

at \$500,000 or more, except those awarded using FAR Part 12 (Commercial Item) procedures. As a result of public comments received, and to provide increased opportunity for small business concerns to participate in the Indian Incentive Program, the final rule lowers the dollars threshold for use of the clause to the simplified acquisition threshold (\$100,000), for all contracts except those awarded using FAR Part 12 procedures. The rule does not impose any new reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements, and does not duplicate, overlap, or conflict with any other Federal rules. The rule is expected to have a beneficial effect on small business concerns, because small businesses are now eligible to receive incentive payments for the use of Indian organizations and Indian-owned economic enterprises as subcontractors.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 226

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, 48 CFR part 226 is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 226 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 226—OTHER SOCIOECONOMIC PROGRAMS

2. Sections 226.103 and 226.104 are revised to read as follows:

226.103 Procedures.

(f) The contracting officer must submit a request for funding of the Indian incentive to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) (OUSD (AT&L) SADB, 1777 North Kent Street, Suite 9100, Arlington, VA 22209. Upon receipt of funding from OUSD (AT&L) SADB, the contracting officer must issue a contract modification to add the Indian incentive funding for payment of the contractor's request for adjustment as described at FAR 52.226-1, Utilization of Indian Organizations and Indian-Owned Economic Enterprises.

226.104 Contract Clause.

Use the following prescription instead of the prescription at FAR 26.104(a):

(a) Use the clause at FAR 52.226-1, Utilization of Indian Organizations and Indian-Owned Economic Enterprises, in solicitations and contracts that—

- (1) Do not use FAR part 12 procedures; and
- (2) Are for supplies or services expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

[FR Doc. 00-9084 Filed 4-12-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 235

[DFARS Case 99-D302]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Manufacturing Technology Program

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Acting Director of Defense Procurement is adopting as final, without change, an interim rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement Section 216 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000. Section 216 amends statutory provisions pertaining to cost-sharing requirements for contracts under the Manufacturing Technology Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 13, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan L. Schneider, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, PDUSD(AT&L)DP(DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0326; telefax (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 99-D302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD published an interim rule at 65 FR 2057 on January 13, 2000. The rule revised DFARS 235.006-70 to implement Section 216 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65). Section 216 amended 10 U.S.C. 2525 to eliminate the mandatory cost-sharing requirements for contracts under the Manufacturing Technology Program, and to require that cost sharing be included as a factor in competitive procedures for evaluating proposals under manufacturing technology projects. DoD received no public comments on the interim rule by the

date specified for receipt of comments. The interim rule is converted to a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies 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.*, because DoD awards approximately only 20 new contracts under the Manufacturing Technology Program each year.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 235

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without Change

Accordingly, the interim rule amending 48 CFR Part 235, which was published at 65 FR 2057 on January 13, 2000, is adopted as a final rule without change.

[FR Doc. 00-9085 Filed 4-12-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 252

[DFARS Case 2000-D006]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Caribbean Basin Countries

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Acting Director of Defense Procurement has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement the determination of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to renew the treatment of Caribbean Basin Country end products a eligible products under the Trade Agreements Act, except for end products from the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 13, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, PDUSD (AT&L) DP (DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0288; telefax (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2000-D006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The USTR published a notice of 65 FR 9038 on February 23, 2000, to renew the treatment of Caribbean Basin Country end products as eligible products under the Trade Agreements Act, except for end products from the Dominican Republic and Honduras. The clauses at DFARS 252.225-7007, Buy American Act—Trade Agreements—Balance of Payments Program, and 252.225-7021, Trade Agreements, list the Caribbean Basin countries whose products are eligible products under the Trade Agreements Act. This final rule amends the clauses to remove the Dominican Republic and Honduras from the list, in accordance with the USTR determination.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This final rule does not constitute a significant revision within the meaning of FAR 1.501 and Public Law 98-577 and publication for public comment is not required. However, DoD will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subpart in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should cite DFARS Case 2000-D006.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, 48 CFR part 252 is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 252 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

252.225-7007 [Amended]

2. Section 252.225-7007 is amended by revising the clause date to read “(APR 2000)”; and in paragraph (a)(1) by removing “Dominican Republic” and “Honduras”.

252.225-7021 [Amended]

3. Section 252.225-7021 is amended by revising the clause date to read “(APR 2000)”; and in paragraph (a)(1) by removing “Dominican Republic” and “Honduras”.

[FR Doc. 00-9086 Filed 4-12-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 033100D]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Retention limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS extends the expiration date of the current daily retention limit for the Angling category fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT), which published on December 16, 1999. The current daily retention limit per vessel in all areas of one large school or small medium BFT (measuring 47 to less than 73 inches, 119 to less than 185 cm, curved fork length) is extended from May 31, 2000, through June 22, 2000. In addition, NMFS is making subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limit, as noted in the **DATES** section of this document. This action is being taken to provide increased fishing opportunities in all areas without risking overharvest of this category.

DATES: The expiration date of the current daily retention limit in all areas of one large school or small medium BFT (published on December 16, 1999, at 64 FR 70198) is extended from May 31, 2000, through June 22, 2000.

Effective June 23 through July 30, 2000, the daily retention limit in all areas is adjusted to two school BFT and one large school or small medium BFT.

Effective July 31, 2000, the daily retention limit in all areas is adjusted to

one large school or small medium BFT until May 31, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin, (978) 281-9146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635.

Implementing regulations for the Atlantic tuna fisheries at § 635.23 allow for adjustments to the daily retention limits in order to provide for maximum utilization of the quota over the longest possible period of time. NMFS may increase or reduce the per angler retention limit for any size class BFT or may change the per angler limit to a per boat limit or the per boat limit to a per angler limit.

NMFS is responsible for implementing a recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to limit the catch of school BFT to no more than 8 percent by weight of the total domestic landings quota over each 4-consecutive-year period. NMFS is implementing this ICCAT recommendation through annual and inseason adjustments to the school BFT retention limits, as necessary, and through the establishment of a school BFT reserve (64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999; 64 FR 29806, June 3, 1999). The recent ICCAT recommendation allows NMFS more flexibility to make interannual adjustments for overharvests and underharvests, provided that the 8-percent landings limit is met over the applicable 4-consecutive-year period. This approach provides NMFS with the flexibility to enhance fishing opportunities and the collection of information on a broad range of BFT size classes and responds to requests from the recreational fishing community for more advance notice of retention limit adjustments and greater certainty in planning for the fishing season.

In the last few years, NMFS has received comment from mid-Atlantic fishermen that the implementation of an increased daily retention limit over a date-certain period is preferable to a longer season with a lower daily retention limit as it facilitates the scheduling of fishing trips, particularly charter trips. In 1999, NMFS increased the daily retention limit to two school BFT and one large school or small medium BFT per vessel for the periods