

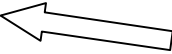
Changes to Standard 2003 Experience-Rated HMO Health Benefits Contract

NOTE: New and revised language is underlined and language to be deleted is ~~struck-out~~. All new and revised clauses will show the date "JAN 2003," except that revised Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and FEHB Acquisition Regulations (FEHBAR) clauses will show the date the revision became effective. These contract changes include updates to the FAR standard clauses as of July 31, 2002. If there are additional FAR clause changes, we will add them when we send the final contract amendment.

1. Section 1.2, Entire Contract. We are proposing to clarify paragraph (b) by adding the following underlined words:
 "(b) All statements concerning coverage or benefits made by OPM, the Carrier or by any individual covered under this policy shall be deemed representations and not warranties. No such statement shall convey or void any coverage, increase or reduce any benefits under this policy or be used in the prosecution of or defense of a claim under this policy unless it is otherwise provided for in this contract and contained in writing and a copy of the instrument containing the statement is or has been furnished to the Member or to the person making the claim."
2. Section 1.8, Notice. We are proposing to reference both OPM and the carrier's addresses for giving notice to one another and to put OPM's address on the signature page along with the carrier's address.

current §1.8 language:	proposed §1.8 language:
Where the contract requires the Carrier/contractor to notify the government, the Carrier shall send written notice to its Contracting Officer, unless otherwise specified.	<u>Where the contract requires that notice be given to the other party, such notice must be given in writing to the address shown on this contract's signature page. To notify OPM, the Carrier must write to the Contracting Officer, unless otherwise specified.</u>

Corresponding change to Signature page:

CONTRACT FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS	
CONTRACT NO:	CS AMENDMENT NO: 2003
EFFECTIVE:	01-01-2003 EFFECTIVE: 01-01-2003
BETWEEN:	The United States Office of Personnel Management <i>hereinafter called OPM, the Agency, or the Government</i> <u>Address: 1900 E Street, NW</u> <u>Washington, DC 20415-</u>
AND	
CONTRACTOR:	_____  <i>hereinafter also called the Carrier</i> Address:

3. Section 1.9, FEHB Quality Assurance. We are proposing to change the reporting process (see FEHB Carrier Letter 2002-01), and make technical changes so the section will be easier to follow, e.g., to rename the section, and reorder and rename paragraphs, as follows:

SECTION 1.9

PLAN PERFORMANCE--EXPERIENCE-RATED HMO CONTRACTS (JAN 2003)

(a) Detection of Fraud and Abuse. The Carrier shall conduct a program to assess its vulnerability to fraud and abuse and shall operate a system designed to detect and eliminate fraud and abuse internally by Carrier employees and subcontractors, by providers providing goods or services to FEHB Members, and by individual FEHB Members. The program must specify provisions in place for cost avoidance as well as fraud detection and specify cost/benefit criteria for follow-up actions. The Carrier must submit semi-annual reports to OPM by January 31 and July 31 addressing the following: the number, type, and disposition of fraud cases pursued during the preceding six months and a count of new fraud cases.

(b) Clinical Care Measures. The Carrier shall measure and/or collect data on the quality of the health care services it provides to its members as requested by OPM. Measurement/data collection efforts may include performance measurement systems such as Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) or ORYX™, or similar measures developed by accrediting organizations such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), or the American Accreditation Healthcare Commission/URAC. Costs incurred by the Carrier for collecting or contracting with a vendor to collect quality measures/data shall be the Carrier's responsibility and are allowable administrative expenses, subject to the administrative cost limitation.

(c) Patient Safety. The Carrier shall implement a patient safety improvement program. At a minimum, the Carrier shall --

(1) Report to OPM on its current patient safety initiatives;

(2) Report to OPM on how it will strengthen its patient safety program for the future;

(3) Assist OPM in providing its members with consumer information and education regarding patient safety; and

(4) Work with its providers, independent accrediting organizations, and others to implement patient safety improvement programs.

(d) Accreditation. To demonstrate its commitment to providing quality, cost-effective health care, the Carrier shall continue to pursue and maintain accreditation according to the steps and timeframes outlined in the carrier's current business plan. The carrier shall submit accreditation changes and business plan updates to its OPM contract representative.

(e) Consumer Assessments of Health Plans Surveys (CAHPS). In addition to any other means of surveying Plan members that the Carrier may develop, the Carrier shall participate in the HEDIS Consumer Assessments of Health Plans Surveys (CAHPS) to provide feedback to enrollees on enrollee experience with the various FEHBP plans. The Carrier shall take into account the published results of the survey, or other results as directed by OPM, in identifying areas for improvement as part of the

Carrier's quality assurance program. Payment of survey charges will be in accordance with Section 3.11.

(f) Physician Credentialing. The Carrier is encouraged to use an independent accrediting organization to validate its physician credentialing. If the Carrier's physicians meet the credentialing requirements of the credentialing organization, it has met and exceeds the minimum requirements listed below. Otherwise, the Carrier must demonstrate that it requires the following credential checks of all of its physicians, both during the initial hiring process and during periodic re-credentialing. As an alternative, the Carrier may demonstrate that the following credential checks are performed by a secondary source, such as a hospital.

- Verification of medical school graduation records.
- Routine check with local and/or state medical societies and/or boards.
- Routine check of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) list of debarred providers.
- Routine check of the National Practitioner Data Bank.

(g) Contract Quality Assurance. The Carrier shall develop and apply a quality assurance program specifying procedures for assuring contract quality. At a minimum the carrier shall meet the following standards and submit an annual report to OPM on these standards by January 31 of the following contract period:

(1) Claims Processing Accuracy - the number of FEHB claims processed accurately and the total number of FEHB claims processed for the given time period, expressed as a percentage.

REQUIRED STANDARD: An average of 95 percent of FEHB claims must be processed accurately.

(2) Coordination of Benefits (COB) - the Carrier must demonstrate that a statistically valid sampling technique is routinely used to identify FEHB claims prior to or after processing that require(d) coordination of benefits (COB) with a third party payer. As an alternative, the Carrier may provide evidence that it pursues all claims for COB.

(3) Average Claims Processing Time - the average number of working days from the date the Carrier receives an FEHB claim to the date it adjudicates it (paid, denied or a request for further information is sent out), for the given time period, expressed as a cumulative percentage.

REQUIRED STANDARD:

- The Carrier adjudicates an average of 60 percent of FEHB claims received over the given time period within 20 working days (28 calendar days).
- The Carrier adjudicates an average of 80 percent of FEHB claims received over the given time period within 30 working days (42 calendar days).
- The Carrier adjudicates an average of 95 percent of FEHB claims received over the given time period within 60 working days (84 calendar days).

(4) Processing ID cards on change of plan or option - the number of calendar days from the date the Carrier receives the enrollment from the enrollee's agency or retirement system to the date it issues the ID card.

REQUIRED STANDARD:

The Carrier issues the ID card within fifteen calendar days after receiving the enrollment from the enrollee's agency or retirement system.

(5) *Member Inquiries* - the number of working days taken to respond to an FEHB member's written inquiry, expressed as a cumulative percentage, for the given time period.

REQUIRED STANDARD:

- The Carrier responds to an average of 60 percent of FEHB member written inquiries within 10 working days (14 calendar days).
- The Carrier responds to an average of 90 percent of FEHB member written inquiries within 30 working days (42 calendar days).

(6) *Telephone Access* - the Carrier shall report on the following statistics concerning telephone access to the member services department (or its equivalent) for the given time period. Except that, if the Carrier does not have a computerized phone system, report results of periodic surveys on telephone access.

(i) *Telephone Waiting Time* - the average number of seconds elapsing before the Carrier connects a member's telephone call to its service representative.

REQUIRED STANDARD: On average, no more than 1.5 minutes elapse before the Carrier connects a member's telephone call to its service representative.

(ii) *Telephone Blockage Rate* - the percentage of time that callers receive a busy signal when calling the Carrier.

REQUIRED STANDARD: On average, callers receive a busy signal no more than 10 percent of the time.

(iii) *Telephone Abandonment Rate* - the number of calls attempted but not completed (presumably because callers tired of waiting to be connected to a Carrier representative) divided by the total number of calls attempted (both completed and not completed), expressed as a percentage.

REQUIRED STANDARD: On average, enrollees abandon the effort no more than 8 percent of the time.

(7) *Responsiveness to FEHB Member Requests for Reconsideration*:

REQUIRED STANDARD: For 100 percent of written FEHB disputed claim requests received for the given time period, within 30 days after receipt by the Carrier, the Carrier shall affirm the denial in writing to the FEHB member, pay the claim, provide the service, or request additional information reasonably necessary to make a determination.

(8) *Appointments*. All Health Maintenance Organization carriers must meet the following standards for the given time period. *Except that*, if this information is not routinely collected, report results from periodic surveys.

REQUIRED STANDARD:

(1) Urgent appointments are available, on average, within 24 hours of an authorized request for one.

(2) Routine appointments are available, on average, within 1 month of an authorized request for one.

(3) Average office waiting times – on average, members who arrive on time for a scheduled appointment wait no more than 30 minutes before they are seen by the provider of the medical service.

(NOTE: For the purpose of this standard (c), a simplified classification system is used in which all appointments are classified as either emergency, urgent or routine. Emergency appointments must be seen immediately to prevent health deterioration.

Urgent appointments are those for the sudden, acute onset of symptoms that must be seen within 1 (one) day to prevent health deterioration. All other appointments are considered routine.)

(g) Quality Assurance Plan. The Carrier must demonstrate that a statistically valid sampling technique is routinely used prior to or after processing to randomly sample FEHB claims against Carrier quality assurance/fraud and abuse prevention standards.

(h) Reporting Compliance. The Carrier shall keep complete records of its quality assurance procedures and fraud [prevention](#) program and the results of their implementation and make them available to the Government as determined by OPM.

(i) Correction of deficiencies.

The Contracting Officer may order the correction of a deficiency in the Carrier's quality assurance program or fraud [prevention](#) program. The Carrier shall take the necessary action promptly to implement the Contracting Officer's order. If the Contracting Officer orders a modification of the Carrier's quality assurance program or fraud [prevention](#) program pursuant to this paragraph (e) after the contract year has begun, the costs incurred to correct the deficiency may be excluded from the administrative expenses -- for the contract year -- that are subject to the administrative expenses limitation specified at Appendix B; provided the Carrier demonstrates that the correction of the deficiency significantly increases the Carrier's liability under this contract.

(j) In order to allow sufficient implementation time, we will notify you reasonably in advance of any new requirement(s) under paragraphs (a) through (i).

4. Section 1.21, Administrative Simplification-HIPAA (Experience-rated HMO). We are proposing to update the contract requirements by editing (a) and (b).

current §1.22 language:	proposed §1.22 language:
<p>(a) The Carrier shall implement and be in compliance with the standards for electronic transactions in accordance with the regulations issued and on the date set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>(b) The Carrier shall implement and be in compliance with the standards for privacy of individually identifiable health information in accordance with the regulations issued and on the date set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	<p><u>(a) The Carrier shall implement and be in compliance with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations regarding the standards for electronic transactions and code sets on the date DHHS specifies. Subject to paragraph (c) of this section, the regulations at 45 CFR parts 160 and 162 are incorporated by reference in this contract.</u></p> <p><u>(b) The Carrier shall implement and be in compliance with the DHHS regulations regarding the standards for privacy of individually identifiable health information on the date DHHS specifies. Subject to paragraph (c) of this section, the regulations at 45 CFR parts 160 and 164 are incorporated by reference in this contract.</u></p>

5. Section 1.23, Notice to Enrollees on Termination of FEHBP or Provider Contract. We are proposing to change “enrollee” to “member” to better reflect HIPAA, as follows:

SECTION 1.23

NOTICE TO MEMBERS ON TERMINATION

OF FEHBP OR PROVIDER CONTRACT (HMO) (JAN 2002)

(a) Members who are undergoing treatment for a chronic or disabling condition or who are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy at the time a carrier terminates (1) all or part of its FEHBP contract, (2) the members' specialty provider contract for reasons other than cause, may be able to continue to see their specialty provider for up to 90 days or through their postpartum care.

