

§ 700.2

priority performance of contracts and orders necessary or appropriate to promote the national defense over other contracts or orders; to allocate materials, services, and facilities as necessary or appropriate to promote the national defense; and to require the allocation of, or the priority performance under contracts or orders relating to, supplies of materials, equipment, and services in order to assure domestic energy supplies for national defense needs.

(b) Section 18 of the Selective Service Act of 1948 (50 U.S.C. app. 468) (Selective Service Act) authorizes the President to place an order with a supplier for any articles or materials required for the exclusive use of the U.S. armed forces whenever the President determines that in the interest of national security, prompt delivery of the articles and materials is required. The supplier must give precedence to the order so as to deliver the articles or materials in a required time period. 10 U.S.C. 2538, and 50 U.S.C. 82, provide similar authority specifically for Department of Defense procurement, but only in time of war or when war is imminent.

(c) Section 602(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a(b)) provides that the terms “national defense” and “defense” as used in the Defense Production Act includes “emergency preparedness activities” conducted pursuant to Title VI of the Stafford Act. The definition of “national defense” in Section 702(13) of the Defense Production Act provides that this term includes “emergency preparedness activities” conducted pursuant to Title VI of the Stafford Act.

(d) The Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) regulation implements the priorities and allocations authority of the Defense Production Act and as this authority pertains to Title VI of the Stafford Act, and the priorities authority of the Selective Service Act and related statutes, all with respect to industrial resources. The DPAS ensures the timely availability of industrial resources for approved programs and provides an oper-

15 CFR Ch. VII (1–1–04 Edition)

ating system to support rapid industrial response to a national emergency.

(e) To aid in understanding and using the DPAS, an overview of its major provisions is incorporated into this regulation as subpart B—Overview. The full text of the DPAS is found in subparts D through L.

[49 FR 30414, July 30, 1984. Redesignated at 54 FR 601, Jan. 9, 1989, as amended at 63 FR 31921, June 11, 1998]

Subpart B—Overview

§ 700.2 Introduction.

(a) Certain national defense and energy programs (including emergency preparedness activities) are approved for priorities and allocations support. For example, military aircraft production, ammunition, and certain programs which maximize domestic energy supplies are “approved programs.” A complete list of currently approved programs is provided at Schedule 1 to this part.

(b) The Department of Commerce administers the DPAS to ensure the timely delivery of industrial items to meet approved program requirements.

(c) Commerce has delegated authority to place priority ratings on contracts or orders necessary or appropriate to promote the national defense to the government agencies that issue such contracts or orders. Schedule I includes a list of agencies delegated this authority. Copies of the Delegations of Authority are provided at Appendix II. They set forth the authorities delegated and those retained by Commerce.

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§ 700.3 Priority ratings and rated orders.

(a) Rated orders are identified by a priority rating consisting of the rating—either DX or DO—and a program identification symbol. Rated orders take preference over all unrated orders as necessary to meet required delivery dates. Among rated orders, DX rated orders take preference over DO rated orders. Program identification symbols

indicate which approved program is involved with the rated order. For example, A1 identifies defense aircraft programs and A7 signifies defense electronic programs. The program identification symbols, in themselves, do not connote any priority.

(b) Persons receiving rated orders must give them preferential treatment as required by this regulation. This means a person must accept and fill a rated order for items that the person normally supplies. The existence of previously accepted unrated or lower rated orders is not sufficient reason for rejecting a rated order. Persons are required to reschedule unrated orders if they conflict with performance against a rated order. Similarly, persons must reschedule DO rated orders if they conflict with performance against a DX rated order.

(c) All rated orders must be scheduled to the extent possible to ensure delivery by the required delivery date.

(d) Persons who receive rated orders must in turn place rated orders with their suppliers for the items they need to fill the orders. This provision ensures that suppliers will give priority treatment to rated orders from contractor to subcontractor to suppliers throughout the procurement chain.

(e) Persons may place a priority rating on orders only when they are in receipt of a rated order, have been explicitly authorized to do so by the Department of Commerce or a Delegate Agency, or are otherwise permitted to do so by this regulation.

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§ 700.4 Priorities and allocations in a national emergency.

(a) In the event of a national emergency, special rules may be established as needed to supplement this part, thus ensuring rapid industrial response and the timely availability of critical industrial items and facilities to meet the urgent national defense requirements, including domestic emergency preparedness requirements, of approved programs.

(b) The special rules established in response to the emergency may include provisions for the taking of certain emergency official actions and the allocation of critical and scarce materials and facilities.

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§ 700.5 Special priorities assistance.

(a) The DPAS is designed to be largely self-executing. However, from time-to-time production or delivery problems will arise. In this event, special priorities assistance is available from Commerce and from the Delegate Agencies.

(b) Special priorities assistance is available for any reason consistent with this regulation. Generally, special priorities assistance is provided to expedite deliveries, resolve delivery conflicts, place rated orders, locate suppliers, or to verify information supplied by customers and vendors. Special priorities assistance may also be used to request rating authority for items not automatically ratable.

§ 700.6 Official actions.

When necessary, Commerce takes specific official actions to implement or enforce the provisions of this regulation and to provide special priorities assistance. Such actions may include the issuance of: Rating Authorizations, Directives, Letters of Understanding, Set-asides, and compliance documents (Administrative Subpoenas, Demands for Information, and Inspection Authorizations).

§ 700.7 Compliance.

(a) Compliance with the provisions of this regulation and official actions is required by the Defense Production Act and the Selective Service Act and related statutes. Violators are subject to criminal penalties.

(b) Any person who places or receives a rated order should be thoroughly familiar with, and must comply with, the provisions of this regulation.

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