

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION****48 CFR Parts 8 and 52**

[FAC 2001-06; FAR Case 2000-008; Item V]

RIN 9000-AJ09

**Federal Acquisition Regulation;
Acquisition of Helium**

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 (Councils) have agreed on a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-273) and associated changes to the Department of the Interior's regulations regarding its helium program.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 4, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Linda Nelson, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-1900. Please cite FAC 2001-06, FAR case 2000-008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

This final rule revises FAR Subpart 8.5 and the clause at 52.208-8 to implement the Department of Interior final rule regarding helium contracts that was published in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 66760, December 3, 1998. The final rule—

- Changes the definitions;
- Eliminates the requirement for certain contracts and subcontractors to submit helium forecasts; and
- Establishes the requirement that contractors and subcontractors under contracts with a major helium requirement must report purchases of helium from Federal helium suppliers.

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 66 FR 2752, January 11, 2001. One source, the Department of Interior, submitted a comment in response to the proposed rule, recommending that the

Councils add "Amarillo Field Office" to the address provided in the definition of "Bureau of Land Management" at FAR 8.501 and the clause at 52.208-8(a). The Councils concurred with the change and included it in the final rule.

This is not a significant regulatory action, and therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

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.*, because the rule eliminates the information requirement for submitting helium forecasts and replaces it with a similar information requirement to report helium purchases. We estimate that the net change is zero.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does apply; however, these changes to the FAR do not impose additional information collection requirements to the paperwork burden previously approved under OMB Control Number 9000-0113.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 8 and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: March 6, 2002.

Al Matera,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR parts 8 and 52 as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 8 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 8—REQUIRED SOURCES OF
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES**

2. Revise subpart 8.5, consisting of sections 8.500 through 8.505, to read as follows:

Subpart 8.5—Acquisition of Helium**8.500 Scope of subpart.**

This subpart implements the requirements of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167, *et seq.*) concerning the acquisition of liquid or gaseous helium

by Federal agencies or by Government contractors or subcontractors for use in the performance of a Government contract (also see 43 CFR part 3195).

8.501 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

Bureau of Land Management means the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Amarillo Field Office, Helium Operations, 801 South Fillmore Street, Suite 500, Amarillo, TX 79101-3545.

Federal helium supplier means a private helium vendor that has an in-kind crude helium sales contract with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and that is on the BLM Amarillo Field Office's Authorized List of Federal Helium Suppliers available via the Internet at http://www.nm.blm.gov/www/amfo/amfo_home.html.

Major helium requirement means an estimated refined helium requirement greater than 200,000 standard cubic feet (scf) (measured at 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute pressure and 70 degrees Fahrenheit temperature) of gaseous helium or 7510 liters of liquid helium delivered to a helium use location per year.

8.502 Policy.

Agencies and their contractors and subcontractors must purchase major helium requirements from Federal helium suppliers, to the extent that supplies are available.

8.503 Exception.

The requirements of this subpart do not apply to contracts or subcontracts in which the helium was acquired by the contractor prior to award of the contract or subcontract.

8.504 Procedures.

The contracting officer must forward the following information to the Bureau of Land Management within 45 days of the close of each fiscal quarter:

- (a) The name of any company that supplied a major helium requirement.
- (b) The amount of helium purchased.
- (c) The delivery date(s).
- (d) The location where the helium was used.

8.505 Contract clause.

Insert the clause at 52.208-8, Required Sources for Helium and Helium Usage Data, in solicitations and contracts if it is anticipated that performance of the contract involves a major helium requirement.

**PART 52—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS
AND CONTRACT CLAUSES**

3. Revise the clause heading and section 52.208-8 to read as follows:

52.208-8 Required Sources for Helium and Helium Usage Data.

As prescribed in 8.505, insert the following clause:

Required Sources for Helium and Helium Usage Data (Apr 2002)*(a) Definitions.*

Bureau of Land Management, as used in this clause, means the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Amarillo Field Office, Helium Operations, located at 801 South Fillmore Street, Suite 500, Amarillo, TX 79101-3545.

