

other authorized individual, and the individual or entity furnishing the items or services was not in a position to determine medical necessity or to refuse to comply with the order of the physician or other authorized individual.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: May 22, 2003.

**Lewis Morris,**

*Acting Principal Deputy Inspector General.*

Approved: June 5, 2003.

**Tommy G. Thompson,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-23351 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4152-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### 48 CFR Parts 225 and 252

[DFARS Case 2002-D034]

#### Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Fish, Shellfish, and Seafood Products

**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 further implement Section 8136 of the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003. Section 8136 requires the acquisition of domestic fish, shellfish, and seafood, to include fish, shellfish, and seafood manufactured or processed, or contained in foods manufactured or processed, in the United States. This proposed rule contains clarifications to the interim rule published on February 14, 2003.

**DATES:** DoD will consider all comments received by November 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Respondents may submit comments directly on the World Wide Web at <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm>. As an alternative, respondents may e-mail comments to: [dfars@acq.osd.mil](mailto:dfars@acq.osd.mil). Please cite DFARS Case 2002-D034 in the subject line of e-mailed comments.

Respondents that cannot submit comments using either of the above methods may submit comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Amy Williams, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2002-D034.

At the end of the comment period, interested parties may view public comments on the World Wide Web at

<http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf>.

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

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **A. Background**

DoD published an interim rule at 68 FR 7441 on February 14, 2003, to implement Section 8136 of the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Pub. L. 107-248). Section 8136 relates to application of 10 U.S.C. 2533a (the Berry Amendment), which prohibits DoD from acquiring certain items unless they are grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States. 10 U.S.C. 2533a(f) provides an exception from this prohibition for foods manufactured or processed in the United States. Section 8136 of Public Law 107-248 makes the exception at 10 U.S.C. 2533a(f) inapplicable to fish, shellfish, and seafood products. The interim rule published on February 14, 2003, amended DFARS 225.7002-2 and the clause at DFARS 252.225-7012 to add requirements for the acquisition of domestic fish, shellfish, and seafood in accordance with Section 8136 of Public Law 107-248.

Eight respondents submitted comments on the interim rule. Four respondents concurred with the rule. A discussion of comments received from the other respondents is provided below. As a result of the comments, DoD has made changes to the rule and is requesting additional public comments on those changes.

1. *Comment:* The rule does not provide a definition or other guidance for determining which items qualify as "domestic" fish, shellfish, and seafood products and thus are deemed to have been grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States. Nor is there a discussion whether domestic fish, shellfish, and seafood would include those caught by U.S.-flag or U.S.-owned vessels, or whether the domestic restriction is intended to focus on the place where the fish, shellfish, and seafood may be caught.

*DoD Response:* To clarify this issue, the proposed rule includes a new paragraph (d) in the clause at 252.225-7012 to address domestic requirements for fish, shellfish, and seafood. These requirements are based on the definition of "A good wholly obtained or produced" found in United States Customs Service regulations at 19 CFR 102.1(g).

2. *Comment:* The rule does not define the intended geographic limit of "United States" in which the fish, shellfish, and seafood must be

manufactured or processed to qualify as domestic. Neither DFARS 225.003 nor DFARS 225.7001 defines "United States." FAR 25.003 defines "United States" to include "the 50 States and the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and possessions, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other place subject to U.S. jurisdiction," while DFARS 252.225-7012(b) refers to products from the "United States, its possessions, or Puerto Rico."

*DoD Response:* After issuance of the interim rule, the FAR was amended to clarify use of the term "United States" (FAC 2001-14; 68 FR 28079, May 22, 2003). This proposed rule amends the clause at 252.225-7012 to add a definition of "United States" that is consistent with the definition presently found in FAR 25.003.

**Note:** DoD assumes that the respondent meant "produced" rather than "manufactured or processed," because the point of this rule is that manufacturing or processing fish, shellfish, or seafood in the United States is not sufficient to meet the domestic source requirements of the law.

3. *Comment:* The rule makes the new prohibition applicable to all purchases of fish or seafood products and, therefore, makes the other statutory exceptions (at 225.7002-2(a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h)) inapplicable to such purchases.

*DoD Response:* The rule was not intended to make all other Berry Amendment exceptions inapplicable to fish, shellfish, and seafood products. Therefore, the proposed rule revises the text at 225.7002-2(j) and 252.225-7012(c) to clarify this point.