(b) The Carrier shall notify its members in writing of its intent to terminate all or part of its FEHBP contract, including service area reductions, or the members' specialty provider contract for reasons other than cause, in order to allow sufficient time for the members to arrange for continued care after the 90-day period or their postpartum care, whichever applies. The Carrier shall send the notice in time to ensure it is received by the members no less than 90 days prior to the date it terminates the contract, unless the Carrier demonstrates it was prevented from doing so for reasons beyond its control. The Carrier's prompt notice will ensure that the notification period and the transitional care period run concurrently.

6. Section 2.3, Payment of Benefits and Provision of Services and Supplies. We are proposing to amend §2.3(g) and (h) to require carriers to make a prompt effort to recover erroneous payments (including overpayments), as follows:

(g) Erroneous Payments. If the Carrier or OPM determines that a Member's claim has been paid in error for any reason, the Carrier shall make a prompt and diligent effort to recover the erroneous payment. The Carrier shall follow general business practices and procedures in collecting debts owed under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Diligent effort to recover erroneous payments means that upon discovering an erroneous payment exists, the Carrier shall--

(1) Send a written notice of erroneous payment to the member or provider that provides: (A) an explanation of when and how the erroneous payment occurred, (B) when applicable, cite the appropriate contractual benefit provision, (C) the exact identifying information (i.e., dollar amount paid erroneously, date paid, check number, date of service and provider name), (D) a request for payment of the debt in full, and (E) an explanation of what may occur should the debt not be paid, including possible offset of future benefits. The notice may also offer an installment option. In addition, the Carrier shall provide the debtor with an opportunity to dispute the existence and amount of the debt before proceeding with collection activities;

(2) After confirming that the debt does exist and in the appropriate amount, send follow-up notices to the member or the provider at 30, 60 and 90 day intervals, if the debt remains unpaid and undisputed;

(3) The Carrier may off-set future benefits payable to the member or to a provider on behalf of the member to satisfy a debt due under the FEHBP if the debt remains unpaid and undisputed for 120 days after the first notice;

(4) After applying the first three steps, refer cases when it is cost effective to do so to a collection attorney or a collection agency

(5) Make a prompt and diligent effort to recover erroneous payments until the debt is paid in full or determined to be uncollectible by the Carrier because it is no longer cost effective to pursue further collection efforts or it would be against equity and good conscience to continue collection efforts;

(6) Suspend recovery efforts for a debt which is based upon a claim that has been appealed as a disputed claim under Section 2.8, until the appeal has been resolved;

(7)(i) The Carrier may charge the contract for benefit payments made erroneously but in good faith provided that it can document that it acted with prompt and due diligence as described above.

(ii) Notwithstanding (g)(7)(i), the Carrier may not charge the contract for the administrative costs to correct erroneous benefit payments (or to correct processes or procedures that caused erroneous benefit payments) when the errors are egregious or repeated. These costs are deemed to be unreasonable and unallowable under section 3.2(b)(2)(ii).

(8) Maintain records that document individual unrecovered erroneous payment collection activities for audit or future reference.

(h) Erroneous payment recoveries may be reduced by any legal or collection agency fees expended to obtain the recoveries and which are not otherwise payable under this experience-rated contract. The amount credited to the contract shall be the net amount remaining after deducting the related legal or collection agency fees.

