

Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS) and the IMPS General Requirements, which have been developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Purchase descriptions and specifications for dairy products, poultry, eggs, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, as well as certain packinghouse products selected from the IMPS especially for VA use, are contained in Part IV of the Federal Supply Catalog, Stock List, FSC Group 89, Subsistence, Publication No. C8900-SL.

(2) The military specifications for meat and meat products contained in Part IV of the Federal Supply Catalog, Stock List, FSC Group 89, Subsistence, must be used by VA only when purchasing such items of subsistence from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Military specifications for poultry, eggs, and egg products contained in Part IV of the Federal Supply Catalog, Stock List, FSC Group 89, Subsistence, may be used when purchasing either from DLA or from local dealers.

(3) Except as authorized in part 846, a contracting officer must not deviate from the specifications contained in Part IV of the Federal Supply Catalog, Stock List, FSC Group 89, Subsistence, and the IMPS without prior approval from the DSPE.

(4) Items of meat, cured pork and poultry purchased under the Subsistence Prime Vendor national contract or other local procurement sources should be purchased via Commercial Item Descriptions (CID) that require all products meet USDA Grading standards and/or the IMPS as applicable.

(c) *Department of Veterans Affairs specifications.* (1) The Director, Publications Staff, is responsible for developing, publishing, and distributing VA specifications covering printing and binding.

(2) VA specifications, as they are revised, are placed in stock in the VA Forms and Publications depot. The contracting officer may requisition facility requirements for these specifications from that source.

(d) *Government paper specification standards.* (1) Invitations for bids, requests for proposals, purchase orders, or other procurement instruments covering the purchase of paper stocks to

be used in duplicating or printing, or which specify the paper stocks to be used in buying printing, binding, or duplicating, must require that the paper stocks be in accordance with the Government Paper Specification Standards issued by the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing.

(2) All binding or rebinding of books, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers, slip cases, and boxes must be procured in accordance with Government Printing Office (GPO) specifications and must be procured from the servicing GPO Regional Printing Procurement Office or, when appropriate, from commercial sources.

(3) There are three types of binding/rebinding: Class A (hard cover); Perfect (glued); and Lumbinding (sewn). The most suitable type of binding must be procured to satisfy the requirements, based upon the intended use of the bound material.

811.204 Contract clause.

Insert the clause at 852.211-75, Product specifications when product specifications are cited in an invitation for bids or a request for proposals.

Subpart 811.4—Delivery or Performance Schedules

811.404 Contract clause.

When delivery is required by or on a particular date for f.o.b. destination contracts, the contracting officer must add a statement following the Time of Delivery clause in FAR 52.211-8 that the delivery date specified is the date by which the shipment is to be delivered, not the shipping date. In f.o.b. origin contracts, the contracting officer must add a statement following this clause that the date specified is the date shipment is to be accepted by the carrier.

Subpart 811.5—Liquidated Damages

811.501 Policy.

The contracting officer must not routinely include a liquidated damages provision in supply or construction contracts, regardless of dollar amount.

The decision to include liquidated damages provisions must conform to the criteria in FAR 11.501. In making this decision, the contracting officer must consider whether the necessity for timely delivery or performance as required in the contract schedule is so critical that a probable increase in contract price is justified. The contracting officer must not use a liquidated damages provision for any of the following reasons:

- (a) As insurance against selection of a non-responsible bidder.
- (b) As a substitute for efficient contract administration.
- (c) As a penalty for failure to perform on time.

811.503 Contract clause.

When the contracting officer determines that the Liquidated damages clause prescribed in FAR 52.211-11 or 52.211-12 must be used and where partial performance by the contractor may be to the advantage of the Government, the contracting officer must include the clause in 852.211-74, Liquidated damages, in the contract.

Subpart 811.6—Priorities and Allocations

811.602 General.

(a) Priorities and allocations of critical materials are controlled by the Department of Commerce. Essentially, priorities and allocations of critical materials are restricted to projects having a direct connection with supporting current defense needs. VA is not authorized to assign a priority rating to its purchase orders or contracts involving the acquisition or use of critical materials.

(b) When it has been technically established that it is not feasible to use a substitute material, the Department of Commerce has agreed to assist the VA in obtaining critical materials for maintenance and repair projects. The Department of Commerce will also,

when possible, render assistance in connection with the purchase of new items, which may be in short supply because of their use in connection with the defense effort.

(c) A contracting officer having problems acquiring critical materials must ascertain all the facts necessary to enable the Department of Commerce to render assistance to VA in acquiring these materials. The contracting officer must submit a request for assistance to the DSPE containing the following information:

- (1) A description of the maintenance and repair project or the new item.
- (2) The critical material and the amount required.
- (3) The contractor's sources of supply, including any addresses. If the source is other than the manufacturer or producer, also list the name and address of the manufacturer or producer.
- (4) The VA contract or purchase order number.
- (5) The contractor's purchase order number, if known, and the delivery time requirement as stated in the solicitation or offer.
- (6) The additional time the contractor claims is necessary to deliver the materials if priority assistance is not provided.

(7) The nature and extent of the emergency that will be generated at the station, such as any of the following:

- (i) Damage to the physical plant.
- (ii) Impairment of the patient care program.
- (iii) Creation of safety hazards.
- (iv) Any other pertinent condition that could result because of failure to secure assistance in obtaining the critical materials.

(8) If applicable, a statement that the item required is for use in a construction contract that was authorized by the Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, to be awarded and administered by the facility contracting officer.