

### Subpart 3.5—Other Improper Business Practices

#### 3.501 Buying-in.

##### 3.501-1 Definition.

*Buying-in* as used in this section, means submitting an offer below anticipated costs, expecting to—

(1) Increase the contract amount after award (e.g., through unnecessary or excessively priced change orders); or

(2) Receive follow-on contracts at artificially high prices to recover losses incurred on the buy-in contract.

[48 FR 42108, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 66 FR 2127, Jan. 10, 2001]

##### 3.501-2 General.

(a) Buying-in may decrease competition or result in poor contract performance. The contracting officer must take appropriate action to ensure buying-in losses are not recovered by the contractor through the pricing of (1) change orders or (2) follow-on contracts subject to cost analysis.

(b) The Government should minimize the opportunity for buying-in by seeking a price commitment covering as much of the entire program concerned as is practical by using—

(1) Multiyear contracting, with a requirement in the solicitation that a price be submitted only for the total multiyear quantity; or

(2) Priced options for additional quantities that, together with the firm contract quantity, equal the program requirements (see subpart 17.2).

(c) Other safeguards are available to the contracting officer to preclude recovery of buying-in losses (e.g., amortization of nonrecurring costs (see 15.408, Table 15-2, paragraph A., column (2) under “Formats for Submission of Line Item Summaries) and treatment of unreasonable price quotations (see 15.405).

48 FR 42108, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 62 FR 51270, Sept. 30, 1997]

#### 3.502 Subcontractor kickbacks.

##### 3.502-1 Definitions.

As used in this section—

*Kickback*, means any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation of any

kind which is provided, directly or indirectly, to any prime contractor, prime contractor employee, subcontractor, or subcontractor employee for the purpose of improperly obtaining or rewarding favorable treatment in connection with a prime contract or in connection with a subcontract relating to a prime contract.

*Person*, means a corporation, partnership, business association of any kind, trust, joint-stock company, or individual.

*Prime contract*, means a contract or contractual action entered into by the United States for the purpose of obtaining supplies, materials, equipment, or services of any kind.

*Prime Contractor*, means a person who has entered into a prime contract with the United States.

*Prime Contractor employee*, as used in this section, means any officer, partner, employee, or agent of a prime contractor.

*Subcontract*, means a contract or contractual action entered into by a prime contractor or subcontractor for the purpose of obtaining supplies, materials, equipment, or service of any kind under a prime contract.

*Subcontractor*, (1) means any person, other than the prime contractor, who offers to furnish or furnishes any supplies, materials, equipment, or services of any kind under a prime contract or a subcontract entered into in connection with such prime contract, and (2) includes any person who offers to furnish or furnishes general supplies to the prime contractor or a higher tier subcontractor.

*Subcontractor employee*, as used in this section, means any officer, partner, employee, or agent of a subcontractor.

[52 FR 6121, Feb. 27, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 34226, Sept. 2, 1988; 66 FR 2127, Jan. 10, 2001]

EDITORIAL NOTE: At 66 FR 2127, Jan. 10, 2001, as amended at 66 FR 14260, Mar. 9, 2001, section 3.502-1 was amended by redesignating paragraphs (a) and (b) as (1) and (2). There are no designated paragraphs (a) and (b) in section 3.502-1.

##### 3.502-2 Subcontractor kickbacks.

The Anti-Kickback Act of 1986 (41 U.S.C. 51-58) was passed to deter subcontractors from making payments