MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Subj: COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASES FROM FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES

Encl: (1) DPAP memo dated March 28, 2008

Enclosure (1) is forwarded for immediate implementation and action, as appropriate. By enclosure (1), the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) provides guidance to implement the requirements of Section 827 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008. The DPAP guidance applies to solicitations (and resultant contracts/orders) issued after March 28, 2008.

Section 827 changes the competition requirements for purchases from Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (FPI) by requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to use competitive procedures when purchasing a product for which FPI has a significant market share, and requiring DoD to publish a list of product categories for which FPI’s share of the DoD market is greater than five percent. Enclosure (1) provides the list of the Federal Supply Codes (FSCs) required by Section 827. Accordingly, products under the listed FSCs must be procured using competitive or the fair opportunity procedures. Products for FSCs not contained on the list must be procured using the process outlined in FAR Subpart 8.6.

This guidance is effective until revised, rescinded or until the procedures are published in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement.

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SUBJECT: Competition Requirements for Purchases From Federal Prison Industries


Section 827 requires DoD to use competitive procedures when procuring products for which FPI has significant market share. FPI will be treated as having significant market share for a product category if the FPI share of the Department of Defense market is greater than five percent. The Federal Supply Codes (FSC) that meet this criterion are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSC</th>
<th>FSC Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3510</td>
<td>Laundry and Dry Cleaning Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5340</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Hardware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5935</td>
<td>Connectors, Electrical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5975</td>
<td>Electrical Hardware and Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5995</td>
<td>Cable, cord, wire assemblies; comm equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6145</td>
<td>Wire and cable, Electrical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7110</td>
<td>Office Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7210</td>
<td>Household Furnishings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Products for which FPI has a significant market share (FSCs listed above) must be procured using competitive (or fair opportunity) procedures. In conducting such a competition, contracting officers shall consider a timely offer from FPI in accordance with FAR 8.602(a)(4). The procedures and requirements of this memorandum will apply to solicitations (and resultant contracts/orders) issued after March 28, 2008.

If FPI does not have a significant market share for a particular product, contracting officers should follow the current process outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 8.6. Specifically, FAR 8.602 requires agencies to conduct market research and make a comparability determination. Such determinations are made at the discretion of the contracting officer. Competitive (or fair opportunity) procedures are appropriate if the FPI product is not comparable in terms of price, quality, or time of delivery. In conducting such a competition, contracting officers shall include FPI in the solicitation process and consider a timely offer from FPI. Likewise, if the procurement is made using a multiple award schedule, then FAR 8.602(a)(4)(iii) requires contracting officers to communicate the item description or specifications and evaluation criteria directly to FPI, “so that an offer from FPI can be evaluated on the same basis as the contract or schedule holder.” A timely offer from FPI must then be considered.

The Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) will be revised to reflect the procedures outlined in this memorandum. In the event of a conflict between this memorandum and the subsequent DFARS revision, the content of the DFARS will take precedence. The FSCs listed above will be updated, as necessary, in subsequent policy memoranda.

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