

Department of Agriculture

432.003

PART 431—CONTRACT COST PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

Subpart 431.1—Applicability

431.101 Objectives.

(a) The SPE is designated as the official authorized to give advance approval of an individual deviation concerning cost principles.

(b) The SPE is designated as the official authorized to give advance approval of a class deviation concerning cost principles after coordination with the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council.

(c) Requests for advance approval of class deviations concerning cost principles must be submitted to the SPE through the HCA.

[61 FR 53646, Oct. 15, 1996]

PART 432—CONTRACT FINANCING

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

SOURCE: 61 FR 53646, Oct. 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

432.001 Definitions.

The *agency contract finance office* is the office, other than the office of the requisitioner, providing funding or performing funding record keeping for the contract action.

Responsible fiscal authority is that officer in the agency contract finance office with the responsibility to ensure that adequate funds are available and usable for the intended purpose.

432.003 Simplified acquisition procedures financing.

(a) The chief of the contracting office may approve contract financing on a

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contract to be entered under the simplified acquisition procedures. Class approvals may not be made.

(b) The signed approval must contain the supporting rationale for the action and an estimate of the cost and/or risk to the government.

432.006 Reduction or suspension of contract payments upon finding of fraud.

432.006-2 Definitions.

(a) The USDA *remedy coordination official* (RCO) is the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(b) For the purposes of this part, *head of the agency* means, exclusively, the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary.

432.006-3 Responsibilities.

When a contracting officer suspects that a request for advance, partial, or progress payment is based on fraud, the request shall be referred directly to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in accordance with their instructions. A copy of the referral shall be submitted through the head of the contracting activity (HCA) to the Senior Procurement Executive (SPE).

432.006-4 Procedures.

(a) Immediately upon submittal of the referral described in 432.006-3, the HCA and the contracting officer shall confer with the SPE and representatives of the OIG to discuss the potential for reduction or suspension of further payments based on the considerations listed in FAR 32.006-4(d) (1) through (5).

(b) The SPE will determine whether the contractor has contracts with other Departments or contracting activities and will involve them, as necessary, in the decision making process.

(c) The OIG will determine the need for and the extent of an investigation.

(d) Immediately upon completion of the OIG investigation (or, if deemed necessary by the OIG and the SPE, before completion of the investigation) the SPE, in coordination with the HCA, the contracting officer, and the OIG, shall make a report on the action to the RCO.

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(e) Upon receipt of the report, the RCO will submit a recommendation to the Secretary.

(f) Upon receipt of the RCO's report the Secretary will:

(1) Notify the contractor in writing, allowing 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice, that the contractor may submit in writing information and arguments in opposition to the recommendation; and

(2) Consider the RCO's recommendation, the SPE's report, the response of the contractor, and any other relevant information in order to make an appropriate final determination.

(g) This determination will be provided to the contractor and to the SPE for distribution to the agencies involved and for appropriate action under the determination.

(h) The determination and the supporting documentation will be placed in the contract file(s) and a copy will be maintained by the SPE.

(i) The contracting officer will advise the SPE of the actual date of the reduction or suspension action.

(j) Not later than 150 calendar days after the actual date of the reduction or suspension action, the SPE will prepare for the RCO a review of the agency head's determination, and will propose a recommendation from the RCO to the agency head as to whether the reduction or suspension action should continue. The RCO will submit the recommendation (including a recommendation for the time period of a follow up review) to the agency head. This recommendation will be considered by the Secretary and handled as a final action described in paragraph (f) of this section.

(k) The contract may not be closed nor final payment made prior to a final determination by the Secretary.

432.006-5 Reporting.

The annual report required by FAR 32.006-5 is to be prepared by the SPE and to be submitted to the Secretary within 90 calendar days after the end of the fiscal year. When signed by the Secretary, the report is to be maintained by the SPE.