person into the EPLS.

### **§ 180.515 What specific information is in the EPLS?**

(a) At a minimum, the EPLS indicates—

(1) The full name (where available) and address of each excluded and disqualified person, in alphabetical order, with cross references if more than one name is involved in a single action;

(2) The type of action;

(3) The cause for the action;

(4) The scope of the action;

(5) Any termination date for the action;

(6) The Federal agency and name and telephone number of the agency point of contact for the action; and

(7) The Dun and Bradstreet Number (DUNS), or other similar code approved by the GSA, of the excluded or disqualified person, if available.

(b)(1) The database for the EPLS includes a field for the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) (the social security number (SSN) for an individual) of an excluded or disqualified person.

(2) Agencies disclose the SSN of an individual to verify the identity of an individual, only if permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 and, if appropriate, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, as codified in 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

### **§ 180.520 Who places the information into the EPLS?**

Federal agency officials who take actions to exclude persons under this part or officials who are responsible for identifying disqualified persons must enter the following information about those persons into the EPLS:

(a) Information required by § 180.515(a);

(b) The Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the excluded or disqualified person, including the social security number (SSN) for an individual, if the number is available and may be disclosed under law;

(c) Information about an excluded or disqualified person, generally within five working days, after—

(1) Taking an exclusion action;

(2) Modifying or rescinding an exclusion action;

(3) Finding that a person is disqualified; or

(4) Finding that there has been a change in the status of a person who is listed as disqualified.

**§ 180.525 Whom do I ask if I have questions about a person in the EPLS?**

If you have questions about a listed person in the EPLS, ask the point of contact for the Federal agency that placed the person's name into the EPLS. You may find the agency point of contact from the EPLS.

**§ 180.530 Where can I find the EPLS?**

You may access the EPLS through the Internet, currently at <http://epls.arnet.gov> or <http://www.epls.gov>.

**Subpart F—General Principles Relating to Suspension and Debarment Actions**

**§ 180.600 How do suspension and debarment actions start?**

When Federal agency officials receive information from any source concerning a cause for suspension or debarment, they will promptly report it and the agency will investigate. The officials refer the question of whether to suspend or debar you to their suspending or debarring official for consideration, if appropriate.

**§ 180.605 How does suspension differ from debarment?**

Suspension differs from debarment in that—

A suspending official . . .	A debarring official . . .
(a) Imposes suspension as a temporary status of ineligibility for procurement and nonprocurement transactions, pending completion of an investigation or legal proceedings.	Imposes debarment for a specified period as a final determination that a person is not presently responsible.
(b) Must— (1) Have <i>adequate evidence</i> that there may be a cause for debarment of a person; and (2) Conclude that <i>immediate action</i> is necessary to protect the Federal interest	Must conclude, based on a <i>preponderance of the evidence</i> , that the person has engaged in conduct that warrants debarment.
(c) Usually imposes the suspension <i>first</i> , and then promptly notifies the suspended person, giving the person an opportunity to contest the suspension and have it lifted.	Imposes debarment <i>after</i> giving the respondent notice of the action and an opportunity to contest the proposed debarment.

**§ 180.610 What procedures does a Federal agency use in suspension and debarment actions?**

In deciding whether to suspend or debar you, a Federal agency handles the actions as informally as practicable, consistent with principles of fundamental fairness.

(a) For suspension actions, a Federal agency uses the procedures in this subpart and Subpart G of this part.

(b) For debarment actions, a Federal agency uses the procedures in this subpart and Subpart H of this part.

**§ 180.615 How does a Federal agency notify a person of a suspension or debarment action?**

(a) The suspending or debarring official sends a written notice to the last known street address, facsimile number, or e-mail address of—

(1) You or your identified counsel; or

(2) Your agent for service of process, or any of your partners, officers, directors, owners, or joint venturers.

(b) The notice is effective if sent to any of these persons.

**§ 180.620 Do Federal agencies coordinate suspension and debarment actions?**

Yes, when more than one Federal agency has an interest in a suspension or debarment, the agencies may consider designating one agency as the lead agency for making the decision. Agencies are encouraged to establish methods and procedures for coordinating their suspension and debarment actions.

**§ 180.625 What is the scope of a suspension or debarment?**

If you are suspended or debarred, the suspension or debarment is effective as follows: