

shall have no further input or contact with the parties or other Board members in subsequent Board activities (ref. the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, 5 U.S.C. 571–583; and, Federal Acquisition Regulation, Subpart 33.2).

(d) The Department of Veterans Affairs and contractors are also encouraged to use ADR in disputes appealed to the VABCA.

## PART 852—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

### Subpart 852.2—Texts of Provisions and Clauses

11. Section 852.233–70 is revised to read as follows:

#### § 852.233–70 Protest content.

As prescribed in 833.106 of this chapter, insert the following provision in each solicitation where the total value of all contract awards under the solicitation is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold:

Protest Content (Jan 1998)

(a) Any protest filed by an interested party shall:

- (1) Include the name, address, fax number, and telephone number of the protester;
- (2) Identify the solicitation and/or contract number;
- (3) Include an original signed by the protester or the protester's representative, and at least one copy;
- (4) Set forth a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest, including a description of resulting prejudice to the protester, and provide copies of relevant documents;
- (5) Specifically request a ruling of the individual upon whom the protest is served;
- (6) State the form of relief requested; and
- (7) Provide all information establishing the timeliness of the protest.

(b) Failure to comply with the above may result in dismissal of the protest without further consideration.

(End of Provision)

12. Section 852.233–71 is added to read as follows:

#### § 852.233–71 Alternate Protest Procedure.

As prescribed in 833.106 of this chapter, insert the following provision in each solicitation where the total value of all contract awards under the solicitation is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold:

Alternate Protest Procedure (Jan 1998)

As an alternative to filing a protest with the contracting officer, an interested party may file a protest with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20420, or, for solicitations issued by the

Office of Facilities Management, the Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. The protest will not be considered if the interested party has a protest on the same or similar issues pending with the contracting officer.

#### § 852.236–73 [Removed]

13. Section 852.236–73 is removed.

[FR Doc. 98–8004 Filed 3–30–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

### 48 CFR Part 1842

#### Revisions to the NASA FAR Supplement on Contract Administration and Audit Services

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This is a final rule to amend the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) to make minor editorial changes in Part 1842, Contract Administration. These changes result from revisions to FAR Part 42 in Federal Acquisition Circular 97–04, and include new section titles and numbering.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 31, 1998.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James H. Dolvin, NASA, Office of Procurement, Contract Management Division (Code HK), (202) 358–1279.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Federal Acquisition Circular 97–04, published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1998, contained several changes in section titles and numbering which required changes in the NFS to maintain its consistency with the FAR. These changes include a new title for Part 1842, Contract Administration and Audit Services, and several changes in numbering and titles in Subpart 1842.1, Contract Audit Services, and Subpart 1842.2, Contract Administration Services.

##### Impact

NASA certifies that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This final rule does not impose any reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

### List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 1842

Government procurement.

**Deidre Lee,**

*Associate Administrator for Procurement.*

Accordingly, 48 CFR Part 1842 is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Part 1842 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(1).

### PART 1842—CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

2–3. Part heading “Part 1842—Contract Administration” is revised to read “Part 1842—Contract Administration and Audit Services”.

#### Subpart 1842.1 [Amended]

4. Subpart heading “Subpart 1842.1 Interagency Contract Administration and Audit Services” is revised to read “Subpart 1842.1 Contract Audit Services”.

#### 1842.101 [Amended]

5. In section 1842.101, the section heading “1842.101 Policy” is revised to read “1842.101 Contract audit responsibilities.”

#### 1842.102 [Amended]

6. In section 1842.102, the section heading “1842.102 Procedures” is revised to read “1842.102 Assignment of contract audit services.”

#### Subpart 1842.2 [Amended]

7. Subpart heading “Subpart 1842.2 Assignment of Contract Administration” is revised to read “Subpart 1842.2 Contract Administration Services”.

#### 1842.203 [Amended]

8. Section 1842.203 is redesignated as section 1842.202–70.

#### 1842.202–70 [Amended]

9. In the newly designated section 1842.202–70, paragraphs (a) (i) through (v) are redesignated as paragraphs (a) (1) through (5).

[FR Doc. 98–8248 Filed 3–30–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510–01–P

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

### 48 CFR Part 1852

#### Revision to NASA FAR Supplement Clause—Submission of Vouchers for Payment

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This is a final rule revising the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) clause 1852.216-87, "Submission of Vouchers for Payment" in order to administratively clarify the voucher submission procedures.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 31, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jack Horvath, NASA, Office of Procurement, Analysis Division (Code HC), (202) 358-0456.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On August 14, 1997, NASA revised NFS 1842.803 to authorize DCAA to permit direct submission of vouchers to NASA paying offices. At that time, the corresponding revision to NFS 1852.216-87, Submission of Vouchers for Payment, was overlooked. This final rule makes the appropriate administrative revisions to this clause to reflect the voucher procedure.

