

§ 956.26

issues raised by the application. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§ 956.26 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under the rules of this part excludes the day the period begins and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday or Sunday or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

§ 956.27 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding shall constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§ 956.28 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

PART 957—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION FROM CONTRACTING

- Sec.
- 957.1 Authority for rules.
 - 957.2 Scope of rules.
 - 957.3 Definitions.
 - 957.4 Initiation of debarment proceedings.
 - 957.5 The request for a hearing.
 - 957.6 Order relative to hearing.
 - 957.7 Reply.
 - 957.8 Service and filing documents for the record.
 - 957.9 Respondent's failure to appear at the hearing.
 - 957.10 Respondent already debarred by another Government agency.
 - 957.11 Amendment of pleadings.
 - 957.12 Continuances and extensions.
 - 957.13 Hearings.
 - 957.14 Appearances.
 - 957.15 Conduct of the hearing.
 - 957.16 Evidence.
 - 957.17 Witness fees.
 - 957.18 Depositions.
 - 957.19 Transcript.
 - 957.20 Proposed findings and conclusions.
 - 957.21 Decision.
 - 957.22 Motion for reconsideration.
 - 957.23 Modification or revocation of orders.

39 CFR Ch. I (7-1-06 Edition)

- 957.24 Computation of time.
- 957.25 Official record.
- 957.26 Public information.
- 957.27 Suspension.
- 957.28 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 957.1 Authority for rules.

The rules in this part are issued by the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 U.S.C. secs. 204, 401; chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual).

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable in all formal proceedings before the Postal Service pertaining to hearings initiated under chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998; 67 FR 62179, Oct. 4, 2002]

§ 957.3 Definitions.

(a) The term *Vice President* means a Vice President with purchasing authority in the Postal Service or the Vice President's representative for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual.

(b) The term *General Counsel* includes the General Counsel's authorized representative.

(c) The term *Judicial Officer* includes the Acting Judicial Officer.

(d) *Debarment* means, in general, an exclusion from Government contracting and subcontracting for a reasonable, specified period of time commensurate with the seriousness of the offense or failure, or the inadequacy of performance.

(e) *Suspension* means a disqualification from Government contracting and subcontracting for a temporary period of time because a concern or individual is suspected upon adequate evidence of engaging in criminal, fraudulent, or seriously improper conduct.

United States Postal Service

§ 957.8

(f) *Respondent* means any individual, firm or other entity which has been served a written notice of proposed debarment pursuant to chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual.

(g) The Recorder means the Recorder of the United States Postal Service, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201-3078.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973; 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.4 Initiation of debarment proceedings.

(a) A Vice President shall initiate a debarment proceeding by serving upon the proposed Respondent a written notice of proposed debarment in the manner hereinafter (§ 957.8(d)) provided for the service of all other papers.

(b) The notice shall state:

(1) That debarment is being considered;

(2) The reasons for the proposed debarment;

(3) The period of debarment and the proposed effective date thereof;

(4) That the debarment will not become effective until after a hearing if such hearing is requested within 20 days following the receipt of the notice; and

(5) That the request for a hearing is to be submitted in the manner prescribed by the rules in this part, a copy of which shall be enclosed with the notice.

(c) If no hearing is requested within 20 days following the receipt of the notice, the action of the Vice President set forth in the notice shall become the final agency determination without further notice to the Respondent.

(d) The party against which a final agency determination has been entered pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section shall, however, at any time have the privilege of reopening a case for the limited purpose of contesting the issue of service. Such party's contentions on that issue shall be addressed to the Judicial Officer in the same manner as a request for a hearing (see § 957.5). The Judicial Officer may require such additional showings or proof as the Judicial Officer may deem necessary on the issue of service and shall

reopen any debarment proceeding previously closed pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section if the Judicial Officer shall find that service was incomplete or otherwise failed to adequately advise of the pendency of the proposed debarment.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.5 The request for a hearing.

A respondent may, within 20 days following the receipt of a written notice of proposed debarment, file a request for a hearing before the Judicial Officer. The request shall be addressed to the presiding officer through the Vice President who initiated the debarment proceeding and shall be accompanied by a concise statement admitting, denying or explaining each of the allegations set forth in the notice of proposed debarment and stating the relief desired.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.6 Order relative to hearing.

(a) The Judicial Officer shall issue an order granting the Respondent's request for a hearing, establishing the time and place thereof and advising the Respondent of the consequences of a failure to appear at the hearing (see § 957.9). Whenever practicable, the hearing date shall be within 30 days of the date of the Judicial Officer's order relative to hearing.

(b) The notice of proposed debarment and the request for a hearing together with the reply, if any, shall become the pleadings in any proceeding in which the Judicial Officer orders a hearing to be held.

§ 957.7 Reply.

Not more than 15 days from the service of the request for a hearing, the General Counsel may submit a reply on behalf of the Vice President who initiated the debarment proceeding.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.8 Service and filing documents for the record.

(a) Each party shall file with the Recorder pleadings, motions, orders and