

when the Uniform Contract Format is not used) shall include the annotation “provided under separate cover” for any attachment not uploaded to EDA.

(b) Agencies are responsible for ensuring the following when posting documents, including contractual instruments, to EDA—

(1) The timely distribution of documents; and

(2) That internal controls are in place to ensure that—

(i) The electronic version of a contract document in EDA is an accurate representation of the contract; and

(ii) The contract data in EDA is an accurate representation of the underlying contract.

204.270–2 Procedures.

The procedures at PGI 204.270–2 provide details on how to record the results of data verification in EDA. When these procedures are followed, contract documents in EDA are an accurate representation of the contract and therefore may be used for audit purposes.

■ 5. Revise section 204.802 to read as follows:

204.802 Contract files.

(a) Any document posted to the Electronic Document Access (EDA) system is part of the contract file and is accessible by multiple parties, including the contractor. Do not include in EDA contract documents that are classified, too sensitive for widespread distribution (*e.g.*, personally identifiable information and Privacy Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), or attachments that cannot be practicably converted to electronic format (*e.g.*, samples, drawings, and models). Inclusion of any document in EDA other than contracts, modifications, and orders is optional.

(f) A photocopy, facsimile, electronic, mechanically-applied and printed signature, seal, and date are considered to be an original signature, seal, and date.

204.805 [Amended]

■ 6. Amend section 204.805, paragraph (1), by removing “official contract files” and adding “contract files” in its place.

PART 237—SERVICE CONTRACTING

■ 7. Revise section 237.172 to read as follows:

237.172 Service contracts surveillance.

Ensure that quality assurance surveillance plans are prepared in conjunction with the preparation of the statement of work or statement of

objectives for solicitations and contracts for services. These plans should be tailored to address the performance risks inherent in the specific contract type and the work effort addressed by the contract. (See FAR subpart 46.4.) Retain quality assurance surveillance plans in the contract file. See <http://sam.dau.mil>, Step Four—Requirements Definition, for examples of quality assurance surveillance plans.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

48 CFR Part 232

[Docket No. DARS 2015–0047]

RIN 0750–AI70

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Debts—Conform to FAR Section Designations (DFARS Case 2015–D029)

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD is issuing a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) subpart on contract debts to conform with the comparable Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) subpart.

DATES: Effective September 30, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Julie Hammond, telephone 571–372–6174.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

DoD is amending the numbering structure for various sections in DFARS subpart 232.6 and revising section headings, where appropriate, in order to conform with the FAR. This change will align the DFARS with the same coverage in the FAR. No changes are made beyond the redesignation of DFARS subpart 232.6 section numbers and the conformation of DFARS section headings to the FAR.

II. Publication of This Final Rule for Public Comment Is Not Required by Statute

“Publication of proposed regulations”, 41 U.S.C. 1707, is the statute which applies to the publication of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Paragraph (a)(1) of the statute requires

that a procurement policy, regulation, procedure or form (including an amendment or modification thereof) must be published for public comment if it has either a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of the agency issuing the policy, regulation, procedure or form, or has a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. This final rule is not required to be published for public comment, because the DFARS sections are being renumbered merely to conform to the FAR sections and the DFARS section titles are being modified to conform to the FAR section titles. The content of the DFARS sections remains unchanged. This will alleviate any confusion the contracting officers may have and aid in moving between the two regulations with ease. These requirements affect only the internal operating procedures of the Government.

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

The Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this rule because this final rule does not constitute a significant DFARS revision within the meaning of FAR 1.501–1, and 41 U.S.C. 1707 does not require publication for public comment.

V. Paperwork Reduction Act

The rule does not contain any 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).

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 232

Government procurement.

Jennifer L. Hawes,
Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Therefore, 48 CFR part 232 is amended as follows:

PART 232—CONTRACT FINANCING

- 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 232 continues to read as follows:

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

232.605 [Redesignated as 232.602]

- 2. Redesignate section 232.605 as 232.602.
- 3. In the newly redesignated section 232.602, revise the heading to read as follows:

232.602 Responsibilities.

* * * * *

232.606 [Redesignated as 232.603]

- 4. Redesignate section 232.606 as 232.603.
- 5. Revise the newly redesignated section 232.603 to read as follows:

232.603 Debt determination.

When transferring a case to the contract financing office, follow the procedures at PGI 232.603.

