

plementation and applicability of existing law, see section 1801(d) of Pub. L. 116-283, set out as an Effective Date of 2021 Amendment note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 3372. Undefinitized contractual actions: requirements and limitations relating to definitization of contractual terms, specifications, and price

(a) CONTRACTUAL ACTION TO PROVIDE TIME FOR DEFINITIZATION OF CONTRACTUAL TERMS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND PRICE; LIMITATIONS ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—

(1) TERMS FOR TIME FOR DEFINITIZATION TO BE INCLUDED IN CONTRACTUAL ACTION.—A contracting officer of the Department of Defense may not enter into an undefinitized contractual action unless the contractual action provides for agreement upon contractual terms, specifications, and price by the earlier of—

(A) the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the contractor submits a qualifying proposal to definitize the contractual terms, specifications, and price; or

(B) the date on which the amount of funds obligated under the contractual action is equal to more than 50 percent of the negotiated overall ceiling price for the contractual action.

(2) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS BEFORE DEFINITIZATION.—

(A) 50 PERCENT LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the contracting officer for an undefinitized contractual action may not obligate with respect to such contractual action an amount that is equal to more than 50 percent of the negotiated overall ceiling price until the contractual terms, specifications, and price are definitized for such contractual action.

(B) 75 PERCENT LIMITATION WHEN CONTRACTOR SUBMITS QUALIFYING PROPOSAL.—If a contractor submits a qualifying proposal (as defined in section 3377(b) of this title) to definitize an undefinitized contractual action before an amount equal to more than 50 percent of the negotiated overall ceiling price is obligated on such action, the contracting officer for such action may not obligate with respect to such contractual action an amount that is equal to more than 75 percent of the negotiated overall ceiling price until the contractual terms, specifications, and price are definitized for such contractual action.

(3) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The head of an agency may waive the provisions of this subsection with respect to a contract of that agency if that head of an agency determines that the waiver is necessary in order to support any of the following operations:

(A) A contingency operation.

(B) A humanitarian or peacekeeping operation.

(4) INAPPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO PURCHASE OF INITIAL SPARES.—This subsection does not apply to an undefinitized contractual action for the purchase of initial spares.

(b) LIMITATION ON UNILATERAL DEFINITIZATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any undefinitized contractual action with a value greater than \$50,000,000, if agreement is not reached on contractual terms, specifications, and price within the period or by the date provided in subsection (a)(1), the contracting officer may not unilaterally definitize those terms, specifications, or price over the objection of the contractor until—

(A) the service acquisition executive for the military department that awarded the contract, or the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment if the contract was awarded by a Defense Agency or other component of the Department of Defense, approves the definitization in writing;

(B) the contracting officer provides a copy of the written approval to the contractor; and

(C) a period of 30 calendar days has elapsed after the written approval is provided to the contractor.

(2) TREATMENT OF UNILATERAL DEFINITIZATION OF A CONTRACT AS A FINAL DECISION.—A unilateral definitization by a contracting officer shall be considered a final decision under chapter 71 of title 41, and a contractor may appeal this decision to the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals or the United States Court of Federal Claims.

(c) FOREIGN MILITARY CONTRACTS.—

(1) 180-DAY REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a contracting officer of the Department of Defense may not enter into an undefinitized contractual action for a foreign military sale unless the contractual action provides for agreement upon contractual terms, specifications, and price by the end of the 180-day period described in subsection (a)(1)(A).

(2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The requirement under paragraph (1) may be waived in accordance with subsection (a)(3).

(Added and amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, §1819(a), (c), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4189; Pub. L. 118-159, div. A, title VIII, §803, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 1965.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

The text of subsec. (b) of section 2326 of this title, which was transferred to this section, redesignated as subsec. (a), and amended by Pub. L. 116-283, §1819(c)(1), (2), was based on Pub. L. 99-500, §101(c) [title X, §908(d)(1)(A)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-82, 1783-140, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(c) [title X, §908(d)(1)(A)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-82, 3341-140; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title IX, formerly title IV, §908(d)(1)(A), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3920, renumbered title IX, Pub. L. 100-26, §3(5), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 273; Pub. L. 103-355, title I, §1505(a), (b), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3298; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VIII, §803(a), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1831; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title VIII, §815(b), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1462. Pub. L. 99-500, Pub. L. 99-591, and Pub. L. 99-661 added identical subsections.

The text of subsec. (c) of section 2326 of this title, which was transferred to this section, redesignated as subsec. (b), and amended by Pub. L. 116-283, §1819(c)(1), (3), was based on Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title VIII, §815(a)(2), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1462.

The text of subsec. (h) of section 2326 of this title, which was transferred to this section, redesignated as

subsec. (c), and amended by Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(1), (4), was based on Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title VIII, § 811(3), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2268; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title VIII, § 815(a)(1), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1462.

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 118-159 designated introductory provisions as par. (1) and inserted heading, redesignated former pars. (1) to (3) as subpars. (A) to (C), respectively, of par. (1) and realigned margins, and added par. (2).

