

2901.403

to ascertain that such instructions are consistent with the FAR and the DOLAR and that they do not contain information which should be issued as the DOLAR.

Subpart 2901.4—Deviations From the FAR and DOLAR

2901.403 Individual deviations.

(a) The Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, is authorized to approve deviations from FAR provisions (see FAR 1.403) or DOLAR provisions which affect only one contracting action.

(b) Requests for deviations under paragraph (a) of this section shall be submitted by the head of the contracting activity and include justification as to why the deviation is required.

(c) A copy of the approved deviation shall be included in the contract file.

2901.404 Class deviations.

(a) The Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, is authorized to approve class deviations of FAR or DOLAR provisions which affect more than one contracting action.

(b) Requests for deviations under paragraph (a) of this section, shall be submitted by the head of the contracting activity and include justification as to why the deviation is required and the number of contracting actions which will be affected.

(c) A copy of each approved class deviation shall be referenced in the contract file.

(d) Recommended revisions to the FAR and a copy of each approved class FAR deviation shall be transmitted to the FAR Secretariat by the Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, as required in FAR 1.404.

2901.405 Deviations pertaining to treaties and executive agreements.

(a) The Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, is responsible for transmitting to the FAR Secretariat the information required in FAR 1.405 (d) and (e).

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Subpart 2901.6—Contracting Authority and Responsibilities

2901.601 General.

This subpart deals with contracting authority and responsibilities of the head of the agency as defined in 2901.1 and 2902.1, FAR subpart 1.6 and this subpart.

2901.602 Contracting officers.

2901.602-1 Authority.

Information on the limits of contracting officers' authority shall be maintained by the head of each contracting activity as required in FAR 1.601-1. The Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management shall also maintain this information.

2901.603 Selection, appointment, and termination of appointment.

2901.603-1 General.

(a) *First tier delegation.* The Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (ASAM), acting through the Procurement Executive, is the chief departmental official for all acquisition and grant matters as outlined in Secretary's Order 4-76, for:

(1) Prescribing policies, procedures, and standards regarding the solicitation, award, and administration of all DOL acquisitions and grants for financial assistance (*e.g.*, cooperative agreements, grants, and similar instruments) obligating Federal funds for the purpose of:

(i) Obtaining property and services for the DOL and/or third parties.

(ii) Promoting DOL programs and objectives through financial assistance.

(2) Acquiring property and services for the United States Government under Title I of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 379).

(3) Establishing reporting requirements necessary for effective departmental acquisitions and grant management and for complying with data needs promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the General Services Administration (GSA), the General Accounting Office (GAO), and other agencies. This includes the SF-1099 report, "Income

Other Than Wages,” and “Federal Procurement Data System” (FPDS) and “Federal Assistance Award Data System” (FAADS) input.

(b) In the Department of Labor, contracting officer and grant officer authority and responsibility have been delegated from the Secretary of Labor through the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (ASAM) to the following officials or officers acting in their behalf:

(1) The Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

(2) The Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health.

(3) The Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards.

(4) The Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

(5) The Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

(6) The Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

(7) The Inspector General.

(8) The Regional Administrators—OASAM.

(9) The Director, National Capital Service Center, OASAM.

(c) *Delegations and limitations.* Subject to the limitations set forth in this paragraph and paragraph (g), the officials designated in paragraph (b) possess full authority to obligate the U.S. Government through the use of contracts, agreements, orders, grants, and/or other similar instruments. This authority includes obligating Federal funds for the purpose of obtaining property and services for the government and/or third parties, or for the purpose of promoting DOL programs or objectives through financial assistance. Each official designated in paragraph (b) (except the Inspector General), is delegated authority and responsibility for issuing purchase orders for purchases under GSA Federal Supply Schedules, FEDSTRIP, and from open-market sources not to exceed the small purchases limitation. Acquisition of typewriters, office copiers, adding machines, and calculators must be written against blanket purchase orders maintained for such equipment by the National Capital Service Center, OASAM. Acquisitions of copier equipment require prior approval of the Directorate of Administrative Services and Safety

and Health Programs. Paragraph (g)(2) outlines limitations on the purchase, lease and renewal of lease(s) of ADP equipment, software and services. Approval authority for competitive acquisition of consulting and related services costing less than \$50,000 cannot be redelegated by the head of the contracting activity. Other delegations in this section may be further redelegated by the designated officials within their areas of assigned responsibility, except that small purchase authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, the Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards, and the Commissioner of Labor Statistics is limited to the National Office only and may not be redelegated to the Regional Offices. Before issuing redelegations, contracting officers should consider the following factors to determine the extent to which authority shall be redelegated:

Volume of contracting programs; presence of, or capability of obtaining adequately trained personnel; consolidation of smaller contracting programs and offices on a geographical basis; and the overall strengthening of the acquisition process by the selection of qualified personnel. Criteria for selection, appointment and termination of Contracting/Grant Officers are contained in the Department of Labor Manual Series (DLMS-2) Chapter 800. Copies of the DLMS Chapter may be obtained upon written request from the Office of Procurement and Grant Policy, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. An information copy of every further redelegation must be furnished to the OASAM, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management.

(d) *Responsibilities.* The following redelegations are made subject to the requirements and exceptions outlined in paragraph (g) regarding prior approval requirements and the limitations on authority to issue purchase orders and contracts for the purchase, lease and renewal of lease(s) for ADP equipment,

software and services; and acquisition of consulting and related services.

(1) The Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for:

(i) Obtaining all program property and services required to fulfill the statutory and regulatory responsibilities imposed on the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

(ii) Approval of all grantee acquisitions of ADP equipment, software and services using grants-in-aid to State and local governments.

(iii) Establishing and maintaining an imprest fund.

(2) The Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for:

(i) Issuance of grant agreements with States as required under the statutory and regulatory requirements imposed on the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health.

(ii) Reimbursements to States, pursuant to section 7(c)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act of 1970) (29 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) for State services, facilities, and personnel used to carry out the statutory and regulatory responsibilities imposed on the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health.

(iii) Issuance of grants, pursuant to section 21(b) of the OSH Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 670(b)) for short term training of personnel.

(iv) Issuance of grants to nonprofit organizations for implementation of the expanded Employer-Employee Training Program under section 21(c) of the OSH Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 670(c)).

(3) The Deputy Under Secretary for Employment Standards, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for:

(i) Entering into agreements with States to enhance Federal/State cooperative efforts for the administration of comparable employment standards programs.

(ii) Procuring medical services necessary for the adjudication of claims for injury and occupational disease filed by Federal employees in accordance with the Federal Employees Compensation Act (5 U.S.C. 8101, *et seq.*) and

the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended (Pub. L. 91-173, 83 Stat. 742).

(4) The Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for:

(i) Acquisition of all program property and services required to fulfill the statutory and regulatory responsibilities imposed on the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

(ii) Issuing grants as required by the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*).

(iii) The purchase, lease, or renewal of lease(s) of ADP equipment, software and services costing \$100,000 or less without prior approval of the Directorate of Information Resources Management (DIRM), OASAM. Requirements shall not be fragmented in order to circumvent this \$100,000 threshold. ADP equipment, software or services costing more than \$100,000 require prior approval of DIRM. Prior approval of DIRM for ADP equipment, software, or services costing less than \$100,000 is also required when costs involved exceed GSA blanket delegation thresholds granted under FIRMR 201-23.104.

(5) The Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for:

(i) Acquisition of supplies and services required in support of training and orientation of foreign nationals.

(ii) Acquisition of supplies and services required in support of overseas exhibitions required under statutory and regulatory responsibilities imposed on the Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

(iii) International responsibilities not funded by an annual appropriation.

(6) The Commissioner of Labor Statistics, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for:

(i) Acquisition of supporting statistical economic research services, required under the statutory and regulatory responsibilities imposed on the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

(ii) Selling special statistics developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in accordance with the Act of April 13, 1934 (29 U.S.C. 9 *et seq.*).

(7) The Inspector General, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for contracting with State and local agencies for audit services in accordance with section 4 of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (41 U.S.C. 503).

(8) The Regional Administrators—OASAM, or officers acting in that capacity, are delegated authority and responsibility within their respective regions, for:

(i) The acquisition of property and services required for the Regional Offices, including all imprest fund purchases, GSA Federal Supply Schedule purchases, and open-market purchases. The acquisition of records equipment when the cost does not exceed the small purchases limitation for a single system. Purchases for typewriters, office copiers, adding machines, and calculators must be written against blanket purchase orders maintained for such equipment by the National Capital Service Center, OASAM. The purchase of copier equipment requires prior approval of the Directorate of Administrative Services and Safety and Health Programs.

