

831 of Public Law 101–510, as amended, may count toward its small disadvantaged business goal, subcontracts awarded to—

(1) Protege firms which are qualified organizations employing the severely disabled; and

(2) Former protege firms that meet the criteria in section 831(g)(4) of Public Law 101–510.

(d) The master plan is approved by the Contractor's cognizant contract administration activity.

(e) In those subcontracting plans which specifically identify small businesses, the Contractor shall notify the Administrative Contracting Officer of any substitutions of firms that are not small business firms, for the small business firms specifically identified in the subcontracting plan. Notifications shall be in writing and shall occur within a reasonable period of time after award of the subcontract. Contractor-specified formats shall be acceptable.

(f)(1) For DoD, the Contractor shall submit reports in eSRS as follows:

(i) The Standard Form 294, Subcontracting Report for Individual Contracts, shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions on that form.

(ii) An SSR for other than a commercial subcontracting plan, or construction and related maintenance repair contracts, shall be submitted in eSRS to the department or agency within DoD that administers the majority of the Contractor's individual subcontracting plans. An example would be Defense Finance and Accounting Service or Missile Defense Agency.

(2) For DoD, the authority to acknowledge receipt or reject reports in eSRS is as follows:

(i) Except as provided in paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this clause, the authority to acknowledge receipt or reject SSRs in eSRS resides with the SSR Coordinator at the department or agency that administers the majority of the Contractor's individual subcontracting plans.

(ii) The authority to acknowledge receipt or reject SSRs for construction and related maintenance and repair contracts resides with the SSR Coordinator for each department or agency.

(End of clause)

■ 5. Revise section 252.219–7010 to read as follows:

252.219–7010 Notification of Competition Limited to Eligible 8(a) Concerns—Partnership Agreement.

As prescribed in 219.811–3(2), use the following clause:

Notification of Competition Limited to Eligible 8(a) Concerns—Partnership Agreement (Date)

(a) Offers are solicited only from small business concerns expressly certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for participation in the SBA's 8(a) Program and which meet the following criteria at the time of submission of offer:

(1) The Offeror is in conformance with the 8(a) support limitation set forth in its approved business plan.

(2) The Offeror is in conformance with the Business Activity Targets set forth in its

approved business plan or any remedial action directed by the SBA.

(3) If the competition is to be limited to 8(a) concerns within one or more specific SBA regions or districts, then the offeror's approved business plan is on the file and serviced by _____.

[Contracting Officer completes by inserting the appropriate SBA District and/or Regional Office(s) as identified by the SBA.]

(b) By submission of its offer, the Offeror represents that it meets all of the criteria set forth in paragraph (a) of this clause.

(c) Any award resulting from this solicitation will be made directly by the Contracting Officer to the successful 8(a) offeror selected through the evaluation criteria set forth in this solicitation.

(d)(1) *Agreement.* A small business concern submitting an offer in its own name shall furnish, in performing the contract, only end items manufactured or produced by small business concerns in the United States or its outlying areas, unless—

(i) The Small Business Administration has determined that there are no small business manufactures or processors in the Federal market place in accordance with FAR 19.502–2(c);

(ii) The acquisition is processed under simplified acquisition procedures and the total amount of this contract does not exceed \$25,000, in which case a small business concern may furnish the product of any domestic firm; or

(iii) The acquisition is a construction or service contract.

(2) The _____ *[insert name of SBA's contractor]* will notify the _____ *[insert name of contracting agency]* Contracting Officer in writing immediately upon entering an agreement (either oral or written) to transfer all or part of its stock or other ownership interest to any other party.

