

Significant Changes For All Schedules

(April 2019 GSA Interact post attachment)

DISCLAIMER: GSA FAS is posting this notification of a planned solicitation refresh or mass modification as a courtesy to industry. All comments on the attached DRAFT document must be submitted in the "Comments" section below within ten (10) business days of this posting. Comments provided elsewhere or after 10 business days will not be considered. GSA FAS will consider all relevant comments and make changes to the DRAFT as appropriate, but will not issue a formal response to industry comments or related inquiries. Interested parties should thoroughly review the final version of the solicitation refresh or mass modification for changes made to this DRAFT.

Purpose of the Planned Action: The General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) is planning to refresh all GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) solicitations to:

1. Update proposal instructions to require order status on GSA Advantage! Orders
2. Update proposal instructions related to Section 508 Standards and information
3. Update AbilityOne "Essentially the Same" Proposal Instructions
4. Incorporate new Service Contract Act (SCA) Wage Determinations
5. Incorporate minor updates from [FAC 2019-01](#) as applicable.

GSA anticipates the refresh will occur in April 2019.

Note: Individual Schedules may update additional clauses/provisions to make clarifications, administrative corrections, and other required changes.

Summary of Planned Changes Below is a high-level description of significant changes to be included in the upcoming MAS refresh and mass modification. Be sure to review the final solicitation refresh and mass modification for full details.

1. GSA Advantage Purchase Order (PO) Portal Proposal Instructions Update

GSA is committed to improving the customer experience and strives to ensure that government buying and selling is easy, efficient, and modern. Responses from our annual Customer Loyalty Survey indicate a need to provide more information on order status and shipping. Currently, only 52% of MAS orders show this status on GSA Advantage!

With this April solicitation refresh, order status will be **mandatory** for new offerors and existing contractors through a mass modification (see language below). Customers want to know when

orders have shipped, been cancelled or back-ordered, how they were shipped, and the tracking number. Providing prompt status updates keeps customers informed, increases customer satisfaction, and reduces calls and email inquiries.

Order status tools are available in GSA Advantage.

Instructions for providing order status today are on pages 7-9 [here](#). Within the PO Portal, retrieve the order, log in and update the status of the order to show when and how it shipped, and the tracking number. If you currently use Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for your Advantage orders, we ask that you provide order status using that method. For EDI instructions, see the GSA EDI Documentation for Vendors section available [here](#).

When you update the status of an order, the customer receives an email notification which becomes part of the order history on Advantage.

Should you have any questions or problems about your orders or the PO Portal website, contact the GSA Advantage Help Desk at GSA.Advantage@gsa.gov or call GSA Advantage Customer Service at 1-877-472-3777, option 4. Another option is to email AdvantageOrderStatus@gsa.gov for assistance.

Solicitation provisions SCP-FSS-001-N and SCP-FSS-001-S paragraph (k) Raising the Bar have been updated to reflect that offerors are required to use the GSA Advantage [Purchase Order \(PO\) Portal](#) to provide order acknowledgment information to ordering activities.

Paragraph (k)(3) now reads as follows:

(3) GSA Advantage Purchase Order (PO Portal)

The offeror must use the GSA Advantage [Purchase Order \(PO\) Portal](#) to provide order acknowledgment information that enables ordering agencies to track the location of an order at any time, from the moment the order is shipped, to the point of delivery and acceptance.

The GSA Advantage Purchase Order (PO) Portal, which is accessible at <https://www.poportal.gsa.gov/poportal/welcome.do> gives GSA schedule contractors quick and easy access to purchase orders placed by federal agencies using GSA Advantage or eBuy. The PO Portal allows contractors to view, print and/or download orders and to send order acknowledgment/status directly to ordering agencies.

For more information on the PO portal review the PO Portal helpguide at: https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/images/products/elib/pdf_files/pohp.pdf.

As order acknowledgement for both domestic and overseas orders will be addressed in paragraph (k)(3), paragraph (k)(4) now reads as follows:

(4) Frustrated Freight (applicable only to overseas delivery)

The offeror must demonstrate understanding of orders bound for an international end-point delivery by providing a sample electronic version of a label appropriately marked in accordance with the FED-STD-123 and MIL-STD-129 edition in effect as of the date of solicitation issuance. An offer for OCONUS delivery will not be accepted if the offeror does not provide a sample packaging label for international delivery.

2. Revised Section 508 Standards Proposal Instructions Update

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use information and communication technology (ICT), it shall be accessible to people with disabilities. Federal employees and members of the public who have disabilities must have access to, and use of, information and data that is comparable to people without disabilities.

Solicitation provisions SCP-FSS-001-N and SCP-FSS-001-S paragraph (k) Raising the Bar are updated to include the following instructions for offerors proposing products/services conforming with Section 508 standards:

(5) Section 508 Standards

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220) requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use information and communication technology (ICT), it shall be accessible to people with disabilities. Federal employees and members of the public who have disabilities must have access to, and use of, information and data that is comparable to people without disabilities.

Offerors must identify whether a proposed Information and Communication Technology (ICT) product or service is compliant with the Section 508 accessibility standards at 36 CFR 1194. The offer must also identify where full details of compliance can be found (e.g., vendor's website or other exact location.) For more information on Section 508 standards visit <https://www.section508.gov/>.

As a result of the above changes, the following existing paragraphs in (k) Raising the Bar are renumbered as follows:

Full-Product and Broad-Service Offerings has been renumbered from (4) to (6)

Fair and Reasonable Pricing has been renumbered from (5) to (7)

3. AbilityOne "Essentially the Same" Proposal Instructions Update

Provisions SCP-FSS-001-N and SCP-FSS-001-S, paragraph (k)(1), AbilityOne Program

Products, have been updated to reflect that an offeror who is **not** an authorized AbilityOne distributor must remove commercial products that are considered “essentially the same” (ETS) as AbilityOne products from its FSS proposal. This requirement applies to all FSS proposals regardless of Schedule or Special Item Number (SIN).

Paragraph (k)(1) now reads as follows:

(1) AbilityOne Program Products

The AbilityOne Program is a Federal procurement program that generates jobs for individuals who are blind or have another significant disability. In order to distribute AbilityOne products, a vendor must be an authorized AbilityOne Program distributor as designated by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission.

Certain commercial products are considered “essentially the same” (ETS) as AbilityOne products. Because AbilityOne products are mandatory purchases for Federal customers, an offeror that is not an authorized AbilityOne distributor is required to remove any ETS items from its FSS proposal. Offerors can search for products on the procurement list at https://www.abilityone.gov/procurement_list/.

For more information on the AbilityOne Program, ETS products, and becoming an authorized AbilityOne distributor, please visit www.abilityone.gov/ or contact Mr. Mike Jurkowski at mjurkowski@abilityone.gov/ 703-603-2117.

4. Updated Service Contract Act (SCA) Wage Determinations (WDs)

FAS is incorporating an updated WD index in accordance with current FAS policy. There are no clause changes or policy changes to the application of SCA at this time. Offerors and contractors should ensure pricing and WD numbers are updated and included in their SCA matrix.

5. Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2019-01

This refresh and mass modification will incorporate minor updates from [FAC 2019-01](#) as applicable.