

## Subpart 25.4 - Trade Agreements

**Parent topic:** [Part 25 - Foreign Acquisition](#)

### 25.400 Scope of subpart.

(a) This subpart provides policies and procedures applicable to acquisitions that are covered by-

(1) The World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement (WTO GPA), as approved by Congress in the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Public Law 103-465);

(2) Free Trade Agreements (FTA), consisting of-

(i) USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (Government Procurement Agreement applicable only to the United States and Mexico) ([Pub. L. 116-113](#)) ([19 U.S.C. chapter 29](#) (sections 4501-4732)));

(ii) Chile FTA (the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 108-77) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(iii) Singapore FTA (the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 108-78) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(iv) Australia FTA (the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 108-286) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(v) Morocco FTA (The United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 108-302) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(vi) CAFTA-DR (The Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 109-53) ([19 U.S.C. 4001](#) note));

(vii) Bahrain FTA (the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 109-169) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(viii) Oman FTA (the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 109-283) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(ix) Peru FTA (the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 110-138) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(x) Korea FTA (the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 112-41) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#)));

(xi) Colombia FTA (the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 112-42) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note)); and

(xii) Panama FTA (the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 112-43) ([19 U.S.C. 3805](#) note));

(3) The least developed country designation made by the U.S. Trade Representative, pursuant to the Trade Agreements Act ([19 U.S.C. 2511\(b\)\(4\)](#)), in acquisitions covered by the WTO GPA;

(4) The Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative (CBTI) (determination of the U.S. Trade Representative that end products or construction material granted duty-free entry from countries designated as beneficiaries under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act ([19 U.S.C. 2701](#), *et seq.*), with the exception of Panama, must be treated as eligible products in acquisitions covered by the WTO GPA);

(5) The Israeli Trade Act (the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement, as approved by Congress in the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 ([19 U.S.C. 2112](#) note)); or

(6) The Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft (U.S. Trade Representative waiver of the Buy American statute for signatories of the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft, as implemented in the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 ([19 U.S.C. 2513](#))).

(b) For application of the trade agreements that are unique to individual agencies, see agency regulations.

## **25.401 Exceptions.**

(a) This subpart does not apply to-

(1) Acquisitions set aside for small businesses;

(2) Acquisitions of arms, ammunition, or war materials, or purchases indispensable for national security or for national defense purposes;

(3) Acquisitions of end products for resale;

(4) Acquisitions from Federal Prison Industries, Inc., under [subpart 8.6](#), and acquisitions under [subpart 8.7](#), Acquisition from Nonprofit Agencies Employing People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled;

(5) Other acquisitions not using full and open competition, if authorized by [subpart 6.2](#) or [6.3](#), when the limitation of competition would preclude use of the procedures of this subpart; or sole source acquisitions justified in accordance with [13.501\(a\)](#); and

(6) Goods and services specifically excluded under individual trade agreements, such as exceptions negotiated by the U.S. Trade Representative for particular agencies. See the agency supplementary regulations.

(b) In the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement (WTO GPA) and each FTA,

there is a U.S. schedule that lists services that are excluded from that agreement in acquisitions by the United States. Acquisitions of the following services are excluded from coverage by the U.S. schedule of the WTO GPA or an FTA as indicated in this table:

|     | The Service<br>(Federal Service Codes from<br>the Federal Procurement<br>Data System Product/Service<br>Code Manual are indicated in<br>paren-theses for some<br>services.)  | WTO<br>GPA<br>and<br>KOREA<br>FTA | Bahrain<br>FTA,<br>CAFTA-DR,<br>Chile FTA,<br>Columbia<br>FTA,<br>USMCA,<br>Oman FTA,<br>Panama<br>FTA, and<br>Peru FTA | Singapore<br>FTA | Australia<br>and<br>Morocco<br>FTA |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) | All services purchased in support of military services overseas.   | X                                 | X   | X                | X                                  |
| (2) | (i) Automatic data processing (ADP) telecommunications and transmission services (D304), except enhanced ( <i>i.e.</i> , value-added) telecommunications services.   | X                                 | X   |                  |                                    |
|     | (ii) ADP teleprocessing and timesharing services (D305), telecommunications network management services (D316), automated news services, data services or other information services (D317), and other ADP and telecommunications services (D399).   | X                                 | X   |                  |                                    |
|     | (iii) Basic telecommunications network services ( <i>i.e.</i> , voice telephone services, packet-switched data transmission services, circuit-switched data transmission services, telex services, facsimile services, and private leased circuit services, but not information services, as defined in 47 U.S.C.153(24)). | *                                 | *   | X                | X                                  |

