

Federal Acquisition Regulation

37.601

37.500 Scope of subpart.

This subpart establishes responsibilities for implementing Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Policy Letter 93-1, Management Oversight of Service Contracting.

37.501 Definition.

Best practices, as used in this subpart, means techniques that agencies may use to help detect problems in the acquisition, management, and administration of service contracts. Best practices are practical techniques gained from experience that agencies may use to improve the procurement process.

37.502 Exclusions.

(a) This subpart does not apply to services that are

- (1) Obtained through personnel appointments and advisory committees;
- (2) Obtained through personal service contracts authorized by statute;
- (3) For construction as defined in 2.101; or
- (4) Obtained through interagency agreements where the work is being performed by in-house Federal employees.

(b) Services obtained under contracts below the simplified acquisition threshold and services incidental to supply contracts also are excluded from the requirements of this subpart. However, good management practices and contract administration techniques should be used regardless of the contracting method.

[62 FR 12694, Mar. 17, 1997, as amended at 66 FR 2133, Jan. 10, 2001]

37.503 Agency-head responsibilities.

The agency head or designee should ensure that—

- (a) Requirements for services are clearly defined and appropriate performance standards are developed so that the agency's requirements can be understood by potential offerors and that performance in accordance with contract terms and conditions will meet the agency's requirements;
- (b) Service contracts are awarded and administered in a manner that will provide the customer its supplies and services within budget and in a timely manner;

(c) Specific procedures are in place before contracting for services to ensure compliance with OFPP Policy Letter 92-1, Inherently Governmental Functions; and

(d) Strategies are developed and necessary staff training is initiated to ensure effective implementation of the policies in 37.102.

[62 FR 12694, Mar. 17, 1997, as amended at 65 FR 36014, June 6, 2000]

37.504 Contracting officials' responsibilities.

Contracting officials should ensure that "best practices" techniques are used when contracting for services and in contract management and administration (see OFPP Policy Letter 93-1).

Subpart 37.6—Performance-Based Contracting

SOURCE: 62 FR 44815, Aug. 22, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

37.600 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes policies and procedures for use of performance-based contracting methods.

[62 FR 44815, Aug. 22, 1997, as amended at 65 FR 36014, June 6, 2000]

37.601 General.

Performance-based contracting methods are intended to ensure that required performance quality levels are achieved and that total payment is related to the degree that services performed meet contract standards. Performance-based contracts—

- (a) Describe the requirements in terms of results required rather than the methods of performance of the work;
- (b) Use measurable performance standards (*i.e.*, terms of quality, timeliness, quantity, etc.) and quality assurance surveillance plans (see 46.103(a) and 46.401(a));
- (c) Specify procedures for reductions of fee or for reductions to the price of a fixed-price contract when services are not performed or do not meet contract requirements (see 46.407); and
- (d) Include performance incentives where appropriate.