(ii) Contracting for ADP operational services to support regional remote job entry capabilities. This authority does not include the purchase, lease, or renewal of lease(s) for ADP equipment or software. Prior approval of ADP operational services is required from DIT whenever a Delegation of Procurement Authority (DPA) or sharing clearance is required from the General Services Administration (GSA).

(9) The Director, National Capital Service Center, OASAM, or an officer acting in that capacity, is delegated authority and responsibility for acquisition of all property and services on behalf of DOL activities except for those contracting and grant responsibilities designated above. This includes (except for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)) acquisition authority for the purchase, lease, and renewal of lease(s) of all ADP equipment, software and all ADP services where Agencies have obtained prior approval from the Directorate of Information Resources Management (DIRM), OASAM, as appropriate.

(e) *Compliance responsibilities.* Each official designated in paragraph (b) is responsible for:

(1) Complying with the policies, procedures and reporting requirements established by the ASAM.

(2) Complying with the policies, procedures and other requirements prescribed by OMB, GSA, and other central agencies, and such implementing instructions as the Department may issue. This specifically includes competition for services and products within the small purchases limitation and restrictions on the use of consultant contracts, audiovisual productions, etc.

(3) Within the limitations specified in this subpart, obtaining all property and services required to fulfill the statutory and regulatory responsibilities of the Agency or Office.

(f) *Policy responsibilities.* The following officials have acquisition policy responsibilities within the DOL:

(1) The Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, OASAM, or an officer acting in that capacity, is responsible for:

(i) Developing and publishing guidelines, policies, and regulations for DOL acquisition and grant operations.

(ii) Reviewing and evaluating administrative procedures for DOL acquisition and grant operations.

(iii) Providing technical advice and assistance to those DOL officials and officers with acquisition and grant responsibilities. This includes interpreting the Federal Acquisition Regulations and the Department of Labor Acquisition Regulations and obtaining legal advice and assistance from the Solicitor of Labor as required.

(iv) Providing continuous coordination with appropriate DOL and Federal Agencies to ensure compliance with procurement and grant regulations.

(v) Providing technical advice and support to the ASAM in complying with the reporting requirements outlined in paragraph (a)(3).

(2) The Director, Directorate of Information Resources Management (DIRM), OASAM, or an officer acting in that capacity, is responsible for:

(i) Reviewing and providing prior approval for the purchase, lease or renewal of lease(s) of ADP equipment, software and services costing \$100,000

or more (the purchase price is to be used to determine inclusion in this paragraph regardless of whether the item is to be purchased or leased) and for all ADP services. Requirements shall not be fragmented in order to circumvent this \$100,000 threshold. Reviews involving lower amounts will be made when costs involved exceed GSA blanket delegation thresholds granted under FIRMR 201-23.104.

(ii) Providing oversight, including periodic system reviews, to promote efficient and effective management of information technology resources.

(iii) Reviewing ADP procurement requests for compliance with procurement policies, standards, and regulations.

(iv) Representing DOL and agencies in DOL in liaison with GSA and OMB on ADP matters.

(v) Developing and publishing policies and guidelines for managing information technology resources.

(3) The Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), is responsible for:

(i) Assuring participation of the Department in the Federal Small and Disadvantaged Business Program as specified in section 8(a) (small disadvantaged business set-asides) and section 15 (procurement in labor surplus areas) of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 637(a) and 644), and Executive Orders 11625 (Minority Business Enterprises) and 12138 (Women-Owned Business Enterprises).

(ii) Assuring participation and input of each Program Agency in establishing DOL goals for increased opportunities for small and disadvantaged business concerns to participate in the Department's procurement and grant activities.

(iii) Providing technical advice and assistance to Program Agencies in establishing Agency goals for utilizing small and disadvantaged businesses.

(iv) Developing systematic procedures, guidelines and regulations for assuring the effective implementation of the provisions of the Small Business Act, as amended, and Executive Orders 11625 and 12138.

(v) Maintaining liaison with the Small Business Administration (SBA) on matters regarding sections 8 and 15

of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 637(a) and 644), and Executive Order 12138, and the Department of Commerce on matters relating to Executive Order 11625.