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 2015–24787 Filed 9–29–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

48 CFR Parts 246 and 252

[Docket No. DARS–2015–0054]

RIN 0750–AI39

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items (DFARS Case 2014–D026)

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: DoD is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to require use of the electronic contract

attachments accessible via the Product Deficiency Reporting and Evaluation Program to record and track warranty data and source of repair information for serialized items.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before November 30, 2015, to be considered in the formation of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments identified by DFARS Case 2014–D026, using any of the following methods:

○ *Regulations.gov:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking portal by entering “DFARS Case 2014–D026” under the heading “Enter keyword or ID” and selecting “Search.” Select the link “Submit a Comment” that corresponds with “DFARS Case 2014–D026.” Follow the instructions provided at the “Submit a Comment” screen. Please include your name, company name (if any), and “DFARS Case 2014–D026” on your attached document.

○ *Email:* osd.dfars@mail.mil. Include DFARS Case 2014–D026 in the subject line of the message.

○ *Fax:* 571–372–6094.

○ *Mail:* Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Attn: Ms. Kyoung Lee, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP/DARS, Room 3B941, 3060 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3060.

Comments received generally will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check www.regulations.gov, approximately two to three days after submission to verify posting (except allow 30 days for posting of comments submitted by mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kyoung Lee, telephone 571–372–6093.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On June 8, 2011, DoD published a final rule in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 33166) to establish the requirements and formats for tracking warranties for items subject to Item Unique Identification (IUID) in the IUID registry in the DFARS. The rule added the provision at DFARS 252.246–7005, Notice of Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, and the clause at DFARS 252.246–7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, with standard contract attachments and instructions for reporting data necessary to track warranty information for each serialized item.

On April 12, 2012, the Director, Defense Procurement Acquisition Policy (DPAP), issued a memorandum entitled

“Implementation of Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Provision and Clause for Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items” to encourage the use of a machine readable, fillable Adobe portable document format (PDF) for the electronic submission of warranty information required by the provision and clause. This memorandum also announced planned updates to the Product Deficiency Reporting and Evaluation Program (PDREP) to facilitate the electronic collection, storage and distribution of warranty data and provide for a common, searchable data source for enterprise warranty data.

II. Discussion and Analysis

The electronic warranty attachments entitled “Warranty Tracking Information” and “Source of Repair Instructions” are now available in PDREP. The purpose of this proposed rule is to amend DFARS 246.710, DFARS clause 252.246–7005, Notice of Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, and DFARS clause 252.246–7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, to make use of the electronic warranty attachments in PDREP mandatory for solicitations and contracts when warranty of serialized items is anticipated or required. This rule also clarifies the requirements for completion and submission of the warranty attachments.

III. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Orders (E.O.s) 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to review under section 6(b) of E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

IV. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD expects that this proposed 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.* However, an initial regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared and is summarized as follows:

The purpose of this proposed rule is to amend the DFARS to require the use of the electronic formats for the “Warranty Tracking Information” and “Source of Repair Instructions” attachments, required for use in tracking the warranties of serialized items by the provision at DFARS 252.246–7005, Notice of Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, and the clause at DFARS 252.246–7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items.

Use of the electronic formats will improve the process of collecting and sharing data on warranties provided by contractors on serialized items procured by DoD. Additionally, use of the electronic formats available via the Product Deficiency Reporting and Evaluation Program (PDREP) ensure the data elements for warranty terms are effectively transmitted through various systems such as: Electronic Document Access; Wide Area WorkFlow; the Invoice, Receipt, Acceptance and Property Transfer module; and the PDREP Warranty Tracking database.

According to data available in the Federal Procurement Data System, in fiscal year (FY) 2014 DoD awarded 5,807 contracts that contain one or more warranty clauses. Subject matter experts within DoD estimate that almost twice as many solicitations (11,500) issued by DoD in FY 2014 may have contained a warranty clause. It is also estimated that an average of four offers may have been received in response those solicitations, or 46,000 total offers. Of those responses, approximately 85%, or 39,100 responses, are estimated to be received from small businesses.

This rule does not create any new reporting or recordkeeping requirements. Offerors and contractors are already required to complete the attachments in accordance with the provision at DFARS 252.246–7005, Notice of Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, and the clause at DFARS 252.246–7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items. Rather, this rule requires contractors and offerors to complete the warranty attachments using the specified electronic formats.

