

## 9.402 Policy.

(a) Agencies *shall* solicit *offers* from, award contracts to, and *consent to subcontracts* with responsible contractors only. *Debarment* and *suspension* are discretionary actions that, taken in accordance with this subpart, are appropriate means to effectuate this policy.

(b) The serious nature of *debarment* and *suspension* requires that these sanctions be imposed only in the public interest for the Government's protection and not for purposes of punishment. Agencies *shall* impose *debarment* or *suspension* to protect the Government's interest and only for the causes and in accordance with the procedures set forth in this subpart.

(c) Agencies are encouraged to establish methods and procedures for coordinating their *debarment* or *suspension* actions.

(d) When more than one agency has an interest in the *debarment* or *suspension* of a contractor, the Interagency Committee on *Debarment* and *Suspension*, established under Executive Order 12549, and authorized by Section 873 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009* (Pub. L. 110-417) (31 U.S.C.6101, note), *shall* resolve the lead agency issue and coordinate such resolution among all interested agencies prior to the initiation of any *suspension*, *debarment*, or related administrative action by any agency.

(e) Agencies *shall* establish appropriate procedures to implement the policies and procedures of this subpart.

**Parent topic:** Subpart 9.4 - Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility