

reasons exist to promulgate this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. This action is necessary to implement Executive Order 12989, Economy and Efficiency in Government Procurement Through Compliance With Certain Immigration and Nationality Act Provisions, which was effective upon its execution (February 13, 1996). However, pursuant to Public Law 98-577 and FAR 1.501, public comments received in response to this interim rule will be considered in the formation of the final rule.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 9

Government procurement.

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Edward C. Loeb,

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, 48 CFR Part 9 is amended as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Part 9 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

PART 9—CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

2. Section 9.406-2 is amended in paragraph (a)(4) in the second parenthetical by removing "section" and inserting "Section" in its place, and by revising (b) to read as follows:

9.406-2 Causes for debarment.

* * * * *

(b)(1) The debarring official may debar a contractor, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, for—

(i) Violation of the terms of a Government contract or subcontract so serious as to justify debarment, such as—

(A) Willful failure to perform in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts; or

(B) A history of failure to perform, or of unsatisfactory performance of, one or more contracts.

(ii) Violations of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690), as indicated by—

(A) The offeror's submission of a false certification;

(B) The contractor's failure to comply with its certification; or

(C) Such a number of contractor employees having been convicted of violations of criminal drug statutes occurring in the workplace, as to indicate that the contractor has failed to make a good faith effort to provide a drug-free workplace (see 23.504).

(iii) Intentionally affixing a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription (or any inscription having the same meaning) to a product sold in

or shipped to the United States, when the product was not made in the United States (see Section 202 of the Defense Production Act (Public Law 102-558)).

(iv) Commission of an unfair trade practice as defined in 9.403 (see Section 201 of the Defense Production Act (Public Law 102-558)).

(2) The debarring official may debar a contractor, based on a determination by the Attorney General of the United States, or designee, that the contractor is not in compliance with Immigration and Nationality Act employment provisions (see Executive Order 12989). The Attorney General's determination is not reviewable in the debarment proceedings.

* * * * *

3. Section 9.406-4 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) and (b) to read as follows:

9.406-4 Period of debarment.

(a)(1) Debarment shall be for a period commensurate with the seriousness of the cause(s). Generally, debarment should not exceed 3 years, except that—

(i) Debarment for violation of the provisions of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (see 23.506) may be for a period not to exceed 5 years; and

(ii) Debarments under 9.406-2(b)(2) shall be for one year unless extended pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(2) If suspension precedes a debarment, the suspension period shall be considered in determining the debarment period.

(b) The debarring official may extend the debarment for an additional period, if that official determines that an extension is necessary to protect the Government's interest. However, a debarment may not be extended solely on the basis of the facts and circumstances upon which the initial debarment action was based. Debarments under 9.406-2(b)(2) may be extended for additional periods of one year if the Attorney General or designee determines that the contractor continues to be in violation of the employment provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If debarment for an additional period is determined to be necessary, the procedures of 9.406-3 shall be followed to extend the debarment.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 23 and 52

[FAC 90-41; FAR Case 95-305; Item III]

RIN 9000-AG68

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition and Community Right-to-Know

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have agreed on a final rule to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Parts 23 and 52 to implement Executive Order 12969. The Executive order requires that Federal agency contractors report in a public manner on toxic chemicals released to the environment. This regulatory action was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993, and is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 7, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ralph DeStefano at (202) 501-1758 in reference to this FAR case. For general information, contact the FAR Secretariat, Room 4037, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405 (202) 501-4755. Please cite FAC 90-41, FAR case 95-305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

An interim rule with request for public comment was published on October 30, 1995 (60 FR 55306). Thirty-four comments were received from eight respondents. As a result of analyzing the public comments, the rule was revised to clarify that the owner or operator of a facility that is subject to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) reporting requirements is required to file Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Forms with the Environmental Protection Agency, and that offerors will submit certifications regarding only those facilities that the offeror owns or operates that will be used in performing the contract. This final rule also

simplifies the language of the certification at FAR 52.223-13.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.* The rule requires only that offerors in competitive acquisitions exceeding \$100,000 in value agree to comply with, or identify the basis for their exemption from, existing EPCRA and PPA reporting requirements. There were no public comments in response to the Regulatory Flexibility Statement published with the interim rule. The rule does not apply to acquisitions of commercial items or to contractor facilities located outside the United States.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The final rule imposes no new information collection requirements that require approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.* The information collection requirements imposed by the interim rule have been approved by OMB under OMB Clearance Number 9000-0139 through September 30, 1996.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 23 and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Edward C. Loeb,
Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, 48 CFR Parts 23 and 52 are amended as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Parts 23 and 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