It is estimated that fifty percent of the time (for approximately 5,750 solicitations) the Government will specify the desired warranty terms, in which case the contractor provides the remaining data elements on the “Warranty Tracking Information” attachment and the “Source of Repair Instructions” attachment with its proposal, at contract award, or at the point of delivery. The other fifty percent of the time, the Contractor will be required to specify all the warranty

terms on the “Warranty Tracking Information” attachment and the “Source of Repair Instructions” attachment.

The rule does not duplicate, overlap, or conflict with any other Federal rules. There are no known significant alternatives to the rule. The impact of this rule on small business is not expected to be significant.

DoD invites comments from small business concerns and other interested parties on the expected impact of this rule on small entities.

DoD will also consider comments from small entities concerning the existing regulations in subparts affected by this rule in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Interested parties must submit such comments separately and should cite 5 U.S.C. 610 (DFARS Case 2014–D026), in correspondence.

V. Paperwork Reduction Act

The rule contains information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C chapter 35); however, these changes to the DFARS do not impose additional information collection requirements to the paperwork burden previously approved under OMB Control Number 0704–0481, entitled Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 246 and 252

Government procurement.

Jennifer L. Hawes,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Therefore, 48 CFR parts 246 and 252 are proposed to be amended as follows:

■ 1. The authority citation for parts 246 and 252 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 1303 and 48 CFR chapter 1.

PART 246—QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 2. Amend section 246.701 by—
- a. Revising the section heading.
 - b. Adding introductory text.
 - c. Removing “*Duration, enterprise, enterprise identifier, fixed expiration, issuing agency, item type, starting event, serialized item, unique item identifier, usage, warranty administrator, warranty guarantor, warranty repair source, and warranty tracking* are defined in the clause at 252.246–7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items”; and
 - d. Adding, in alphabetical order, the definitions of *Enterprise, Enterprise identifier, Issuing agency, Serialized item, Unique item identifier, and Warranty tracking*.

The additions read as follows:

246.701 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

* * * * *

Enterprise means the entity (e.g., a manufacturer or vendor) responsible for granting the warranty and/or assigning unique item identifiers to serialized warranty items.

Enterprise identifier means a code that is uniquely assigned to an enterprise by an issuing agency.

Issuing agency means an organization responsible for assigning a globally unique identifier to an enterprise (e.g., Dun & Bradstreet's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number, GS1 Company Prefix, Allied Committee 135 NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE)/Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code, or the Coded Representation of the North American Telecommunications Industry Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Related Service Companies (ATIS-0322000) Number), European Health Industry Business Communication Council (EHIBCC) and Health Industry Business Communication Council (HIBCC), as indicated in the Register of Issuing Agency Codes for ISO/IEC 15459, located at http://www.aimglobal.org/?Reg_Authority15459.

Serialized item means each item produced is assigned a serial number that is unique among all the collective tangible items produced by the enterprise, or each item of a particular part, lot, or batch number is assigned a unique serial number within that part, lot, or batch number assignment within the enterprise identifier. The enterprise is responsible for ensuring unique serialization within the enterprise identifier or within the part, lot, or batch numbers, and that serial numbers, once assigned, are never used again.

Unique item identifier means a set of data elements marked on an item that is globally unique and unambiguous.

Warranty tracking means the ability to trace a warranted item from delivery through completion of the effectivity of the warranty.

■ 3. Amend section 246.710 by revising paragraph (3) to read as follows:

246.710 Solicitation provision and contract clauses.

* * * * *

(3) When the solicitation includes the clause at 252.211-7003, Item Unique Identification and Valuation, which is prescribed in 211.274-6(a), and it is anticipated that the resulting contract will include a warranty for serialized items—

(i) Use the provision at 252.246-7005, Notice of Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, in the solicitation if the Government does not specify a warranty and offerors will be required to enter data with the offer;

(ii) Use the clause at 252.246-7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items, in the solicitation and contract; and

(iii) Include the following warranty attachments, available at https://www.pdrep.csd.disa.mil/pdrep_files/other/wsr.htm, in the solicitation and contract and see 246.710-70:

(A) Warranty Tracking Information.

