

submit such comments separately and should cite 5 U.S.C 601, *et seq.* (FAC 2005–09, FAR case 2005–045), in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the 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.*

D. Determination to Issue an Interim Rule

A determination has been made under the authority of the Secretary of Defense (DoD), the Administrator of General Services (GSA), and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that urgent and compelling reasons exist to promulgate this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. This action is necessary because the removal of these sanctions went into effect March 1, 2006. However, pursuant to Public Law 98–577 and FAR 1.501, the Councils will consider public comments received in response to this interim rule in the formation of the final rule.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 25 and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: April 12, 2006.

Gerald Zaffos,

Director, Contract Policy Division.

■ Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR parts 25 and 52 as set forth below:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 25 and 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Authority: 40 U.S.C. 121(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

PART 25—FOREIGN ACQUISITION

25.001 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend section 25.001 by removing paragraph (d).

25.002 [Amended]

■ 3. Amend section 25.002 in the table following the introductory paragraph by removing the entry “25.6 Trade Sanctions” and its corresponding line item entries and adding “25.6 [Reserved]” in its place.

25.003 [Amended]

■ 4. Amend section 25.003 by removing the definitions “Sanctioned European Union country construction”, “Sanctioned European Union country end product”, “Sanctioned European Union country services”, and

“Sanctioned European Union member state”.

■ 5. Amend section 25.501 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

25.501 General.

* * * * *

(c) Must identify and reject offers of end products that are prohibited in accordance with Subpart 25.7; and

* * * * *

25.502 [Amended]

■ 6. Amend section 25.502 in paragraph (a)(1) by removing the phrase “sanctioned (see Subpart 25.6),”.

■ 7. Amend section 25.503 by revising paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

25.503 Group offers.

(a) * * *

(1) If any part of the award would consist of prohibited end products (see Subpart 25.7); or

* * * * *

Subpart 25.6 [Reserved]

■ 8. Remove and reserve Subpart 25.6.

25.1103 [Amended]

■ 9. Amend section 25.1103 by removing paragraph (c) and redesignating paragraph (d) as paragraph (c).

PART 52—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

52.212–5 [Amended]

■ 10. Amend section 52.212–5 by revising the date of the clause to read “(April, 2006)”; and in paragraph (b) of the clause by removing and reserving paragraphs (b)(27) and (b)(28).

52.225–15 and 52.225–16 [Reserved]

■ 11. Remove and reserve sections 52.225–15 and 52.225–16. [FR Doc. 06–3684 Filed 4–18–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–EP–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 25 and 52

[FAC 2005–09; FAR Case 2006–001; Item VIII; Docket FAR–2006–0020]

RIN 9000–AK45

Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006–001, Free Trade Agreements—Morocco

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

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) have agreed on an interim rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement the new Free Trade Agreement with Morocco as approved by Congress (Public Law 108–302). This Free Trade Agreement went into effect January 1, 2006.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 19, 2006.

Comment Date: Interested parties should submit written comments to the FAR Secretariat on or before June 19, 2006 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments identified by FAC 2005–09, FAR case 2006–001, by any of the following methods:

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

- Agency Web Site: <http://www.acqnet.gov/far/ProposedRules/proposed.htm>. Click on the FAR case number to submit comments.

- E-mail: farcase.2006-001@gsa.gov. Include FAC 2005–09, FAR case 2006–001 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: 202–501–4067.
- Mail: General Services

Administration, Regulatory Secretariat (VIR), 1800 F Street, NW., Room 4035, ATTN: Laurieann Duarte, Washington, DC 20405.

Instructions: Please submit comments only and cite FAC 2005–09, FAR case 2006–001, in all correspondence related to this case. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.acqnet.gov/far/ProposedRules/proposed.htm>, including any personal and/or business confidential information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT For clarification of content, contact Mr. William Clark, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 219-1813. Please cite FAC 2005-09, FAR case 2006-001. For information pertaining to status or publication schedules, contact the FAR Secretariat at (202) 501-4755.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This rule amends FAR Part 25 and the clauses at FAR 52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders—Commercial Items, FAR 52.225-3, Buy American Act—Free Trade Agreements—Israeli Trade Act, FAR 52.225-5, Trade Agreements, FAR 52.225-11, Buy American Act—Construction Materials under Trade Agreements, and FAR 52.225-12, Notice of Buy American Act Requirement—Construction Materials under Trade Agreements, to implement the new Free Trade Agreement with Morocco, as approved by Congress (Public Law 108-302). This Free Trade Agreement waives the applicability of the Buy American Act for some foreign supplies and construction materials from Morocco, and specifies procurement procedures designed to ensure fairness, applicable to the acquisition of supplies and services.

