



FRAUD WARNING RE: IRAQI PROCUREMENT

January 21, 2011

Companies interested in doing business in Iraq should be aware of ongoing fraudulent contract offers made by persons posing as Iraqi officials. These scams are merely variations on the notorious “Nigerian 419” scam. In a typical scam relating to a fraudulent Iraqi procurement, a person or company receives e-mails and other correspondence asking them to satisfy such conditions as the following to participate in Iraqi ministry tenders: pay up-front fees or commissions to "register" for the tender; and/or provide detailed bank account information as a reference or to show qualification for a letter of credit. Other typical features of a scam include:

- Personal contact from the offices of a senior Iraqi Minister or Vice President;
- Use of European banks that are claimed to be special Europe-based offices designed to facilitate Iraqi Government purchases;
- Misrepresentation of Iraqi Government contracting procedures.

Although some of the documents sent to firms appear to be authentic tender documents from Iraqi ministries, these tenders are fictitious and these conditions are not legitimate. If you comply with such conditions, you may suffer substantial financial losses. In no case should you or your company send money or bank account information without verifying the authenticity of the tender, the related documents, and the conditions of participation.

If you would like to view Iraqi Government web pages and current tender opportunities to help you verify the authenticity of the tender document you received, please visit our Useful Links [here](#). In addition, the Commerce Department’s Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force will occasionally post information on active tender procurements in Iraq [here](#). If you are a U.S. citizen or represent a U.S. company and believe you may have received a fraudulent tender document, the Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force may be able to provide some guidance to you for your use in making a determination of its legitimacy. For assistance, you may email such inquiries, including copies of the tender document(s), to: IraqInfo@mail.doc.gov.

In addition, communications that raise questions of fraud should always be reported to your local or national law enforcement authorities. In the United States, the lead agency for such claims is the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://ic3.gov/>.

Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force
Market Access and Compliance
International Trade Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

IraqInfo@mail.doc.gov

1-866-352-IRAQ (4727)

www.export.gov/iraq