232.610 [Redesignated as 232.604]

- 6. Redesignate section 232.610 as 232.604.
- 7. Revise the newly redesignated section 232.604 to read as follows:

232.604 Demand for payment.

When issuing a demand for payment of a contract debt, follow the procedures at PGI 232.604.

232.616 [Redesignated as 232.610]

- 8. Redesignate section 232.616 as 232.610.
- 9. Revise the newly redesignated section 232.610 to read as follows:

232.610 Compromising debts.

Only the department/agency contract financing offices (see PGI 232.070(c)) are authorized to compromise debts covered by this subpart.

232.617 [Redesignated as 232.611]

- 10. Redesignate section 232.617 as 232.611.

232.611 [Amended]

- 11. In the newly redesignated section 232.611, amend paragraph (a) by

removing “FAR 32.617(a)(2)” and adding “FAR 32.611(a)(2)” in its place.

[FR Doc. 2015-24786 Filed 9-29-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration****49 CFR Part 192**

[Docket No. PHMSA-2010-0026; Amdt. Nos. 191-23; 192-120; 195-100]

RIN 2137-AE59

Pipeline Safety: Miscellaneous Changes to Pipeline Safety Regulations: Response to Petitions for Reconsideration

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule; response to petitions for reconsideration.

SUMMARY: On March 11, 2015, PHMSA published a final rule amending the pipeline safety regulations to make miscellaneous changes that updated and clarified certain regulatory requirements. These amendments addressed several subject matter areas, including the performance of post-construction inspections, Type B onshore gas gathering line leak surveys, qualifying plastic pipe joiners, ethanol regulation, pipe transportation, offshore pipeline condition report filing, pressure reduction calculations for hazardous liquid pipeline anomalies, and components fabricated by welding. This final rule responds to petitions for reconsideration of the final rule.

DATES: The effective date of the amendment to 49 CFR 192.305, published at 80 FR 12779, March 11, 2015, is delayed indefinitely. PHMSA will publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing a new effective date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kay McIver, Transportation Specialist, by telephone at 202-366-0113, or by electronic mail at kay.mciver@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

On March 11, 2015, PHMSA published a final rule amending the pipeline safety regulations to make miscellaneous changes that update and clarify certain regulatory requirements (80 FR 12762). These amendments address several subject matter areas,

including the performance of post-construction inspections, Type B onshore gas gathering line leak surveys, qualifying plastic pipe joiners, ethanol regulation, pipe transportation, offshore pipeline condition report filing, pressure reduction calculations for hazardous liquid pipeline anomalies, and components fabricated by welding.

II. Petitions for Reconsideration

Collectively, PHMSA received four petitions for reconsideration of the final rule from the American Public Gas Association (APGA), the American Gas Association (AGA), the Interstate Natural Gas Association (INGAA), and the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR). The APGA, the AGA, and NAPSR expressed concerns about the provisions of the final rule applicable to construction inspection in § 192.305. INGAA and the AGA expressed concerns applicable to provisions in the final rule applicable to components fabricated by welding.

Components Fabricated by Welding; 49 CFR 192.153 and 192.165(b)(3)

In the final rule published on March 11, 2015, PHMSA added paragraph (e) to § 192.153 requiring that “a component having a design pressure established under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of this section and subject to the strength testing requirements of § 192.505(b) must be tested to at least 1.5 times the MAOP.” PHMSA also modified § 192.165(b)(3) to cross-reference this new subsection. In the preamble to the final rule, PHMSA noted “this proposal is not a change to the current pressure testing requirements found in Part 192, but [is] simply a clarification to ensure a clearer understanding of PHMSA’s pressure testing requirements for certain ASME BPVC vessels located in compressor stations, meter stations and other Class 3 or Class 4 locations” (80 FR 12772, March 11, 2015).

On April 10, 2015, INGAA and AGA filed separate petitions for reconsideration with PHMSA regarding this change (Docket No. PHMSA-2010-0026). INGAA stated that PHMSA’s modifications to these code sections were not merely a clarification, but a departure from industry and agency understanding and practice, and require additional review. Specifically, INGAA claimed that PHMSA changed the acceptable test factor for a pressure vessel built under the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (BPVC) from the ASME requirements of 1.3 times the Maximum Allowable Working Pressure