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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Chapter 1

[Docket FAR 2013-0078; Sequence 5]

**Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular
2005-69; Small Entity Compliance Guide**

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Small Entity Compliance Guide.

SUMMARY: This document is issued under the joint authority of DOD, GSA, and NASA. This Small Entity Compliance Guide has been prepared in accordance with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. It consists of a summary of the rule appearing in Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2005-69, which amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). An asterisk (*) next to a rule indicates that a regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared. Interested parties may obtain further information regarding this rule by referring to FAC 2005-69, which precedes this document. These documents are also available via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

DATES: [Insert date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For clarification of content, contact the analyst whose name appears in the table below. Please cite FAC 2005-69 and the FAR case number. For information pertaining to status or publication schedules, contact the Regulatory Secretariat at 202-501-4755.

List of Rules in FAC 2005-69

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>FAR Case</u>	<u>Analyst</u>
*I	Definition of Contingency Operation	2013-003	Corrigan
II	Iran Threat Reduction	2012-030	Davis
III	Documenting Contractor Performance	2012-009	Glover
IV	Repeal of Sunset for Certain Protests of Task or Delivery Order Contracts	2013-011	Jackson
V	Least Developed Countries that are Designated Countries	2013-009	Davis
VI	Update to Biobased Reporting Requirements	2013-006	Petrusek
VII	Technical Amendments		

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Summaries for each FAR rule follow. For the actual revisions and/or amendments made by these FAR cases, refer to the specific item numbers and subjects set forth in the documents following these item summaries. FAC 2005-69 amends the FAR as specified below:

Item I-Definition of Contingency Operation (FAR Case 2013-003)

This final rule amends, without change, the interim rule published in the Federal Register at 78 FR 13765 on February 28, 2013, revising the definition of "contingency operation" in FAR 2.101 to address the statutory change to the definition made by paragraph (b) of section 515 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Pub. L. 112-81). Expanding the definition to include responding to a major disaster or emergency will increase the circumstances under which agencies may raise the micropurchase and simplified acquisition thresholds. This may increase opportunities for awarding contracts to small entities located at or near a major disaster area or emergency activities.

Item II-Iran Threat Reduction (FAR Case 2012-030)

This final rule adopts the interim rule published in the Federal Register at 77 FR 73516, on December 10, 2013, with minor changes. The interim rule amended the FAR to require certifications that implement the expansion of sanctions relating to the energy sector of Iran and sanctions with respect to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, as contained in titles II and III of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012. This final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As a result, the certification required in this case ensures that contracting officers will not award to offerors that engage in

transactions with the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps that exceed \$3,000.

Item III—Documenting Contractor Performance (FAR Case 2012-009)

This rule amends FAR part 42 to provide Governmentwide standardized past performance evaluation factors and performance ratings, and to require all past performance information be entered into the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS).

This change is required by statute, as well as by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, which requested that FAR part 42 be revised to include recommendations from the Government Accountability Office Report GAO-09-374, Better Performance Information Needed to Support Agency Contract Award Decisions, to provide Governmentwide standardized evaluation factors and rating scales for the evaluation of contractor performance.

This rule specifically impacts contracting officers and contractors by clarifying the evaluation factors and performance ratings in the FAR. The rule also requires that all past performance information be entered into CPARS. The rule does not have a significant economic impact on small entities because the rule does not impose any additional requirements on small business.

Item IV—Repeal of Sunset for Certain Protests of Task and Delivery Order Contracts (FAR Case 2013-011)

This final rule revises the FAR to implement a section of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (Pub. L. 112-239) for agencies covered by title 10 of the United States Code, namely DoD, NASA, and Coast Guard. This section removes the sunset date for protests against the issuance or proposed issuance of an order, valued at more than \$10 million, under a task-order contract or delivery-order contract for title 10 agencies only. This rule does not affect title 41 agencies.

Item V—Least Developed Countries that are Designated Countries (FAR Case 2013-009)

This final rule amends the FAR in parts 25 and 52 to revise the definitions of "designated country" and "least developed country," adding South Sudan, removing the Maldives, and changing the name of East Timor to Timor-Leste. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) list of least developed countries that are designated as eligible countries under the Trade Agreements Act is derived from the United Nations Least Developed Countries List. The USTR has updated the list of least developed countries that are treated as designated countries. In acquisitions that are covered by the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement, contracting officers must acquire only U.S.-made or designated country end products, or U.S. or designated country services, unless offers of such end products or services are not received or are insufficient to

fulfill the requirement (FAR 25.403(c)). This final rule will not have a significant economic impact on small entities.

Item VI—Update to Biobased Reporting Requirements (FAR Case 2013-006)

This final rule amends the clause at FAR 52.223-2, Affirmative Procurement of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts, to replace the requirement for agencies to insert the agency environmental point of contact with a single website for contractors to submit the annual biobased report. The website has instructions and frequently asked questions.

Item VII—Technical Amendments

Editorial changes are made at FAR 2.101, 22.1801, 29.401-3, 52.209-6, 52.212-5 and 52.222-54.

Dated: July 26, 2013.

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