

## **Federal Acquisition Regulations Subpart 8.4- Federal Supply Schedules**

### **8.401 General.**

(a) The Federal Supply Schedule program, directed and managed by the General Services Administration (GSA), provides Federal agencies with a simplified process for obtaining commonly used commercial supplies and services at prices associated with volume buying (also see 8.002). Indefinite delivery contracts (including requirements contracts) are established with commercial firms to provide supplies and services at stated prices for given periods of time. Similar systems of schedule-type contracting are used for military items managed by the Department of Defense. These systems are not included in the Federal Supply Schedule program covered by this subpart.

(b) The GSA schedule contracting office issues publications, entitled Federal Supply Schedules, containing the information necessary for placing delivery orders with schedule contractors. Ordering offices issue delivery orders directly to the schedule contractors for the required supplies and services. Ordering offices may request copies of schedules by completing GSA Form 457, FSS Publications Mailing List Application, and mailing it to the-

GSA Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL)  
P.O. Box 6477  
Fort Worth, TX 76115.

Copies of GSA Form 457 also may be obtained from this address.

(c) GSA offers an on-line shopping service called "GSA Advantage!" that enables ordering offices to search product specific information (i.e., national stock number, part number, common name), review delivery options, place orders directly with contractors (or ask GSA to place orders on the agency's behalf), and pay contractors for orders using the Government wide commercial purchase card (or pay GSA). Ordering offices may access the "GSA Advantage!" shopping service by connecting to the Internet and using a web browser to connect to the Acquisition Reform Network (<http://www.arnet.gov>) or the GSA, Federal Supply Service (FSS) Home Page (<http://www.fss.gsa.gov>). For more information or assistance, contact GSA at Internet e-mail address: [gsa.advantage@gsa.gov](mailto:gsa.advantage@gsa.gov).

(d) For administrative convenience, an ordering office contracting officer may add items not on the Federal Supply Schedule (also referred to as open market items) to a Federal Supply Schedule blanket purchase agreement (BPA) or an individual task or delivery order only if-

(1) All applicable acquisition regulations pertaining to the purchase of the items not on the Federal Supply Schedule have been followed (e.g., publicizing (Part 5), competition requirements (Part 6), acquisition of commercial items (Part 12), contracting methods (Parts 13, 14, and 15), and small business programs (Part 19));

(2) The ordering office contracting officer has determined the price for the items not on the Federal Supply Schedule is fair and reasonable;

(3) The items are clearly labeled on the order as items not on the Federal Supply Schedule; and

(4) All clauses applicable to items not on the Federal Supply Schedule are included in the order.

#### 8.402 Applicability.

Procedures in this subpart apply to orders placed against Federal Supply Schedules. Occasionally, GSA may establish special ordering procedures. The affected Federal Supply Schedules will outline these procedures.

#### 8.403 [Reserved]

#### 8.404 Using schedules.

##### (a) General.

(1) Parts 13 and 19 do not apply to orders placed against Federal Supply Schedules, except for the provision at 13.303-2(c)(3). Orders placed against a Multiple Award Schedule (MAS), using the procedures in this subpart, are considered to be issued using full and open competition (see 6.102(d)(3)). (i) Ordering offices need not seek further competition, synopsise the requirement, make a separate determination of fair and reasonable pricing, or consider small business programs. (ii) GSA has already determined the prices of items under schedule contracts to be fair and reasonable. By placing an order against a schedule using the procedures in this section, the ordering office has concluded that the order represents the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative (considering price, special features, administrative costs, etc.) to meet the Government's needs.

(2) Orders placed under a Federal Supply Schedule contract are not exempt from the development of acquisition plans (see Subpart 7.1), and an information technology acquisition strategy (see Part 39).

##### (b) Ordering procedures for optional use schedules-

(1) Orders at or below the micro-purchase threshold. Place orders at or below the micro-purchase threshold with any Federal Supply Schedule contractor.

(2) Orders exceeding the micro-purchase threshold but not exceeding the maximum order threshold. Place orders with the schedule contractor that can provide the supply or service that represents the best value. Before placing an order, consider reasonably available information about the supply or service offered under MAS contracts by using the GSA Advantage! on-line shopping service, or by reviewing the catalogs or pricelists of at least three schedule contractors (see 8.404(b)(6)). Select the delivery and other options available under the schedule that meet the agency's needs. When selecting the supply or service representing the best value, the ordering office may consider-

- (i) Special features of the supply or service required for effective program performance;
- (ii) Trade-in considerations;
- (iii) Probable life of the item selected as compared with that of a comparable item;
- (iv) Warranty considerations;

- (v) Maintenance availability;
- (vi) Past performance; and
- (vii) Environmental and energy efficiency considerations.

