

(3) For the second funding year, which will begin on July 1, 1999, the Administrator shall implement a filing period that treats all health care providers filing within that period as if they were simultaneously received. The initial filing period shall begin on the date that the Administrator begins to receive applications for support, and shall conclude on a date to be determined by the Administrator.

(4) The Administrator may implement such additional filing periods as it deems necessary.

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 76

[CS Docket No. 97-248; RM No. 9097; FCC 98-189]

#### Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule; announcement of effective date.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission amended its rules regarding access to cable programming. These rules contained new and modified information collection requirements and became effective on December 23, 1998.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 23, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Broecker, Cable Services Bureau, (202) 418-7200.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. On August 6, 1998, the Commission adopted an order revising its program access rules. The revised rules will further the Commission's goal of increasing competition in the market for multichannel video programming by improving access to programming for all providers. See 63 FR 45740, August 27, 1998. Because amended § 76.1003 of the Commission's rules imposed new or modified information collection requirements, it could not become effective until approved by the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB"). OMB approved the rule changes on December 23, 1998.

2. The order stated that, upon approval by OMB, the Commission would publish a document announcing the effective date of the rules. The amendments to 47 CFR 76.1003 became effective on December 23, 1998.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**48 CFR Parts 204, 208, 213, 216, 217, 219, 223, 225, 237, 242, 246, 247, and 253**

[DFARS Case 97-D306]

### Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Simplified Acquisition Procedures

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of Defense Procurement has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update guidance on simplified acquisition procedures for consistency with the reorganization of simplified acquisition procedures in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 15, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Susan L. Schneider, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, PDUSD (A&T) DP (DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0131; telefax (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 97-D306.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background

This final rule revises DFARS Part 213 to conform to the revision of FAR Part 13 that was published as Item IV of Federal Acquisition Circular 97-03 on December 9, 1997 (62 FR 64916). The rule also amends other parts of the DFARS for consistency with FAR amendments that implemented provisions of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355) pertaining to simplified acquisition procedures (e.g., replacement of the term "small purchase" with the term "simplified acquisition"). The FAR amendments were published as Item III of Federal Acquisition Circular 90-29 (60 FR 34741, July 3, 1995) and Item II of Federal Acquisition Circular 90-40 (61 FR 39189, July 26, 1996).

A proposed DFARS rule was published on May 8, 1998 (63 FR 25438). Seven respondents submitted comments on the proposed rule. All comments were considered in developing the final rule. The guidance

at 213.270 of the proposed rule, pertaining to use of the Governmentwide commercial purchase card, has been excluded from the final rule, as the underlying policy memoranda have been canceled and superseded. The superseding policy memorandum, issued by the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology on October 2, 1998, entitled "Streamlined Payment Practices for Awards/Orders Valued at or below the Micro-Purchase Threshold," will be implemented in a future amendment to the DFARS.

##### B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of Defense certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule primarily consists of conforming DFARS amendments and internal Government procedures to implement existing FAR guidance pertaining to purchase at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.

##### C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because this final rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

**List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 204, 208, 213, 216, 217, 219, 223, 225, 237, 242, 246, 247, and 253**

Government procurement.

**Michele P. Peterson,**

*Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.*

Therefore, 48 CFR Parts 204, 208, 213, 216, 217, 219, 223, 225, 237, 242, 246, 247, and 253 are amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Parts 204, 208, 213, 216, 217, 219, 223, 225, 237, 242, 246, 247, and 253 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

#### PART 204—ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2. Section 204.670-2 is amended by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

##### § 204.670-2 Reportable contracting actions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) Summarize on the monthly DD Form 1057, in accordance with the instructions in 253.204-71(a)(3), contracting actions that—

(1) Support a contingency operation as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13) or a