(4) The Director, Office of Information and Public Affairs (OIPA), is responsible for:

(i) Reviewing all purchase orders, requisitions and contracts for audiovisual productions including those which contain an audiovisual component along with other activities before the request is processed and approved by OASAM or another Agency to assure compliance with DOL and OMB requirements. All types of audiovisual productions are covered, including projects for training, education, internal communications, and/or public information purchases. Training and education products will not be reviewed for content but rather for the professional quality, effectiveness and cost of the communications material being produced. (See Guidelines for Management of Departmental Audiovisual Activities, issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-114 and Secretary's Order 5-79.)

(ii) Reviewing all purchase orders, requisitions, and contracts for the rental or purchase of major audiovisual equipment to be used in production work before the request is processed and approved by OASAM or another DOL Agency to assure compliance with DOL and OMB requirements. Production equipment includes motion picture and videotape cameras, editing equipment and duplication equipment for videotape and film. Review is not necessary for such equipment as still cameras, projectors and tape players, cassette tape players, *etc.*

(5) The Procurement Review Board is responsible for:

(i) Reviewing all requests to award contracts, grants, agreements, or modifications thereto (as described in this paragraph (f)(5)) and recommending approval or disapproval to the ASAM:

(A) Requests for noncompetitive procurements, discretionary grants and agreements exceeding the small purchases limitation;

(B) Noncompetitive consulting and related services requests, including purchase orders, and personnel appointments of consultants and experts;

(C) Competitive procurements for consulting and related services costing \$50,000 or more and modifications thereto as described in paragraph (g) of this section;

(D) Major procurements and those with high waste vulnerability; and

(E) Requests for noncompetitive research, evaluation and demonstration projects after prior review by the Assistant Secretary for Policy.

(ii) Assuring compliance with the scope of the Board's authority, with OMB and DOL guidelines for use of consulting and related services and other special acquisitions.

(iii) Approval by the ASAM of requests identified in this paragraph (f)(5) do not constitute award of a contract. The contracting officer has final approval authority.

(g) *Exceptions to delegations of authority.* The assignment of procurement responsibilities described in paragraph (b) are subject to the exclusions listed below:

(1) *Procurement of consulting and related services.* (i) The ASAM retains authority and responsibility for approval of requests for consulting and related services for individuals and organizations under the following circumstances:

(A) When acquisitions by either contract or purchase order are to be awarded without competition, regardless of amount, or for those competitive actions costing \$50,000 or more; and

(B) When modifications involving changes in dollar amounts, deliverables under contracts or (under rare circumstances) extensions to existing consulting and related services contracts are required.

(ii) The heads of the contracting activities retain approval authority for the acquisition of consulting and related services costing less than \$50,000 which are obtained through competitive procedures.

(2) *Automated data processing (ADP).* The following requirements and limitations exist for the purchase or lease of ADP equipment, software and services:

(i) Authority to issue purchase orders and contracts is limited only to those officials in paragraph (b) with procure-

ment responsibility explicitly including this authority.

(ii) Acquisition of ADP equipment, software and services costing \$100,000 or more requires prior approval of DIRM, OASAM.

(iii) Acquisition of ADP equipment, software and services costing less than \$100,000 do not require prior approval of DIRM, OASAM, unless costs involved exceed GSA blanket delegation thresholds granted under FIRMR 201-23.104. However, agencies are responsible for complying with FIRMR documentation requirements.

(3) *Records equipment.* The purchase of records equipment; defined as file cabinets, shelf files, visible files, mechanized files, files guides, folders, jackets, wallets, and similar items used in the creation and maintenance of records and in mail handling requires special authority. Federal Property Management Regulation 101-11.306 as implemented by the Department of Labor Manual Series (DLMS-1) requires that: Form DL 1-194 be completed by the Agency Records Officer and forwarded to the Departmental Records Officer, DIRM, OASAM, for approval prior to acquisition. Regional Administrators—OASAM are delegated this approval authority for their respective regions. In keeping with GSA Bulletins FPMR B-120 and B-122 which discourage the use of legal-size files, no new legal size records equipment is to be purchased.

(4) The OSDBU will periodically monitor DOL Agency acquisition and grant functions which relate to the preferential programs to determine their effectiveness and adherence to Federal and DOL requirements.

(5) The Assistant Inspector General for Audit will periodically audit Agency acquisition and grant functions to determine compliance with governing regulations, policies and procedures.

(h) *Rescission of authority.* The ASAM acting through the Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, reserves the right to rescind the acquisition and grant authority delegated herein if it is determined that such action is in the best interest of the Government.

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