

employee or member of the armed forces with an appropriate security clearance who is engaged in oversight of an acquisition program maintains control of the employee's or member's work product, provided that procedures for protecting unauthorized disclosure of classified information by contractors do not require such an employee or member to relinquish control of his or her work product to any such contractor, required implementing regulations not later than 120 days after Dec. 5, 1991, and provided that this section would cease to be effective on Sept. 30, 1992.

§ 2321. Validation of proprietary data restrictions

(a) **CONTRACTS COVERED BY SECTION.**—This section applies to any contract for supplies or services entered into by the Department of Defense that includes provisions for the delivery of technical data.

(b) **CONTRACTOR JUSTIFICATION FOR RESTRICTIONS.**—A contract subject to this section shall provide that a contractor under the contract and any subcontractor under the contract at any tier shall be prepared to furnish to the contracting officer a written justification for any use or release restriction (as defined in subsection (i)) asserted by the contractor or subcontractor.

(c) **REVIEW OF RESTRICTIONS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that there is a thorough review of the appropriateness of any use or release restriction asserted with respect to technical data by a contractor or subcontractor at any tier under a contract subject to this section.

(2) The review of an asserted use or release restriction under paragraph (1) shall be conducted before the end of the three-year period beginning on the later of—

(A) the date on which final payment is made on the contract under which the technical data is required to be delivered; or

(B) the date on which the technical data is delivered under the contract.

(d) **CHALLENGES TO RESTRICTIONS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense may challenge a use or release restriction asserted with respect to technical data by a contractor or subcontractor at any tier under a contract subject to this section if the Secretary finds that—

(A) reasonable grounds exist to question the current validity of the asserted restriction; and

(B) the continued adherence by the United States to the asserted restriction would make it impracticable to procure the item to which the technical data pertain competitively at a later time.

(2)(A) A challenge to a use or release restriction asserted by the contractor in accordance with applicable regulations may not be made under paragraph (1) after the end of the six-year period described in subparagraph (B) unless the technical data involved—

(i) are publicly available;

(ii) have been furnished to the United States without restriction;

(iii) have been otherwise made available without restriction; or

(iv) are the subject of a fraudulently asserted use or release restriction.

(B) The six-year period referred to in subparagraph (A) is the six-year period beginning on the later of—

(i) the date on which final payment is made on the contract under which the technical data are required to be delivered; or

(ii) the date on which the technical data are delivered under the contract.

(3) If the Secretary challenges an asserted use or release restriction under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide written notice of the challenge to the contractor or subcontractor asserting the restriction. Any such notice shall—

(A) state the specific grounds for challenging the asserted restriction;

(B) require a response within 60 days justifying the current validity of the asserted restriction; and

(C) state that evidence of a justification described in paragraph (4) may be submitted.

(4) It is a justification of an asserted use or release restriction challenged under paragraph (1) that, within the three-year period preceding the challenge to the restriction, the Department of Defense validated a restriction identical to the asserted restriction if—

(A) such validation occurred after a challenge to the validated restriction under this subsection; and

(B) the validated restriction was asserted by the same contractor or subcontractor (or a licensee of such contractor or subcontractor).

(e) **TIME FOR CONTRACTORS TO SUBMIT JUSTIFICATIONS.**—If a contractor or subcontractor asserting a use or release restriction submits to the contracting officer a written request, showing the need for additional time to comply with the requirement to justify the current validity of the asserted restriction, additional time to adequately permit the submission of such justification shall be provided by the contracting officer as appropriate. If a party asserting a restriction receives notices of challenges to restrictions on technical data from more than one contracting officer, and notifies each contracting officer of the existence of more than one challenge, the contracting officer initiating the first in time challenge, after consultation with the party asserting the restriction and the other contracting officers, shall formulate a schedule of responses to each of the challenges that will afford the party asserting the restriction with an equitable opportunity to respond to each such challenge.

(f) **PRESUMPTION OF DEVELOPMENT EXCLUSIVELY AT PRIVATE EXPENSE.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), in the case of a challenge to a use or release restriction that is asserted with respect to technical data of a contractor or subcontractor under a contract for commercial items, the contracting officer shall presume that the contractor or subcontractor has justified the restriction on the basis that the item was developed exclusively at private expense, whether or not the contractor or subcontractor submits a justification in response to the notice provided pursuant to subsection (d)(3). In such a case, the challenge to the use or release restriction may be sustained only if information provided by the Department of Defense dem-

onstrates that the item was not developed exclusively at private expense.