7. Section 2.13, Benefits Payments When Medicare is Primary. We are proposing to remove §2.13 from the standard HMO contract because it does not apply to HMOs. The FEHBAR clause at §2.6 sufficiently describes HMOs' COB requirements. The deleted clause is as follows:

~~SECTION 2.13~~

~~BENEFITS PAYMENTS WHEN MEDICARE IS PRIMARY (JAN 1998)~~

~~—When a Member who is covered by Medicare Part A, Part B, or Parts A and B on a fee-for-service basis (a) receives services that generally are eligible for coverage by Medicare (regardless of whether or not benefits are paid by Medicare) and are covered by the Carrier, and (b) Medicare is the primary payer and the Carrier is the secondary payer for the Member under the order of benefit determination rules stated in Appendix A of this contract, then the Carrier shall limit its payment to an amount that supplements the benefits payable by Medicare (regardless of whether or not Medicare benefits are paid). When emergency services have been provided by a Medicare nonparticipating institutional provider and the provider is not reimbursed by Medicare, the Carrier shall pay its primary benefits. Payments that supplement Medicare include amounts necessary to reimburse the Member for Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and the balance between the Medicare approved amount and the Medicare limiting charge made by non-participating providers. This provision does not apply to debarred providers (see Section 2.7).~~

8. Appendix D-b, Advertisements of Accident and Sickness Insurance Model Regulation (1999), National Association of Insurance Commissioners. We believe that carriers do not need and do not use the guidance in Appendix D-b. We are proposing to remove Appendix D-b, and to reflect the change in the FEHBAR clause at Section 1.14, *Misleading, Deceptive or Unfair Advertising* by adding a provision to Section 4.1, *Alterations in Contract*, as follows:

Appendix D-b	Section 1.14(b):	new Section 4.1 paragraph:
DELETE	<p>(a) .*.*.*</p> <p>(b) Criteria to assess compliance with paragraph (a) of this clause are available in the <i>FEHB Supplemental Literature Guidelines</i> which are developed by OPM and should be used, along with the additional guidelines set forth in FEHBAR 1603.702, as the primary guide in preparing material; <u>further guidance is provided in the NAIC <i>Advertisements of Accident and Sickness Insurance Model Regulation</i>.</u> The guidelines are periodically updated and provided to the Carrier by OPM. <i>{Edit note: Underlined will be removed by §4.1.}</i></p>	<p>SECTION 4.1 ALTERATIONS IN CONTRACT</p> <p>(--) <u>Section 1.14, <i>Misleading, Deceptive, or Unfair Advertising</i>, is amended by removing the reference to the NAIC <i>Advertisements of Accident and Sickness Insurance Model Regulation (Appendix D-b)</i>. Carriers should continue to use the FEHB Supplemental Literature Guidelines (now at the renumbered Appendix C) along with FEHBAR 1603.702.</u></p>

9. We are proposing to change and renumber the appendices as described above, as follows:
- renumber Appendix D-a as [Appendix C](#), which had been reserved
 - delete **Appendix D-b**
 - renumber Appendix E as [Appendix D](#).

Editorial changes to correct text:

10. Section 1.7, *Statistics and Special Studies*. Because 5 U.S.C. 1308 was repealed in 1998, we are removing reference to it in §1.7(b) as follows: "...the statistical reports reasonably necessary for the OPM to carry out its functions under ~~Section 1308 and~~ Chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code."
11. Section 3.3, *Special Reserve*. We are correcting a cross reference, as follows: "(a) This contract is experience rated. The Special Reserve represents the cumulative difference between income to the plan (subscription income plus interest on investments [item (b)(2)(iii) in Section 3.2, *Accounting and Allowable Cost*...."

