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 Dated: August 29, 1995.

**Jonathan C. Menes,**

*Director, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis.*

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**COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED PROCUREMENT LIST; ADDITION**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Addition to the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 2, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 30, 1995, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (60 FR 34235) of proposed addition to the Procurement List.

Comments were received from one of the current contractors for this paper towel. The commenter claimed that adding the towel to the Procurement List would have a significantly adverse effect on the contractor and would result in dramatically higher prices because there would no longer be competition on this product. The contractor also observed that nonprofit agencies employing people who are blind or severely disabled are not able to produce items themselves but have to subcontract production to manufacturers.

The current contract which this contractor holds with the Government for these towels represents only a very small percentage of its total sales, and a considerably smaller percentage than

it claimed. Even if the impact of the 1993 addition to the Procurement List of another commodity for which the contractor held a Government contract at the time is taken into account, the impact of the Committee's action on this contractor does not reach a level which the Committee considers severe.

The Committee is required to set a fair market price for each commodity and service added to the Procurement List, and to adjust the price as conditions change to assure the price remains competitive. The price established by the Committee does not represent a significant increase over the current Government contract price.

The nonprofit agency which will produce the towels will convert paper stock into finished towels, as well as perform all packaging operations. It should be noted that the packaging operations are the labor-intensive parts of towel production which create jobs for blind people, as the other parts of the process are done by machine.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodity, fair market price, and impact of the addition on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodity listed below is suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodity is hereby added to the Procurement List:

Towel, Paper  
 8540-00-291-0392

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective

date of this addition or options exercised under those contracts.

**E.R. Alley, Jr.,**

*Deputy Executive Director.*

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**Procurement List Addition**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Addition to the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 2, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 23, 1995, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (60 F.R. 32658) of proposed addition to the Procurement List. Comments were received from the current contractor for this day planner. The contractor noted that both it and the nonprofit agency which would produce the planner under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program hold Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contracts to provide day planners to the Government. Addition of the planner to the Procurement List would, according to the contractor, foreclose its ability to sell the planner to the Department of Defense, thus depriving it of a market which is essential to its success and seriously impacting the company.

The Committee's action would only add the requirements of the Defense Supply Service, Washington, DC (DSSW) for a second color binder of the planner to the Procurement List, not the entire Department of Defense. This requirement represents a very small percentage of the contractor's total sales, even when the impact of the recent addition of the DSSW requirement of another color of the same day planner is taken into account. The contractor will retain its right to sell to the rest of the Department of Defense and the rest of the Government under its MAS contract and other individual contracts. Consequently, the Committee does not