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AGAR ADVISORY

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
AGAR ADVISORY NO. 87C**

USDA Federal Procurement Data Quality Plan

INTRODUCTION: This Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR) Advisory supersedes AGAR Advisory 87B Revision 02, dated November 5, 2010 and updates information concerning the upcoming Federal Procurement Data Quality Plan for Fiscal Year 2011. On October 7, 2009, The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memorandum titled, “Improving Acquisition Data Quality for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010,” outlining guidance and requirements concerning the USDA Verification and Validation process. In addition, OMB issued a memorandum on May 31, 2011, titled, “Improving Federal Procurement Data Quality – Guidance for Annual Verification and Validation” which reiterates guidance from the 2009 memorandum and adds internal controls, contractor compliance, and past performance assessments.

The purpose of this AGAR Advisory is to implement this new policy and procedure of the verification and validation of the Federal procurement data submitted to General Service Administration to comply with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy’s (OFPP) directive that Federal Agencies verify and validate the accuracy of the information entered into the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS).

SUMMARY: Review of USDA’s data certification process is essential for effective management and to ensure that the data submitted into FPDS is accurate. OMB requires Agencies to take additional steps to verify and validate the accuracy of data entered into the FPDS. In accordance with policy issued by OMB, Chief Acquisition Officers (CAOs) and Senior Procurement Executives (SPEs) must establish requirements for ensuring that FY 2011 FPDS data reflects accurate and timely contract information. To that end, USDA updated its process for submission of its Annual Statement of Verification and Validation that must be submitted annually to OFPP. This new process is effective November 15, 2011.

ACTION: A copy of USDA’s FPDS Data Quality Plan is attached with four appendices. The Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM) added appendix three titled, “Improving the use of Contractor Performance System” to support past performance assessments within the department. Agencies shall take action and follow the timeline dates and deadlines as required by the plan to ensure that the FY 2011 FPDS data reflects accurate and timely contract information.

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact Crandall Watson, Procurement Policy Division by phone (202-720-7529) or by email (Crandall.Watson@dm.usda.gov) or email Procurement.Policy@dm.usda.gov.

This advisory is available at <http://www.usda.gov/procurement/policy/advisories.html>.

EXPIRATION DATE: This advisory will remain in effect until cancelled.

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