

### Subpart 8.4—Federal Supply Schedules

#### 8.401 General.

(a) The Federal Supply Schedule program, directed and managed by the General Services Administration (GSA), provides Federal agencies with a simplified process for obtaining commonly used commercial supplies and services at prices associated with volume buying (also see 8.002). Indefinite delivery contracts (including requirements contracts) are established with commercial firms to provide supplies and services at stated prices for given periods of time. Similar systems of schedule-type contracting are used for military items managed by the Department of Defense. These systems are not included in the Federal Supply Schedule program covered by this subpart.

(b) The GSA schedule contracting office issues publications, entitled Federal Supply Schedules, containing the information necessary for placing delivery orders with schedule contractors. Ordering offices issue delivery orders directly to the schedule contractors for the required supplies and services. Ordering offices may request copies of schedules by completing GSA Form 457, FSS Publications Mailing List Application, and mailing it to the GSA Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL), P.O. Box 6477, Fort Worth, TX 76115. Copies of GSA Form 457 also may be obtained from this address.

(c) GSA offers an on-line shopping service called "GSA Advantage!" that enables ordering offices to search product specific information (*i.e.*, national stock number, part number, common name), review delivery options, place orders directly with contractors (or ask GSA to place orders on the agency's behalf), and pay contractors for orders using the Governmentwide commercial purchase card (or pay GSA). Ordering offices may access the "GSA Advantage!" shopping service by connecting to the Internet and using a web browser to connect to the Acquisition Reform Network (<http://www.arnet.gov>) or the GSA, Federal Supply Service (FSS) Home Page (<http://www.fss.gsa.gov>). For more information or assistance, contact GSA at

Internet e-mail address:  
gsa.advantage@gsa.gov.

(d) For administrative convenience, an ordering office contracting officer may add items not on the Federal Supply Schedule (also referred to as open market items) to a Federal Supply Schedule blanket purchase agreement (BPA) or an individual task or delivery order only if—

(1) All applicable acquisition regulations pertaining to the purchase of the items not on the Federal Supply Schedule have been followed (*e.g.*, publicizing (Part 5), competition requirements (Part 6), acquisition of commercial items (Part 12), contracting methods (Parts 13, 14, and 15), and small business programs (Part 19));

(2) The ordering office contracting officer has determined the price for the items not on the Federal Supply Schedule is fair and reasonable;

(3) The items are clearly labeled on the order as items not on the Federal Supply Schedule; and

(4) All clauses applicable to items not on the Federal Supply Schedule are included in the order.

[62 FR 44817, Aug. 22, 1997, as amended at 67 FR 43515, June 27, 2002; 67 FR 56119, Aug. 30, 2002]

#### 8.402 Applicability.

Procedures in this subpart apply to orders placed against Federal Supply Schedules. Occasionally, GSA may establish special ordering procedures. The affected Federal Supply Schedules will outline these procedures.

[65 FR 36024, June 6, 2000]

#### 8.402—8.403-4 [Reserved]

#### 8.404 Using schedules.

(a) *General.* (1) Parts 13 and 19 do not apply to orders placed against Federal Supply Schedules, except for the provision at 13.303-2(c)(3). Orders placed against a Multiple Award Schedule (MAS), using the procedures in this subpart, are considered to be issued using full and open competition (see 6.102(d)(3)).

(i) Ordering offices need not seek further competition, synopsise the requirement, make a separate determination of fair and reasonable pricing, or consider small business programs.

(ii) GSA has already determined the prices of items under schedule contracts to be fair and reasonable. By placing an order against a schedule using the procedures in this section, the ordering office has concluded that the order represents the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative (considering price, special features, administrative costs, etc.) to meet the Government's needs.

(2) Orders placed under a Federal Supply Schedule contract are not exempt from the development of acquisition plans (see subpart 7.1), and an information technology acquisition strategy (see part 39).

(b) *Ordering procedures for optional use schedules*—(1) *Orders at or below the micro-purchase threshold.* Place orders at or below the micro-purchase threshold with any Federal Supply Schedule contractor.

(2) *Orders exceeding the micro-purchase threshold but not exceeding the maximum order threshold.* Place orders with the schedule contractor that can provide the supply or service that represents the best value. Before placing an order, consider reasonably available information about the supply or service offered under MAS contracts by using the "GSA Advantage!" on-line shopping service, or by reviewing the catalogs or pricelists of at least three schedule contractors (see 8.404(b)(6)). Select the delivery and other options available under the schedule that meet the agency's needs. When selecting the supply or service representing the best value, the ordering office may consider—

(i) Special features of the supply or service required for effective program performance;

(ii) Trade-in considerations;

(iii) Probable life of the item selected as compared with that of a comparable item;

(iv) Warranty considerations;

(v) Maintenance availability;

(vi) Past performance; and

(vii) Environmental and energy efficiency considerations.

