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ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

Acquisition Practices Directorate
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MAY 2 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Commercial Item Descriptions

Commercial item descriptions (CIDs) prepared by Department of Defense activities shall no longer include a contractor certification statement. This new policy applies to new and revised CIDs submitted for publication beginning in June 1996. As existing CIDs are revised, the contractor certification statement must be eliminated. However, revision of published CIDs solely to comply with the new policy is not required. The certification statement in CIDs which you have completed, but not yet submitted for publication, should be eliminated. Another coordination for this change in not necessary.

In place of the certification statement, which was a mandatory paragraph in CIDs, a general conformance statement in the quality assurance provisions section shall be used similar to the following:

> 5.1 Product Conformance. The products provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this commercial item description, conform to the producer's own drawings, specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same product offered for sale in the commercial market. The government reserves the right to require proof of such conformance.

You can and should tailor this sample statement to meet the needs of the item you are describing, retaining the general requirement that the products supplied to the Government must comply with the manufacturer's standard practices for producing items for commercial customers.

We are requiring this change to the certification statement to be consistent with the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, as implemented in Part 12 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. The Act and regulation limit the use of contractor certifications when buying commercial items.

In addition to the general conformance statement, remember that you can also use market acceptance criteria and product sample requirements in CIDs. The Commercial and Nondevelopmental

Handbook, dated April 1996, contains additional information on quality assurance or verification in CIDs. You can access the handbook, on the Internet's World Wide Web at "http://www.acq.osd.mil/es/std/ndi". It will also be available soon from the Defense Printing Service.

Please contact Chris Metz if you have questions about commercial item descriptions at DSN 761-9340 or (703) 681-9340.

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