

the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 20, 2019], the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to require that with respect to an offer for a task order or delivery order in an amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 134 of title 41, United States Code) and less than or equal to \$5,500,000 issued under an indefinite delivery-indefinite quantity contract, the contracting officer for such contract shall, upon written request from an unsuccessful offeror, provide a brief explanation as to why such offeror was unsuccessful that includes a summary of the rationale for the award and an evaluation of the significant weak or deficient factors in the offeror's offer."

CHAPTER 43—ALLOWABLE COSTS

Table with 2 columns: Sec. and Description. Rows include 4301. Definitions, 4302. Adjustment of threshold amount of covered contract, 4303. Effect of submission of unallowable costs, 4304. Specific costs not allowable, 4305. Required regulations, 4306. Applicability of regulations to subcontractors, 4307. Contractor certification, 4308. Penalties for submission of cost known to be unallowable, 4309. Burden of proof on contractor, 4310. Proceeding costs not allowable.

§ 4301. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) COMPENSATION.—The term "compensation", for a fiscal year, means the total amount of wages, salary, bonuses, and deferred compensation for the fiscal year, whether paid, earned, or otherwise accruing, as recorded in an employer's cost accounting records for the fiscal year.

(2) COVERED CONTRACT.—The term "covered contract" means a contract for an amount in excess of \$500,000 that is entered into by an executive agency, except that the term does not include a fixed-price contract without cost incentives or any firm fixed-price contract for the purchase of commercial products or commercial services.

(3) FISCAL YEAR.—The term "fiscal year" means a fiscal year established by a contractor for accounting purposes.

(4) SENIOR EXECUTIVE.—The term "senior executive", with respect to a contractor, means the 5 most highly compensated employees in management positions at each home office and each segment of the contractor.

(Pub. L. 111-350, §3, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3784; Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §836(b)(17), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1864.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows include 4301(1), 4301(2), and 4301(3) with their respective legislative history references.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row includes 4301(4) with source 41:256(m)(2).

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Par. (2). Pub. L. 115-232 substituted "commercial products or commercial services" for "commercial items".

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Jan. 1, 2020, subject to a savings provision, see section 836(h) of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as an Effective Date of 2018 Amendment; Savings Provision note under section 453b of Title 6, Domestic Security.

§ 4302. Adjustment of threshold amount of covered contract

Effective on October 1 of each year that is divisible by 5, the amount set forth in section 4301(2) of this title shall be adjusted to the equivalent amount in constant fiscal year 1994 dollars. An adjusted amount that is not evenly divisible by \$50,000 shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$50,000. If an amount is evenly divisible by \$25,000 but is not evenly divisible by \$50,000, the amount shall be rounded to the next higher multiple of \$50,000.

(Pub. L. 111-350, §3, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3784.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row includes 4302 with source 41:256(l)(2) and legislative history references.

§ 4303. Effect of submission of unallowable costs

(a) INDIRECT COST THAT VIOLATES FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION COST PRINCIPLE.—An executive agency shall require that a covered contract provide that if the contractor submits to the executive agency a proposal for settlement of indirect costs incurred by the contractor for any period after those costs have been accrued and if that proposal includes the submission of a cost that is unallowable because the cost violates a cost principle in the Federal Acquisition Regulation or an executive agency supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the cost shall be disallowed.

(b) PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF COST PRINCIPLE.—

(1) UNALLOWABLE COST IN PROPOSAL.—If the executive agency determines that a cost submitted by a contractor in its proposal for settlement is expressly unallowable under a cost principle referred to in subsection (a) that defines the allowability of specific selected costs, the executive agency shall assess a penalty against the contractor in an amount equal to—

(A) the amount of the disallowed cost allocated to covered contracts for which a proposal for settlement of indirect costs has been submitted; plus

(B) interest (to be computed based on provisions in the Federal Acquisition Regulation) to compensate the Federal Government for the use of the amount which a contractor has been paid in excess of the amount to which the contractor was entitled.

(2) COST DETERMINED TO BE UNALLOWABLE BEFORE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED.—If the executive agency determines that a proposal for settlement of indirect costs submitted by a contractor includes a cost determined to be unallowable in the case of that contractor before the submission of that proposal, the executive agency shall assess a penalty against the contractor in an amount equal to 2 times the amount of the disallowed cost allocated to covered contracts for which a proposal for settlement of indirect costs has been submitted.

(c) WAIVER OF PENALTY.—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall provide for a penalty under subsection (b) to be waived in the case of a contractor's proposal for settlement of indirect costs when—

(1) the contractor withdraws the proposal before the formal initiation of an audit of the proposal by the Federal Government and re-submits a revised proposal;

(2) the amount of unallowable costs subject to the penalty is insignificant; or

(3) the contractor demonstrates, to the contracting officer's satisfaction, that—

(A) it has established appropriate policies and personnel training and an internal control and review system that provide assurances that unallowable costs subject to penalties are precluded from being included in the contractor's proposal for settlement of indirect costs; and

(B) the unallowable costs subject to the penalty were inadvertently incorporated into the proposal.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF CONTRACT DISPUTES PROCEDURE.—An action of an executive agency under subsection (a) or (b)—

(1) shall be considered a final decision for the purposes of section 7103 of this title; and

(2) is appealable in the manner provided in section 7104(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 111-350, §3, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3784.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
4303(a)	41:256(a).	June 30, 1949, ch. 288, title III, §306(a)-(d), as added Pub. L. 100-700, §8(a)(1), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4634; Pub. L. 103-355, title II, §2151, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3309.
4303(b)	41:256(b).	
4303(c)	41:256(c).	
4303(d)	41:256(d).	

In subsection (a), the words “(referred to in section 421(c)(1) of this title)” are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 4304. Specific costs not allowable

(a) SPECIFIC COSTS.—The following costs are not allowable under a covered contract:

(1) Costs of entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities, and any costs directly associated with those costs (such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities).

(2) Costs incurred to influence (directly or indirectly) legislative action on any matter pending before Congress, a State legislature, or a legislative body of a political subdivision of a State.

(3) Costs incurred in defense of any civil or criminal fraud proceeding or similar proceeding (including filing of any false certification) brought by the Federal Government where the contractor is found liable or had pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of fraud or similar proceeding (including filing of a false certification).

(4) Payments of fines and penalties resulting from violations of, or failure to comply with, Federal, State, local, or foreign laws and regulations, except when incurred as a result of compliance with specific terms and conditions of the contract or specific written instructions from the contracting officer authorizing in advance those payments in accordance with applicable provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(5) Costs of membership in any social, dining, or country club or organization.

(6) Costs of alcoholic beverages.

(7) Contributions or donations, regardless of the recipient.

(8) Costs of advertising designed to promote the contractor or its products.

(9) Costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs.

(10) Costs for travel by commercial aircraft that exceed the amount of the standard commercial fare.

(11) Costs incurred in making any payment (commonly known as a “golden parachute payment”) that is—

(A) in an amount in excess of the normal severance pay paid by the contractor to an employee on termination of employment; and

(B) paid to the employee contingent on, and following, a change in management control over, or ownership of, the contractor or a substantial portion of the contractor's assets.

(12) Costs of commercial insurance that protects against the costs of the contractor for correction of the contractor's own defects in materials or workmanship.

(13) Costs of severance pay paid by the contractor to foreign nationals employed by the contractor under a service contract performed outside the United States, to the extent that the amount of severance pay paid in any case exceeds the amount paid in the industry involved under the customary or prevailing practice for firms in that industry providing similar services in the United States, as determined under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(14) Costs of severance pay paid by the contractor to a foreign national employed by the contractor under a service contract performed