

## 246.408

(ii) Shall request that the contractor repair or replace the material, or perform the service, at no cost to the Government; and

(iii) May accept consideration if offered. For guidance on solicitation of a refund, see subpart 242.71.

[56 FR 36460, July 31, 1991, as amended at 67 FR 4208, Jan. 29, 2002]

### **246.408 Single-agency assignments of Government contract quality assurance.**

#### **246.408-70 Subsistence.**

(a) The Surgeons General of the military departments are responsible for—

- (1) Acceptance criteria;
- (2) Technical requirements; and
- (3) Inspection procedures needed to assure wholesomeness of foods.

(b) The contracting office may designate any Federal activity, capable of assuring wholesomeness and quality in food, to perform quality assurance for subsistence contract items. The designation may—

- (1) Include medical service personnel of the military departments; and
- (2) Be on a reimbursable basis.

#### **246.408-71 Aircraft.**

(a) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has certain responsibilities and prerogatives in connection with some commercial aircraft and of aircraft equipment and accessories (Pub. L. 85-726 (72 Stat 776, 49 U.S.C. 1423)). This includes the issuance of various certificates applicable to design, manufacture, and airworthiness.

(b) FAA evaluations are not a substitute for normal DoD evaluations of the contractor's quality assurance measures. Actual records of FAA evaluations may be of use to the contract administration office (CAO) and should be used to their maximum advantage.

- (c) The CAO shall ensure that—
- (1) The supplies and services conform to the terms of the contract; and
  - (2) The contractor possesses any required FAA certificates and approvals prior to acceptance.

#### **246.408-72 Construction projects.**

(a) The department or agency responsible for the construction of a building

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or other structure is normally responsible for on-site inspection.

(b) The contract administration office performs quality assurance for construction materials and supplies acquired for military and civil works projects.

(c) The offices responsible for on-site inspection and for quality assurance of materials and supplies must coordinate their efforts to ensure the compatibility of buildings and structures and installed equipment.

### **246.470 Government contract quality assurance actions.**

#### **246.470-1 Planning.**

In systematically planning Government contract quality assurance actions used to determine a contractor's compliance with contract quality requirements, consider—

- (a) The relative importance of the product; and
- (b) The variety of tasks required of the available resources.

#### **246.470-2 Evidence of conformance.**

Use objective evidence of quality to determine conformance to contract quality requirements.

#### **246.470-3 Assessment of additional costs.**

(a) Under the clause at FAR 52.246-2, Inspection of Supplies—Fixed-Price, the Government may charge the contractor for additional costs incurred by the Government due to delays in tests or inspections caused by the contractor, or due to the necessity for reinspection or retest. This action may be necessary when—

- (1) Supplies are not ready at the time such inspection and test are requested by the contractor; or
- (2) Reinspection or retest is necessitated by prior rejection.

(b) After considering the factors in paragraph (d) of this subsection, the quality assurance representative (QAR) may believe that the assessment of additional costs is warranted. If so, the representative shall recommend that

the contracting officer take the necessary action and provide a recommendation as to the amount of additional costs. Costs are based on the applicable Federal agency, foreign military sale, or public rate in effect at the time of the delay, reinspection, or retest.

(c) If the contracting officer agrees with the QAR, the contracting officer shall—

(1) Notify the contractor, in writing, of the determination to exercise the Government's right under the clause at FAR 52.246-2, Inspection of Supplies—Fixed Price; and

(2) Demand payment of the costs in accordance with the collection procedures contained in FAR subpart 32.6.

(d) In making a determination to assess additional costs, the contracting officer shall consider—

(1) The frequency of delays, reinspection, or retest under both current and prior contracts;

(2) The cause of such delay, reinspection, or retest; and

(3) The expense of recovering the additional costs.

#### **246.470-4 Maintenance of Government records.**

The contract administration office shall maintain suitable records of the quality assurance performance of contractors.

#### **246.470-5 Quality evaluation data.**

The contract administration office shall establish a system that provides, as a minimum, for the collection, evaluation, and use of—

(a) Quality data developed by the contractor during performance;

(b) Data developed by the Government through contract quality assurance actions; and

(c) Reports by users and customers.

#### **246.471 Authorizing shipment of supplies.**

(a) *General.* (1) Ordinarily, a representative of the contract administration office signs or stamps the shipping papers that accompany Government source-inspected supplies to release them for shipment. This is done for both prime and subcontracts.

(2) An alternative procedure (see paragraph (b) of this section) permits the contractor to assume the responsibility for releasing the supplies for shipment.

(3) The alternative procedure may include prime contractor release of supplies inspected at a subcontractor's facility.

(4) The use of the alternative procedure releases DoD manpower to perform technical functions by eliminating routine signing or stamping of the papers accompanying each shipment.

(b) *Alternative Procedures—Contract Release for Shipment.* (1) The contract administration office may authorize, in writing, the contractor to release supplies for shipment when—

(i) The stamping or signing of the shipping papers by a representative of the contract administration office interferes with the operation of the Government contract quality assurance program or takes too much of the Government representative's time;

(ii) There is sufficient continuity of production to permit the Government to establish a systematic and continuing evaluation of the contractor's control of quality; and

(iii) The contractor has a record of satisfactory quality, including that pertaining to preparation for shipment.

(2) The contract administration office shall withdraw, in writing, the authorization when there is an indication that the conditions in paragraph (b)(1) of this subsection no longer exist.

(3) When the alternative procedure is used, require the contractor to—

(i) Type or stamp, and sign, the following statement on the required copy or copies of the shipping paper(s), or on an attachment—

The supplies in this shipment—

1. Have been subjected to and have passed all examinations and tests required by the contract;

2. Were shipped in accordance with authorized shipping instructions;

3. Conform to the quality, identity, and condition called for by the contract; and

4. Are of the quantity shown on this document.

This shipment was—

1. Released in accordance with section 246.471 of the Defense FAR Supplement; and