(B) Source of Repair Instructions.

■ 4. Revise section 246.710-70 to read as follows:

246.710-70 Warranty attachments.

Follow the procedures at PGI 246.710-70 regarding warranty attachments.

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES 252.211-7003 [AMENDED]

■ 5. Amend section 252.211-7003 by—

■ a. Removing the clause date “(DEC 2013)” and adding “(DATE)” in its place; and

■ b. In paragraph (a), in the definition of “Issuing agency,” removing “<http://www.nen.nl/Normontwikkeling/Certificatieschemas-en-keurmerken/Schemabeheer/ISOIEC-15459.htm>” under “Register.” and adding “http://www.aimglobal.org/?Reg_Authority15459.” in its place.

■ 6. Amend section 252.246-7005 by—

■ a. In the introductory text, removing “246.710(3)(i)(A)” and adding “246.710(3)(i)” in its place;

■ b. Removing the clause date “(JUN 2011)” and adding “(DATE)” in its place; and

■ c. Revising paragraphs (a) and (b).

The revisions read as follows:

252.246-7005 Notice of Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items.

* * * * *

(a) *Definitions.* *Duration*, *enterprise*, *enterprise identifier*, *fixed expiration*, *item type*, *serialized item*, *starting event*, *unique item identifier*, *usage*, *warranty administrator*, *warranty guarantor*, and *warranty tracking* are defined in the clause at 252.246-7006, Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items.

(b) *Reporting of data for warranty tracking and administration.* (1) The Offeror shall provide the information required by the attachment entitled “Warranty Tracking Information” on each contract line item number, subtitle item number, or exhibit line item number for warranted items with its offer. Information required in the

warranty attachment for each warranted item shall include such information as duration, fixed expiration, item type, starting event, usage, warranty administrator enterprise identifier, and warranty guarantor enterprise identifier.

(2) The successful offeror will be required to provide the following information no later than when the warranted items are presented for receipt and/or acceptance, in accordance with the clause at 252.246-7006—

(A) The unique item identifier for each warranted item required by the attachment entitled “Warranty Tracking Information;” and

(B) All information required by the attachment entitled “Source of Repair Instructions” for each warranted item.

(3) For additional information on warranty attachments, see the “Warranty and Source of Repair” training and “Warranty and Source of Repair Tracking User Guide” accessible on the Product Data Reporting and Evaluation Program (PDREP) Web site at https://www.pdrep.csd.disa.mil/pdrep_files/other/wsr.htm.

(End of provision)

■ 7. Amend section 252.246-7006 by—

■ a. In the introductory text, removing “246.710(3)(i)(B)” and adding “246.710(3)(ii)” in its place;

■ b. Removing the clause date “(JUN 2011)” and adding “(DATE)” in its place;

■ c. In paragraph (a)—

■ i. In the definition of “Issuing agency,” removing “<http://www.nen.nl/Normontwikkeling/Certificatieschemas-en-keurmerken/Schemabeheer/ISOIEC-15459.htm>” and adding “http://www.aimglobal.org/?Reg_Authority15459” in its place.

■ ii. In the definition of “Starting event,” adding “, such as first use or upon installation” after “warranty”; and

■ d. Revising paragraph (b).

The revision reads as follows:

252.246-7006 Warranty Tracking of Serialized Items.

* * * * *

(b) *Reporting of data for warranty tracking and administration.* (1) The Contractor shall provide the information required by the attachment entitled “Warranty Tracking Information” on each contract line item number, subtitle item number, or exhibit line item number for warranted items no later than the time of award. Information required in the warranty attachment shall include such information as duration, fixed expiration, item type, starting event, usage, warranty administrator enterprise identifier, and warranty guarantor enterprise identifier.

