

Subpart 701.4—Deviations from the FAR or AIDAR

701.402 Policy.

It is the policy of USAID that deviation from the mandatory requirements of the FAR and AIDAR shall be kept at a minimum and be granted only if it is essential to effect necessary procurement and when special and exceptional circumstances make such deviation clearly in the best interest of the Government.

701.470 Procedure.

(a) Deviation from the FAR or AIDAR affecting one contract or transaction.

(1) Deviations which affect only one contract or procurement will be made only after prior approval by the head of the contracting activity. Deviation requests containing the information listed in paragraph (c) of this section shall be submitted sufficiently in advance of the effective date of such deviation to allow adequate time for consideration and evaluation by the head of the contracting activity.

(2) Requests for such deviations may be initiated by the responsible USAID contracting officer who shall obtain clearance and approvals as may be required by the head of the contracting activity. Prior to submission of the deviation request to the head of the contracting activity for approval, the contracting officer shall obtain written comments from the Office of Procurement, Policy Division (M/OP/P), hereinafter referred to as "M/OP/P". The M/OP/P shall normally be allowed 10 working days prior to the submission of the deviation request to the head of the contracting activity to review the request and to submit comments. If the exigency of the situation requires more immediate action, the requesting office may arrange with the M/OP/P for a shorter review period. In addition to a copy of the deviation request, the M/OP/P shall be furnished any background or historical data which will contribute to a more complete understanding of the deviation. The comments of the M/OP/P shall be made a part of the deviation request file which is forwarded to the head of the contracting activity.

(3) Coordination with the Office of General Counsel, as appropriate, should also be effected prior to approval of a deviation by the head of the contracting activity.

(b) Class deviations from the FAR or AIDAR: Class deviations are those which affect more than one contract or contractor.

(1) Class deviations from the AIDAR will be processed in the same manner as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section. Individual heads of contracting activities have authority to approve class deviations affecting only contracts within their own contracting activities, except that the Director, M/OP, has authority to approve class deviations that affect more than one contracting activity.

(2) Class deviations from the FAR shall be considered jointly by USAID and the Chairperson of the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council (C/CAAC) (FAR 1.404) unless, in the judgement of the head of the contracting activity, after due consideration of the objective of uniformity, circumstances preclude such consultation. The head of the contracting activity shall certify on the face of the deviation the reason for not coordinating with the C/CAAC. In such cases, the M/OP/P, shall be responsible for notifying the C/CAAC of the class deviation.

(3) Class deviations from the FAR shall be processed as follows:

(i) The request shall be processed in the same manner as paragraph (a) of this section, except that the M/OP/P, shall be allowed 15 working days prior to the submission of the deviation request to the head of the contracting activity to effect the necessary coordination with the C/CAAC and to submit comments. If the exigency of the situation requires more immediate action, the requesting office may arrange with the M/OP/P for a shorter review and coordination period. The comments of the C/CAAC and the M/OP/P shall be made a part of the deviation request file which is forwarded to the head of the contracting activity.

(ii) The request shall be processed in the same manner as paragraph (a) of this section if the request is not being jointly considered by USAID and the C/CAAC.

701.601

(4) Deviations involving basic agreements or other master type contracts are considered to involve more than one contract.

(5) Unless the approval is sooner rescinded, class deviations shall expire 2 years from the date of approval provided that deviation authority shall continue to apply to contracts or task orders which are active at the time the class deviation expires. Authority to continue the use of such deviation beyond 2 years may be requested in accordance with the procedures prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section.

(6) Expiration dates shall be shown on all class deviations.

(c) Requests for deviation shall contain a complete description of the deviation, the effective date of the deviation, the circumstances in which the deviation will be used, a specific reference to the regulation being deviated from, an indication as to whether any identical or similar deviations have been approved in the past, a complete justification of the deviation including any added or decreased cost to the Government, the name of the contractor, and the contract or task order number.

(d) Register of deviations: Separate registers shall be maintained by the procuring activities of the deviations granted from the FAR and AIDAR. Each deviation shall be recorded in its appropriate register and shall be assigned a control number as follows: the symbol of the procuring activity, the abbreviation "DEV", the fiscal year, the serial number [issued in consecutive order during each fiscal year] assigned to the particular deviation and the suffix "c" if it is a class deviation, e.g. CM-DEV-85-1, CM-DEV-85-2c. The control number shall be embodied in the document authorizing the deviation and shall be cited in all references to the deviation.

(e) Central record of deviations: Copies of approved deviations shall be furnished promptly to the M/OP/P, who shall be responsible for maintaining a central record of all deviations that are granted.

(f) Semiannual report of class deviations:

(1) USAID contracting officers shall submit a semiannual report to the M/OP/P of all contract actions effected

48 CFR Ch. 7 (10-1-06 Edition)

under class deviations to the FAR and AIDAR which have been approved pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) The report shall contain the applicable deviation control number, the contractor's name, contract number and task order number (if appropriate).

(3) The report shall cover the 6-month periods ending June 30 and December 31, respectively, and shall be submitted within 20 working days after the end of the reporting period.

[49 FR 13236, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 50302, Dec. 10, 1985; 55 FR 6802, Feb. 27, 1990; 56 FR 67224, Dec. 30, 1991; 59 FR 33445, June 29, 1994; 61 FR 39090, July 26, 1996]

Subpart 701.6—Career Development, Contracting Authority, and Responsibilities

701.601 General

(a) (1) Pursuant to the delegations in ADS 103.5.10, the M/OP Director is authorized to act as the Head of the Agency for all purposes described in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR, 48 CFR Chapter 1), except for the authority in (48 CFR) FAR sections 6.302-7(a)(2), 6.302-7(c)(1), 17.602(a), 19.201(c), 27.306(a), 27.306(b), and 30.201-5, or where the "head of the agency" authority is expressly not delegable under the FAR or AIDAR. Further, the M/OP Director is responsible for implementing the procurement related aspects of the Foreign Assistance Act, Executive Order 11223, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act, and other statutory and Executive Branch procurement policies and requirements applicable to USAID operations, except for those authorities and responsibilities delegated to the Procurement Executive as specified in ADS 103.5.10f.

(2) The M/OP Director has specified authority to:

(i) Select and appoint contracting officers and terminate their appointments in accordance with section 1.603 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

(ii) Exercise in person or by delegation the authorities stated in subpart 1.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation with regard to deviations from that regulation.

(b) Except as otherwise prescribed, the head of each contracting activity