

Agency for International Development

701.603-70

(as defined in 702.170) is responsible for the procurement of supplies and services under or assigned to the procurement cognizance of his or her activity. The heads of USAID contracting activities are vested with broad authority to carry out the programs and activities for which they are responsible. This authority includes authority to execute contracts and the establishment of procurement policies, procedures, and standards appropriate for their programs and activities, subject to government-wide and USAID requirements and restrictions, such as those found at 701.376-4 and particularly 701.603-70, the USAID policy regarding the direct-hire status of contracting officers.

(c) The authority of heads of contracting activities to execute contracts is limited as follows:

(1) Director, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. Authority to execute contracts for disaster relief purposes during the first 72 hours of a disaster in a cumulative total amount not to exceed \$500,000. Authority to execute simplified acquisitions up to \$50,000 at any time. May issue warrants for simplified acquisitions up to \$50,000 to qualified individuals on his or her staff.

(2) Director, Center for Human Capacity Development (G/HCD). Authority to execute simplified acquisitions up to \$10,000. Unlimited authority for procuring participant training based on published catalog prices, using M/OP/E approved forms. May issue warrants for simplified acquisitions up to \$10,000 to qualified individuals on his or her staff.

(3) Overseas heads of contracting activities. Authority to sign contracts where the cumulative amount of the contract, as amended, does not exceed \$250,000 (or local currency equivalent) for personal services contracts or \$100,000 (or local currency equivalent) for all other contracts. May issue warrants for simplified acquisitions up to \$50,000 to qualified individuals on his or her staff.

[53 FR 4980, Feb. 19, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 6802, Feb. 27, 1990; 56 FR 67224, Dec. 30, 1991; 58 FR 8702, Feb. 17, 1993; 59 FR 33445, June 29, 1994; 60 FR 11912, Mar. 3, 1995; 61 FR 39090, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40466, July 29, 1997; 64 FR 42041, Aug. 3, 1999]

701.602-1 Authority of contracting officers in resolving audit recommendations.

With the exception of termination settlements subject to part 749, Termination of Contracts, contracting officers shall have the authority to negotiate and enter into settlements with contractors for costs questioned under audit reports, or to issue a contracting officer's final decision pursuant to the disputes clauses (in the event that questioned costs are not settled by negotiated agreement) in accordance with ADS Chapter 591.5.20. The negotiated settlement or final decision shall be final, subject only to a contractor's appeal, either under the provisions of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, as amended (41 U.S.C. 601-613), or to the courts. Policies and procedures for resolving audit recommendations are in accordance with ADS Chapters 591 and 592.

[62 FR 40466, July 29, 1997]

701.602-3 Ratification of unauthorized commitments.

(a) [Reserved]

(b) *Policy.* (1) [Reserved]

(2) In order to maintain management oversight and controls on unauthorized commitments, authority to ratify unauthorized commitments within USAID is reserved to the M/OP Director.

[53 FR 6829, Mar. 3, 1988, as amended at 64 FR 42040, Aug. 3, 1999]

701.603 Selection, appointment, and termination of appointment.

701.603-70 Designation of contracting officers.

A contracting officer represents the U.S. Government through the exercise of his/her delegated authority to negotiate, sign, and administer contracts on behalf of the U.S. Government. The contracting officer's duties are sensitive, specialized, and responsible. In order to insure proper accountability, and to preclude possible security, conflict of interest, or jurisdiction problems, it is USAID policy that USAID