PART 23—ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

2. Section 23.901 is amended by adding a parenthetical at the end to read as follows:

23.901 Purpose.

* * * (See also EPA Notice, "Guidance Implementing Executive Order 12969" (60 FR 50738, September 29, 1995).)

23.902 [Amended]

3. Section 23.902 is amended by redesignating the first sentence as paragraph (a) and adding a comma after the word "land", and redesignating the second sentence as (b) and revising it to read as follows:

23.902 General.

* * * * *

(b) Under EPCRA section 313 (42 U.S.C. 11023), and PPA section 6607 (42 U.S.C. 13106), the owner or operator of certain manufacturing facilities is required to submit annual reports on toxic chemical releases and waste management activities to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the States.

4. Section 23.903(b)(1) is revised to read as follows:

23.903 Applicability.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) Acquisitions of commercial items as defined in part 2; or

* * * * *

5. Section 23.906 is amended by revising paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) to read as follows:

23.906 Requirements.

(a) E.O. 12969 requires that solicitations for competitive contracts expected to exceed \$100,000 (including all options) include, to the maximum extent practicable, as an award eligibility criterion, a certification by the offeror that, if awarded a contract, either—

(1) As the owner or operator of facilities to be used in the performance of the contract that are subject to Form R filing and reporting requirements, the offeror will file, and will continue to file throughout the life of the contract, for such facilities, the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Form (Form R) as described in EPCRA sections 313 (a) and (g) and PPA section 6607; or

(2) Facilities to be used in the performance of the contract are exempt from Form R filing and reporting requirements because the facilities—

(i) Do not manufacture, process, or otherwise use any toxic chemicals listed under section 313(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(c);

(ii) Do not have 10 or more full-time employees as specified in section 313(b)(1)(A) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(b)(1)(A);

(iii) Do not meet the reporting thresholds of toxic chemicals established under section 313(f) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(f) (including the alternate thresholds at 40 CFR 372.27, provided an appropriate

certification form has been filed with EPA);

(iv) Do not fall within Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) designations 20 through 39 as set forth in 19.102; or

(v) Are not located within any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction.

(b) A determination that it is not practicable to include the solicitation provision at 52.223-13, Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, in a solicitation or class of solicitations shall be approved by a procurement official at a level no lower than the head of the contracting activity. Prior to making such a determination for a solicitation or class of solicitations with an estimated value in excess of \$500,000 (including all options), the agency shall consult with the Environmental Protection Agency, Director, Environmental Assistance Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxic Substances (Mail Code 7408), Washington, DC 20460.

(c) Award shall not be made to offerors who do not certify in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section when the provision at 52.223-13, Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, is included in the solicitation. If facilities to be used by the offeror in the performance of the contract are not subject to Form R filing and reporting requirements and the offeror fails to check the appropriate box(es) in 52.223-13, Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, such failure shall be considered a minor informality or irregularity.

* * * * *

6. Section 23.907 is revised in the introductory text and paragraph (a) to read as follows:

23.907 Solicitation provision and contract clause.

Except for acquisitions of commercial items as defined in part 2, the contracting officer shall—

(a) Insert the provision at 52.223-13, Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, in all solicitations for competitive contracts expected to exceed \$100,000 (including all options) and competitive 8(a) contracts, unless it has been determined in accordance with 23.906(b) that to do so is not practicable; and

* * * * *

PART 52—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

7. Section 52.223-13 is revised to read as follows:

52.223-13 Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting.

As prescribed in 23.907(a), insert the following provision:

CERTIFICATION OF TOXIC CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING

October 7, 1996

(a) Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this contract imposed by Executive Order 12969, August 8, 1995.

