

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 1852

RIN 2700-AE08

NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (NFS): Contractor Whistleblower Protections; Technical Amendments

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document makes amendments to the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) in order to make editorial changes.

DATES: *Effective:* August 29, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leigh Pomponio via email at leigh.pomponio@NASA.gov, or (202) 358-0592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An interim rule was published in the **Federal Register** on July 29, 2014 (79 FR 43956-43961), amending 48 CFR part 1852.

In order to correct certain elements in 48 CFR part 1852, this document makes editorial changes to the NFS.

List of Subject in 48 CFR Part 1852

Government procurement.

Cynthia Boots,
Alternate Federal Register Liaison.

Therefore, NASA amends 48 CFR part 1852 as set forth below:

PART 1852—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 1852 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 51 U.S.C. 20113(a) and 48 CFR chapter 1.

1852.203-71 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 1852.203-71(a) is amended by removing “1803.09” and replacing it with “1803.9”.

1852.216-90 [Amended]

■ 3. Section 1852.216-90 is amended by removing “As prescribed in 216.307-70(g)” and replacing it with “As prescribed in 1816.307-70(g)”.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic

CFR Correction

■ In Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 600 to 659, revised as of October 1, 2013, on page 389, Appendix F to Part 622 is reinstated to read as follows:

Appendix F to Part 622—Specifications for Sea Turtle Mitigation Gear and Sea Turtle Handling and Release Requirements

A. Sea turtle mitigation gear.

1. *Long-handled line clipper or cutter.* Line cutters are intended to cut high test monofilament line as close as possible to the hook, and assist in removing line from entangled sea turtles to minimize any remaining gear upon release. NMFS has established minimum design standards for the line cutters. The LaForce line cutter and the Arceneaux line clipper are models that meet these minimum design standards, and may be purchased or fabricated from readily available and low-cost materials. One long-handled line clipper or cutter and a set of replacement blades are required to be onboard. The minimum design standards for line cutters are as follows:

(a) *A protected and secured cutting blade.* The cutting blade(s) must be capable of cutting 2.0–2.1 mm (0.078 in.–0.083 in.) monofilament line (400-lb test) or polypropylene multistrand material, known as braided or tarred mainline, and must be maintained in working order. The cutting blade must be curved, recessed, contained in a holder, or otherwise designed to facilitate its safe use so that direct contact between the cutting surface and the sea turtle or the user is prevented. The cutting instrument must be securely attached to an extended reach handle and be easily replaceable. One extra set of replacement blades meeting these standards must also be carried on board to replace all cutting surfaces on the line cutter or clipper.

(b) *An extended reach handle.* The line cutter blade must be securely fastened to an extended reach handle or pole with a minimum length equal to, or greater than, 150 percent of the freeboard, or a minimum of 6 ft (1.83 m), whichever is greater. It is recommended, but not required, that the handle break down into sections. There is no restriction on the type of material used to construct this handle as long as it is sturdy and facilitates the secure attachment of the cutting blade.

2. *Long-handled dehooker for internal hooks.* A long-handled dehooking device is intended to remove internal hooks from sea turtles that cannot be boated. It should also be used to engage a loose hook when a turtle is entangled but not hooked, and line is being

removed. The design must shield the barb of the hook and prevent it from re-engaging during the removal process. One long-handled device to remove internal hooks is required onboard. The minimum design standards are as follows:

(a) *Hook removal device.* The hook removal device must be constructed of approximately $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch (4.76 mm) to $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch (7.94 mm) 316 L stainless steel or similar material and have a dehooking end no larger than 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inches (4.76 cm) outside diameter. The device must securely engage and control the leader while shielding the barb to prevent the hook from re-engaging during removal. It may not have any unprotected terminal points (including blunt ones), as these could cause injury to the esophagus during hook removal. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery.

(b) *Extended reach handle.* The dehooking end must be securely fastened to an extended reach handle or pole with a minimum length equal to or greater than 150 percent of the freeboard, or a minimum of 6 ft (1.83 m), whichever is greater. It is recommended, but not required, that the handle break down into sections. The handle must be sturdy and strong enough to facilitate the secure attachment of the hook removal device.

3. *Long-handled dehooker for external hooks.* A long-handled dehooker is required for use on externally-hooked sea turtles that cannot be boated. The long-handled dehooker for internal hooks described in paragraph 2. of this Appendix F would meet this requirement. The minimum design standards are as follows:

(a) *Construction.* A long-handled dehooker must be constructed of approximately $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch (4.76 mm) to $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch (7.94 mm) 316 L stainless steel rod and have a dehooking end no larger than 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inches (4.76 cm) outside diameter. The design should be such that a fish hook can be rotated out, without pulling it out at an angle. The dehooking end must be blunt with all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery.

(b) *Extended reach handle.* The handle must be a minimum length equal to the freeboard of the vessel or 6 ft (1.83 m), whichever is greater.

4. *Long-handled device to pull an “inverted V”.* This tool is used to pull a “V” in the fishing line when implementing the “inverted V”; dehooking technique, as described in the document entitled “Careful Release Protocols for Sea Turtle Release With Minimal Injury,” for disentangling and dehooking entangled sea turtles. One long-handled device to pull an “inverted V” is required onboard. If a 6-ft (1.83 m) J-style dehooker is used to comply with paragraph 4. of this Appendix F, it will also satisfy this requirement. Minimum design standards are as follows:

(a) *Hook end.* This device, such as a standard boat hook, gaff, or long-handled J-style dehooker, must be constructed of stainless steel or aluminum. The semicircular or “J” shaped end must be securely attached to a handle. A sharp point, such as on a gaff hook, is to be used only for holding the