**Impact**

NASA certifies that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This final rule does not impose any reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to the Paper Reduction Act.

**List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 1852**

Government procurement.

**Tom Luedtke,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Procurement.*

Accordingly, 48 CFR Part 1852 is amended as follows:

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

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 2743(c)(1).

**PART 1852—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES**

**1852.216-87 [Amended]**

2. Section 1852.216-87 is revised to read as follows:

**1852.216-87 Submission of vouchers for payment.**

As prescribed in 1816.307-70(e), insert the following clause:

**Submission for Vouchers for Payment**

March 1998

(a) The designated billing office for cost vouchers for purposes of the Prompt Payment clause of this contract is indicated below. Public vouchers for payment of costs shall include a reference to the number of this contract.

(b)(1) If the contractor is authorized to submit interim cost vouchers directly to the

NASA paying office, the original voucher should be submitted to: [Insert the mailing address for submission of cost vouchers]

(2) For any period that the Defense Contract Audit Agency has authorized the Contractor to submit interim cost vouchers directly to the Government paying office, interim vouchers are not required to be sent to the Auditor, and are considered to be provisionally approved for payment, subject to final audit.

(3) Copies of vouchers should be submitted as directed by the Contracting Officer. (c) If the contractor is not authorized to submit interim cost vouchers directly to the paying office as described in paragraph (b), the contractor shall prepare and submit vouchers as follows:

(1) One original Standard Form (SF) 1034, SF 1035, or equivalent Contractor's attachment to: [Insert the appropriate NASA or DCAA mailing office address for submission of cost vouchers]

(2) Five copies of SF 1034, SF 1035A, or equivalent Contractor's attachment to the following offices by insertion in the memorandum block of their names and addresses:

- (i) Copy 1 NASA Contracting Officer;
  - (ii) Copy 2 Auditor;
  - (iii) Copy 3 Contractor;
  - (iv) Copy 4 Contract administration office; and
  - (v) Copy 5 Project management office.
- (3) The Contracting Officer may designate other recipients as required.

(d) Public vouchers for payment of fee shall be prepared similarly to the procedures in paragraphs (b) or (c) of this clause, whichever is applicable, and be forwarded to: [insert the mailing address for submission of fee vouchers] This is the designated billing office for fee vouchers for purposes of the Prompt Payment clause of this contract.

(e) In the event that amounts are withheld from payment in accordance with provisions of this contract, a separate voucher for the amount withheld will be required before payment for that amount may be made.

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 98-8249 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs Administration**

**49 CFR Part 195**

[Docket No. PS-121; Notice-4]

[RIN 2137-AD 05]

**Pressure Testing Older Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines**

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Clarification of confirmation of direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** A member of the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety

Standards Committee (THLPSSC) has expressed concern that the compliance dates for pressure testing are being extended and that the notice confirming the direct final rule on extension did not accurately reflect actions of the committee reviewing the rule. This member requests clarification and the opportunity for public comment on the extension of the compliance deadlines. This document clarifies the actions of the THLPSSC and notes that compliance deadlines may be addressed within a related rulemaking on the risk-based alternative to pressure testing.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mike Israni, (202) 366-4571, e-mail: mike.israni@rspa.dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of this document, or the Dockets Unit (202) 366-4046, for copies of this document or other information in the docket.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

A final rule issued in 1994 requires certain older hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines to be pressure tested. Compliance dates for pressure testing have been extended to allow development of a rule to provide an alternative to pressure testing based on an evaluation of the risks the lines pose to safety and the environment. On October 21, 1997, RSPA published a direct final rule [62 FR 54591] to extend for a second time compliance dates for the pressure testing.

The THLPSSC, the federal advisory committee established by statute to review pipeline safety standards, reviewed the direct final rule at a November 18, 1997 meeting in Houston, Texas. At the meeting, two members expressed concerns over delays in the rulemaking to establish a risk-based alternative to pressure testing. These two members voted not to approve the rule. The majority of the THLPSSC members approved the direct final rule as "technically feasible, reasonable, and practicable." Following the committee meeting, the THLPSSC sent a resolution to RSPA's Administrator urging for prompt adoption of a rule providing for a risk-based alternative to pressure testing. A notice of proposed rulemaking to provide a risk-based alternative was published in the **Federal Register** on February 5, 1998 [63 FR 5918]. There were no subsequent comments objecting to the direct final rule, and believing that the issues raised in the THLPSSC meeting had been addressed by the publication of the risk-based alternative, RSPA confirmed the direct final rule on January 26, 1998 [63 FR 3653].

In a letter dated February 24, 1998, the member of the THLPSSC