

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 2, 11, and 23

[FAR Case 2001-028]

RIN 9000-AJ47

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Energy-Efficient Standby Power Devices

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

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) are proposing to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement Executive Order (E.O.) 13221 of July 31, 2001, Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices, and clarify requirements for the purchase of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated products.

DATES: Interested parties should submit comments in writing on or before December 16, 2002 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to— General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVA), 1800 F Street, NW., Room 4035, Attn: Laurie Duarte, Washington, DC 20405.

Submit electronic comments via the Internet to—farcase.2001-028@gsa.gov. Please submit comments only and cite FAR case 2001-028 in all correspondence related to this case.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC, 20405, at (202) 501-4755 for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Laura Smith, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 208-7279. Please cite FAR case 2001-028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This proposed rule amends the FAR to implement E.O. 13221 and clarify requirements when purchasing EPA-designated products. The rule adds—

1. A definition for “energy-efficient standby power devices” in FAR Subpart 2.1, Definitions; and

2. Guidance on energy-efficient standby power devices at FAR Parts 11, Describing Agency Needs, and 23, Environment, Energy and Water Efficiency, Renewable Energy Technologies, Occupational Safety, and Drug-Free Workplace; and

3. Guidance on purchasing EPA-designated products in FAR sections 23.405 and 23.406.

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 Councils do not expect this proposed rule to 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 this rule simply provides additional guidance to Government contracting and technical personnel with respect to the Government’s preference, set forth in FAR Subparts 11.1, 23.2, and 23.4, for buying energy-efficient products and services and EPA-designated products that meet applicable EPA minimum recovered material content recommendations. An Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis has, therefore, not been performed. We invite comments from small businesses and other interested parties. The Councils will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected FAR subparts 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. (FAR case 2001-028), in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the proposed 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 2, 11, and 23

Government procurement.

Dated: October 9, 2002.

Al Matera,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA propose amending 48 CFR parts 2, 11, and 23 as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 2, 11, and 23 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 2—DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND TERMS

2. Amend section 2.101 by adding, in alphabetical order, the definition “Energy-efficient standby power devices” to read as follows:

2.101 Definitions.

* * * * *

Energy-efficient standby power devices means products that—

(1) Include an external or internal power supply; and

(2) Use no more than one watt of electricity in their standby power consuming mode or meet recommended low standby levels as designated by the Department of Energy Federal Energy Management Program.

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PART 11—DESCRIBING AGENCY NEEDS

3. Amend section 11.002 by revising paragraph (d)(1) and the introductory text of (d)(2) to read as follows:

11.002 Policy.

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(d)(1) The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6901, et seq.), Executive Order 13101 of September 14, 1998, Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, Executive Order 13123 of June 3, 1999, Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management, and Executive Order 13221 of July 31, 2001, Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices, establish requirements for acquiring—

(i) Products containing recovered materials;

(ii) Environmentally preferable products and services;

(iii) Energy-efficient products and services;

(iv) Products and services that utilize renewable energy technologies; and

(v) Products containing energy-efficient standby power devices.

(2) Executive agencies shall consider use of recovered materials, energy- and water-efficient products and services, products containing energy-efficient standby power devices, environmentally preferable purchasing criteria developed by the EPA, and environmental objectives (see subparts 23.2, 23.4, and 23.703(b)) when—

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4. Amend section 11.101 in the introductory text of paragraph (b) by removing “must” and adding “shall” in its place; and by revising paragraph (b)(1) to read as follows:

11.101 Order of precedence for requirements documents.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) Energy efficiency, including using products containing energy-efficient standby power devices and renewable energy technologies; and

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PART 23—ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

5. Amend section 23.201 by adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

23.201 Authorities.

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(e) Executive Order 13221 of July 31, 2001, Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices.

6. Revise section 23.203 to read as follows:

23.203 Energy-efficient products.

(a) If life-cycle cost-effective and available—

(1) When acquiring energy-using products—

(i) Agencies shall purchase ENERGY STAR® or other energy-efficient items listed on the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program

(FEMP) Product Energy Efficiency Recommendations product list; and

(ii) For products that consume power in a standby mode and are listed on FEMP's Standby Power Devices product listing, agencies shall—

(A) Purchase items which meet FEMP's standby power wattage recommendation or document the reason for not purchasing such items; or

(B) If FEMP has listed a product without a corresponding wattage recommendation, purchase items which use no more than one watt in their standby power consuming mode. When it is impracticable to meet the one watt requirement, agencies shall purchase items with the lowest standby wattage practicable; and

(2) When contracting for services that will include the provision of energy-using products, including contracts for design, construction, renovation, or maintenance of a public building, the specifications shall incorporate the applicable requirements in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) The requirements in paragraph (a) of this section only apply when the relevant product's utility and performance meet the agency's need.

(c) Information is available via the Internet about—

(1) ENERGY STAR® at <http://www.energystar.gov/>; and

(2) FEMP at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/procurement>.

7. Amend section 23.405 by revising the introductory text of paragraph (c) to read as follows:

23.405 Procedures.

* * * * *

(c) The contracting officer shall place in the contract file a written justification if an acquisition of EPA-designated products above the micro-purchase threshold does not meet applicable minimum recovered material content recommended by EPA guidelines. If the agency has designated an Environmental Executive, the contracting officer shall give a copy of the written justification to that official. The contracting officer shall base the justification on the inability to acquire the product—

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8. Amend section 23.406 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

23.406 Solicitation provision and contract clause.

(a) Insert the provision at 52.223-4, Recovered Material Certification, in solicitations that are for, or specify the use of, EPA-designated products containing recovered materials.

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