(3) Orders exceeding the maximum order threshold. Each schedule contract has an established maximum order threshold. This threshold represents the point where it is advantageous for the ordering office to seek a price reduction. In addition to following the procedures in paragraph (b)(2) of this section and before placing an order that exceeds the maximum order threshold-

- (i) Review additional schedule contractors' catalogs or pricelists, or use the GSA Advantage! on-line shopping service;
- (ii) Based upon the initial evaluation, generally seek pricereductions from the schedule contractor(s) appearing to provide the best value (considering price and other factors); and
- (iii) After seeking price reductions, place the order with the schedule contractor that provides the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative (see 8.404(a)). If further price reductions are not offered, an order may still be placed, if the ordering office determines that it is appropriate.

(4) Blanket purchase agreements (BPAs). Agencies may establish BPAs (see 13.303-2(c)(3)) when following the ordering procedures in this subpart. All schedule contracts contain BPA provisions. Ordering offices may use BPAs to establish accounts with contractors to fill recurring requirements. BPAs should address ordering frequency, invoicing, discounts, and delivery locations and times.

(5) Price reductions. In addition to the circumstances in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, there may be other reasons to request a price reduction. For example, seek a price reduction when the supply or service is available elsewhere at a lower price or when establishing a BPA to fill recurring requirements. The potential volume of orders under BPAs, regardless of the size of the individual order, offer the opportunity to secure greater discounts. Schedule contractors are not required to pass on to all schedule users a price reduction extended only to an individual agency for a specific order.

(6) Small business. When conducting evaluations and before placing an order, consider including, if available, one or more small, women-owned small, and/or small disadvantaged business schedule contractor(s). Orders placed against the schedules may be credited toward the ordering agency's small business goals. For orders exceeding the micro-purchase threshold, ordering offices should give preference to the items of small business concerns when two or more items at the same delivered price will satisfy the requirement.

(7) Documentation. Orders should be documented, at a minimum, by identifying the contractor the item was purchased from, the item purchased, and the amount paid. If an agency requirement in excess of the micro-purchase threshold is defined so as to require a particular brand name, product, or a feature of a product peculiar to one manufacturer, thereby precluding consideration of a product manufactured by another company, the ordering office shall include an explanation in the file as to why the particular brand name, product, or feature is essential to satisfy the agency's needs.

(c) Ordering procedures for mandatory use schedules.

(1) This paragraph (c) applies only to orders against schedule contracts with mandatory users. When ordering from multiple-award schedules, mandatory users shall also follow the procedures in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(2) In the case of mandatory schedules, ordering offices shall not solicit bids, proposals, quotations, or otherwise test the market solely for the purpose of seeking alternative sources to Federal Supply Schedules.

(3) Schedules identify executive agencies required to use them as mandatory sources of supply. The single-award schedule shall be used as a primary source and the multiple-award schedule as a secondary source. Mandatory use of schedules is not a requirement if-

- (i) The schedule contractor is unable to satisfy the ordering office's urgent delivery requirement;
- (ii) The order is below the minimum order thresholds;
- (iii) The order is above the maximum order limitation;
- (iv) The consignee is located outside the area of geographical coverage stated in the schedule; and
- (v) A lower price for an identical item (i.e., same make and model) is available from another source.

(4) Absence of follow-on award. Ordering offices, after any consultation required by the schedule, are not required to forego or postpone their legitimate needs pending the award or renewal of any schedule contract.

8.404-1 [Reserved]

8.404-2 [Reserved]

8.404-3 Requests for waivers.

(a) When an ordering office that is a mandatory user under a schedule determines that items available from the schedule will not meet its specific needs, but similar items from another source will, it shall submit a request for waiver to the-

Commissioner  
Federal Supply Service (F)  
GSA  
Washington, DC 20406

except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection. Requests shall contain the following information:

(1) A complete description of the required items, whenever possible; e.g., descriptive literature such as cuts, illustrations, drawings, and brochures that explain the characteristics and/or construction.

(2) A comparison of prices and the technical differences between the requested item and the schedule item, identifying as a minimum the-

- (i) Inadequacies of the schedule item to perform required functions; and

(ii) Technical, economic, or other advantages of the item requested.