Federal helium supplier means a private helium vendor that has an in-kind crude helium sales contract with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and that is on the BLM Amarillo Field Office's Authorized List of Federal Helium Suppliers available via the Internet at http://www.nm.blm.gov/www/amfo/amfo_home.html.

Major helium requirement means an estimated refined helium requirement greater than 200,000 standard cubic feet (scf) (measured at 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute pressure and 70 degrees Fahrenheit temperature) of gaseous helium or 7510 liters of liquid helium delivered to a helium use location per year.

(b) Requirements—(1) Contractors must purchase major helium requirements from Federal helium suppliers, to the extent that supplies are available.

(2) The Contractor shall provide to the Contracting Officer the following data within 10 days after the Contractor or subcontractor receives a delivery of helium from a Federal helium supplier—

- (i) The name of the supplier;
- (ii) The amount of helium purchased;
- (iii) The delivery date(s); and
- (iv) The location where the helium was used.

(c) Subcontracts. The Contractor shall insert this clause, including this paragraph (c), in any subcontract or order that involves a major helium requirement.

(End of clause)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION****48 CFR Parts 12, 19, and 52**

[FAC 2001-06; FAR Case 2001-003; Item VI]

RIN 9000-AJ32

Federal Acquisition Regulation; HUBZone Program Applicability

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 (Councils) have agreed on a final rule that amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to simplify current FAR language that expands the applicability of the HUBZone Program to all agencies covered by the FAR after September 30, 2000.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 4, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Rhonda Cundiff, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-0044. Please cite FAC 2001-06, FAR case 2001-003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

This final rule amends and simplifies language at FAR Parts 12, 19, and 52. Current FAR language expands the applicability of the HUBZone Program to all agencies covered by the FAR after September 30, 2000. Initially, procurements under the HUBZone Program applied to a limited list of Federal agencies. Under Section 602(b) of the HUBZone Act of 1997 (Title VI of Pub. L. 105-135), this initial limited applicability expired on September 30, 2000.

The purpose of the program is to provide Federal contracting assistance for qualified small business concerns located in historically underutilized business zones in an effort to increase employment opportunities, investment, and economic development in these areas. The program provides for set-asides, sole-source awards, and price evaluation preferences for HUBZone small business concerns and establishes goals for awards to such concerns.

This is not a significant regulatory action, and therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This final rule does not constitute a significant FAR revision within the meaning of FAR 1.501 and Public Law 98-577, and publication for public comments is not required. However, the Councils will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected FAR Parts 12, 19, and 52 in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Interested parties must submit such comments separately

and should cite 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.* (FAC 2001-06, FAR case 2001-003), in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the changes to the FAR do not impose 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 Parts 12, 19, and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: March 6, 2002.

Al Matera,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR parts 12, 19, and 52 as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 12, 19, 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 12—ACQUISITION OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS

2. Amend section 12.301 by revising the introductory text of paragraph (b) and (b)(2) to read as follows:

12.301 Solicitation provisions and contract clauses for the acquisition of commercial items.

* * * * *

(b) Insert the following provisions in solicitations for the acquisition of commercial items, and clauses in solicitations and contracts for the acquisition of commercial items:

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(2) *The provision at 52.212-3, Offeror Representations and Certifications—Commercial Items.* This provision provides a single, consolidated list of certifications and representations for the acquisition of commercial items and is attached to the solicitation for offerors to complete and return with their offer. This provision may not be tailored except in accordance with Subpart 1.4. Use the provision with its Alternate I in solicitations issued by DoD, NASA, or the Coast Guard that are expected to exceed the threshold at 4.601(a). Use the provision with its Alternate II in solicitations for acquisitions for which small disadvantaged business procurement mechanisms are authorized on a regional basis;

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