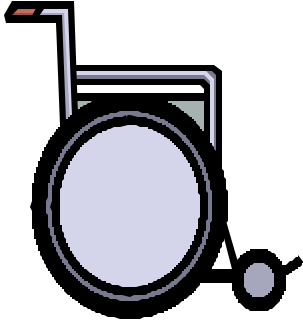


PPD ALERT



Section 508

The final rule for Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act was issued on December 21, 2000, in the Federal Register. Section 508 requires that Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) developed, procured, maintained, or used by the Federal Government be accessible to people with disabilities (PPD ALERT 2001-003).

Now That a Final Rule Has Been Issued, Does It Immediately Impact Federal EIT Acquisitions?

No, it does not. On January 22, 2001, the proposed rule for the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), EIT Accessibility was published in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would amend the FAR to comply with the Section 508 final rule. Written comments regarding the proposed FAR rule are being submitted to the General Services Administration. Therefore, Federal agencies cannot take action until the final FAR rule is issued.

The proposed rule will impact the following Sections of the FAR:

Part 2 – Definition of Words and Terms

2.101 DefinitionsElectronic and information technology

Part 7 – Acquisition Planning

7.103 Agency –head responsibilities

Part 10 – Market Research

10.01 Policy

Part 11 -Describing Agency Needs

11.002 Policy

Part 12 -Acquisition of Commercial Items

12.202 Market research and description of agency need

Part 39 –Acquisition of Information Technology

39.00 Scope of part.

39.X Electronic and Information Technology

39.X01 Scope of subpart.

39.X02 Definition

39.X03 Applicability

39.X04 Exceptions

The requirements in Subpart 39.x03 will not apply to EIT purchases that are below \$2,500 (FAR subpart 13.2 micro-purchases) prior to January 1, 2003.

What Should I Do Now?

Nothing. Once the final FAR rule is issued, PPD will develop a Policy and Procedures guidance to provide assistance to the agency in meeting the new FAR requirements. Review the January 22, 2001, Federal Register at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

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