

Part 18- Emergency Acquisitions

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Parent topic: Federal Acquisition Regulation

18.000 Scope of part.

~~(a) This part identifies acquisition flexibilities that are available for emergency acquisitions. These flexibilities are specific techniques or procedures that may be used to streamline the standard acquisition process. This part includes-~~

~~(1) Generally available flexibilities; and~~

~~(2) Emergency acquisition flexibilities that are available only under prescribed circumstances.~~

~~(b) The acquisition flexibilities in this part are not exempt from the requirements and limitations set forth in FAR part 3, Improper Business Practices and Personal Conflicts of Interest.~~

~~(c) Additional flexibilities may be authorized in an executive agency supplement to the FAR.~~

~~18.001~~ Definition 18.001 Emergency acquisitions.

~~Emergency acquisition flexibilities, as used in this part, means flexibilities provided with respect to any acquisition of supplies or services by or for an executive agency that, as determined by the head of an executive agency, may be used-~~

~~(a)General flexibilities. Contracting officers should use the flexibilities included in the FAR to respond quickly for an emergency or urgent need. See the list of FAR flexibilities available at <https://acquisition.gov/emergency-procurement>.~~

~~(b)Micro-purchase threshold and simplified acquisition threshold. The definitions of micro-purchase threshold and simplified acquisition threshold at part 2 describe the circumstances and new thresholds to which they may be raised when, as determined by the head of an executive agency, they are used—~~

~~(a1)In support ofSupport a contingency operation-as defined in 2.101;~~

~~(b2)To facilitate the defenseHelp defend against or recoveryrecover from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack against the United States;~~

~~(c3)In support ofSupport a request from the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the provision of help provide international disaster assistance as described in 22 U.S.C. 2292 et seq.;-or~~

~~(d4)When the President issuesSupport response to an emergency declaration, or a major disaster-declaration-, or~~

~~(5)Support a humanitarian or peacekeeping operation using a contract to be awarded and performed, or purchase to be made, outside the United States. The simplified acquisition threshold may be changed, but not the micro-purchase threshold.~~

Subpart 18.1-Available Acquisition Flexibilities

18.101General:

~~The FAR includes many acquisition flexibilities that are available to the contracting officer when certain conditions are met. These acquisition flexibilities do not require an emergency declaration or designation of contingency operation.~~

18.102System for Award Management:

~~(a)In accordance with 4.1102, contractors are not required to be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of submission of offers or quotations for—~~

~~(1)Contracts awarded without providing for full and open competition due to unusual and compelling urgency (see 6.302-2); or~~

~~(2) Contracts awarded by a contracting officer—~~

~~(i) Deployed in the course of military operations;~~

~~(ii) Located outside the United States and its outlying areas, for work to be performed in support of diplomatic or developmental operations, in an area that has been designated by the Department of State as a danger pay post; or~~

~~(iii) In the conduct of emergency operations.~~

~~(b) However, contractors are required to be registered in SAM in order to gain access to the Disaster Response Registry.~~

~~(c) Contracting officers shall consult the Disaster Response Registry via <https://www.sam.gov>, Search Records, Advanced Search, Disaster Response Registry Search to determine the availability of contractors for debris removal, distribution of supplies, reconstruction, and other disaster or emergency relief activities inside the United States and outlying areas. (See 26.205).~~

~~18.103 Synopses of proposed contract actions.~~

~~Contracting officers need not submit a synopsis notice when there is an unusual and compelling urgency and the Government would be seriously injured if the agency complied with the notice time periods. (See 5.202(a)(2).)~~

~~18.104 Unusual and compelling urgency.~~

~~Agencies may limit the number of sources and full and open competition need not be provided for contracting actions involving urgent requirements. (See 6.302-2.)~~

~~18.105 Federal Supply Schedules (FSSs), multi-agency blanket purchase agreements (BPAs), and multi-agency indefinite delivery contracts.~~

~~Streamlined procedures and a broad range of goods and services may be available under Federal Supply Schedule contracts (see subpart 8.4), multi-agency BPAs (see 8.405-3(a)(6)), or multi-agency, indefinite-delivery contracts (see 16.505(a)(8)).~~

~~These contracting methods may offer agency advance planning, pre-negotiated line items, and special terms and conditions that permit rapid response.~~

~~18.106 Acquisitions from Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (FPI).~~

