

§ 425. Contract clauses and certifications**(a) Nonstandard contract clauses**

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall promulgate regulations to discourage the use of a nonstandard contract clause on a repetitive basis. The regulations shall include provisions that—

- (1) clearly define what types of contract clauses are to be treated as nonstandard clauses; and
- (2) require prior approval for the use of a nonstandard clause on a repetitive basis by an official at a level of responsibility above the contracting officer.

(b) Construction of certification requirements

A provision of law may not be construed as requiring a certification by a contractor or offeror in a procurement made or to be made by the Federal Government unless that provision of law specifically provides that such a certification shall be required.

(c) Prohibition on certification requirements

(1) A requirement for a certification by a contractor or offeror may not be included in the Federal Acquisition Regulation unless—

- (A) the certification requirement is specifically imposed by statute; or
- (B) written justification for such certification requirement is provided to the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, and the Administrator approves in writing the inclusion of such certification requirement.

(2)(A) A requirement for a certification by a contractor or offeror may not be included in a procurement regulation of an executive agency unless—

- (i) the certification requirement is specifically imposed by statute; or
- (ii) written justification for such certification requirement is provided to the head of the executive agency by the senior procurement executive of the agency, and the head of the executive agency approves in writing the inclusion of such certification requirement.

(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “head of the executive agency” with respect to a military department means the Secretary of Defense.

(Pub. L. 93-400, § 29, as added Pub. L. 103-355, title I, § 1093, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3273; amended Pub. L. 104-106, div. D, title XLIII, § 4301(b)(2)(A), (c), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 657, 658.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-106 substituted “Contract clauses and certifications” for “Nonstandard contract clauses” in section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and inserted heading, and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

For effective date and applicability of amendment by Pub. L. 104-106, see section 4401 of Pub. L. 104-106, set out as a note under section 251 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

For effective date and applicability of section, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as an Effective

Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 251 of this title.

CURRENT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 4301(b)(1) of Pub. L. 104-106 provided that:

“(A) Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Feb. 10, 1996], the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy shall issue for public comment a proposal to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to remove from the Federal Acquisition Regulation certification requirements for contractors and offerors that are not specifically imposed by statute. The Administrator may omit such a certification requirement from the proposal only if—

“(i) the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council provides the Administrator with a written justification for the requirement and a determination that there is no less burdensome means for administering and enforcing the particular regulation that contains the certification requirement; and

“(ii) the Administrator approves in writing the retention of the certification requirement.

“(B)(i) Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each executive agency that has agency procurement regulations containing one or more certification requirements for contractors and offerors that are not specifically imposed by statute shall issue for public comment a proposal to amend the regulations to remove the certification requirements. The head of the executive agency may omit such a certification requirement from the proposal only if—

“(I) the senior procurement executive for the executive agency provides the head of the executive agency with a written justification for the requirement and a determination that there is no less burdensome means for administering and enforcing the particular regulation that contains the certification requirement; and

“(II) the head of the executive agency approves in writing the retention of such certification requirement.

“(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘head of the executive agency’ with respect to a military department means the Secretary of Defense.”

§ 426. Use of electronic commerce in Federal procurement**(a) In general**

The head of each executive agency, after consulting with the Administrator, shall establish, maintain, and use, to the maximum extent that is practicable and cost-effective, procedures and processes that employ electronic commerce in the conduct and administration of its procurement system.

(b) Applicable standards

In conducting electronic commerce, the head of an agency shall apply nationally and internationally recognized standards that broaden interoperability and ease the electronic interchange of information.

(c) Agency procedures

The head of each executive agency shall ensure that systems, technologies, procedures, and processes established pursuant to this section—

(1) are implemented with uniformity throughout the agency, to the extent practicable;

(2) are implemented only after granting due consideration to the use or partial use, as appropriate, of existing electronic commerce and electronic data interchange systems and infrastructures such¹ the Federal acquisition com-

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by “as”.

puter network architecture known as FACNET;

(3) facilitate access to Federal Government procurement opportunities, including opportunities for small business concerns, socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, and business concerns owned predominantly by women; and

(4) ensure that any notice of agency requirements or agency solicitation for contract opportunities is provided in a form that allows convenient and universal user access through a single, Government-wide point of entry.

