

PART 211—DESCRIBING AGENCY NEEDS**211.201 [Amended]**

■ 2. Section 211.201 is amended in paragraph (d) introductory text by removing “<http://assist.daps.mil>” and adding in its place “<http://assist.daps.dla.mil>”.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**48 CFR Parts 217 and 219**

[DFARS Case 2003-D092]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Small Disadvantaged Businesses and Leader Company Contracting

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to revise text pertaining to DoD review of small business subcontracting plans, and to remove text pertaining to leader company 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: Ms. Robin Schulze, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0326; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2003-D092.

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 DFARS changes—

- Remove DFARS Subpart 217.4, which addresses the participation of small disadvantaged business concerns in leader company contracting. DoD rarely uses leader company contracting. Incentives for major DoD contractors to assist small disadvantaged business concerns are provided through the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program, in accordance with DFARS Subpart 219.71 and Appendix I.

- Lower the approval level at DFARS 219.705-4(d), from two levels above the contracting officer to one level above the contracting officer, for small business subcontracting plans that contain a small disadvantaged business goal of less than five percent.

DoD published a proposed rule at 69 FR 21996 on April 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 text that is seldom used and revises review procedures that are internal to DoD.

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 Parts 217 and 219

Government procurement.

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

■ Therefore, 48 CFR Parts 217 and 219 are amended as follows:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Parts 217 and 219 continues to read as follows:

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

PART 217—SPECIAL CONTRACTING METHODS**Subpart 217.4—[Removed]**

■ 2. Subpart 217.4 is removed.

PART 219—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

■ 3. Section 219.705-4 is amended in paragraph (d) by revising the second sentence to read as follows:

219.705-4 Reviewing the subcontracting plan.

(d) * * * A small disadvantaged business goal of less than five percent must be approved one level above the contracting officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**48 CFR Part 219**

[DFARS Case 2003-D105]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contracting for Architect-Engineer Services

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 1427 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. Section 1427 increases, 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.

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-D105.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

DoD published an interim rule at 69 FR 31909 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-