(2) In the case of a challenge to a use or release restriction that is asserted with respect to technical data of a contractor or subcontractor (other than technical data for a commercially available off-the-shelf item as defined in section 35(c)¹ of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c))) for a major system or a subsystem or component thereof on the basis that the major system, subsystem or component was developed exclusively at private expense, the challenge to the use or release restriction shall be sustained unless information provided by the contractor or subcontractor demonstrates that the item was developed exclusively at private expense.

(g) DECISION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER.—(1) Upon a failure by the contractor or subcontractor to submit any response under subsection (d)(3), the contracting officer shall issue a decision pertaining to the validity of the asserted restriction.

(2) After review of any justification submitted in response to the notice provided pursuant to subsection (d)(3), the contracting officer shall, within 60 days of receipt of any justification submitted, issue a decision or notify the party asserting the restriction of the time within which a decision will be issued.

(h) CLAIMS.—If a claim pertaining to the validity of the asserted restriction is submitted in writing to a contracting officer by a contractor or subcontractor at any tier, such claim shall be considered a claim within the meaning of chapter 71 of title 41.

(i) RIGHTS AND LIABILITY UPON FINAL DISPOSITION.—(1) If, upon final disposition, the contracting officer's challenge to the use or release restriction is sustained—

(A) the restriction shall be cancelled; and

(B) if the asserted restriction is found not to be substantially justified, the contractor or subcontractor asserting the restriction shall be liable to the United States for payment of the cost to the United States of reviewing the asserted restriction and the fees and other expenses (as defined in section 2412(d)(2)(A) of title 28) incurred by the United States in challenging the asserted restriction, unless special circumstances would make such payment unjust.

(2) If, upon final disposition, the contracting officer's challenge to the use or release restriction is not sustained—

(A) the United States shall continue to be bound by the restriction; and

(B) the United States shall be liable for payment to the party asserting the restriction for fees and other expenses (as defined in section 2412(d)(2)(A) of title 28) incurred by the party asserting the restriction in defending the asserted restriction if the challenge by the United States is found not to be made in good faith.

(j) USE OR RELEASE RESTRICTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “use or release restriction”, with respect to technical data delivered

to the United States under a contract subject to this section, means a restriction by the contractor or subcontractor on the right of the United States—

(1) to use such technical data; or

(2) to release or disclose such technical data to persons outside the Government or permit the use of such technical data by persons outside the Government.

(Added Pub. L. 98-525, title XII, §1216(a), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2597; amended Pub. L. 99-500 §101(c) [title X, §953(b)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-82, 1783-171, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(c) [title X, §953(b)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-82, 3341-171; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title IX, formerly title IV, §953(b), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3951, renumbered title IX, Pub. L. 100-26, §3(5), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 273, Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 276; Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title XII, §1231(6), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1160; Pub. L. 103-35, title II, §201(g)(4), May 31, 1993, 107 Stat. 100; Pub. L. 103-355, title VIII, §8106(b), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3393; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title VIII, §802(b), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2313; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title VIII, §815(a)(2), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 223; Pub. L. 111-350, §5(b)(18), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3844; Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title VIII, §824(c), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4269; Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title VIII, §815(b), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1492.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act, referred to in subsec. (f)(2), means section 35(c) of Pub. L. 93-400, which was classified to section 431(c) of former Title 41, Public Contracts, and was repealed and restated as section 104 of Title 41, Public Contracts, by Pub. L. 111-350, §§3, 7(b), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3677, 3855.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 99-591 is a corrected version of Pub. L. 99-500. Another section 2321 of this title was contained in chapter 138 and was renumbered section 2341 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 112-81, §815(b)(1)(A), substituted “A challenge to a use or release restriction asserted by the contractor in accordance with applicable regulations may not be made under paragraph (1) after the end of the six-year period” for “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), a challenge to an asserted use or release restriction may not be made under paragraph (1) after the end of the three-year period” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 111-383, §824(c)(1), substituted “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), a challenge” for “A challenge” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d)(2)(A)(iv). Pub. L. 112-81, §815(b)(1)(B)-(D), added cl. (iv).

Subsec. (d)(2)(B). Pub. L. 112-81, §815(b)(2), substituted “six-year period” for “three-year period” in two places in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d)(2)(C). Pub. L. 112-81, §815(b)(3), struck out subpar. (C) which read as follows: “The limitation in this paragraph shall not apply to a case in which the Secretary finds that reasonable grounds exist to believe that a contractor or subcontractor has erroneously asserted a use or release restriction with regard to technical data described in section 2320(a)(2)(A) of this title.”

Pub. L. 111-383, §824(c)(2), added subpar. (C).

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 111-350 substituted “chapter 71 of title 41” for “the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)”.

¹ See References in Text note below.

2008—Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 110-181 substituted “(other than technical data for a commercially available off-the-shelf item as defined in section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c))” for “(whether or not under a contract for commercial items)”.

