

NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) Policy

Approval of Determination and Findings – No Other Contract Type is Suitable

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.601(d)(1)(ii) requires approval of a determination and findings (D&F) that no other contract type is suitable prior to the execution of the base period if the base period plus any option periods exceed three years on a time and materials contract or order. [Acquisition Alert 15-05](#) has delegated this approval authority from the Senior Bureau Procurement Official (SBPO) to the Head of Contracting Office (HCO).

Legislative Notification of NOAA Contract Awards

FAR 5.303(a) requires public announcement of contract awards over \$ 4 million by 5p.m. Washington, D.C. time on the day of the award. The [Commerce Acquisition Manual](#) requires notice to the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) and the Office of the White House Liaison (WHL) one week prior to an anticipated contract award. [Acquisition Alert 15-04](#) delegated the responsibility from the SBPO to the contracting officer for the review, approval, and submission of planned award and award notices for an acquisition equal to or greater than \$4 million to the OLIA and WHL. The contracting officer shall include the NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs, the HCO, and the SBPO on the submission of these notices.

Supply Chain Risk Management

The AGO Director and the NOAA Chief Information Officer (CIO) issued [Acquisition Alert 15-02](#) to ensure compliance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2015 regarding high-impact and moderate-impact information systems. The NOAA CIO is responsible for determining the need for Supply Chain Risk (SCR) for any acquisition of moderate impact information systems. NOAA contracting officers shall continue to follow the policy of [Procurement Memorandum \(PM\) 2014-03](#), ensure that purchase requisitions include an approved IT Compliance in Acquisition Checklist covering the review of SCR for high impact components and moderate impact information systems, and use the SCR Assessment Determination prior to making an award.

Department Of Commerce Office of Acquisition Management

Maintaining Proper Relationships with Support Services Contractors

Federal agencies are increasingly dependent on contractors to provide support services working alongside federal employees as part of a “blended” workforce. On May 4, 2015, the Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Acquisition Management issued [Procurement Memorandum 2015-05, Maintaining Proper Relationships with Support Services Contractors](#). The DOC policy provides a broad overview of major legal issues commonly associated with the use of support services contractors and discusses inherently governmental functions, personal services contracts, organizational and personal conflicts of interest, and includes a list of “Do’s and Don’ts” for maintaining proper relationships with support services contractors.

Ship Construction, Alteration, and Repair Bond Waivers

The Department issued an interim final rule effective May 13, 2015 establishing the authority for waiving bond requirements required under U.S. law, associated with certain contracts for the repair, alteration, and construction of the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Atmospheric (NOAA) fleet of research and survey vessels operated by the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. This rule amends the Commerce Acquisition Regulation (CAR) by adding coverage at 1328.102 and a contract clause at 1352.228-7. DOC has issued [Commerce Acquisition Manual 1328.102, Ship Construction, Alteration, and Repair Bond Waivers](#) and provides implementing policy and guidance for use of this waiver authority.

Acquisition and Grants Office Policy Resources

AGO Policy	http://www.ago.noaa.gov/acquisition/regulation_and_guidance.html
DOC Acquisition Policy	http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/acquistion_management/policy/default.htm
AGO Grants Policy	http://www.ago.noaa.gov/grants/policy.html
DOC Grants Policy	http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/default.htm