(d) Implementation

The Administrator shall, in carrying out the requirements of this section—

(1) issue policies to promote, to the maximum extent practicable, uniform implementation of this section by executive agencies, with due regard for differences in program requirements among agencies that may require departures from uniform procedures and processes in appropriate cases, when warranted because of the agency mission;

(2) ensure that the head of each executive agency complies with the requirements of subsection (c) of this section with respect to the agency systems, technologies, procedures, and processes established pursuant to this section; and

(3) consult with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies with applicable technical and functional expertise, including the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the General Services Administration, and the Department of Defense.

(e) Report

Not later than March 1 of each even-numbered year through 2004, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report setting forth in detail the progress made in implementing the requirements of this section. The report shall include the following:

(1) A strategic plan for the implementation of a Government-wide electronic commerce capability.

(2) An agency-by-agency summary of implementation of the requirements of subsection (c) of this section, including timetables, as appropriate, addressing when individual agencies will come into full compliance.

(3) A specific assessment of compliance with the requirement in subsection (c) of this section to provide universal public access through a single, Government-wide point of entry.

(4) An agency-by-agency summary of the volume and dollar value of transactions that were conducted using electronic commerce methods during the previous two fiscal years.

(5) A discussion of possible incremental changes to the electronic commerce capability referred to in subsection (c)(4) of this section to increase the level of government contract information available to the private sector, including an assessment of the advisability of including contract award information in the electronic commerce functional standard.

(f) “Electronic commerce” defined

For the purposes of this section, the term “electronic commerce” means electronic techniques for accomplishing business transactions, including electronic mail or messaging, World Wide Web technology, electronic bulletin boards, purchase cards, electronic funds transfers, and electronic data interchange.

(Pub. L. 93-400, §30, as added Pub. L. 103-355, title IX, §9001(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3399; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VIII, §850(a), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1847; Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §810(d)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-210.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §810(d)(1)], substituted “Not later than March 1 of each even-numbered year through 2004” for “Not later than March 1, 1998, and every year afterward through 2003” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §810(d)(2)], substituted “An” for “Beginning with the report submitted on March 1, 1999, an” and “two fiscal years” for “calendar year”.

1997—Pub. L. 105-85 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of subssecs. (a) to (d) requiring the Administrator to establish a program for development and implementation of a Federal acquisition computer network architecture to be known as FACNET.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-398 effective Oct. 1, 2000, see section 1 [[div. A], title VIII, §810(e)] of Pub. L. 106-398, set out as a note under section 637 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-85 effective 180 days after Nov. 18, 1997, see section 850(g) of Pub. L. 105-85, set out as a note under section 2302c of Title 10, Armed Forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE

For effective date and applicability of section, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 251 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 252c of this title; title 10 section 2302c.

§ 426a. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VIII, § 850(b), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1848

Section, Pub. L. 93-400, §30A, as added Pub. L. 103-355, title IX, §9001(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3400, related to Federal acquisition computer network implementation.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective 180 days after Nov. 18, 1997, see section 850(g) of Pub. L. 105-85, set out as an Effective Date of 1997 Amendment note under section 2302c of Title 10, Armed Forces.

GAO DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBLE AGENCY CONTRACTS

Section 9004 of Pub. L. 103-355 required Comptroller General to submit to Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy and congressional committees, not later than 3 years after Oct. 13, 1994, a report on classes of contracts in amounts greater than micro-purchase threshold and not greater than simplified acquisition threshold that are not suitable for acquisition through a system with full FACNET capability, and authorized Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, not earlier