2006—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-364 substituted “Expense” for “Expense for Commercial Items Contracts” in heading, designated existing provisions as par. (1), substituted “Except as provided in paragraph (2), in” for “In”, and added par. (2).

1994—Subsecs. (f) to (j). Pub. L. 103-355 added subsec. (f) and redesignated former subsecs. (f) to (i) as (g) to (j), respectively.

1993—Subsec. (d)(1)(B). Pub. L. 103-35 substituted “adherence” for “adherence”.

1987—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(ii), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which read as follows: “A contract for supplies or services entered into by the Department of Defense which provides for the delivery of technical data shall provide that a contractor or subcontractor at any tier shall be prepared to furnish to the contracting officer a written justification for any restriction asserted by the contractor or subcontractor on the right of the United States to use such technical data.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(ii), added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows:

“(1) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that there is a thorough review of the appropriateness of any restriction on the right of the United States to release or disclose technical data delivered under a contract to persons outside the Government, or to permit the use of such technical data by such persons. Such review shall be conducted before the end of the three-year period beginning on the date on which final payment is made on a contract under which technical data is required to be delivered, or the date on which the technical data is delivered under such contract, whichever is later.

“(2)(A) If the Secretary determines, at any time before the end of the three-year period beginning on the date on which final payment is made on a contract under which technical data is required to be delivered, or the date on which the technical data is delivered under such contract, whichever is later, that a challenge to a restriction is warranted, the Secretary shall provide written notice to the contractor or subcontractor asserting the restriction. Such a determination shall be based on a finding by the Secretary that reasonable grounds exist to question the current validity of the asserted restriction and that the continued adherence to the asserted restriction by the United States would make it impracticable to procure the item competitively at a later time. Such notice shall—

“(i) state the specific grounds for challenging the asserted restriction;

“(ii) require a response within 60 days justifying the current validity of the asserted restriction; and

“(iii) state that evidence of a validation by the Department of Defense of a restriction identical to the asserted restriction within the three-year period preceding the challenge shall serve as justification for the asserted restriction if—

“(I) the validation occurred after a review of the validated restriction under this subsection; and

“(II) the validated restriction was asserted by the same contractor or subcontractor (or any licensee of such contractor or subcontractor) to which such notice is being provided.

“(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the United States may challenge a restriction on the release, disclosure, or use of technical data delivered under a contract at any time if such technical data—

“(i) is publicly available;

“(ii) has been furnished to the United States without restriction; or

“(iii) has been otherwise made available without restriction.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(ii), added subsec. (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(ii), added subsec. (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (f).

Subsec. (d)(4)(A). Pub. L. 99-180, §1231(6)(A), substituted “subsection” for “paragraph”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(i), (B), redesignated former subsec. (c) as (e), inserted heading, and substituted “If a contractor or subcontractor asserting a use or release restriction” for “If a contractor or subcontractor asserting a restriction subject to this section”. Former subsec. (e) redesignated (g).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(i), (C), redesignated former subsec. (d) as (f), inserted heading, and substituted “subsection (d)(3)” for “subsection (b)” in two places. Former subsec. (f) redesignated (h).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(i), (D), redesignated former subsec. (e) as (g) and inserted heading.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(A)(i), (E)(i), redesignated former subsec. (f) as (h) and inserted heading.

Subsec. (h)(1). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(E)(ii)-(iv), substituted “the use or release restriction” for “the restriction on the right of the United States to use such technical data” in introductory provisions, struck out “on the right of the United States to use the technical data” after “the restriction” in subpar. (A), and substituted “asserting the restriction” for “, as appropriate,” in subpar. (B).

Subsec. (h)(2). Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(E)(v), substituted “the use or release restriction” for “the restriction on the right of the United States to use such technical data” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 100-180, §1231(6)(B), inserted “or subcontractor” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 100-26, §7(a)(5)(F), added subsec. (i).

1986—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 99-500, Pub. L. 99-591, and Pub. L. 99-661 amended generally subsecs. (a) and (b) identically. Prior to amendment, subsecs. (a) and (b) read as follows:

“(a) A contract for supplies or services entered into by the Department of Defense which provides for the delivery of technical data shall provide that—

“(1) a contractor or subcontractor at any tier shall be prepared to furnish to the contracting officer a written justification for any restriction asserted by the contractor or subcontractor on the right of the United States to use such technical data; and

“(2) the contracting officer may review the validity of any restriction asserted by the contractor or by a subcontractor under the contract on the right of the United States to use technical data furnished to the United States under the contract if the contracting officer determines that reasonable grounds exist to question the current validity of the asserted restriction and that the continued adherence to the asserted restriction by the United States would make it impracticable to procure the item competitively at a later time.