(b) By signing this offer, the offeror certifies that—

(1) As the owner or operator of facilities that will be used in the performance of this contract that are subject to the filing and reporting requirements described in section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) (42 U.S.C. 11023) and section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (PPA) (42 U.S.C. 13106), the offeror will file and continue to file for such facilities for the life of the contract the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Form (Form R) as described in sections 313(a) and (g) of EPCRA and section 6607 of PPA; or

(2) None of its owned or operated facilities to be used in the performance of this contract is subject to the Form R filing and reporting requirements because each such facility is exempt for at least one of the following reasons: (*Check each block that is applicable.*)

(i) The facility does not manufacture, process, or otherwise use any toxic chemicals listed under section 313(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(c);

(ii) The facility does not have 10 or more full-time employees as specified in section 313(b)(1)(A) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(b)(1)(A);

(iii) The facility does not meet the reporting thresholds of toxic chemicals established under section 313(f) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(f) (including the alternate thresholds at 40 CFR 372.27, provided an appropriate certification form has been filed with EPA);

(iv) The facility does not fall within Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) designations 20 through 39 as set forth in Section 19.102 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation; or

(v) The facility is not located within any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction.

(End of provision)

8. Section 52.223-14 is revised to read as follows:

52.223-14 Toxic Chemical Release Reporting.

As prescribed in 23.907(b), insert the following clause:

TOXIC CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING
October 7, 1996

(a) Unless otherwise exempt, the Contractor, as owner or operator of a facility used in the performance of this contract, shall file by July 1 for the prior calendar year an annual Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Form (Form R) as described in sections 313(a) and (g) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) (42 U.S.C. 11023(a) and (g)), and section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (PPA) (42 U.S.C. 13106). The Contractor shall file, for each facility subject to the Form R filing and reporting requirements, the annual Form R throughout the life of the contract.

(b) A Contractor owned or operated facility used in the performance of this contract is exempt from the requirement to file an annual Form R if—

(1) The facility does not manufacture, process, or otherwise use any toxic chemicals listed under section 313(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(c);

(2) The facility does not have 10 or more full-time employees as specified in section 313(b)(1)(A) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(b)(1)(A);

(3) The facility does not meet the reporting thresholds of toxic chemicals established under section 313(f) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. 11023(f) (including the alternate thresholds at 40 CFR 372.27, provided an appropriate certification form has been filed with EPA);

(4) The facility does not fall within Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) designations 20 through 39 as set forth in Section 19.102 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR); or

(5) The facility is not located within any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction.

(c) If the Contractor has certified to an exemption in accordance with one or more of the criteria in paragraph (b) of this clause, and after award of the contract circumstances change so that any of its owned or operated facilities used in the performance of this contract is no longer exempt—

(1) The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer; and

(2) The Contractor, as owner or operator of a facility used in the performance of this contract that is no longer exempt, shall (i) submit a Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Form (Form R) on or before July 1 for the prior calendar year during which the facility becomes eligible; and (ii) continue to file the annual Form R for the life of the contract for such facility.

(d) The Contracting Officer may terminate this contract or take other action as appropriate, if the Contractor fails to comply accurately and fully with the EPCRA and PPA toxic chemical release filing and reporting requirements.

(e) Except for acquisitions of commercial items as defined in FAR Part 2, the Contractor shall—

(1) For competitive subcontracts expected to exceed \$100,000 (including all options), include a solicitation provision substantially the same as the provision at FAR 52.223-13, Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting; and

(2) Include in any resultant subcontract exceeding \$100,000 (including all options), the substance of this clause, except this paragraph (e).
(End of clause)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION****48 CFR Parts 25 and 52**

[FAC 90-41; FAR Case 95-303; Item IV]

RIN 9000-AG82

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have agreed on a final rule to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Parts 25 and 52 to implement Executive Order 12959, Prohibiting Certain Transactions with Respect to Iran, and to conform the FAR to other current restrictions of the Department of the Treasury. This regulatory action was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993, and is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 7, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter O'Such, at (202) 501-1759 in reference to this FAR case. For general information, contact the FAR Secretariat, Room 4037, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405 (202) 501-4755. Please cite FAC 90-41, FAR case 95-303.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

This final rule amends FAR Parts 25 and 52 to implement Executive Order