

## 27.404-3 Copyrighted works.

(a) *Data* first produced in the performance of a contract.

(1) Generally, the contractor *must* obtain permission of the *contracting officer* prior to asserting rights in any copyrighted work containing *data* first produced in the performance of a contract. However, contractors are normally authorized, without prior approval of the *contracting officer*, to assert copyright in technical or scientific articles based on or containing such *data* that is published in academic, technical or professional journals, symposia proceedings and similar works.

(2) The contractor *must* make a written request for permission to assert its copyright in works containing *data* first produced under the contract. In its request, the contractor *should* identify the *data* involved or furnish copies of the *data* for which permission is requested, as well as a statement as to the intended publication or dissemination media or other purpose for which the permission is requested. Generally, a *contracting officer* *should* grant the contractor's request when copyright protection will enhance the appropriate dissemination or use of the *data* unless the-

(i) *Data* consist of a report that represents the official views of the agency or that the agency is required by statute to prepare;

(ii) *Data* are intended primarily for internal use by the Government;

(iii) *Data* are of the type that the agency itself distributes to the public under an agency program;

(iv) Government determines that limitation on distribution of the *data* is in the national interest; or

(v) Government determines that the *data* *should* be disseminated without restriction.

(3) *Alternate IV* of the clause at [52.227-14](#) provides a substitute paragraph (c)(1) granting permission for contractors to assert copyright in any *data* first produced in the performance of the contract without the need for any further requests. Except for contracts for management or operation of Government facilities and contracts and subcontracts in support of programs being conducted at those facilities or where international agreements require otherwise, *Alternate IV* *shall* be used in all contracts for basic or applied research to be performed solely by colleges and universities. *Alternate IV* *shall* not be used in contracts with colleges and universities if a purpose of the contract is for development of *computer software* for distribution to the public (including use in *solicitations*) by or on behalf of the Government. In addition, *Alternate IV* *may* be used in other contracts if an agency determines that it is not necessary for a contractor to request further permission to assert copyright in *data* first produced in performance of the contract. The *contracting officer* *may* exclude any *data*, or items or categories of *data*, from the provisions of *Alternate IV* by expressly so providing in the contract or by adding a paragraph (d)(4) to the clause, consistent with [27.404-4\(b\)](#).

(4) Pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of the clause at [52.227-14](#), the contractor grants the Government a paid-up nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute to the public, perform publicly and display publicly by or on behalf of the Government, for all *data* (other than *computer software*) first produced in the performance of a contract. For *computer software*, the scope of the Government's license includes all of the above rights except the

right to distribute to the public. Agencies *may* also obtain a license of different scope if the *contracting officer* determines, after consulting with legal counsel, such a license will substantially enhance the dissemination of any *data* first produced under the contract or if such a license is required to comply with international agreements. If an agency obtains a different license, the contractor *shall* clearly state the scope of that license in a conspicuous place on the medium on which the *data* is recorded. For example, if the *data* is delivered as a report, the terms of the license *shall* be stated on the cover, or first page, of the report.

(5) The clause requires the contractor to affix the applicable copyright notices of 17 U.S.C. 401 or 402, and acknowledgment of Government sponsorship, (including the contract number) to *data* when it asserts copyright in *data*. Failure to do so could result in such *data* being treated as *unlimited rights data* (see [27.404-5\(b\)](#)).

(b) *Data* not first produced in the performance of a contract.

(1) Contractors *shall* not deliver any *data* that is not first produced under the contract without either-

(i) Acquiring for or granting to the Government a copyright license for the *data*; or

(ii) Obtaining permission from the *contracting officer* to do otherwise.

(2) The copyright license the Government acquires for such *data* will normally be of the same scope as discussed in paragraph (a)(4) of this subsection, and is set forth in paragraph (c)(2) of the clause at [52.227-14](#). However, agencies *may* obtain a license of different scope if the agency determines, after consultation with its legal counsel, that such different license will not be inconsistent with the purpose of acquiring the *data*. If a license of a different scope is acquired, it *must* be so stated in the contract and clearly set forth in a conspicuous place on the *data* when delivered to the Government. If the contractor delivers *computer software* not first produced under the contract, the contractor *shall* grant the Government the license set forth in paragraph (g)(4) of *Alternate III* if included in the clause at [52.227-14](#), or a license agreed to in a collateral agreement made part of the contract.

**Parent topic:** [27.404 Basic rights in data clause.](#)