Defense Acquisition Regulations System, DoD

247.573-1 Ocean transportation incidental to a contract for supplies, services, or construction.

(a) This subsection applies when ocean transportation is not the principal purpose of the contract, and the cargo to be transported is owned by DoD or is clearly identifiable for eventual use by DoD.

(b) DD Form 1653, Transportation Data for Solicitations, shall be used—

(1) By the requesting activity in developing the Government estimate for transportation costs; and

(2) By the contracting officer in ensuring that valid shipping instructions and delivery terms are included in solicitations and contracts that may involve transportation of supplies by sea.

(c) If the contractor notifies the contracting officer that the contractor or a subcontractor considers that—

(1) No U.S.-flag vessels are available, the contracting officer must request confirmation of the nonavailability from—

(i) The Commander, Military Sealift Command (MSC), through the Contracts and Business Management Directorate, MSC; or

(ii) The Commander, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution (SDDC), through the SDDC global e-mailbox sddc.ops.ffw@us.army.mil and the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, SDDC.

(2) The proposed freight charges to the Government, the contractor, or any subcontractor are higher than charges for transportation of like goods to private persons, the contracting officer may approve a request for an exception to the requirement to ship on U.S.-flag vessels for a particular shipment—

(i) Prior to granting an exception, the contracting officer must request advice, oral or written, from the Commander, MSC, or the Commander, MTMC.

(ii) In advising the contracting officer whether to grant the exception, the Commander, MSC, or the Commander, SDDC, must consider, as appropriate, evidence from—

(A) Published tariffs;

(B) Industry publications;

(C) The Maritime Administration; and

(D) Any other available sources.

(3) The freight charges proposed by U.S.-flag carriers are excessive or otherwise unreasonable—

(i) The contracting officer must prepare a report in determination and finding format, and must—

(A) Take into consideration that the 1904 Act is, in part, a subsidy of the U.S.-flag commercial shipping industry that recognizes that lower prices may be available from foreign-flag carriers. Therefore, a lower price for use of a foreign-flag vessel is not a sufficient basis, on its own, to determine that the freight rate proposed by the U.S.-flag carrier is excessive or otherwise unreasonable. However, such a price differential may indicate a need for further review;

(B) Consider, accordingly, not only excessive profits to the carrier (to include vessel owner or operator), if ascertainable, but also excessive costs to...
247.573–2 Direct purchase of ocean transportation services.

(a) This subsection applies when ocean transportation is the principal purpose of the contract, including—
(1) Time charters;
(2) Voyage charters;
(3) Contracts for charter vessel services;
(4) Dedicated contractor contracts for charter vessel services;
(5) Ocean bills of lading; and
(6) Subcontracts under Government contracts or agreements for ocean transportation services.

(b) Coordinate these acquisitions, as appropriate, with the U.S. Transportation Command, the DoD single manager for commercial transportation and related services, other than Service-unique or theater-assigned transportation assets, in accordance with DoD 5158.4, United States Transportation Command.

(c) All solicitations within the scope of this subsection must provide—
(1) A preference for U.S.-flag vessels in accordance with the 1904 Act;
(2) An evaluation criterion for offeror participation in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement; and
(3) An evaluation criterion considering the extent to which offerors have had overhaul, repair, and maintenance work for all covered vessels in an offeror’s fleet performed in shipyards located in the United States or Guam. Work performed in foreign shipyards shall not be evaluated under this criterion if—
   (i) Such work was performed as emergency repairs in foreign shipyards due to accident, emergency, Act of God, or an infirmity to the vessel, and safety considerations warranted taking the vessel to a foreign shipyard; or
   (ii) Such work was paid for or reimbursed by the U.S. Government.

(d) Do not award a contract of the type described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for a foreign-flag vessel unless—
   (1) The Commander, MSC, or the Commander, SDDC, determines that no U.S.-flag vessels are available.
   (2) The Commander, MSC, and the Commander, SDDC, are authorized to make any determinations as to the availability of U.S.-flag vessels to ensure the proper use of Government and private U.S. vessels.

(ii) The contracting officer must request such determinations—
   (A) For voyage and time charters, through the Contracts and Business Management Directorate, MSC; and
   (B) For ocean and intermodal transportation of DoD and DoD-sponsored cargoes, as applicable under contracts awarded by SDDC, including contracts