



ACQUISITION LETTER

This Acquisition Letter is issued under the authority of the Procurement Executives of DOE and NNSA.

Subject: FAR Class Deviation Addressing Service Contract Act Requirements for Subcontracts for Certain Commercial Services

References:

FAR 12.504, 22.1003-4, and 52.212-5;
DOE Headquarters Policy Flash 2000-22, dated August 25, 2000
Civilian Agency Acquisition Council Letter 2001-02 dated July 26, 2001

When is this Acquisition Letter (AL) Effective?

This AL is effective immediately.

When Does this AL Expire?

This AL remains in effect until superseded or canceled. This AL supersedes AL 2000-10, dated December 14, 2000.

Who is the Point of Contact for this AL?

Contact Michael Raizen, Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy at (202) 586-8189, or at Michael.Raizen@pr.doe.gov

Visit our website at <http://professionals.pr.doe.gov> for information on Acquisition Letters and other policy issues.

What is the Purpose of this AL?

The purpose of revised AL 2000-10R is to extend a FAR Class Deviation addressing Service Contract Act requirements for certain subcontracts for commercial services. This class deviation implements the Secretary of Labor's temporary exemption. In accordance with Civilian Agency Acquisition Council letter 2001-02 of July 26, 2001, the class deviation is effective through July 26, 2002, or until this policy is addressed in the FAR, whichever occurs first.

What is the Background?

On July 26, 2000, pursuant to Section 4(b) of the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act (SCA), the Secretary of Labor issued a temporary exemption that directs that the requirements of the SCA are not applicable to subcontracts for the acquisition of certain commercial services. The Secretary of Labor determined that this exemption for certain subcontracts was necessary and proper in the public interest to avoid the serious impairment of Government business and in accord with the remedial purpose of the SCA to protect prevailing labor standards.

The original Class Deviation was provided to DOE procurement offices in Acquisition Letter 2000-10, dated December 14, 2000. The FAR Class Deviation is attached.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (FAR) CLASS DEVIATION
REGARDING

FAR 12.504, 22.1003-4, AND 52.212-5

FINDINGS

1. The FAR was revised at 12.504(a)(7) and 52.212-5(e)(5) to remove the Service Contract Act (SCA) from the list of laws inapplicable to subcontracts for commercial services. The FAR rule was published on July 26, 2000 and is applicable to solicitations issued on or after August 25, 2000. On the same day that the FAR rule was published, the Department of Labor (DOL): (1) pursuant to Section 4(b) of the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act, issued a final rule which recognizes a temporary exemption from SCA coverage for certain subcontracts for commercial services; and (2) issued a proposed rule which proposes a similar exemption for both prime contracts and subcontracts.
2. The DOL temporary exemption does not apply to all commercial subcontracts that may have been exempt under the now withdrawn FAR rule nor does it apply to any prime contracts. The exemption is limited solely to those subcontracts that (1) were or would have been exempt under the now withdrawn FAR rule and (2) would be exempt under the DOL proposed rule if that rule becomes final in its current form. The exemption will be in effect for one year or until final action is taken on the proposed rule, whichever occurs first.
3. This deviation is requested so that the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration, as an agency may implement the Department of Labor's final rule of July 26, 2000, Service Contract Act; Labor Standards for Federal Service Contracts, which concerns the issuance of the temporary exemption referenced above. The exemption is considered necessary to prevent the disruption that could be caused by such changes, including the possible disruption of services if the current subcontractor does not agree to continue the subcontract services under the requirements of SCA. This class deviation shall remain in effect until July 26, 2001 or upon the effective date of a pertinent FAR change, whichever occurs first. This request has been coordinated with the Chairperson of the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council.

DETERMINATION

I hereby authorize a class deviation from the requirements of FAR 12.504(c)(4), 22.1003-4 and 52.212-5(c)(1) in order to recognize a temporary DOL exemption from SCA coverage for certain subcontracts for commercial services.

APPROVAL
Acting Director of Office of Procurement and
Assistance Management
Department of Energy

DATE 11/16/00

APPROVAL
Director of Procurement and Assistance Management
National Nuclear Security Administration

DATE 11/29/00

CLASS DEVIATION

PART 12—ACQUISITIONS OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS

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12.504 Applicability of certain laws to subcontracts for the acquisition of commercial items.

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(c) The applicability of the following laws has been modified in regards to subcontracts at any tier for the acquisition of commercial items or commercial components:

(1) * * *

(2) * * *

(3) * * *

[(4) 41 U.S.C. 351, Service Contract Act of 1965 (see 22.1003-4(c) and (d).]

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PART 22—APPLICATION OF LABOR LAWS TO GOVERNMENT ACQUISITIONS

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22.1003-4 Administrative limitations, variations, tolerances, and exemptions.

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[(c)(1) Through July 26, 2001, the Secretary of Labor has exempted subcontracts principally for the following commercial services from all provisions of the Act if the conditions at paragraph (c)(2) of this subsection are met: the maintenance, calibration, repair, and/or installation of information technology.

(2) The exemption at paragraph (c)(1) of this subsection applies if the following conditions are met:

(i) If the subcontract includes installation services, the installation services are not subject to the Davis-Bacon Act as provided in 29 CFR 4.116(c)(2).

(ii) The items of equipment are commercial items.

