

comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 2004–D002.

### 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 225

Government procurement.

**Michele P. Peterson,**

*Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.*

Therefore, DoD proposes to amend 48 CFR part 225 as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 225 continues to read as follows:

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

#### PART 225—FOREIGN ACQUISITION

2. Section 225.7103–1 is amended by revising the second sentence to read as follows:

##### 225.7103–1 Policy.

\* \* \* DoD is phasing out the restrictions over the period ending May 31, 2006. \* \* \*

3. Section 225.7103–3 is revised to read as follows:

##### 225.7103–3 Contract clause.

Use the clause at 252.225–7022, Restriction on Acquisition of Polyacrylonitrile (PAN) Carbon Fiber, in solicitations and contracts for major systems issued on or before May 31, 2006, if the system is not yet in engineering and manufacturing development (milestone B as defined in DoDI 5000.2).

[FR Doc. 04–14339 Filed 6–24–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### 48 CFR Part 236

[DFARS Case 2003–D035]

#### Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Construction and Architect-Engineer Services

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** DoD is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update text pertaining to selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts.

This proposed rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before August 24, 2004, to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by DFARS Case 2003–D035, using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Defense Acquisition Regulations Web site: <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: [dfars@osd.mil](mailto:dfars@osd.mil). Include DFARS Case 2003–D035 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: (703) 602–0350.

- Mail: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Mr. Euclides Barrera, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062.

- Hand Delivery/Courier: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Crystal Square 4, Suite 200A, 241 18th Street, Arlington, VA 22202–3402.

All comments received will be posted to <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Euclides Barrera, (703) 602–0296.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dp/dars/transf.htm>.

This proposed rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The proposed changes—

- Revise DFARS 236.602–1 to remove procedures for establishment of evaluation criteria in the selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts. This text will be relocated to the new

DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI). A proposed rule describing the purpose and structure of PGI was published at 69 FR 8145 on February 23, 2004.

- Remove unnecessary text on preselection boards and selection authorities at DFARS 236.602–2 and 236.602–4.

- Amend DFARS 236.604 to reflect replacement of Standard Form 254, Architect-Engineer and Related Services Questionnaire, with Standard Form 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications.

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 does not expect this 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 the changes in the rule represent no substantive change to policy with regard to selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts. Therefore, DoD has not performed an initial regulatory flexibility analysis. DoD invites comments from small businesses and other interested parties. DoD also will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subpart in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 2003–D035.

##### 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 236

Government procurement.

**Michele P. Peterson,**

*Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.*

Therefore, DoD proposes to amend 48 CFR part 236 as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 236 continues to read as follows:

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

#### PART 236—CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECT-ENGINEER CONTRACTS

2. Section 236.602–1 is revised to read as follows:

**236.602-1 Selection criteria.**

(a) Establish the evaluation criteria before making the public announcement required by FAR 5.205(c) and include the criteria and their relative order of importance in the announcement. Follow the procedures at PGI 236.602-1.

**236.602-2 and 236.602-4 [Removed]**

3. Sections 236.602-2 and 236.602-4 are removed.

4. Section 236.604 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(ii) to read as follows:

**236.604 Performance evaluation.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(ii) File and use the DD Form 2631, Performance Evaluation (Architect-Engineer), in a manner similar to the SF 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications, Part II.

[FR Doc. 04-14341 Filed 6-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 300**

[Docket No. 040617186-4186-01; I.D. 051704D]

RIN 0648-AS39

**International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Restrictions for 2004 Purse Seine and Longline Fisheries in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes this rule to implement the 2004 management measures to prevent overfishing of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) tuna stocks, consistent with recommendations by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) that have been approved by the Department of State (DOS) under the Tuna Conventions Act. The purse seine fishery for tuna in a portion of the Convention Area would be closed for a 6-week period beginning August 1, 2004. This proposed rule would also close the U.S. longline fishery in the IATTC Convention Area if the catch reaches the estimated level of 2001. This action is taken to limit fishing mortality

caused by purse seine fishing and longline fishing in the Convention Area and contribute to long-term conservation of the tuna stocks at levels that support healthy fisheries.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the proposed rule should be sent to Rodney R. McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802 or by email to the Southwest Region at 0648-AS39@noaa.gov. Comments may also be submitted by email through the Federal e-Rulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: 0648-AS39. Comments also may be submitted by fax to (562) 980-4047. Copies of the regulatory impact review/regulatory analysis may be obtained from the Southwest Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90902-4213.

This **Federal Register** document is also accessible via the Internet at the Office of the **Federal Register's** website at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/su-docs/aces/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** J. Allison Routt, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southwest Region, NMFS, (562) 980-4030.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States is a member of the IATTC, which was established under the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission signed in 1949 (Convention). The IATTC was established to provide an international arrangement to ensure the effective international conservation and management of highly migratory species of fish in the Convention Area. The Convention Area is defined to include the waters of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean bounded by the coast of the Americas, the 40°N. and 40° S. parallels, and the 150° W. meridian. The IATTC has maintained a scientific research and fishery monitoring program for many years and annually assesses the status of stocks of tuna and the fisheries to determine appropriate harvest limits or other measures to prevent overexploitation of the stocks and promote viable fisheries. Under the Tuna Conventions Act, 16 U.S.C. 951-961 and 971 *et seq.*, NMFS must publish proposed rules to carry out IATTC recommendations that have been approved by DOS. The Southwest Regional Administrator, also is required

by rules at 50 CFR 300.29(b)(3) to issue a direct notice to the owners or agents of all U.S. purse seine vessels that operate in the ETP of actions recommended by the IATTC and approved by the DOS.

At an extraordinary meeting in October 2003, the IATTC adopted a resolution addressing yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna conservation for 2003 and 2004. The resolution calls upon the Parties to the Convention and cooperating non-Parties to prohibit tuna purse seine fishing in a portion of the IATTC Convention Area for the month of December 2003 and for a 6-week period beginning August 1, 2004. The 2003 closure was implemented by separate action last year. The 2004 closure would be of waters bounded by a line from the point where the 95° W. long. meridian intersects the west coast of the Americas, south to 10° N. lat., then west to 120° W. long., then south to 5° S. lat. then east to 100° W. long., then north to 5° N. lat., then east to 85° W. long., and then north to the point of intersection with the west coast of the Americas. This closure will target fishing that has higher catches of juvenile tuna. Therefore, there should be improved yields from the stocks later in the year. The resolution also calls upon Parties and cooperating non-Parties to take measures necessary to ensure that their total longline catches of bigeye tuna in the ETP during 2004 will not exceed those of 2001. The catch level for 2001 is estimated to be approximately 100 metric tons in the Convention Area. This is intended to prevent overfishing of the stock, which has declined in recent years while longline fishing effort has greatly expanded. The IATTC action at the extraordinary meeting in October 2003 came after considering a variety of measures, including the use of quotas and partial fishery closures as in 1999 through 2002 and the full month purse seine closure used in 2003. The selected measures should provide protection against overfishing of the stocks in a manner that is fair, equitable, and readily enforceable. The DOS has approved the IATTC recommendations.

The proposed 2004 time/area closure is based on 2003 assessments of the condition of the tuna stocks in the ETP and historic catch and effort data for different portions of the ETP, as well as records relating to implementation of quotas and closures in prior years. The closure is targeted to areas with high catches of bigeye tuna in the purse seine fishery and is believed by the IATTC scientific staff to be sufficient to reduce the risk of overfishing of that stock, especially when considered in