




CIVILIAN AGENCY ACQUISITION LETTER 2012-04

September 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR CIVILIAN AGENCIES OTHER THAN NASA

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

SUBJECT: Class Deviation – System for Award Management (SAM)

The General Services Administration (GSA) implemented Phase I of the System for Award Management (SAM) on July 29, 2012. While agencies report that recent efforts have largely addressed their initial performance concerns, this letter would allow an agency to deviate from the initial registration requirements of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) subpart 4.11 and the required use of annual representations and certifications per FAR 4.1201. Agencies may issue a class deviation that would replace the requirement for contractors to register in SAM prior to award with a requirement for contractors to register in SAM prior to submitting an invoice. Agencies should not use the attached deviated clause beyond the time necessary.

Agencies should instruct their contracting officers that use of the deviated clause does not relieve them from the requirements of FAR subparts 9.405 and 32.1108. Contracting officers must also ensure that all appropriate representations and certifications are included in solicitations when the deviated clause is used. Where offers have already been received, contracting officers may require that the prospective contractor complete the provisions outside of SAM prior to award. The act of completing the provisions should be considered a clarification. If a prospective contractor has a copy of its Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) registration with an expiration date on or after the award date, the contracting officer may accept a complete PDF copy with the expiration date as completion of the provisions.

This CAAC letter constitutes consultation with the Chair of the CAAC required by FAR 1.404(a)(1) when the agency uses the attached clause. Agencies are reminded to provide a copy of any class deviation to the FAR Secretariat. Please send to Hada Flowers at hada.flowers@gsa.gov. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Curtis E. Glover, Sr. at (202) 501-1448, or by email at curtis.glover@gsa.gov.

ATTACHMENT

FAR 52.204-99 (DEVIATION)

System for Award Management Registration (September 2012) (DEVIATION)

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this clause-

“Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database” means the retired primary Government repository for Contractor information required for the conduct of business with the Government.

“Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code” means-

- (1) A code assigned by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Logistics Information Service to identify a commercial or Government entity; or
- (2) A code assigned by a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that DLA records and maintains in the CAGE master file. This type of code is known as an “NCAGE code.”

“Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number” means the 9-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to identify unique business entities.

“Data Universal Numbering System +4 (DUNS+4) number” means the DUNS number assigned by D&B plus a 4-character suffix that may be assigned by a business concern. (D&B has no affiliation with this 4-character suffix.) This 4-character suffix may be assigned at the discretion of the business concern to establish additional SAM records for identifying alternative Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) accounts (see the FAR at Subpart 32.11) for the same concern.

“Registered in the SAM database” means that-

- (1) The Contractor has entered all mandatory information, including the DUNS number or the DUNS+4 number, as well as data required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (see Subpart 4.14) into the SAM database;
- (2) The Contractors CAGE code is in the SAM database; and
- (3) The Government has validated all mandatory data fields, to include validation of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and has marked the record “Active.” The Contractor will be required to provide consent for TIN validation to the Government as a part of the SAM registration process.

“System for Award Management (SAM)” means the primary Government repository for prospective federal awardee information and the centralized Government system for certain contracting, grants, and other assistance related processes. It includes–

- (1) Data collected from prospective federal awardees required for the conduct of business with the Government;

(2) Prospective contractor submitted annual representations and certifications in accordance with FAR Subpart 4.12; and

(3) The list of all parties suspended, proposed for debarment, debarred, declared ineligible, or excluded or disqualified under the nonprocurement common rule by agencies, Government corporations, or by the Government Accountability Office.

(b) (1) The Contractor shall be registered in the SAM database prior to submitting an invoice and through final payment of any contract, basic agreement, basic ordering agreement, or blanket purchasing agreement resulting from this solicitation.

(2) The SAM registration shall be for the same name and address identified on the contract, with its associated CAGE code and DUNS or DUNS+4.

(3) If indicated by the Government during performance, registration in an alternate system may be required in lieu of SAM.

(c) If the Contractor does not have a DUNS number, it should contact Dun and Bradstreet directly to obtain one.

(1) A contractor may obtain a DUNS number-

(i) Via the internet at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> or if the contractor does not have internet access, it may call Dun and Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711 if located within the United States; or

(ii) If located outside the United States, by contacting the local DUN and Bradstreet office. The contractor should indicate that it is a contractor for a U.S. Government contact when contacting the local DUM and Bradstreet office.

(2) The Contractor should be prepared to provide the following information:

(i) Company legal business name.

(ii) Tradestyle, doing business, or other name by which your entity is commonly recognized.

(iii) Company physical street address, city, state and Zip Code.

(iv) Company mailing address, city, state and Zip Code (if separate from physical).

(v) Company telephone number.

(vi) Date the company was started.

(vii) Number of employees at your location.

- (viii) Chief executive officer/key manager.
 - (ix) Line of business (industry).
 - (x) Company Headquarters name and address (reporting relationship within your entity).
- (d) Reserved.
- (e) Processing time for registration in SAM, which normally takes five business days, should be taken into consideration when registering. Contractors who are not already registered should consider applying for registration at least two weeks prior to invoicing.
- (f) The Contractor is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the data within the SAM database, and for any liability resulting from the Government's reliance on inaccurate or incomplete data. To remain registered in the SAM database after the initial registration, the Contractor is required to review and update on an annual basis from the date of initial registration or subsequent updates its information in the SAM database to ensure it is current, accurate and complete. Updating information in SAM does not alter the terms and conditions of this contract and is not a substitute for a properly executed contractual document.
- (g) (1) (i) If a Contractor has legally changed its business name, "doing business as" name, or division name (whichever is shown on the contract), or has transferred the assets used in performing the contract, but has not completed the necessary requirements regarding novation and change-of name agreements in Subpart 42.12, the Contractor shall provide the responsible Contracting Officer sufficient documentation to support the legally changed name with a minimum of one business day's written notification of its intention to—
- (A) Change the name in the SAM database;
 - (B) Comply with the requirements of subpart 42.12 of the FAR; and
 - (C) Agree in writing to the timeline and procedures specified by the responsible Contracting Officer.
- (ii) If the Contractor fails to comply with the requirements of paragraph (g) (1) (i) of this clause, or fails to perform the agreement at paragraph (g) (1) (i) (C) of this clause, and, in the absence of a properly executed novation or change-of-name agreement, the SAM information that shows the Contractor to be other than the Contractor indicated in the contract will be considered to be incorrect information within the meaning of the "Suspension of Payment" paragraph of the electronic funds transfer (EFT) clause of this contract.

(2) The Contractor shall not change the name or address for EFT payments or manual payments, as appropriate, in the SAM record to reflect an assignee for the purpose of assignment of claims (see FAR Subpart 32.8, Assignment of Claims). Assignees shall be separately registered in the SAM database. Information provided to the Contractor's SAM record that indicates payments, including those made by EFT, to an ultimate recipient other than that Contractor will be considered to be incorrect information within the meaning of the "Suspension of payment" paragraph of the EFT clause of this contract.

(h) Contractors may obtain information on registration and annual confirmation requirements via the SAM accessed through <https://www.acquisition.gov> or by calling 866-606-8220, or 334-206-7828 for international calls.

(End of Clause)