

engineer services for military construction or family housing projects are set aside for small business concerns. DoD received no comments on the interim rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the interim rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis consistent with 5 U.S.C. 604. The analysis is summarized as follows:

This rule finalizes an interim DFARS rule published on June 8, 2004, to implement Section 1427 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Pub. L. 108-136). Section 1427 amended 10 U.S.C. 2855 to increase, from \$85,000 to \$300,000, the threshold below which acquisitions for architect-engineer services for military construction or family housing projects are set aside for small business concerns. DoD received no public comments on the initial regulatory flexibility analysis or the interim DFARS rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the interim rule as a final rule without change. The rule will benefit small entities that perform architect-engineer services by increasing opportunities for these entities to receive DoD contract awards.

A copy of the analysis may be obtained from the point of contact specified herein.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply, because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 219

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,
Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without Change

■ Accordingly, the interim rule amending 48 CFR Part 219, which was published at 69 FR 31909 on June 8, 2004, is adopted as a final rule without change.

[FR Doc. 04-25814 Filed 11-19-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 224

[DFARS Case 2003-D038]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Protection of Privacy and Freedom of Information

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to delete text pertaining to the applicability of the Privacy Act to certain contractor records. This rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

DATES: Effective November 22, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Euclides Barrera, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0296; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2003-D038.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dfars/transf.htm>.

This final rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The rule deletes DFARS 224.102, which specifies that the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) does not apply to certain contractor records. The DFARS text is unnecessary, because this issue is adequately addressed in DoD Regulation 5400.11-R, Department of Defense Privacy Program, which is referenced in DFARS 224.103.

DoD published a proposed rule at 69 FR 8152 on February 23, 2004. DoD received one comment in response to

the proposed rule, and that comment supported the rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the proposed rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because deletion of the DFARS text does not represent a change in DoD policy. Applicability of the Privacy Act is adequately addressed in other DoD publications.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 224

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,
Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

■ Therefore, 48 CFR part 224 is amended as follows:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 224 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 224—PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

224.102 [Removed]

■ 2. Section 224.102 is removed.

[FR Doc. 04-25827 Filed 11-19-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Parts 227 and 252

[DFARS Case 2003-D104]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Written Assurance of Technical Data Conformity

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has adopted as final, without change, an interim rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement Section 844 of

the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. Section 844 eliminated the requirement for a contractor to furnish written assurance that technical data delivered to the Government is complete and accurate and satisfies the requirements of the contract.

DATES: Effective November 22, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062. Telephone (703) 602–0328; facsimile (703) 602–0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2003–D104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD published an interim rule at 69 FR 31911 on June 8, 2004, to implement Section 844 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136). Section 844 amended 10 U.S.C. 2320(b) to eliminate the requirement for contractors to furnish written assurance that delivered technical data is complete and accurate and satisfies the requirements of the contract. The interim rule removed the clause at DFARS 252.227–7036, Declaration of Technical Data Conformity, which implemented the previous statutory requirement. Three respondents submitted comments on the interim rule. All respondents supported the rule. One respondent also recommended that the change be made retroactive to reduce paperwork requirements for contracts currently in effect. DoD has made no change to the rule as a result of this comment. The interim rule became effective upon publication, on June 8, 2004. Consistent with FAR 1.108(d), the rule applies to solicitations issued on or after the effective date, but contracting officers may, at their discretion, apply the change to any existing contract with appropriate consideration.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because elimination of the requirement for a contractor to provide written assurance of technical data conformity does not diminish the contractor's obligation to provide technical data that

is complete and accurate and in compliance with contract requirements.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements of the clause at DFARS 252.227–7036, Declaration of Technical Data Conformity, were previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 0704–0369. Elimination of the clause has reduced estimated annual public reporting burden by 126,886 hours (estimated 507,545 declarations annually at .25 hours per declaration).

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 227 and 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without Change

■ Accordingly, the interim rule amending 48 CFR Parts 227 and 252, which was published at 69 FR 31911 on June 8, 2004, is adopted as a final rule without change.

[FR Doc. 04–25823 Filed 11–19–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 235

[DFARS Case 2003–D058]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Removal of Obsolete Research and Development Contracting Procedures

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to delete obsolete procedures for research and development contracting. This rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

DATES: Effective November 22, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thaddeus Godlewski, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062. Telephone (703) 602–2022; facsimile (703) 602–0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2003–D058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dfars/transf.htm>.

This final rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The rule deletes DFARS Subpart 235.70, Research and Development Streamlined Contracting Procedures. This subpart contains procedures for acquiring research and development using a standard solicitation and contract format and the capabilities of the World Wide Web. These procedures have become obsolete, due to further advances in technology since their creation.

DoD published a proposed rule at 69 FR 8157 on February 23, 2004. DoD received no comments on the proposed rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the proposed rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule deletes research and development contracting procedures that are no longer in use.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*