(iii) The subcontract services are furnished at prices that are, or are based on, established catalog or market prices for the maintenance, calibration, repair, and/or installation of such commercial items.

(iv) The subcontractor uses the same compensation (wage and fringe benefits) plan for all service employees performing work under the contract as the subcontractor uses for these employees and equivalent employees servicing the same equipment of commercial customers.

(v) The subcontractor certifies in the subcontract that the conditions in paragraphs (c)(2)(ii) through (iv) of this subsection have been met.

(vi) Prior to subcontract award, the contractor determines that this exemption applies to the subcontract. In making a judgment that the

exemption applies, the clause at 52.212-5(c)(1) requires the contractor to consider all factors and make an affirmative determination that the conditions in paragraphs (c)(2)(ii) through (iv) of this subsection have been met, and that the condition at paragraph (c)(2)(v) of this subsection will be met.

(3) If the Department of Labor determines that any of the above requirements for exemption has not been met with respect to a subcontract, the exemption will be deemed inapplicable, and the contractor may be responsible for compliance with the Act, effective as of the date of contract award.

(d)(1) Through July 26, 2001, the Secretary of Labor has exempted subcontracts for the following commercial item services from all provisions of the Act if the conditions at paragraph (d)(2) of this subsection are met:

(i) Automated data processing (ADP) and telecommunications services, excluding ADP data entry services and ADP optical scanning services. This category includes the following:

(A) ADP facility operation and maintenance services provided at the subcontractor's facility.

(B) ADP telecommunications and transmission services.

(C) ADP teleprocessing and timesharing services.

(D) ADP systems analysis services.

(E) Information and data broadcasting or data distribution services.

(F) ADP backup and security services.

(G) ADP data conversion services.

(H) Computer aided design/computer aided manufacturing services.

(I) Digitizing services (including cartographic and geographic information).

(J) Telecommunications network management services.

(K) Automated news services.

(L) Data services or other information services (e.g., buying data, the electronic equivalent of books, periodicals, newspapers, etc.).

(M) Data storage on tapes, compact disks, etc.

(ii) Automobile or other vehicle (e.g., aircraft) maintenance services (other than subcontracts to operate a Government motor pool or similar facility).

(iii) Financial services involving the issuance and servicing of cards (including credit cards, debit cards, purchase cards, smart cards, and similar card services).

(iv) Lodging at hotels/motels and contracts with hotels/motels for conferences, including lodging and meals, that are part of the subcontract for the conference.

(v) Maintenance services for all types of specialized building or facility equipment, such as elevators, escalators, temperature control systems, security systems, smoke and/or heat detection equipment.

(vi) Maintenance, calibration, repair, or installation (where the installation is not subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, as provided in 29 CFR 4.116(c)(2)) services for all types of equipment where the services are obtained from the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment.

(vii) Transportation of persons by air, motor vehicle, rail, or marine vessel on regularly scheduled routes or via standard commercial services (not including charter services).

(viii) Real estate services, including real property appraisal services, related to housing Federal agencies or disposing of real property owned by the Government.

(ix) Relocation services, including services of real estate brokers and appraisers to assist Federal employees or military personnel in buying and selling homes.

(2) The exemption for the services in paragraph (d)(1) of this subsection apply if the following conditions are met:

(i) The services under the subcontract are commercial.

(ii) The subcontract will be awarded on a sole-source basis or the subcontractor will be selected for award based on other factors in addition to price. In such cases, price must be equal to or less important than the combination of other nonprice or cost factors in selecting the subcontractor.

(iii) The subcontract services are furnished at prices that are, or are based on, established catalog or market prices.

(iv) All of the service employees who will perform the services under the subcontract spend only a small portion of their time (a monthly average of less than 20 percent of the available hours on an annualized basis, or less than 20 percent of available hours during the contract period if the contract period is less than a month) servicing the Government subcontract.

(v) The subcontractor utilizes the same compensation (wage and fringe benefits) plan for all service employees performing work under the subcontract as the subcontractor uses for these employees and for equivalent employees servicing commercial customers.

(vi) The contractor determines in advance, based on the nature of the subcontract requirements and knowledge of the practices of likely offerors, that all or nearly all offerors will meet the above requirements. If the services are currently being performed under a contract or subcontract, the contractor is required by the clause at 52.212-5(c)(1) to consider the practices of the existing contractor or subcontractor in making a determination regarding the above requirements.

(vii) The subcontractor certifies in the subcontract that the conditions in paragraphs (d)(2)(i), and (d)(2)(iii) through (v) of this subsection apply to the subcontract. The contractor is required by the clause at 52.212-5(c)(1) to review available information concerning the subcontractor and the manner in which the subcontract will be performed. If the contractor has reason to doubt the validity of the certification, SCA stipulations must be included in the subcontract.

(viii) The subcontract are not subject to Section 4(c) of the Service Contract Act.

(3) If the Department of Labor determines that any of the above requirements for exemption has not been met with respect to a subcontract, the exemption will be deemed inapplicable for that subcontract, and the contractor might be responsible for compliance with the Act, effective as of the date of contract award.]

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PART 52 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

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52.212-5 Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders—Commercial Items.

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(c) * * *

____(1) 52.222-41, Service Contract Act of 1965, As Amended (41 U.S.C. 351, et seq.) [(Subcontracts for certain commercial services may be exempt from coverage if they meet the criteria in FAR 22.1003-4(c) or (d))]

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