

9. Governor's Remarks.
10. Adjournment.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, (202) 720-9554.

Dated: July 28, 2004.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Acting Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

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BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to procurement list.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List a product and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

DATES: *Comments Must Be Received on or Before:* August 29, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions. If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in the notice for each product or service will be required to procure the product and service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. If approved, the action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the product and service to the Government.

2. If approved, the action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the product and service to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the product and service proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

End of Certification

The following product and service are proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Product

Product/NSN: Binder, Looseleaf, 7510-00-965-2442.

NPA: York County Blind Center, York, Pennsylvania.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Service

Service Type/Location: Custodial & Grounds Maintenance, Nogales Border Patrol Station, 1500 W. LaQuinta Road, Nogales, Arizona.

NPA: J.P. Industries, Inc., Tucson, Arizona.
Contract Activity: U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC.

Sheryl D. Kennerly,

Director, Information Management.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a product and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

DATES: *Effective Date:* August 29, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 14, May 28, and June 4, 2004, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (69 FR 26805, 30609, and 31588) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

The following comments pertain to Flag, National, Interment (Additional 10% of the Veterans Affairs Requirement for a total of 50% on the Procurement List).

Comments were received from three of the current contractors for the interment flag and from a trade association for the flag industry. The association and one of the contractors claimed that increased demand for American flags after September 2001 had brought a number of new suppliers into the market, and now that the demand is decreasing, the loss of the partial requirement for the interment flag the Committee proposed to add to the Procurement List would have a larger, and thus severe, impact on the flag industry. These two commenters also cited a 1997 letter by the Committee's staff director indicating that the Committee would be unlikely to increase its share of the interment flag market unless the sole commercial contractor for interment flags at the time were to experience a substantial increase in its sales.

Another contractor indicated that Government contracts represent about 35 percent of total sales of flag manufacturers, so these manufacturers would be severely impaired if they continue to lose Government business to set-aside programs like the Committee's program. This contractor also claimed that its interment flag contract allows it to keep its plant operating year round, so loss of the contract would result in employment loss and other potential financial challenges. The third contractor noted that the flag industry is part of the textile industry, which has suffered severe losses in the past decade. The contractor stated that it had assisted two nonprofit agencies in learning how to produce the interment flag, and had been repaid with unauthorized disclosure of its confidential material and a failure by one nonprofit agency to pay the agreed-upon fee for the contractor's assistance. The contractor also claimed the other nonprofit agency was under investigation by its State concerning its nonprofit status. The contractor concluded, in light of these allegations, that it would not be in the interest of the Government to increase the portion of the Government requirement for interment flags set aside for these nonprofit agencies.