4. *Comment:* The Berry Amendment should be revised or repealed.

*DoD Response:* This comment is outside the scope of the case. DoD has drafted this DFARS rule in accordance with existing statutory requirements.

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

##### **B. Regulatory Flexibility Act**

This proposed rule is a clarification of the changes contained in the interim DFARS rule published at 68 FR 7441 on February 14, 2003. The initial regulatory flexibility analysis prepared for that rule still applies. A copy of the analysis may be obtained from the address specified herein. 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 2002-D034.

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 225 and 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson, Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, DoD proposes to amend 48 CFR Parts 225 and 252 as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Parts 225 and 252 continues to read as follows:

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

PART 225—FOREIGN ACQUISITION

2. Section 225.7002-2 is amended by revising paragraph (j) to read as follows:

225.7002-2 Exceptions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(j) Acquisitions of foods manufactured or processed in the United States, regardless of where the foods (and any component if applicable) were grown or produced. However, in accordance with Section 8136 of the DoD Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Pub. L. 107-248), this exception does not apply to fish, shellfish, or seafood manufactured or processed in the United States or fish, shellfish, or seafood contained in foods manufactured or processed in the United States.

\* \* \* \* \*

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

252.212-7001 [Amended]

3. Section 252.212-7001 is amended as follows:

a. By revising the clause date to read "(XXX 2003)"; and

b. In paragraph (b), in entry "252.225-7012", by removing "(FEB 2003)" and adding in its place "(XXX 2003)".

4. Section 252.225-7012 is amended as follows:

a. By revising the clause date to read "(XXX 2003)";

b. By adding paragraphs (a)(3) and (a)(4);

c. By revising paragraph (b) introductory text and paragraph (c)(3); and

d. By adding paragraph (d) to read as follows:

252.225-7012 Preference for Certain Domestic Commodities.

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \* (3) United States means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and outlying areas.

(4) U.S.-flag vessel means a vessel of the United States or belonging to the United States, including any vessel registered or having national status under the laws of the United States.

(b) The Contractor shall deliver under this contract only such of the following items, either as end products or components, that have been grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States:

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \* (3) To foods, other than fish, shellfish, or seafood, that have been manufactured or processed in the United States, regardless of where the foods (and any component if applicable) were grown or produced. Fish, shellfish, or seafood manufactured or processed in the United States and fish, shellfish, or seafood contained in foods manufactured or processed in the United States shall be provided in accordance with paragraph (d) of this clause;

\* \* \* \* \*

(d)(1) Fish, shellfish, and seafood delivered under this contract, or contained in foods delivered under this contract—

(i) Shall be taken from the sea by U.S.-flag vessels; or

(ii) If not taken from the sea, shall be obtained from fishing within the United States; and

(2) Any processing or manufacturing of the fish, shellfish, or seafood shall be performed on a U.S.-flag vessel or in the United States.

[FR Doc. 03-23342 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 246

[DFARS Case 2002-D032]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Government Source Inspection Requirements

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 eliminate Government source inspection requirements for contracts or delivery orders valued below \$250,000, unless certain conditions exist. This change will permit DoD contract administration offices to devote more resources to high-risk contracts.

DATES: DoD will consider all comments received by November 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Respondents may submit comments directly on the World Wide Web at http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm. As an alternative, respondents may e-mail comments to: dfars@osd.mil. Please cite DFARS Case 2002-D032 in the subject line of e-mailed comments.

Respondents that cannot submit comments using either of the above methods may submit comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Mr. Steven Cohen, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2002-D032.

At the end of the comment period, interested parties may view public comments on the World Wide Web at http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven Cohen, (703) 602-0293.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This proposed rule adds policy at DFARS 246.402 and 246.404 to eliminate requirements for Government quality assurance at source on contracts or delivery orders valued below \$250,000, unless (1) mandated by DoD regulation, (2) required by a memorandum of agreement between the acquiring department or agency and the contract administration agency, or (3) the contracting officer determines that certain conditions exist. The objective is to focus limited DoD contract management resources on high-risk areas, while providing flexibility for exceptions where needed.

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 DFARS changes in this rule primarily affect the allocation of Government resources to contract quality assurance functions. Therefore,