

## 16.703 Basic ordering agreements.

(a) *Description.* A basic ordering agreement is a written instrument of understanding, negotiated between an agency, *contracting activity*, or *contracting office* and a contractor, that contains (1) terms and clauses applying to future contracts (orders) between the parties during its term, (2) a description, as specific as practicable, of *supplies* or services to be provided, and (3) methods for *pricing*, issuing, and delivering future orders under the basic ordering agreement. A basic ordering agreement is not a contract.

(b) *Application.* A basic ordering agreement *may* be used to expedite *contracting* for uncertain requirements for *supplies* or services when specific items, quantities, and prices are not known at the time the agreement is executed, but a substantial number of requirements for the type of *supplies* or services covered by the agreement are anticipated to be purchased from the contractor. Under proper circumstances, the use of these procedures can result in economies in ordering parts for equipment support by reducing administrative lead-time, inventory investment, and inventory obsolescence due to design changes.

(c) *Limitations.* A basic ordering agreement *shall* not state or imply any agreement by the Government to place future contracts or orders with the contractor or be used in any manner to restrict competition.

(1) Each basic ordering agreement *shall*-

(i) Describe the method for determining prices to be paid to the contractor for the *supplies* or services;

(ii) Include delivery terms and conditions or specify how they will be determined;

(iii) List one or more Government activities authorized to issue orders under the agreement;

(iv) Specify the point at which each order becomes a binding contract (*e.g.*, issuance of the order, acceptance of the order in a specified manner, or failure to reject the order within a specified number of days);

(v) Provide that failure to reach agreement on price for any order issued before its price is established (see paragraph (d)(3) of this section) is a dispute under the Disputes clause included in the basic ordering agreement; and

(vi) If fast payment procedures will apply to orders, include the special data required by [13.403](#).

(2) Each basic ordering agreement *shall* be reviewed annually before the anniversary of its effective date and revised as necessary to conform to the requirements of this regulation. Basic ordering agreements *may* need to be revised before the annual review due to mandatory statutory requirements. A basic ordering agreement *shall* be changed only by modifying the agreement itself and not by individual orders issued under it. Modifying a basic ordering agreement *shall* not retroactively affect orders previously issued under it.

(d) *Orders.* A *contracting officer* representing any Government activity listed in a basic ordering agreement *may* issue orders for required *supplies* or services covered by that agreement.

(1) Before issuing an order under a basic ordering agreement, the *contracting officer shall*-

(i) Obtain competition in accordance with [part 6](#);

(ii) If the order is being placed after competition, ensure that use of the basic ordering agreement is not prejudicial to other *offerors*; and

(iii) Sign or obtain any applicable justifications and approvals, and any determination and findings, and comply with other requirements in accordance with [1.602-1\(b\)](#), as if the order were a contract awarded independently of a basic ordering agreement.

(2) *Contracting officers shall*-

(i) Issue orders under basic ordering agreements on [Optional Form \(OF\) 347](#), Order for *Supplies* or *Services*, or on any other appropriate contractual instrument;

(ii) Incorporate by reference the provisions of the basic ordering agreement;

(iii) If applicable, cite the authority under [6.302](#) in each order; and

(iv) Comply with [5.203](#) when synopsis is required by [5.201](#).

(3) The *contracting officer shall* neither make any final commitment nor authorize the contractor to begin work on an order under a basic ordering agreement until prices have been established, unless the order establishes a ceiling price limiting the Government's obligation and either-

(i) The basic ordering agreement provides adequate procedures for timely *pricing* of the order early in its performance period; or

(ii) The need for the *supplies* or *services* is compelling and unusually urgent (*i.e.*, when the Government would be seriously injured, financially or otherwise, if the requirement is not met sooner than would be possible if prices were established before the work began). The *contracting officer shall* proceed with *pricing* as soon as practical. In no event *shall* an entire order be priced retroactively.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 16.7 - Agreements](#)