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 interim rule is not expected 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.* Although the rule opens up Government procurement to the products of Morocco, the Councils do not anticipate

any significant economic impact on U.S. small businesses. The Department of Defense only applies the trade agreements to the non-defense items listed at DFARS 225.401-70, and acquisitions that are set aside for small businesses are exempt. Therefore, an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis has not been performed. The Councils will consider comments from small entities concerning the affected FAR Parts 25 and 52 in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610.

Interested parties must submit such comments separately and cite 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.* (FAC 2005-09, FAR case 2006-001), in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does apply; however, these changes to the FAR do not impose additional information collection requirements to the paperwork burden previously approved under OMB Control Numbers 9000-0025 and 9000-0141.

D. Determination to Issue an Interim Rule

A determination has been made under the authority of the Secretary of Defense (DoD), the Administrator of General Services (GSA), and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that urgent and compelling reasons exist to promulgate this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. This action is necessary because the Free Trade Agreement with Morocco, as approved by Congress (Public Law 108-302), went into effect January 1, 2006. However, pursuant to Public Law 98-577 and FAR 1.501, the Councils will consider public comments received in response to this interim rule in the formation of the final rule.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 25 and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: April 12, 2006.

Gerald Zaffos,

Director, Contract Policy Division.

■ Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR parts 25 and 52 as set forth below:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 25 and 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 121(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

PART 25—FOREIGN ACQUISITION

25.003 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend section 25.003, in paragraph (2) of the definition “Designated country” and the definition “Free Trade Agreement country” by adding “Morocco,” after “Mexico,”.

■ 3. Amend section 25.400 by—

■ a. Removing from the end of paragraph (a)(2)(iii) the word “and”;

■ b. Adding in paragraph (a)(2)(iv) the word “and” at the end of the paragraph; and

■ c. Adding a new paragraph (a)(2)(v) to read as follows:

25.400 Scope of Subpart.

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(v) Morocco FTA (The United States—Morocco Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States—Morocco Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 108-302));

* * * * *

25.401 [Amended]

■ 4. Amend section 25.401 in paragraph (b), in the table heading, by removing from the fifth column the text “Australia FTA” and adding “Australia and Morocco FTA” in its place.

■ 5. Amend section 25.402 by revising the table following paragraph (b) to read as follows:

25.402 General.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

| Trade Agreement | Supply Contract (equal to or exceeding) | Service Contract (equal to or exceeding) | Construction Contract (equal to or exceeding) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| WTO GPA | \$193,000 | \$193,000 | \$7,407,000 |
| FTAs | | | |
| Australia FTA | 64,786 | 64,786 | 7,407,000 |
| Chile FTA | 64,786 | 64,786 | 7,407,000 |
| Morocco FTA | 193,000 | 193,000 | 7,407,000 |
| NAFTA | | | |
| —Canada | 25,000 | 64,786 | 8,422,165 |
| —Mexico | 64,786 | 64,786 | 8,422,165 |
| Singapore FTA | 64,786 | 64,786 | 7,407,000 |
| Israeli Trade Act | \$50,000 | - | - |

■ 6. Amend section 25.1102 by revising the second sentence of paragraph (c)(3) to read as follows:

25.1102 Acquisition of construction.

(c) * * * List in paragraph (b)(3) of the clause all foreign construction material excepted from the requirements of the Buy American Act, unless the excepted foreign construction material is from a designated country other than Mexico.

PART 52—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

52.212–5 [Amended]

■ 7. Amend section 52.212–5 by revising the date of the clause to read “(APR 2006)”; and by removing from paragraphs (b)(24)(i) and (b)(25) “(JAN 2006)” and adding “(APR 2006)” in its place.

52.225–3 [Amended]

■ 8. Amend section 52.225–3 by revising the date of the clause to read “(APR 2006)”; and in paragraph (c) by adding to the first sentence “(except the Morocco FTA)” after “FTAs”.

