

# **Food Service, Hospitality and Cleaning Schedule 73 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

## **1. What countries are acceptable Trade Agreement Act (TAA) countries?**

FAR 52.225-5 outlines designated countries which meet TAA requirements. The Trade Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 2501, *et seq.*) is the enabling statute that implements numerous multilateral and bilateral international trade agreements and other trade initiatives. Since the estimated dollar value of each Schedule exceeds the established TAA threshold, the TAA is applicable to all Schedules. In accordance with the TAA, only U.S.-made or designated country end products shall be offered and sold under Schedule contracts.

## **2. Is it possible to obtain a waiver to TAA? If so, for which products would a waiver apply?**

GSA does not grant waivers for the purchase of supplies or services from non-designated countries.

## **3. Regarding products that can be purchased under FSC 73 that typically have a shelf life, carbonated drinks for example, can a contractor offer this product to a customer under the Non-Emergency Food Service Support SIN 302 2?**

Yes. Products that are shelf life stable for 12 months or more. Perishable food products are not allowed under this Schedule.

## **4. Who monitors and enforces the Trade Agreement Act (TAA)? What are the penalties?**

Answer: Competing companies and Government personnel monitor compliance with TAA. The Department of Justice will prosecute and/or fine known violators of TAA.

## **5. What is covered under SINS 99, Introduction to New Services and Products...?**

This Special Item Number (SIN) covers products and services that fall within the scope of Schedule 73 but do not currently fit into an existing SIN.

## **6. Can State/Local Governments receive GSA Multiple Award Schedule pricing?**

There are several programs that allow State and Local Governments to purchase products and services using GSA Multiple Award Schedules.

Under the Disaster Recovery Purchasing Program, all State and Local Governments can purchase directly from participating contractors on any GSA Schedule before and after Presidentially declared disasters or acts of terrorism to aid in recovery.

State and Local Governments may access all GSA Schedules as authorized users for goods and services when expending federal grant funds in response to a Public Health Emergency (PHE) declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Under the 1122 Counter-Drug Program, State and Local Governments can purchase from selected GSA Schedules and SINs for use in counter-drug activities. For more information on the 1122 Program please go to [www.gsa.gov/Schedules](http://www.gsa.gov/Schedules) and then click on 1122 Program.

Under the Cooperative Purchasing Program, two GSA Schedules; Schedule 70, General Purpose Commercial Information Technology Equipment, Software and Services and Schedule 84, Total Solutions for Law Enforcement, Security, Facilities Management, Fire, Rescue, Clothing, Marine Craft, Emergency/Disaster Response, allow State and Local Governments to purchase goods and services regardless of the circumstances.

## **7. What is a BPA?**

A Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) is a simplified method of filling recurring needs for services and products, while leveraging a customer's buying power by taking advantage of quantity discounts, saving administrative time, and reducing paperwork. Go to [www.gsa.gov/BPA](http://www.gsa.gov/BPA) for more information.