(3) *Orders exceeding the maximum order threshold.* Each schedule contract has an established maximum order threshold. This threshold represents the point where it is advantageous for the ordering office to seek a price reduction. In

addition to following the procedures in paragraph (b)(2) of this section and before placing an order that exceeds the maximum order threshold—

(i) Review additional schedule contractors' catalogs or pricelists, or use the "GSA Advantage!" on-line shopping service;

(ii) Based upon the initial evaluation, generally seek price reductions from the schedule contractor(s) appearing to provide the best value (considering price and other factors); and

(iii) After seeking price reductions, place the order with the schedule contractor that provides the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative (see 8.404(a)). If further price reductions are not offered, an order may still be placed, if the ordering office determines that it is appropriate.

(4) *Blanket purchase agreements (BPAs).* Agencies may establish BPAs (see 13.303-2(c)(3)) when following the ordering procedures in this subpart. All schedule contracts contain BPA provisions. Ordering offices may use BPAs to establish accounts with contractors to fill recurring requirements. BPAs should address ordering frequency, invoicing, discounts, and delivery locations and times.

(5) *Price reductions.* In addition to the circumstances in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, there may be other reasons to request a price reduction. For example, seek a price reduction when the supply or service is available elsewhere at a lower price or when establishing a BPA to fill recurring requirements. The potential volume of orders under BPAs, regardless of the size of the individual order, offer the opportunity to secure greater discounts. Schedule contractors are not required to pass on to all schedule users a price reduction extended only to an individual agency for a specific order.

(6) *Small business.* When conducting evaluations and before placing an order, consider including, if available, one or more small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, woman-owned small business, and/or small disadvantaged business schedule contractor(s). Orders placed against the

schedules may be credited toward the ordering agency's small business goals. For orders exceeding the micro-purchase threshold, ordering offices should give preference to the items of small business concerns when two or more items at the same delivered price will satisfy the requirement.

(7) *Documentation.* Orders should be documented, at a minimum, by identifying the contractor the item was purchased from, the item purchased, and the amount paid. If an agency requirement in excess of the micro-purchase threshold is defined so as to require a particular brand name, product, or a feature of a product peculiar to one manufacturer, thereby precluding consideration of a product manufactured by another company, the ordering office shall include an explanation in the file as to why the particular brand name, product, or feature is essential to satisfy the agency's needs.

(c) *Ordering procedures for mandatory use schedules.* (1) This paragraph (c) applies only to orders against schedule contracts with mandatory users. When ordering from multiple-award schedules, mandatory users shall also follow the procedures in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(2) In the case of mandatory schedules, ordering offices shall not solicit bids, proposals, quotations, or otherwise test the market solely for the purpose of seeking alternative sources to Federal Supply Schedules.

(3) Schedules identify executive agencies required to use them as mandatory sources of supply. The single-award schedule shall be used as a primary source and the multiple-award schedule as a secondary source. Mandatory use of schedules is not a requirement if—

- (i) The schedule contractor is unable to satisfy the ordering office's urgent delivery requirement;
- (ii) The order is below the minimum order thresholds;
- (iii) The order is above the maximum order limitation;
- (iv) The consignee is located outside the area of geographic coverage stated in the schedule; or

(v) A lower price for an identical item (i.e., same make and model) is available from another source.

(4) *Absence of follow-on award.* Ordering offices, after any consultation required by the schedule, are not required to forego or postpone their legitimate needs pending the award or renewal of any schedule contract.

[59 FR 53716, Oct. 25, 1994, as amended at 59 FR 60319, Nov. 23, 1994; 60 FR 34747, July 3, 1995; 62 FR 44818, Aug. 22, 1997; 62 FR 64917, Dec. 9, 1997; 63 FR 34079, June 22, 1998; 64 FR 10536, Mar. 4, 1999; 65 FR 36024, June 6, 2000; 67 FR 56119, Aug. 30, 2002; 68 FR 56689, Oct. 1, 2003]

#### 8.404-1—8.404-2 [Reserved]

#### 8.404-3 Requests for waivers.

(a) When an ordering office that is a mandatory user under a schedule determines that items available from the schedule will not meet its specific needs, but similar items from another source will, it shall submit a request for waiver to the Commissioner, Federal Supply Service (F), GSA, Washington, DC 20406, except as provided in (b) below. Requests shall contain the following information:

(1) A complete description of the required items, whenever possible; e.g., descriptive literature such as cuts, illustrations, drawings, and brochures that explain the characteristics and/or construction.

(2) A comparison of prices and the technical differences between the requested item and the schedule item, identifying as a minimum the—

- (i) Inadequacies of the schedule item to perform required functions; and
- (ii) Technical, economic, or other advantages of the item requested.

(3) Quantity required.

(4) Estimated annual usage or a statement that the requirement is non-recurrent or unpredictable.

(b) Ordering offices shall not initiate action to acquire similar items from nonschedule sources until a request for waiver is approved, except as otherwise provided in interagency agreements.

[48 FR 42129, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 54 FR 29280, July 11, 1989]