(2) The Contractor shall provide the following information no later than when the warranted items are presented for receipt and/or acceptance—

(A) The unique item identifier for each warranted item required by the attachment entitled “Warranty Tracking Information;” and

(B) The warranty repair source information and instructions for each warranted item required by the attachment entitled “Source of Repair Instructions.”

(3) The Contractor shall submit the data for warranty tracking to the Contracting Officer with a copy to the requiring activity and the Contracting Officer Representative.

(4) For additional information on warranty attachments, see the “Warranty and Source of Repair” training and “Warranty and Source of Repair Tacking User Guide” accessible on the Product Data Reporting and Evaluation Program (PDREP) Web site at https://www.pdrep.csd.disa.mil/pdrep_files/other/wsr.htm.

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[FR Doc. 2015-24784 Filed 9-29-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[Docket. No. FWS-R4-ES-2015-0144; 4500030113]

RIN 1018-BA94

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Elfin-woods Warbler

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), propose to list the elfin-woods warbler (*Setophaga angelae*), a bird species in Puerto Rico, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (Act). If we finalize this rule as proposed, it would extend the Act’s protections to this species.

DATES: We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before November 30, 2015. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date. We must receive requests for public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in **FOR FURTHER**

INFORMATION CONTACT by November 16, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

(1) *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS-R4-ES-2015-0144, which is the docket number for this rulemaking. Click the Search button. Then, in the Search panel on the left side of the screen, under the Document Type heading, click on the Proposed Rules link to locate this document. You may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment Now!”

(2) *By hard copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0144; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We request that you send comments only by the methods described above. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see *Public Comments*, below, for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mareliisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office, P.O. Box 491, Road 301 Km. 5.1, Boquerón, PR 00622; telephone 787-851-7297; facsimile 787-851-7440. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Summary

Why we need to publish a rule. Under the Endangered Species Act (Act), if we determine that a species is an endangered or threatened species throughout all or a significant portion of its range, we are required to promptly publish a proposal in the **Federal Register** and make a determination on our proposal within 1 year. Listing a species as an endangered or threatened species can only be completed by issuing a rule.

*This rulemaking proposes the listing of the elfin-woods warbler (*Setophaga angelae*) as a threatened species. The elfin-woods warbler is a candidate species for which we have on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support preparation of a listing proposal, but for which development of a listing rule has until now been precluded by other higher priority listing activities. We are also proposing a rule under section 4(d)*

of the Act to provide for conservation measures for the elfin-woods warbler.

The basis for our action. Under the Act, we may determine that a species is a threatened species based on any of five factors: (A) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (C) disease or predation; (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence. We propose to list this species, which is currently at risk throughout all of its range due to threats related to habitat modification on private lands under agricultural and other land use requiring vegetation clearance (Factor A). In addition, other natural or manmade factors, such as restricted distribution and lack of connectivity, genetic drift, hurricanes, and climate change, are considered threats (Factor E).

We will seek peer review. We will seek comments from independent specialists to ensure that our determination is based on scientifically sound data, assumptions, and analyses. We will invite these peer reviewers to comment on this listing proposal.

Information Requested

Public Comments

We intend that any final action resulting from this proposed rule will be based on the best scientific and commercial data available and be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, we request comments or information from other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested parties concerning this proposed rule. We particularly seek comments concerning:

(1) The biology, range, and population trends of the elfin-woods warbler, including:

(a) Habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering;

(b) Genetics and taxonomy;

(c) Historical and current range, including distribution patterns;

(d) Historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends (especially in El Yunque National Forest and Carite Commonwealth Forest); and

(e) Past and ongoing conservation measures for the species, its habitat or both.

(2) Factors that may affect the continued existence of the species, which may include habitat modification or destruction, overutilization, disease, predation, the inadequacy of existing