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Civilian Agency Acquisition Council Letter 2005-01

MEMORANDUM FOR CIVILIAN AGENCIES

FROM: LAURA AULETTA *Laura Auletta*  
CHAIR  
CIVILIAN AGENCY ACQUISITION COUNCIL (CAAC)

SUBJECT: Section 508 Micropurchase Exception Ends April 1, 2005

The purpose of this CAAC Letter is to remind you that the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) micropurchase exception to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998, will expire April 1, 2005. Section 508 requires that Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) acquired by the Federal government be accessible by individuals with disabilities. EIT includes, but is not limited to, printers, copiers, fax machines, scanners, laptops, desktop computers, and telephones.

After April 1, 2005, agency micropurchases of EIT must comply with the Architectural And Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's (Access Board) EIT standards. The standards are codified at 36 CFR Part 1194 and are also available through the Access Board's web site at <http://www.access-board.gov>.

An interim rule published in the Federal Register on October 5, 2004, alerted the acquisition community of the sunset of the micropurchase exception and recommended that agencies, in the interim, update their purchase card training modules and train personnel on the Section 508 requirements. It is important to educate your personnel, particularly purchase cardholders, on your agency guidelines for establishing and ensuring compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.