

CONTRACT CHANGES—SUPPLEMENT
(JUL 2002)

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(a) Paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) apply to proposed contract changes costing over \$500,000:

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(b) Paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(11) apply to proposed contract changes costing \$500,000 or less:

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852.236–89 [Amended]

50. Section 852.236–89 is revised to read as follows:

852.236–89 Buy American Act.

As prescribed in 825.1102, insert the following clause:

BUY AMERICAN ACT (JUL 2002)

(a) Reference is made to the clause entitled “Buy American Act—Balance of Payments Program—Construction Materials,” FAR 52.225–9.

(b) Notwithstanding a bidder's right to offer identifiable foreign construction material in its bid pursuant to FAR 52.225–9, VA does not anticipate accepting an offer that includes foreign construction material.

(c) If a bidder chooses to submit a bid that includes foreign construction material, that bidder must provide a listing of the specific foreign construction material he/she intends to use and a price for said material. Bidders must include bid prices for comparable domestic construction material. If VA determines not to accept foreign construction material and no comparable domestic construction material is provided, the entire bid will be rejected.

(d) Any foreign construction material proposed after award will be rejected unless the bidder proves to VA's satisfaction: (1) It was impossible to request the exemption prior to award, and (2) said domestic construction material is no longer available, or (3) where the price has escalated so dramatically after the contract has been awarded that it would be unconscionable to require performance at that price. The determinations required by (1), (2), and (3) of this paragraph shall be made in accordance with subpart 825.2 and FAR 25.2.

(e) By signing this bid, the bidder declares that all articles, materials and supplies for use on the project shall be domestic unless specifically set forth on the Bid Form or addendum thereto.

(End of Cause)

Alternate I (JUL 2002)

As prescribed in 825.1102(b), substitute the following paragraphs for paragraphs (a) and (b) of the basic clause:

(a) Reference is made to the clause entitled “Buy American Act—Balance of Payment Program—Construction Materials Under Trade Agreements,” FAR 52.225–11.

(b) The restrictions contained in this clause 852.236–89 are waived for Trade Agreements Act (TAA) designated country construction material, as defined in FAR 52.225–11. Notwithstanding a bidder's right to offer

identifiable foreign construction material in its bid pursuant to FAR 52.225–11, VA does not anticipate accepting an offer that includes foreign construction material, other than TAA designated country construction material.

Alternate II (JUL 2002)

As prescribed in 825.1102(c), substitute the following paragraphs for paragraphs (a) and (b) of the basic clause:

(a) Reference is made to the clause entitled “Buy American Act—Balance of Payment Program—Construction Materials Under Trade Agreements,” FAR 52.225–11.

(b) The restrictions contained in this clause 852.236–89 are waived for Trade Agreements Act (TAA) designated country construction material and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) country construction material, as defined in FAR 52.225–11. Notwithstanding a bidder's right to offer identifiable foreign construction material in its bid pursuant to FAR 52.225–11, VA does not anticipate accepting an offer that includes foreign construction material, other than TAA designated country construction material or NAFTA country construction material.

51. Section 852.236–91 is amended by:

A. Adding an introductory text to the section.

B. Revising the undesignated center clause heading and its date.

C. Revising paragraph (a) introductory text.

D. In paragraph (b), adding a comma immediately following the phrase “is permitted”.

The additions and revisions read as follows:

852.236–91 Special notes.

As prescribed in 836.579, insert the following clause:

SPECIAL NOTES (JUL 2002)

(a) Signing of the bid shall be deemed to be a representation by the bidder that:

* * * * *

52. Section 852.246–1 is added to read as follows:

852.246–1 Special warranties.

As prescribed in 846.710–70, insert the following clause:

SPECIAL WARRANTIES (JUL 2002)

The clause entitled “Warranty of Construction” in FAR 52.246–21 is supplemented as follows:

Any special warranties that may be required under the contract shall be subject to the elections set forth in the FAR clause at 52.246–21, Warranty of Construction, unless otherwise provided for in such special warranties.

[FR Doc. 02–18966 Filed 7–29–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration****49 CFR Parts 573, 574, 576, 579**

[Docket No. NHTSA 2001–8677; Notice 4]

RIN 2127–AI25

Reporting of Information and Documents About Potential Defects Retention of Records That Could Indicate Defects

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Correction to final rule.

SUMMARY: This document is the assessment of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the applicability of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act which was inadvertently omitted from the preamble of the final rule adopting the early warning reporting provisions of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act and amending other associated agency regulations.

