DEFENSE PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATIONS SYSTEM (15 CFR 700)

GENERAL

As a defense contractor for the Department of the Army, you are required to follow the provisions of the Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) and the other applicable regulations and orders of the Department of Commerce (DOC) in obtaining products, services, and materials needed to fill this order. (Ref General Provisions, FAR 52.211-15.)

The rules relating to the status, placement, acceptance, and treatment of priority ratings and rated orders are contained in DPAS. There are two types of priority ratings: DO ratings and DX ratings. A priority rating consists of either of these rating symbols and one of program identification. For example, DO-A6 identifies the program as ammunition (A6) and gives the contract a DO rating. DX-A5 identifies the program as weapons (A5) and gives the contract a DX rating. The program identification symbol (A5, A6, etc.) does not affect the preferential status of the rating on the applicable contract.

Use of the priorities system is appropriate during the solicitation phase in aligning potential suppliers/subcontractors. It is, therefore, imperative that prospective bidders/offerors identify each request for quotations issued to suppliers as a defense order with the applicable priority rating that would be assigned.

SEQUENCE OF FILLING RATED ORDERS

Acceptance of a rated order requires scheduling of operations to fill each rated order by the required delivery or performance date, regardless of the sequence in which the orders were received. If this is not possible, precedence must be given as follows:

a. DX rated orders take precedence over DO rated orders, and DO rated orders take precedence over unrated orders. All DX ratings have equal preferential status; all DO ratings have equal preferential status.

b. A conflict between rated orders of equal priority status: precedence shall be given to the order that was received first.

c. A conflict between rated orders of equal priority status received on the same day: precedence shall be given to the order that has the earliest required delivery or performance date.

MANDATORY USE OF RATINGS

It is mandatory that prime contractors receiving rated orders extend the rating to their subcontractors and suppliers for the materials necessary to complete the rated contract. The priority rating appearing in the contract shall be used when placing subcontracts and purchase orders for production materials, components and/or items (e.g., special jigs, dies, fixtures, and inspection gauges) required for performance on a rated contract. The contractor shall advise subcontractors (first, second, or subsequent tier) to extend the rating and program identification when placing subcontracts and purchase orders. A rated order must contain the following:

a. The priority rating - which consists of the prefix DO or DX, followed by the program identification, A6, B9, C3, or C9, etc.

b. A statement that reads in substance: This is a rated order certified for national defense use, and you are required to follow all the provisions of the Defense Priorities and Allocations System regulation (15 CFR 700).

c. The signature of an authorized official of the firm placing the order.

d. The delivery date or dates required.

PRIORITIES ASSISTANCE

The priorities provided by DPAS may not always prove effective and compliance with the system by material suppliers may be lacking. In order to aid defense contractors in overcoming such production bottlenecks, DOC provides special assistance. When a defense contractor determines that its supplier's delivery promises will not permit the maintenance of its contract schedule, the contractor may then submit a Request for Special Priorities Assistance on Form BXA-999. Form BXA-999 should be filed through the Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO) administering the contract for processing to Commander, Operations Support Command, ATTN: SOSMA-PRP, Rock Island, IL 61299-6000. Furnish one advance copy of the Form BXA-999 to SOSMA-PRP.

PRIORITY RATING FOR PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT

A priority rating for the purchase of contractor-owned production equipment in support of a rated contract may be authorized to either the prime contractor or its subcontractors. Rating authority requires submittal of a DD Form 691, Application for Production Equipment, through the Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO) administering the contract for processing to Commander, Operations Support Command, ATTN: SOSMA-PRP, Rock Island, IL 61299-6000. Furnish one advance copy of the DD Form 691 to SOSMA-PRP.

INFORMATION

The contractor may request assistance in using the forms BXA-999, Request for Special Priorities Assistance and DD Form 691, Application for Rating for Production Equipment from Commander, Operations Support Command, ATTN: SOSMA-PRP, Rock Island, IL 61299-6000 (e-mail dpas@osc.army.mil).

Copies of a booklet, "Defense Priorities and Allocations System," and a complete list of the regulations, orders, and directions currently in effect, may be obtained from district offices of the U.S. Department of Commerce or from Publications Sales Branch, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Copies of DPAS may also be obtained from Commander, Operations Support Command, ATTN: SOSMA-PRP, Rock Island, IL 61299-6000 (e-mail dpas@osc.army.mil).

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