(3) Quantity required.

(4) Estimated annual usage or a statement that the requirement is nonrecurrent or unpredictable.

(b) Ordering offices shall not initiate action to acquire similar items from nonschedule sources until a request for waiver is approved, except as otherwise provided in inter-agency agreements.

8.405 Ordering office responsibilities.

8.405-1 [Reserved]

8.405-2 Order placement.

Ordering offices may use Optional Form 347, an agency-prescribed form, or an established electronic communications format to order items from schedules and shall place orders directly with the contractor within the limitations specified in each schedule. Orders shall include, at a minimum, the following information in addition to any information required by the schedule:

- (a) Complete shipping and billing addresses.
- (b) Contract number and date.
- (c) Agency order number.
- (d) F.o.b. delivery point; i.e., origin or destination.
- (e) Discount terms.
- (f) Delivery time.
- (g) Special item number or national stock number.
- (h) Brief, complete description of each item (when ordering by model number, features and options such as color, finish, and electrical characteristics, if available, must be specified).
- (i) Quantity and any variation in quantity.
- (j) Number of units.
- (k) Unit price.
- (l) Total price of order.
- (m) Points of inspection and acceptance.
- (n) Other pertinent data; e.g., delivery instructions or receiving hours and size-of-truck limitation.
- (o) Marking requirements.
- (p) Level of preservation, packaging, and packing.

8.405-3 Inspection and acceptance.

(a) Consignees shall inspect supplies at destination except when-

(1) The schedule provides for the schedule contracting agency to perform source inspection (in this case, the schedule will indicate that mandatory source inspection is required); or

(2) A schedule item is covered by a product description, and the ordering office determines that the schedule contracting agency's inspection assistance is needed (inspection assistance

may be based on the ordering volume, the complexity of items, or the past performance of the supplier).

(b) When the schedule contracting agency performs the inspection, as specified in the schedule, the ordering office will provide two copies of the order specifying source inspection to the schedule contracting agency. The schedule contracting agency will notify the ordering office of acceptance or rejection of the supplies.

(c) Material inspected at source by the schedule contracting agency, and determined to conform with the product description of the schedule, shall not be reinspected for the same purpose. The consignee shall limit inspection to quantity and condition on receipt.

(d) Unless otherwise provided in the schedule, acceptance shall be conclusive except as regards latent defects, fraud, or such gross mistakes as amount to fraud.

#### 8.405-4 Delinquent performance.

If the contractor fails to perform on the order, the ordering office may terminate the order for default or give the contractor further opportunity to perform by modifying the order to establish a new delivery date (obtaining consideration as necessary).

#### 8.405-5 Termination for default.

(a)(1) An ordering office may terminate any one or more orders for default in accordance with Part 49, Termination of Contracts. The schedule contracting office shall be notified of all cases where an ordering office has declared a Federal Supply Schedule contractor in default or fraud is suspected.

(2) Should the contractor claim that the failure was excusable, the ordering office shall promptly refer the matter to the schedule contracting office. In the absence of a decision by the schedule contracting office (or by the head of the schedule contracting agency, on appeal) excusing the failure, the ordering office may charge the contractor with excess costs resulting from repurchase.

(3) Any repurchase shall be made at as reasonable a price as possible considering the quality required by the Government, delivery requirement, and administrative expenses. Copies of all repurchase orders, except the copy furnished to the contractor or any other commercial concern, shall include the notation:

Repurchase against the account of \_\_\_\_\_ [insert contractor's name] under Delivery Order \_\_\_\_\_ [insert number] under Contract \_\_\_\_\_ [insert number].

(4) When excess costs are anticipated, the ordering office may withhold funds due the contractor as offset security. Ordering offices shall minimize excess costs to be charged against the contractor and collect or setoff any excess costs owed.

(5) If an ordering office is unable to collect excess costs, it shall take the following actions:

(i) Notify the schedule contracting office within 60 days after final payment to the replacement contractor. The notice shall include the following information about the defaulted order:

- (A) Name and address of the contractor.
- (B) Schedule, contract, and order number.
- (C) National stock or special item number(s), and a brief description of the item(s).
- (D) Cost of schedule items involved.
- (E) Excess costs to be collected.
- (F) Other pertinent data.