|     |  |    |   |    |   |
|-----|--|----|---|----|---|
| (3) | Dredging.  | X  | X | X  | X |
| (4) | (i) Operation and management contracts of certain Government or privately owned facilities used for Government purposes, including Federally Funded Research and Development Centers.  | X  |   | X  |   |
|     | (ii) Operation of all Department of Defense, Department of Energy, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration facilities; and all Government-owned research and development facilities or Government-owned environmental laboratories. | ** | X | ** | X |
| (5) | Research and development.  | X  | X | X  | X |
| (6) | Transportation services (including launching services, but not including travel agent services).   | X  | X | X  | X |
| (7) | Utility services.  | X  | X | X  | X |
| (8) | Maintenance, repair, modification, rebuilding and installation of equipment related to ships (J019).   |    | X |    | X |
| (9) | Nonnuclear ship repair (J998).   |    | X |    | X |

\* Note1. Acquisitions of the services listed at (2)(iii) of this table are a subset of the excluded services at (2)(i) and (ii), and are therefore not covered under the WTO GPA.

\*\* Note2. Acquisitions of the services listed at (4)(ii) of this table are a subset of the excluded services at (4)(i), and are therefore not covered under the WTO GPA.

## 25.402 General.

(a)

(1) The Trade Agreements Act ([19 U.S.C.2501](#), *et seq.*) provides the authority for the President to waive the Buy American statute and other discriminatory provisions for eligible products from countries that have signed an international trade agreement with the United States, or that meet certain other criteria, such as being a least developed country. The President has delegated this waiver authority to the U.S. Trade Representative. In acquisitions covered by the WTO GPA, Free Trade Agreements, or the Israeli Trade Act, the U.S. Trade Representative has waived the Buy American statute and other discriminatory provisions for eligible products. Offers of eligible products receive equal consideration with domestic offers.

(2) The contracting officer shall determine the origin of services by the country in which the firm providing the services is established. See [subpart 25.5](#) for evaluation procedures for supply contracts covered by trade agreements.

(b) The value of the acquisition is a determining factor in the applicability of trade agreements. Most of these dollar thresholds are subject to revision by the U.S. Trade Representative approximately every 2 years. The various thresholds are summarized as follows:

Table 1 to Paragraph (b)

| Trade Agreement  | Supply Contract<br>(equal to or<br>exceeding) | Service Contract<br>(equal to or<br>exceeding) | Construction<br>Contract (equal to or<br>exceeding) |
|--|---|--|---|
| WTO GPA  | \$174,000                                     | \$174,000                                      | \$6,708,000   |
| FTAs   |   |  |   |
| Australia FTA  | 102,280                                       | 102,280  | 6,708,000   |
| Bahrain FTA  | 174,000                                       | 174,000  | 13,296,489  |
| CAFTA-DR (Costa Rica,<br>Dominican Republic, El<br>Salvador, Guatemala,<br>Honduras, and<br>Nicaragua) | 102,280                                       | 102,280  | 6,708,000   |
| Chile FTA  | 102,280                                       | 102,280  | 6,708,000   |
| Colombia FTA   | 102,280                                       | 102,280  | 6,708,000   |

|                   |         |         |            |
|-------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Korea FTA         | 100,000 | 100,000 | 6,708,000  |
| Morocco FTA       | 174,000 | 174,000 | 6,708,000  |
| USMCA             |         |         |            |
| -Mexico           | 102,280 | 102,280 | 13,296,489 |
| Oman FTA          | 174,000 | 174,000 | 13,296,489 |
| Panama FTA        | 174,000 | 174,000 | 6,708,000  |
| Peru FTA          | 174,000 | 174,000 | 6,708,000  |
| Singapore FTA     | 102,280 | 102,280 | 6,708,000  |
| Israeli Trade Act | 50,000  | -       | -          |

## **25.403 World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement and Free Trade Agreements.**

(a) Eligible products from WTO GPA and FTA countries are entitled to the nondiscriminatory treatment specified in [25.402\(a\)\(1\)](#). The WTO GPA and FTAs specify procurement procedures designed to ensure fairness (see [25.408](#)).