12. Section 4.1, *Alterations in Contract*. We are correcting the introductory paragraph (a) to the clause which amends Section 3.2, as follows:

current §4.1(a) language:	proposed §4.1(a) language:
(a) Section 3.2. As required by Public Law 101-508, §8909 of title 5, U.S.C., and Section 3.2(b)(2)(ii) of this contract are amended by the following: *.*.*	<u>(a) Section 3.2(b)(2)(ii) of this contract is amended to comply with 5 U.S.C. 8909(f) as follows: *.*.*</u>

13. We are updating the following Part V clauses (attached), as required by FAR/FEHBAR.

- Section 5.1, *Definitions* (DEC 2001) (FAR 52.202-1)
- Section 5.19, *Equal Opportunity* (APR 2002) (FAR 52.222-26)
- Section 5.22, *Equal Opportunity for Special Disabled Veterans, Veterans of the Vietnam Era, and Other Eligible Veterans* (DEC 2001) (FAR 52.222-35)
- Section 5.33, *Discounts for Prompt Payment* (FEB 2002) (FAR 52.232-8)
- Section 5.36, *Disputes* (JUL 2002) (FAR 52.233-1)
- Section 5.55, *Employment Reports on Special Disabled Veterans, Veterans of the Vietnam Era, and Other Eligible Veterans* (DEC 2001) (FAR 52.222-37)
- Section 5.60, *Subcontracts for Commercial Items* (MAY 2002) (FAR 52.244-6)

**Changes to:
PART V Clauses**

SECTION 5.1

DEFINITIONS (DEC 2001) (FAR 52.202-1)

(a) Agency head or head of the agency means the Secretary, Attorney General, Administrator, Governor, Chairperson, or other chief official, as appropriate) of the agency unless otherwise indicated, including any deputy or assistant chief official of the executive agency.

(b) Commercial component means any component that is a commercial item.

(c) Commercial item means--

(1) Any item, other than real property, that is of a type customarily used by the general public or by non-governmental entities for purposes other than governmental purposes and that--

(i) Has been sold, leased, or licensed to the general public; or

(ii) Has been offered for sale, lease, or license to the general public;

(2) Any item that evolved from an item described in paragraph (c)(1) of this clause through advances in technology or performance and that is not yet available in the commercial marketplace, but will be available in the commercial marketplace in time to satisfy the delivery requirements under a Government solicitation;

(3) Any item that would satisfy a criterion expressed in paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this clause, but for--

(i) Modifications of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace; or

(ii) Minor modifications of a type not customarily available in the commercial marketplace made to meet Federal Government requirements. "Minor" modifications means modifications that do not significantly alter the nongovernmental function or essential physical characteristics of an item or component, or change the purpose of a process. Factors to be considered in determining whether a modification is minor include the value and size of the modification and the comparative value and size of the final product. Dollar values and percentages may be used as guideposts, but are not conclusive evidence that a modification is minor;

(4) Any combination of items meeting the requirements of paragraphs (c)(1), (2), (3), or (5) of this clause that are of a type customarily combined and sold in combination to the general public;

(5) Installation services, maintenance services, repair services, training services, and other services if--

(i) Such services are procured for support of an item referred to in paragraph (c)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this definition, regardless of whether such services are provided by the same source or at the same time as the item; and

(ii) The source of such services provides similar services contemporaneously to the general public under terms and conditions similar to those offered to the Federal Government;

(6) Services of a type offered and sold competitively in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace based on established catalog or market prices for specific tasks performed under standard commercial terms and conditions. This does not include services that are sold based on hourly rates without an established catalog or market price for a specific

service performed. For purposes of these services—

(i) Catalog price means a price included in a catalog, price list, schedule, or other form that is regularly maintained by the manufacturer or vendor, is either published or otherwise available for inspection by customers, and states prices at which sales are currently, or were last, made to a significant number of buyers constituting the general public; and

(ii) Market prices means current prices that are established in the course of ordinary trade between buyers and sellers free to bargain and that can be substantiated through competition or from sources independent of the offerors.

(7) Any item, combination of items, or service referred to in subparagraphs (c)(1) through (c)(6), notwithstanding the fact that the item, combination of items, or service is transferred between or among separate divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliates of a Contractor; or

(8) A nondevelopmental item, if the procuring agency determines the item was developed exclusively at private expense and sold in substantial quantities, on a competitive basis, to multiple State and local Governments.