~~Purchase from FPI is not mandatory and a waiver is not required if public exigency requires immediate delivery or performance (see 8.605(b)).~~

~~18.107 AbilityOne specification changes.~~

~~Contracting officers are not held to the notification required when changes in AbilityOne specifications or descriptions are required to meet emergency needs. (See 8.712(d).)~~

~~18.108Qualifications requirements.~~

~~Agencies may determine not to enforce qualification requirements when an emergency exists. (See 9.206-1.)~~

~~18.109Priorities and allocations.~~

~~The Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) supports approved national defense, emergency preparedness, and energy programs and was established to facilitate rapid industrial mobilization in case of a national emergency. (See subpart 11.6.)~~

~~18.110Soliciting from a single source.~~

~~For purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold, contracting officers may solicit from one source under certain circumstances. (See 13.106-1(b).)~~

~~18.111Oral requests for proposals.~~

~~Oral requests for proposals are authorized under certain conditions. (See 15.203(f).)~~

~~18.112Letter contracts.~~

~~Letter contracts may be used when contract performance must begin immediately. (See 16.603.)~~

~~18.113Interagency acquisitions.~~

~~Interagency acquisitions are authorized under certain conditions. (See subpart 17.5.)~~

~~18.114Contracting with the Small Business Administration (The 8(a) Program).~~

~~Contracts may be awarded to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for performance by eligible 8(a) participants on either a sole source or competitive basis. (See subpart 19.8.)~~

~~18.115HUBZone sole source awards.~~

~~Contracts may be awarded to Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small business concerns on a sole source basis. (See 19.1306.)~~

~~18.116Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business (SDVOSB) sole source awards.~~

~~Contracts may be awarded to Service-disabled Veteran-owned Small Business (SDVOSB) concerns eligible under the SDVOSB Program on a sole source basis. (See 19.1406.)~~

~~18.117Awards to economically disadvantaged women-owned small business concerns and women-owned small business concerns eligible under the Women-Owned Small Business Program.~~

~~Contracts may be awarded to economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB) concerns and women-owned small business (WOSB) concerns eligible under the WOSB Program on a competitive or sole source basis. (See subpart 19.15.)~~

~~18.118Overtime approvals.~~

~~Overtime approvals may be retroactive if justified by emergency circumstances. (See 22.103-4(i).)~~

~~18.119Trade agreements.~~

~~The policies and procedures of FAR 25.4 may not apply to acquisitions not awarded under full and open competition (see 25.401(a)(5)).~~

~~18.120[Reserved]~~

~~18.121Bid guarantees.~~

~~The chief ~~of the~~ contracting office may waive the requirement to obtain a bid guarantee for emergency acquisitions when a performance bond or a performance bond and payment bond is required. (See 28.101-1(c).)~~

~~18.122Advance payments.~~

~~Agencies may authorize advance payments to facilitate the national defense for actions taken under Public Law 85-804 (see subpart 50.1, Extraordinary Contractual Actions). These advance payments may be made at or after award of sealed bid contracts, as well as negotiated contracts. (See 32.405.)~~

~~18.123Assignment of claims.~~

~~The use of the no-setoff provision may be appropriate to facilitate the national defense in the event of a national emergency or natural disaster. (See 32.803(d).)~~

~~18.124Electronic funds transfer.~~

~~Electronic funds transfer payments may be waived for acquisitions to support unusual and compelling needs or emergency acquisitions. (See 32.1103(e).)~~

~~18.125Protest to GAO.~~

~~When urgent and compelling circumstances exist, agency protest override procedures allow the head of the contracting activity to determine that the contracting process may continue after GAO has received a protest. (See 33.104(b) and (c).)~~

~~18.126 Contractor rent-free use of Government property.~~

~~Rental requirements do not apply to items of Government production and research property that are part of a general program approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and meet certain criteria. (See 45.301.)~~

~~18.127 Extraordinary contractual actions.~~

~~subpart 50.1 prescribes policies and procedures for entering into, amending, or modifying contracts in order to facilitate the national defense under the extraordinary emergency authority granted by Public Law 85-804 (50 U.S.C. 1431-1434). This includes-~~

- ~~(a) Amending contracts without consideration (see 50.103-2(a));~~
- ~~(b) Correcting or mitigating mistakes in a contract (see 50.103-2(b)); and~~
- ~~(c) Formalizing informal commitments (See 50.103-2(c)).~~