(b) *Thresholds.*

(1) To determine whether the acquisition of products by lease, rental, or lease-purchase contract (including lease-to-ownership, or lease-with-option-to purchase) is covered by the WTO GPA or an FTA, calculate the estimated acquisition value as follows:

(i) If a fixed-term contract of 12 months or less is contemplated, use the total estimated value of the acquisition.

(ii) If a fixed-term contract of more than 12 months is contemplated, use the total estimated value of the acquisition plus the estimated residual value of the leased equipment at the conclusion of the contemplated term of the contract.

(iii) If an indefinite-term contract is contemplated, use the estimated monthly payment multiplied by the total number of months that ordering would be possible under the proposed contract, *i.e.*, the initial ordering period plus any optional ordering periods.

(iv) If there is any doubt as to the contemplated term of the contract, use the estimated monthly payment multiplied by 48.

(2) The estimated value includes the value of all options.

(3) If, in any 12-month period, recurring or multiple awards for the same type of product or products are anticipated, use the total estimated value of these projected awards to determine whether the WTO GPA or an FTA applies. Do not divide any acquisition with the intent of reducing the estimated value of the acquisition below the dollar threshold of the WTO GPA or an FTA.

(c) *Purchase restriction.*

(1) Under the Trade Agreements Act ([19 U.S.C. 2512](#)), in acquisitions covered by the WTO GPA, acquire only U.S.-made or designated country end products or U.S. or designated country services, unless offers for such end products or services are either not received or are insufficient to fulfill the requirements. This purchase restriction does not apply below the WTO GPA threshold for supplies and services, even if the acquisition is covered by an FTA.

(2) This restriction does not apply to purchases of supplies by the Department of Defense from a country with which it has entered into a reciprocal agreement, as provided in departmental regulations.

## **25.404 Least developed countries.**

For acquisitions covered by the WTO GPA, least developed country end products, construction material, and services must be treated as eligible products.

## **25.405 Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.**

Under the Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative, the United States Trade Representative has determined that, for acquisitions covered by the WTO GPA, Caribbean Basin country end products, construction material, and services must be treated as eligible products. In accordance with Section 201 (a)(3) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Implementation Act (Pub. L. 109-53) ([19 U.S.C. 4031](#)), when the CAFTA-DR agreement enters into force with respect to a country, that country is no longer designated as a beneficiary country for purposes of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and is therefore no longer included in the definition of "Caribbean Basin country" for purposes of the Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.

## **25.406 Israeli Trade Act.**

Acquisitions of supplies by most agencies are covered by the Israeli Trade Act, if the estimated value of the acquisition is \$50,000 or more but does not exceed the WTO GPA threshold for supplies (see [25.402\(b\)](#)). Agencies other than the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior, the Federal Housing Finance Board, and the Office of Thrift Supervision must evaluate offers of Israeli end products without regard to the restrictions of the Buy American statute. The Israeli Trade Act does not prohibit the purchase of other foreign end products.

## **25.407 Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft.**

Under the authority of Section 303 of the Trade Agreements Act, the U.S. Trade Representative has waived the Buy American statute for civil aircraft and related articles that meet the substantial transformation test of the Trade Agreements Act, from countries that are parties to the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft. Those countries are Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao China, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (Chinese Taipei), and the United Kingdom.

## **25.408 Procedures.**

(a) If the WTO GPA or an FTA applies (see [25.401](#)), the contracting officer must-

(1) Comply with the requirements of [5.203](#), Publicizing and response time;

(2) Comply with the requirements of [5.207](#), Preparation and transmittal of synopses;

(3) Not include technical requirements in solicitations solely to preclude the acquisition of eligible products;

(4) Specify in solicitations that offerors must submit offers in the English language and in U.S. dollars (see [52.214-34](#), Submission of Offers in the English Language, and [52.214-35](#), Submission of Offers in U.S. Currency, or paragraph (c)(5) of [52.215-1](#), Instruction to Offerors-Competitive Acquisitions); and

(5) Provide unsuccessful offerors from WTO GPA or FTA countries notice in accordance with [14.409-1](#) or [15.503](#).

(b) See [subpart 25.5](#) for evaluation procedures and examples.