“(b) If after such review the contracting officer determines that a challenge to the asserted restriction is warranted, the contracting officer shall provide written notice to the contractor or subcontractor asserting the restriction. Such notice shall—

“(1) state the grounds for challenging the asserted restriction; and

“(2) require a response within 60 days justifying the current validity of the asserted restriction.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

For effective date and applicability of amendment by Pub. L. 103-355, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as a note under section 2302 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-26, §12(d)(1), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 289, provided that: “The amendments to section 2321 of title 10, United States Code, made by section 7(a)(5) shall apply to contracts for which solicitations are issued after the end of the 210-day period beginning on October 18, 1986.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-500, Pub. L. 99-591, and Pub. L. 99-661 applicable to contracts for which solicitations are issued after end of 210-day period beginning Oct. 18, 1986, see section 101(c) of Pub. L. 99-500 and Pub. L. 99-591, and section 953(e) of Pub. L. 99-661, set out as a note under section 2320 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to solicitations issued after the end of the one-year period beginning Oct. 19, 1984, see section 1216(c)(2) of Pub. L. 98-525, set out as a note under section 2319 of this title.

[§ 2322. Repealed. Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, § 1052(25)(A), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2500]

Section, added Pub. L. 98-525, title XII, § 1216(a), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2598; amended Pub. L. 100-26, § 7(a)(6), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 278; Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title XII, § 1231(7), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1160, limited small business set-asides under the Foreign Military Sales Program and provided that the section expired Jan. 17, 1987.

Another section 2322 of this title was contained in chapter 138 and was renumbered section 2342 of this title.

§ 2323. Contract goal for small disadvantaged businesses and certain institutions of higher education

(a) GOAL.—(1) Except as provided in subsection (d), a goal of 5 percent of the amount described in subsection (b) shall be the objective of the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in each fiscal year for the total combined amount obligated for contracts and subcontracts entered into with—

(A) small business concerns, including mass media and advertising firms, owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such term is used in section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)) and regulations issued under that section), the majority of the earnings of which directly accrue to such individuals, and qualified HUBZone small business concerns (as defined in section 3(p) of the Small Business Act);

(B) historically Black colleges and universities, including any nonprofit research institution that was an integral part of such a college or university before November 14, 1986;

(C) minority institutions (as defined in section 365(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k));

(D) Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a))); and

(E) Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions (as defined in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965).

(2) The head of the agency shall establish a specific goal within the overall 5 percent goal for the award of prime contracts and subcontracts to historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions, and minority institutions in order to increase the participation of such colleges and universities and institutions in the program provided for by this section.

(3) The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall provide procedures or guidelines for contracting officers to set goals which agency prime contractors that are required to submit subcontracting plans under section 8(d)(4)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(4)(B)) in furtherance of the agency's program to meet the 5 percent goal specified in paragraph (1) should meet in awarding subcontracts, including subcontracts to minority-owned media, to entities described in that paragraph.

(b) AMOUNT.—(1) With respect to the Department of Defense, the requirements of subsection (a) for any fiscal year apply to the combined total of the following amounts:

(A) Funds obligated for contracts entered into with the Department of Defense for such fiscal year for procurement.

(B) Funds obligated for contracts entered into with the Department of Defense for such fiscal year for research, development, test, and evaluation.

(C) Funds obligated for contracts entered into with the Department of Defense for such fiscal year for military construction.

(D) Funds obligated for contracts entered into with the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance.

(2) With respect to the Coast Guard, the requirements of subsection (a) for any fiscal year apply to the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards entered into by the Coast Guard for such fiscal year.

(3) With respect to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the requirements of subsection (a) for any fiscal year apply to the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards entered into by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for such fiscal year.

(c) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) To attain the goal specified in subsection (a)(1), the head of an agency shall provide technical assistance to the entities referred to in that subsection and, in the case of historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions, and minority institutions, shall also provide infrastructure assistance.

(2) Technical assistance provided under this section shall include information about the program, advice about agency procurement procedures, instruction in preparation of proposals, and other such assistance as the head of the agency considers appropriate. If the resources of the agency are inadequate to provide such assistance, the head of the agency may enter into contracts with minority private sector entities with experience and expertise in the design, development, and delivery of technical assistance services to eligible individuals, business firms and institutions, acquisition agencies, and prime contractors. Agency contracts with such entities shall be awarded annually, based upon, among other things, the number of minority small business concerns, historically Black colleges and universities, and minority institutions that each such entity brings into the program.

(3) Infrastructure assistance provided by the Department of Defense under this section to his-