

## SUBCHAPTER B—ACQUISITION PLANNING

### PART 1605—PUBLICIZING CONTRACT ACTIONS

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8913; 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 48 CFR 1.301.

#### 1605.000 Applicability.

FAR part 5 has no practical application to the FEHBP because OPM does not issue solicitations. Eligible contractors (i.e., qualified health benefits carriers) are identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 8903. Offerors voluntarily come forth in accordance with procedures provided in 5 CFR part 890.

[52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987]

### PART 1606—COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8913; 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 48 CFR 1.301.

#### 1606.001 Applicability.

FAR part 6 has no practical application to FEHBP contracts in view of the statutory exception provided by 5 U.S.C. 8902.

[52 FR 16039, May 1, 1987]

### PART 1609—CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

#### Subpart 1609.4—Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility

1609.470 Notification of Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility.

1609.471 Contractor certification.

#### Subpart 1609.70—Minimum Standards for Health Benefits Carriers

1609.7001 Minimum standards for health benefits carriers.

#### Subpart 1609.71—Performance Evaluation

1609.7101 Policy.

1609.7101-1 Community-rated carrier incentive performance elements.

1609.7101-2 Community-rated carrier performance factors.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8913; 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 48 CFR 1.301.

### Subpart 1609.4—Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility

SOURCE: 59 FR 14764, Mar. 30, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

#### 1609.470 Notification of Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility.

(FAR) 48 CFR, part 9, subpart 9.4 is supplemented as set out in the certification required in 1609.471 by converting the FAR "offeror's" certification at (FAR) 48 CFR 52.209-5 into a carrier's certification. This change reflects the FEHBP's statutory exemption from competitive bidding (5 U.S.C. 8902), which obviates the issuance of solicitations.

#### 1609.471 Contractor certification.

All FEHBP carriers and applicant carriers are required to submit the following certification. Applicant carriers must submit the certification prior to OPM's determination on the application for approval to participate in the FEHBP. Current carriers must submit the certification once, along with their benefit and rate proposals for the 1995 contract year.

DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, PROPOSED DEBARMENT, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

The Carrier certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that—

(a) The Carrier and/or any of its Principals—

(1) Are ( ) are not ( ) presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any Federal agency;

(2) Have ( ) have not ( ), within a 3-year period preceding this certification, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for: Commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, state, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; and

(3) Are ( ) are not ( ) presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of

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any of the offenses enumerated in subdivision (a)(2) of this clause.

(4) The Carrier has ( ) has not ( ), within a 3-year period preceding this certification, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any Federal agency.

(b) *Principals*, for the purposes of this certification, means officers; directors; owners; partners; and persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment, and similar positions).

This certification concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of an agency of the United States and the making of a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may render the Carrier subject to prosecution under section 1001, title 18, United States Code.

(c) The Carrier shall provide immediate written notice to the Contracting Officer if, at any time, the Carrier learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

(d) A Carrier's certification that any of the actions mentioned in the certification exists will not necessarily result in termination of the contract. However, the certification, or the Carrier's failure to provide such additional information as requested by the Contracting Officer, will be considered in connection with a determination of the Carrier's responsibility under subpart 1609.70, Minimum Standards for Health Benefits Carriers.

(e) Nothing contained in the certification shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the certification required by this section. The knowledge and information of the Carrier is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

(f) The certification in this section is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed by the Contracting Officer. If it is later determined that the Carrier knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Government, the Contracting Officer may terminate the contract for default.

Carrier Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chief Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(End of Certificate)

**Subpart 1609.70—Minimum Standards for Health Benefits Carriers**

**1609.7001 Minimum standards for health benefits carriers.**

(a) The carrier of an approved health benefits plan shall meet the requirements of chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code; part 890 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations; chapter 1 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and the following standards. The carrier shall continue to meet the requirements of chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and the standards cited in this paragraph while under contract with OPM. Failure to meet these requirements and standards is cause for OPM's withdrawal of approval of the health benefits carrier and termination of the contract in accordance with 5 CFR 890.204.

(1) It must be lawfully engaged in the business of supplying health benefits.

(2) It must have, in the judgement of OPM, the financial resources and experience in the field of health benefits to carry out its obligations under the plan.

(3) It must keep such reasonable financial and statistical records, and furnish such reasonable financial and statistical reports with respect to the plan, as may be requested by OPM.

(4) It must permit representatives of OPM and of the General Accounting Office to audit and examine its records and accounts which pertain, directly or indirectly, to the plan at such reasonable times and places as may be designated by OPM or the General Accounting Office.

(5) It must accept, subject to adjustment for error or fraud, in payment of its charges for health benefits for all enrollees in its plan, the enrollment charges received by the Employees Health Benefits (EHB) Fund less amounts set aside for the administrative and contingency reserves prescribed in 5 CFR 890.503. OPM makes available or pays the amounts within 30 days of receipt by the EHB Fund.