

401.372

Procurement Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/procurement/>.

[61 FR 53646, Oct. 15, 1996, as amended at 70 FR 44, Jan. 3, 2005]

401.372 Departmental directives.

Subject to the policies of FAR 1.3, USDA from time to time may issue internal directives to establish procedures, standards, guidance, or methods of performing duties, functions, or operations. Such directives include Departmental Regulations (DR's), Departmental Notices, and Secretary's Memoranda.

Subpart 401.4—Deviations From the FAR and AGAR

401.402 Policy.

Requests for authority to deviate from the provisions of the FAR or the AGAR shall be submitted in writing as far in advance as the exigencies of the situation will permit. Each request for deviation shall contain the following:

- (a) A statement of the deviation desired, including identification of the specific paragraph number(s) of the FAR and AGAR;
- (b) The reason why the deviation is considered necessary or would be in the best interest of the Government;
- (c) If applicable, the name of the contractor and identification of the contract affected;
- (d) A statement as to whether the deviation has been requested previously and, if so, circumstances of the previous request;
- (e) A description of the intended effect of the deviation;
- (f) A statement of the period of time for which the deviation is needed; and
- (g) Any pertinent background information which will contribute to a full understanding of the desired deviation.

401.403 Individual deviations.

In individual cases, deviations from either the FAR or the AGAR will be authorized only when essential to effect a necessary acquisition or where special circumstances make such deviations clearly in the best interest of the Government. Except for cost principles, HCA's may approve individual deviations from the AGAR, after co-

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ordinating with the General Counsel and the SPE. No deviations from the FAR or AGAR may be authorized at the contracting office level. A copy of each deviation and its supporting documentation shall be provided to the SPE. Deviations from the FAR shall not be made unless such action is authorized by the SPE after consultation with the Office of the General Counsel and any other appropriate office, on the basis of a written justification stating clearly the special circumstances involved.

401.404 Class deviations.

Where deviations from the FAR or AGAR are considered necessary for classes of contracts, requests for authority to deviate shall be submitted in writing to the SPE for approval. The SPE may authorize class deviations from the FAR without consulting the Chairperson of the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council where urgency precludes consultation. The SPE shall subsequently inform the Chairperson of the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council of the deviation including the circumstances under which it was required.

Subpart 401.6—Contracting Authority and Responsibilities

401.601 General.

(a) The authority and responsibility vested in the Secretary to manage USDA's acquisition function is delegated through the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the SPE. This broad authority includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities:

- (1) Prescribing and publishing Departmental acquisition policies, regulations, and procedures.
- (2) Taking any necessary actions consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures with respect to purchases, contracts, leases, and other transactions.
- (3) Designating contracting officers.
- (4) Establishing clear lines of contracting authority.
- (5) Evaluating and monitoring the performance of USDA's acquisition system.