52.225–5 [Amended]

■ 9. Amend section 52.225–5 by revising the date of the clause to read “(APR 2006)”; and in paragraph (a), in the definition “Designated country” by adding to paragraph (2) “Morocco,” after “Mexico,”.

52.225–11 [Amended]

- 10. Amend section 52.225–11 by—
■ a. Revising the date of the clause;
■ b. Adding to paragraph (a), in the definition “Designated country” in paragraph (2) “Morocco,” after “Mexico,”;
■ c. Removing from paragraph (b)(2) “domestic,” and adding “domestic or” in its place.
■ d. Amending Alternate I by—
■ 1. Revising the date of Alternate I;
■ 2. Removing from the introductory paragraph “Australian or Chilean” and adding “Australian, Chilean, or Moroccan” in its place;
■ 3. Revising the definition “Australian or Chilean construction material”; and
■ 4. Removing from paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) “Australian or Chilean” and adding “Australian, Chilean, or Moroccan” in its place.
■ The revised text reads as follows:

52.225–11 Buy American Act—Construction Materials under Trade Agreements.

* * * * *

BUY AMERICAN ACT—CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS UNDER TRADE AGREEMENTS “(APR 2006)”

* * * * *

Alternate I “(APR 2006)”. * * * Australian, Chilean, or Moroccan construction material means a construction material that—

(1) Is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Australia, Chile, or Morocco; or

(2) In the case of a construction material that consists in whole or in part of materials from another country, has been substantially transformed in Australia, Chile, or Morocco into a new and different construction material distinct from the materials from which it was transformed.

* * * * *

52.225–12 [Amended]

■ 11. Amend section 52.225–12 by revising the date of Alternate II to read “(APR 2006)”; and by removing from paragraphs (a), (d)(1) twice, and (d)(3) twice “Australian or Chilean” and adding “Australian, Chilean, or Moroccan” in its place.

[FR Doc. 06–3685 Filed 4–18–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–EP–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 52

[FAC 2005–09; FAR Case 2004–031; Item IX; Docket FAR–2006–0020]

RIN 9000–AK24

Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2004–031, Fast Payment Procedures

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) have agreed on a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) by revising fast payment procedures. The revision permits, but does not require, fast payment when invoices and/or outer shipping containers are not marked “Fast Pay” provided the contract includes the “Fast Payment Procedure” clause. As highlighted in the clause, if the clause is in the contract, the invoices will no longer be rejected, as is

the current practice. Instead, they will be paid using either fast payment or normal payment procedures. In addition, the revision deletes the requirement for marking invoices “No Receiving Report Prepared.”

DATES: Effective Date: May 19, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For clarification of content, contact Mr. Jeremy Olson, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501–3221. Please cite FAC 2005–09, FAR case 2004–031. For information pertaining to status or publication schedules, contact the FAR Secretariat at (202) 501–4755.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule, FAR case 2004–031, at 70 FR 40279 on July 13, 2005, to obtain comments on a proposal to amend the policies and contract clause regarding Fast Pay procedures. No comments were submitted and the rule was converted to a final rule without change from the proposed rule. FAR 52.213–1, Fast Payment Procedure, is revised to permit acceptance and payment under invoices that are not prominently marked “FAST PAY.”

This change provides the payment office flexibility to make fast payments when invoices and/or outer shipping containers are not marked “FAST PAY.” The change permits, but does not require, fast payment when invoices and/or outer shipping containers are not marked “FAST PAY” provided the contract includes the “Fast Payment Procedure” clause. However, if the payment office decides to not process invoices as “FAST PAY” because the proper markings are not present, the payment date will be the payment date that would have applied had the “Fast Payment Procedure” clause not been in the contract. In this manner, an unmarked invoice will not be rejected. This change does not eliminate the requirement for the contractor to annotate an invoice “FAST PAY;” the contractor remains at risk that fast payment procedures will not be applied unless the invoice is annotated accordingly.

If a receiving report is not prepared, it is imperative that the invoice includes sufficient information to facilitate follow-up verification that the item was received. The FAR revision does not eliminate that requirement for such information on the invoice. However, the revision does not require the statement “No Receiving Report Prepared” on the invoice.

This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to