

Department of Veterans Affairs

801.601

and Budget (OMB) for approval as prescribed by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. If approved, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management will send the approval back to the requester with the OMB clearance number.

(c) In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-511), the reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are included in this VAAR have been approved by OMB and have been given the following approval numbers:

48 CFR part or section where identified and described	Current OMB control No.
809.504(d)	2900-0418
819.7003	2900-0445
836.606-71	2900-0422
852.219-70	2900-0584
852.211-70	2900-0587
852.211-74	2900-0588
852.211-75	2900-0586
852.211-77	2900-0585
852.214-70	2900-0593
852.236-72	2900-0422
852.236-79	2900-0422
852.236-80 (Alt. I)	2900-0422
852.236-82 through 852.236-85	2900-0422
852.236-88	2900-0422
852.236-89	2900-0622
852.236-91	2900-0623
852.237-71	2900-0590
852.270-03	2900-0589
871.201-2	2900-0416

[49 FR 12583, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 790, Jan. 7, 1985; 54 FR 31962, Aug. 3, 1989; 54 FR 40062, Sept. 29, 1989; 63 FR 17335, Apr. 9, 1998; 63 FR 69217, Dec. 16, 1998; 67 FR 49258, July 30, 2002]

801.303 Publication and codification.

The VAAR is codified as chapter 8 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations. Codified changes to the VAAR will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management arranges distribution of the issues to VA contracting activities and the Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management should be notified of changes to the distribution list.

[49 FR 12583, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 31962, Aug. 3, 1989]

801.304 Department control and compliance procedures.

Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management is responsible for ensuring that the VAAR and amendments

thereto are developed as prescribed by the FAR.

[49 FR 12583, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 31962, Aug. 3, 1989]

Subpart 801.4—Deviations From the FAR or VAAR

801.403 Individual deviations.

(a) When contracting officers consider it necessary to deviate from the policies set forth in the FAR or VAAR, a request for authority to do so will be submitted to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management (93). The request will clearly set forth the circumstances warranting the deviation and nature of the deviation.

(b) When a deviation in an individual case is authorized by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, the authorization will be filed in the purchase or contract file, whichever is appropriate.

[54 FR 31962, Aug. 3, 1989, as amended at 61 FR 20491, May 7, 1996]

801.404 Class deviations.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management is responsible for determining the need for class deviations. If determined necessary, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management will request deviation authority from the Deputy Secretary through the Senior Procurement Executive as well as complying with the provisions in FAR 1.404.

[49 FR 12583, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 49016, Dec. 29, 1987; 54 FR 31962, Aug. 3, 1989]

Subpart 801.6—Career Development, Contracting Activity, and Responsibilities

801.601 General.

(a) This subpart establishes general contracting officer authority and responsibility. However, other provisions in both the FAR and the VAAR contain some contracting officer limitations and it is incumbent upon each contracting officer to be aware of those limitations.

(b) Personnel, other than those designated in 801.602, may determine quality, quantity and delivery requirements for items or services to be purchased. However, under no circumstances will individuals who have not been delegated contracting authority commit the Government for purchases of supplies, equipment or services. Individuals making such commitments may be held financially liable for the amount of the obligation.

801.602 Contracting officers.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, VA regulations, VAAR and FAR, the authority vested in the Secretary to do the following is delegated to the Senior Procurement Executive and is further delegated to the Procurement Executive:

(1) Execute, award, and administer contracts, purchase orders, and other agreements (including interagency agreements) for the expenditure of funds involved in the acquisition of personal property, service (including architect-engineer services), construction, issuing Government bills of lading, and for the sale of personal property, leases, sales agreements and other transactions;

(2) Prescribe and publish acquisition policies and procedures;

(3) Establish clear lines of contracting authority;

(4) Manage and enhance career development of the procurement work force;

(5) Examine, in coordination with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, the procurement system to determine specific areas where Governmentwide performance standards should be established and applied, and to participate in the development of Governmentwide procurement policies, regulations and standards; and,

(6) Oversee the competition advocate program.

(b) Further delegation to execute, award, and administer contracts, purchase orders and other agreements will be made in accordance with the Contracting Officer Certification Program as prescribed in (VAAR) 48 CFR 801.670 and 801.690.

[61 FR 1526, Jan. 22, 1996]

801.602-2 Responsibilities.

(a) In the administration of a contract, many problems can and do arise that make the advice and assistance of the General Counsel either desirable or necessary. The final decision as to the action to be taken, however, must be made by the contracting officer in each instance. To reduce to the absolute minimum the possibility of litigation resulting from his/her decision, the contracting officer shall, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, submit the problem through channels in sufficient detail to the General Counsel for advice or assistance.

(b) While legal review and concurrence of the General Counsel is required prior to a default termination, in some cases where a quick response is necessary, this review can be expedited by express mailing or telefaxing the default letter and related documents which are required to make an evaluation directly to the General Counsel (025). The default termination letter should contain, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The proposed termination (FAR 49.102);

(2) An explanation of what necessitated the default, including the reasons why the contracting officer considers the contractor to be in default;

(3) A statement that the factors set forth in FAR 49.402-3(f) have been fully considered; and

(4) Final decision language and appeal rights.

(c) Contracts containing a mutual termination clause may be terminated without reference to the General Counsel.

[49 FR 12583, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 31962, Aug. 3, 1989]

801.602-3 Ratification of unauthorized commitments.

(a) Contracting officers shall not ratify contractual commitments made by other VA personnel without prior approval as prescribed below. Such unauthorized commitments include commitments made by other contracting officers which exceed their respective contracting authority as well as unauthorized commitments made by individuals lacking contracting authority.