

## 11.002 Policy.

(a) In fulfilling requirements of [10 U.S.C. 3206\(a\)](#), [10 U.S.C. 3453](#), [41 U.S.C. 3306\(a\)](#), and [41 U.S.C.3307](#), agencies shall-

(1) Specify needs using market research in a manner designed to-

(i) Promote full and open competition (see [part 6](#)), or maximum practicable competition when using simplified acquisition procedures, with due regard to the nature of the supplies or services to be acquired; and

(ii) Only include restrictive provisions or conditions to the extent necessary to satisfy the needs of the agency or as authorized by law.

(2) To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that acquisition officials-

(i) State requirements with respect to an acquisition of supplies or services in terms of-

(A) Functions to be performed;

(B) Performance required; or

(C) Essential physical characteristics;

(ii) Define requirements in terms that enable and encourage offerors to supply commercial products or commercial services or, to the extent that commercial products suitable to meet the agency's needs are not available, nondevelopmental items, in response to the agency solicitations;

(iii) Provide offerors of commercial products, commercial services, and nondevelopmental items an opportunity to compete in any acquisition to fill such requirements;

(iv) Require prime contractors and subcontractors at all tiers under the agency contracts to incorporate commercial products, commercial services, or nondevelopmental items as components of items supplied to the agency; and

(v) Modify requirements in appropriate cases to ensure that the requirements can be met by commercial products or commercial services or, to the extent that commercial products suitable to meet the agency's needs are not available, nondevelopmental items.

(b) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ([15 U.S.C. 205a](#), *et seq.*), designates the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce, and it requires that each agency use the metric system of measurement in its acquisitions, except to the extent that such use is impracticable or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms. Requiring activities are responsible for establishing guidance implementing this policy in formulating their requirements for acquisitions.

(c) To the extent practicable and consistent with [subpart 9.5](#), potential offerors should be given an opportunity to comment on agency requirements or to recommend application and tailoring of

requirements documents and alternative approaches. Requiring agencies should apply specifications, standards, and related documents initially for guidance only, making final decisions on the application and tailoring of these documents as a product of the design and development process. Requiring agencies should not dictate detailed design solutions prematurely (see [7.101](#) and [7.105\(a\)\(8\)](#)).

(d)

(1) Agencies shall procure sustainable products and services (as defined in [2.101](#)) in accordance with subpart [23.1](#)).

(2) Unless it is not practicable (see [23.104\(a\)](#)) or an exception or exemption applies (see [23.105](#) and [23.106](#), respectively), agencies shall incorporate the use of sustainable products and services when—

(i) Developing, reviewing, or revising Federal and military specifications, product descriptions (including commercial item descriptions) and standards;

(ii) Describing Government requirements for products and services; and

(iii) Developing source-selection factors.

(3) The Green Procurement Compilation (GPC) available at <https://sftool.gov/greenprocurement> provides a comprehensive list of sustainable products and services and other related sustainable acquisition guidance. Agencies should—

(i) Consult the GPC when determining which purchasing programs apply to a specific product or service; and

(ii) Incorporate into agency requirements any required standards, specifications, or ecolabels identified in the GPC for a specific product or service.

(e) Some or all of the performance levels or performance specifications in a solicitation may be identified as targets rather than as fixed or minimum requirements.

(f) In accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ([29 U.S.C. 794d](#)), the contracting officer shall obtain from the requiring activity the requirement documents, which must identify—

(1) The needs of current and future users with disabilities to determine how—

(i) Users with disabilities will perform the functions supported by the information and communication technology (ICT);

(ii) The ICT will be developed, installed, configured and maintained to support users with disabilities;

(2) The applicable ICT accessibility standards (see [subpart 39.2](#)); and

(3) Any ICT accessibility standards that cannot be met due to an exception or an exemption for any component or portion of the product (see [7.105\(b\)\(5\)\(iv\)](#), [39.204](#), and [39.205](#)).

(g) Unless the agency Chief Information Officer waives the requirement, when acquiring information technology using Internet Protocol, the requirements documents must include reference to the

appropriate technical capabilities defined in the USGv6 Profile (NIST Special Publication 500-267) and the corresponding declarations of conformance defined in the USGv6 Test Program. The applicability of IPv6 to agency networks, infrastructure, and applications specific to individual acquisitions will be in accordance with the agency's Enterprise Architecture (see OMB Memorandum M-05-22 dated August 2, 2005).

(h) Agencies shall not include in a solicitation a requirement that prohibits an offeror from permitting its employees to telecommute unless the contracting officer executes a written determination in accordance with FAR [7.108\(a\)](#).

**Parent topic:** [Part 11 - Describing Agency Needs](#)