

not personally hand deliver comments to the Department of State.

Comments referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 may be submitted electronically to adoptionregs@state.gov. Two hard copies of the comments submitted electronically must be mailed under separate cover as well. Electronic comments must be made in the text of the message or submitted as a Word file avoiding the use of any form of encryption or use of special characters. If you submit comments by hard copy rather than electronically, include a disk with the submission if possible. Hard copy submissions without an accompanying disk file, however, will be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anna Mary Coburn or Jessica Rosenbaum at 202-647-2826. Hearing- or speech-impaired persons may use the Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD) by contacting the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 15, 2003, the Department published in part II of the **Federal Register** proposed rules to implement the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption and the IAA. The proposed rule for 22 CFR part 96 covered the accreditation and approval of agencies and persons seeking to provide adoption services for intercountry adoptions involving two countries party to the Convention (68 FR 54064). The proposed rule for 22 CFR part 98 covered the preservation of Convention records held by the Department and the Department of Homeland Security (68 FR 54119).

You can view electronic versions of the proposed rules on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments on the proposed rules were required to be received on or before November 14, 2003. The Department is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days. Comments must be received on or before December 15, 2003. Anyone seeking to submit comments must follow the procedures specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of the proposed rules as published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 54064, September 15, 2003).

Dated: November 7, 2003.

Maura Harty,

*Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs,
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-28544 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

48 CFR Parts 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 609, 611, 612, 613, 616, 617, 619, 622, 623, 625, 626, 628, 630, 632, 636, 637, 642, 651, 652, 653

[Public Notice 4525]

RIN 1400-AB06

Department of State Acquisition Regulation (DOSAR)

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule makes various changes to the DOSAR. It updates the DOSAR to reflect the current acquisition organizational structure; provides information regarding electronic commerce initiatives as they relate to acquisition; outlines the Department's participation in the Defense Priorities Allocation System; incorporates a Small Business Administration (SBA) waiver regarding 8(a) competitive actions; establishes the Department's Mentor-Protégé Program; eliminates the requirement to collect data on minority business status; adds guidance and related clauses and provisions regarding overseas construction projects subject to the Foreign Service Buildings Act, as amended, and the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act; adds guidance and a related provision regarding the acquisition of local guard services overseas; and, provides information regarding the Contractor Performance System. Finally, the proposed rule contains miscellaneous technical amendments and corrections needed to bring the DOSAR in line with recent changes in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

DATES: Public comments must be received by January 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to: Gladys Gines, Procurement Analyst, Department of State, Office of the Procurement Executive, 2201 C Street NW., Suite 603, State Annex Number 6, Washington, DC 20522-0602; e-mail address: ginesgg@state.gov. Please cite Department of State Acquisition Regulation in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gladys Gines, telephone (703) 516-1691 or at the e-mail address specified above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As indicated in the Summary, the proposed rule makes numerous changes in a variety of areas. The more substantive changes are:

- Revision to 601.603-70 to delete several acquisition offices that have been eliminated.

- Addition of information in 604.502 regarding the posting of domestic solicitations on the Statebuy Interactive Platform (SIP). The SIP is Internet-based.

- Extension of the waiver in 605.202-70 to March 12, 2004, as approved by the agency head. Numerous administrative changes are made to Part 605 and other parts of the DOSAR to change the references to the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) to the Governmentwide Point of Entry (GPE), in accordance with Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 97-26.

- Addition of 609.404-70 to require that contracting officers, in addition to checking the Excluded Parties List, also check the list of entities on the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control List.

- Removal of the class deviation in 609.405 regarding checking the Excluded Parties List (EPL). The class deviation waived the requirement for overseas contracting activities to check the EPL, as well as waived the requirement for domestic contracting activities for actions under the simplified acquisition threshold. This deviation was put in place when the EPL was available only in hard copy, and receipt by both domestic and overseas contracting activities was inconsistent. Now that the EPL is available on the Internet, the class deviation is no longer required.

- Addition of a new Subpart 611.6. This reflects the Department's authority to use the Defense Priorities Allocation System (DPAS) for acquisitions related to the Department's Embassy Security Protection Program, as authorized by the Department of Commerce.

- Addition of a new Part 612 to delegate to the Head of the Contracting Activity the approval of requests for waiver to tailor a commercial item clause or provision that is inconsistent with customary commercial practices.

- Addition to 613.303-5 to allow for the placement of individual orders against blanket purchase agreements for commercial items that exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

- Addition of Bureau Executive Directors to 617.504-70(a) as signatories of Economy Act Interagency Acquisition Agreements.

- Addition of HUBZone small, veteran-owned small, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses to the list of small business concerns in Part 619.

- Addition of 619.202-70 to outline the Department's Mentor-Protégé