DATES: The effective date of the final rule remains August 9, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Taylor Vinson, Office of Chief Counsel, NHTSA (phone: 202–366–5263).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In FR Doc. 02–17103, 67 FR 45822, July 10, 2002, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) inadvertently omitted its assessment of the applicability of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act from Section X of the preamble, titled “Regulatory Analyses.” This document provides that assessment.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4) requires agencies to prepare a written assessment of the costs, benefits, and other effects of proposed or final rules that include a Federal mandate likely to result in the expenditures by State, local or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of more than \$100 million annually (adjusted annually for inflation with base year of 1995). Adjusting this amount by the implicit gross domestic product price deflator for the year 2000 results in \$109 million (106.99/98.11 = 1.09). The assessment may be included in conjunction with other assessments.

The final rule (67 FR 45822 at 45872–45883) is not estimated to result in expenditures by State, local or tribal governments of more than \$109 million

annually. It is not estimated to result in the expenditure by motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment manufacturers, child restraint system manufacturers, and tire manufacturers of more than \$109 million annually.

Authority: Sec. 3, Pub. L. 106-414, 114 Stat. 1800 (49 U.S.C. 30102-103, 30112, 30117-121, 30166-167); delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: July 24, 2002.

Jeffrey W. Runge,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-19200 Filed 7-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 84

RIN 1018-AF51

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule establishes the requirements for participation in the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program authorized by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (Act) and provides guidance for the Program's administration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to as "Service," "we," and "us" within this rule). It replaces interim procedures and clarifies guidance for preparation, submission, and evaluation of proposed projects and administration of funded projects.

DATES: This rule is effective July 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The complete file for this rule is available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Division of Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Room 840, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Valdes-Cogliano, Division of Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration, by telephone (703) 358-2201; fax (703) 358-2232; e-mail<sally_valdescogliano@fws.gov> or Gary Reinitz, Division of Federal Aid, by telephone (703) 358-2159; fax (703) 358-1837; e-mail:gary_reinitz@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

What Is the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program?

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 3951-3956) authorizes the Director of the Service to make matching grants to coastal States for acquisition, restoration, enhancement, management, and preservation of coastal wetlands. Grants are available annually on a competitive basis to coastal States. Funding for this Program comes from the Sport Fish Restoration Account, which is supported by excise taxes on fishing equipment, and motorboat and small engine fuels.

The primary goal of the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program is the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems. It accomplishes this goal by helping States in their efforts to protect, restore, and enhance their coastal habitats. The Program's accomplishments are primarily on-the-ground and measured in acres.

Why Protect Coastal Wetlands?

Coastal wetlands provide essential fish and wildlife habitat. Coastal ecosystems comprise less than 10 percent of the Nation's land area, but support a much higher proportion of our living resources. Specifically, coastal areas support a high percentage of our threatened and endangered species, fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and migrating and wintering waterfowl.

In addition to wildlife benefits, wetlands provide substantial flood and storm control values and can reduce the need to construct expensive flood control structures. They make an important contribution to water quality by recharging groundwater, filtering surface runoff, and treating waste, and they provide natural areas important for recreational and aesthetic purposes. Uplands associated with wetlands provide food and cover to wildlife and buffer wetlands from soil erosion and contaminants. In the coterminous United States, more than half of the estimated original 221 million acres of American wetlands have been destroyed since European settlement. The concentration of the U.S. population in coastal areas is a continuing source of development pressure on the remaining coastal wetlands.

What Has the Program Accomplished?

Since the Service began awarding grants in 1992, we have awarded about \$105 million to 25 States and 1 U.S. territory to protect and/or restore about 130,000 acres of coastal wetland

ecosystems. The Program's emphasis on encouraging partnerships, supporting watershed planning, and leveraging ongoing projects has helped stretch program funds. The resource benefits of this Program have included habitat protection and restoration for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, endangered and threatened species, and fish and shellfish.

Why Do We Need This Rule?

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program is currently being administered using internal interim program guidance and the standard grant administration policies of our Federal Aid Program. We believe administration of the Program could be improved through regulations specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Program. Accordingly, the rule uses a plain English style, provides examples to illustrate concepts, and combines current guidance in one place. It should result in a streamlined proposal preparation, review and grant administration process.

Currently, we evaluate grant requests received from the State agencies on an annual schedule. In the last few years, the number of proposals received annually by the Service National Office has ranged from 29 to 36. A review panel consisting of Service personnel representing the coastal Regions of the Service and specific program areas (for example, the Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, Endangered Species, and Refuges Programs) reviews and ranks all proposals. Based on the rankings of the panel, recommendations are sent to the Director of the Service, who makes the final determination of which projects will receive grants. The basic schedule and procedures will not change significantly with this rule.

The criteria for selecting proposals in this final rule have been modified from the interim guidance. For example, a new criterion has been added to give credit to projects that provide benefits to migratory birds. Also, we have expanded the discussion of each criterion to clarify project scoring. The changes were based on comments provided by Service personnel who have reviewed National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant proposals. These criteria can be found in the rule portion of this document.

Summary of Comments and Recommendations

In the proposed rule that was published August 20, 2001 (66 FR 43555), we requested that interested parties submit any comments they might have. We particularly sought