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(1), (2)(A), redesignated subsec. (b) of section 2326 of this title as subsec. (a) of this section and substituted “Contractual Action to Provide Time for Definization of Contractual Terms, Specifications, and Price; Limitations on Obligation of Funds” for “Limitations on Obligation of Funds” in heading.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(2)(A), inserted heading.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(2)(C), inserted par. (2) designation and heading. Former par. (2) redesignated subpar. (A) of par. (2).

Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(2)(B), (D), redesignated subsec. (a)(2) as (a)(2)(A), inserted heading, realigned margin, and substituted “Except as provided in subparagraph (B),” for “Except as provided in paragraph (3),”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(2)(B), (E), redesignated subsec. (a)(3) as (a)(2)(B), inserted heading, realigned margin, and substituted “section 3377(b) of this title” for “subsection (h)”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(2)(F), redesignated par. (4) as (3) and inserted heading. Former par. (3) redesignated subpar. (B) of par. (2).

Subsec. (a)(4), (5). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(2)(G), redesignated par. (5) as (4) and inserted heading. Former par. (4) redesignated (3).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(1), (3), redesignated subsec. (c) of section 2326 of this title as subsec. (b) of this section and substituted “subsection (a)(1)” for “subsection (b)(1)” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(1), redesignated subsec. (h) of section 2326 of this title as subsec. (c) of this section.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(4)(A), (B), inserted heading and substituted “subsection (a)(1)(A)” for “subsection (b)(1)(A)”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(c)(4)(C), (D), inserted heading and substituted “subsection (a)(3)” for “subsection (b)(4)”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section and amendment by Pub. L. 116-283 effective Jan. 1, 2022, with additional provisions for delayed implementation and applicability of existing law, see section 1801(d) of Pub. L. 116-283, set out as an Effective Date of 2021 Amendment note preceding section 3001 of this title.

EXISTING AGREEMENT LIMITS FOR OPERATION WARP SPEED

Pub. L. 117-263, div. A, title VIII, § 883, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 2746, provided that: “The value of any modification to, or order made under, a contract or other agreement by the Department of Defense on or after March 1, 2020, to address the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccines and other therapeutic measures shall not be counted toward any limit established prior to March 1, 2020, on the total estimated amount of all projects to be issued under the contract or other agreement (except that the value of such modification or

order shall count toward meeting any guaranteed minimum value under the contract or other agreement).”

RELAXATION OF UNDEFINITEZED CONTRACT ACTION LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOR CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Pub. L. 116-136, div. B, title III, § 13004, Mar. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 522, provided that:

“(a) Section 2326(b)(3) of title 10, United States Code [now 10 U.S.C. 3372(a)(2)(B)], shall not apply to any undefinitized contract action of the Department of Defense related to the national emergency for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

“(b) In this section, the term ‘undefinitized contract action’ has the meaning given that term in section 2326(j)(6) of title 10, United States Code [probably means section 2326(j)(1) of title 10, now 10 U.S.C. 3377(b)(1)], which defines ‘undefinitized contractual action’.”

Pub. L. 116-136, div. B, title III, § 13005, Mar. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 522, provided that:

“(a) The head of an agency may waive the provisions of section 2326(b) of title 10, United States Code [now 10 U.S.C. 3372(a)], with respect to a contract of such agency if the head of the agency determines that the waiver is necessary due to the national emergency for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

“(b) In this section, the term ‘head of an agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 2302(2) [probably means section 2302(1); now 10 U.S.C. 3004] of title 10, United States Code.”

§ 3373. Undefinitized contractual actions: limitation on inclusion of non-urgent requirements and on modification of scope

(a) INCLUSION OF NON-URGENT REQUIREMENTS.—Requirements for spare parts and support equipment that are not needed on an urgent basis may not be included in an undefinitized contractual action for spare parts and support equipment that are needed on an urgent basis unless the head of the agency approves such inclusion as being—

- (1) good business practice; and
- (2) in the best interests of the United States.

(b) MODIFICATION OF SCOPE.—The scope of an undefinitized contractual action under which performance has begun may not be modified unless the head of the agency approves such modification as being—

- (1) good business practice; and
- (2) in the best interests of the United States.

(Added and amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, § 1819(a), (d), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4189, 4190.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

The text of subsecs. (d) and (e) of section 2326 of this title, which were transferred to this section, redesignated as subsecs. (a) and (b), respectively, and amended by Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(d), was based on Pub. L. 99-500, § 101(c) [title X, § 908(d)(1)(A)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-82, 1783-141, and Pub. L. 99-591, § 101(c) [title X, § 908(d)(1)(A)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-82, 3341-141; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title IX, formerly title IV, § 908(d)(1)(A), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3920, 3921, renumbered title IX, Pub. L. 100-26, § 3(5), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 273; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title VIII, § 815(a)(1), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1462. Pub. L. 99-500, Pub. L. 99-591, and Pub. L. 99-661 added identical subsections.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283, § 1819(d), redesignated subsecs. (d) and (e) of section 2326 of this title as subsecs. (a) and (b), respectively, of this section.