(ii) In addition to the above, the notice shall include the following information about the replacement contract:

- (A) Name and address of the contractor.
- (B) Item repurchase cost.
- (C) Repurchase order number and date of payment.
- (D) Contract number, if any.
- (E) Other pertinent data.

(b) Only the schedule contracting officer may terminate for default any or all items covered by the schedule contract. When notified of default action by the schedule contracting officer with respect to defaulted items, ordering offices shall-

- (1) Refuse to accept further performance by the contractor;
- (2) Not place further orders with the contractor;
- (3) Repurchase against the contractor in default from sources designated by the schedule contracting officer; or
- (4) Proceed as otherwise directed by the schedule contracting officer.

(c) All actions taken regarding terminations for default shall comply with the applicable requirements in Part 49.

#### 8.405-6 Termination for convenience.

(a) Ordering offices may terminate individual orders for the convenience of the Government. Only the schedule contracting officer may terminate any or all items covered by the schedule contract for the convenience of the Government.

(b) Before terminating orders for convenience, the ordering office shall endeavor to enter into a "no cost" cancellation agreement with the contractor.

(c) All actions taken regarding terminations for convenience shall comply with the applicable requirements in Part 49.

#### 8.405-7 Disputes.

(a) Disputes pertaining to the performance of orders under a schedule contract.

(1) Under the Disputes clause of the schedule contract, the ordering office contracting officer may-

(i) Issue final decisions on disputes arising from performance of the order (but see paragraph (b) of this section); or

(ii) Refer the dispute to the schedule contracting officer.

(2) The ordering office contracting officer shall notify the schedule contracting officer promptly of any final decision.

(b) Disputes pertaining to the terms and conditions of schedule contracts. The ordering office contracting officer shall refer all disputes that relate to the contract terms and conditions to the schedule contracting officer for resolution under the Disputes clause of the contract and notify the schedule contractor of the referral.

(c) Appeals. Contractors may appeal final decisions to either the Board of Contract Appeals servicing the agency that issued the final decision or the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

(d) Alternative dispute resolution. The contracting officer should use the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedures, to the maximum extent practicable (see 33.204 and 33.214).

## **FAR Part 38, Federal Supply Schedules Contracting**

### **FAR 38.000 Scope of Part.**

This part prescribes policies and procedures for contracting for supplies and services under the Federal Supply Schedule program, which is directed and managed by the General Services Administration (see Subpart 8.4, Federal Supply Schedules, for additional information). The Department of Defense uses a similar system of schedule contracting for military items that are also not a part of the Federal Supply Schedule program.

### **FAR Subpart 38.1- Federal Supply Schedule Program**

#### **38.101 General.**

(a) The Federal Supply Schedule program, pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 259(b)(3)(A), provides Federal agencies with a simplified process of acquiring commonly used supplies and services in varying quantities while obtaining volume discounts. Indefinite-delivery contracts (including requirements contracts) are awarded using competitive procedures to commercial firms. The firms provide supplies and services at stated prices for given periods of time, for delivery within a stated geographic area such as the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and overseas. The schedule contracting office issues Federal Supply Schedules that contain information needed for placing orders. (b) Each schedule identifies agencies that are required to use the contracts as primary sources of supply. (c) Federal agencies not identified in the schedules as mandatory users may issue orders under the schedules. Contractors are encouraged to accept the orders. (d) Although GSA awards most Federal Supply Schedule contracts, it may authorize other agencies to award schedule contracts and publish schedules. For example, the Department of Veterans Affairs awards schedule contracts for certain medical and nonperishable subsistence items. (e) When establishing Federal Supply Schedules, GSA, or an agency delegated that authority, is responsible for complying with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., Parts 5, 6, and 19). The requirements of Parts 5, 6, and 19 apply at the acquisition planning stage prior to issuing the schedule solicitation and do not apply to orders and BPAs placed under resulting schedule contracts (see 8.404).

**FAR Subpart 38.2- Establishing and Administering Federal Supply Schedules**

**38.201 Coordination requirements.**

(a) Subject to interagency agreements, contracting officers having responsibility for awarding Federal Supply Schedule contracts shall coordinate and obtain approval of the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service (FSS) before- (1) Establishing new schedules; (2) Discontinuing existing schedules; (3) Changing the scope of agency or geographical coverage of existing schedules; or (4) Adding or deleting special item numbers, national stock numbers, or revising their description. (b) Requests should be forwarded to the: General Services Administration  
Federal Supply Service  
Office of Acquisition (FC)  
Washington, DC 20406.