~~Subpart 18.2- Emergency Acquisition Flexibilities~~

~~18.201 Contingency operation.~~

~~(a) Contingency operation is defined in 2.101.~~

~~(b) **Micro-purchase threshold.** The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to support a contingency operation. (See 2.101 and 13.201(g).)~~

~~(c) **Simplified acquisition threshold.** The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to support a contingency operation. (See 2.101.)~~

~~(d) **SF 44, Purchase Order-Invoice-Voucher.** The normal threshold for the use of the SF 44 is at or below the micro-purchase threshold. Agencies may, however, establish higher dollar limitations for purchases made to support a contingency operation. (See 13.306.)~~

~~(e) **Simplified procedures for certain commercial products and commercial services.** The threshold limits authorized for use of this authority may be increased for acquisitions to support a contingency operation. (See 13.500(c).)~~

18.202 Defense or recovery from certain events.

~~(a) Micro-purchase threshold.~~ The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to facilitate defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to facilitate provision of international disaster assistance; or to support response to an emergency or major disaster. (See 2.101.)

~~(b)~~ *Simplified acquisition threshold.* The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to facilitate defense against or recovery procedures for certain commercial products and services. See part 13 for increased thresholds that may be used in acquiring commercial products or commercial services to support a contingency operation, or to help defend against or recover from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to ~~facilitate provision of support~~ a request from the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to help provide international disaster assistance; or to support response to an emergency or major disaster. ~~(See 2.101.)~~ The threshold for using simplified acquisition procedures may also be raised when the acquisition is treated as a commercial product or commercial service in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

~~(c)~~ *Commercial product or commercial service treatment.* Contracting officers may treat any acquisition of supplies or services as an acquisition of commercial products or commercial services if the head of the agency determines the acquisition is to be used to ~~facilitate the defense~~ help defend against or ~~recovery~~ recover from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. (See ~~12.102(f)(1)~~ parts 12 and 13.500(c) 13.)

~~(d) Simplified procedures for certain commercial products and commercial services.~~ The threshold limits authorized for use of this authority may be increased when it is determined the acquisition is to facilitate defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to facilitate provision of international disaster assistance; or to support response to an emergency or major disaster. (See 13.500(c).)

~~(e) Sustainable products and services.~~ ~~Contracting officers~~ are encouraged, but not required, to procure sustainable products and services if the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to facilitate defense against or recovery from cyber, nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; to facilitate provision of international disaster assistance; or to support response to ~~an emergency or~~ major disaster (see 23.106(c)).

18.203 Emergency declaration or major disaster declaration.

(a) *Disaster or emergency assistance activities.* ~~Preference~~Award preference will be given to local organizations, firms, and individuals when contracting for major disaster or emergency assistance activities when the President has made a declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122; 41 U.S.C. 1903). Preference may take the form of local area set-asides or an evaluation preference. (See ~~6.208 and subpart~~ part 26.2.)

(b) *Ocean transportation by U.S. flag vessels.* ~~The~~In emergency situations, the provisions of the Cargo Preference Act of 1954 may be waived ~~in emergency situations~~. (See ~~47.502(c)~~ part 47.)

~~18.204 Humanitarian or peacekeeping operation:~~

~~(a) A humanitarian or peacekeeping operation is defined in 2.101.~~

~~(b) Simplified acquisition threshold. The threshold increases when the head of the agency determines the supplies or services are to be used to support a humanitarian or peacekeeping operation. (See 2.101.)~~

~~18.205 Resources:~~

~~(a) *National Response Framework.* The National Response Framework (NRF) is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards response. This key document establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. The Framework identifies the key response principles, roles and structures that organize national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government, the private-sector, and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. It also describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. The NRF is available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117791>.~~

~~(b) *OFPP Guidelines.* The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) "Emergency Acquisitions Guide" is available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/assets/procurement_guides/emergency_acquisitions_guide.pdf.~~

Summary report: Litera Compare for Word 11.10.1.2 Document comparison done on 6/13/2025 12:42:56 PM	
Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	45
Delete	172
Move From	14
<u>Move To</u>	14
<u>Table Insert</u>	0
Table Delete	0
<u>Table moves to</u>	0
Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	0
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	245