(d) Component means any item supplied to the Federal Government as part of an end item or of another component, except that for use in 52.225-9, and 52.225-11 see the definitions in 52.225-9(a) and 52.225-11(a).

(e) "Contracting Officer" means a person with the authority to enter into, administer, and/or terminate contracts and make related determinations and findings. The term includes certain authorized representatives of the Contracting Officer acting within the limits of their authority as delegated by the Contracting Officer.

(f) Nondevelopmental item means--

(1) Any previously developed item of supply used exclusively for governmental purposes by a Federal agency, a State or local government, or a foreign government with which the United States has a mutual defense cooperation agreement;

(2) Any item described in paragraph (f)(1) of this definition that requires only minor modification or modifications of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace in order to meet the requirements of the procuring department or agency; or

(3) Any item of supply being produced that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (f)(1) or (f)(2) solely because the item is not yet in use.

(g) Except as otherwise provided in this contract, the term "subcontracts" includes, but is not limited to, purchase orders and changes and modifications to purchase orders under this contract.

SECTION 5.19

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ([APR 2002](#)) (FAR 52.222-26)

(a) Definition. United States, as used in this clause, means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wake Island.

(b) If, during any 12-month period (including the 12 months preceding the award of this contract), the Contractor has been or is awarded nonexempt Federal contracts and/or subcontracts that have an aggregate value in excess of \$10,000, the Contractor shall comply with subparagraphs (b)(1) through (b)(11) of this clause, except for work performed outside the United States by employees who were not recruited within the United States. Upon request, the Contractor shall provide information necessary to determine the applicability of this clause.

(b) During performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

(1) The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. However, it shall not be a violation of this clause for the Contractor to extend a publicly announced preference in employment to Indians living on or near an Indian reservation, in connection with employment opportunities on or near an Indian reservation, as permitted by 41 CFR 60-1.5.

(2) The Contractor shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. This shall include, but not be limited to--

(i) Employment;

(ii) Upgrading;

(iii) Demotion;

(iv) Transfer;

(v) Recruitment or recruitment advertising;

(vi) Layoff or termination;

(vii) Rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and

(viii) Selection for training, including apprenticeship.

(3) The Contractor shall post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment the notices to be provided by the Contracting Officer that explain this clause.

(4) The Contractor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(5) The Contractor shall send, to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, the notice to be provided by the Contracting Officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this clause, and post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(6) The Contractor shall comply with Executive Order 11246, as amended, and the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(7) The Contractor shall furnish to the contracting agency all information required by Executive Order 11246, as amended, and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor. The Contractor shall also file Standard Form 100 (EEO-1), or any successor form, as prescribed in 41 CFR part 60-1. Unless the Contractor has filed within the 12 months preceding the date of contract award, the Contractor shall, within 30 days after contract award, apply to either the regional Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) or the local office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the necessary forms.

(8) The Contractor shall permit access to its premises, during normal business hours, by the contracting agency or the OFCCP for the purpose of conducting on-site compliance evaluations and complaint investigations. The Contractor shall permit the Government to inspect and copy any books, accounts, records (including computerized records), and other material that may be relevant to the matter under investigation and pertinent to compliance with Executive Order 11246, as amended, and rules and regulations that implement the Executive Order.

(9) If the OFCCP determines that the Contractor is not in compliance with this clause or any rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the Contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts, under the procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246, as amended.

In addition, sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked against the Contractor as provided in Executive Order 11246, as amended; in the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor; or as otherwise provided by law.

(10) The Contractor shall include the terms and conditions of subparagraphs (b)(1) through (11) of this clause in every subcontract or purchase order that is not exempted by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued under Executive Order 11246, as amended, so that these terms and conditions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

(11) The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the Contracting Officer may direct as a means of enforcing these terms and conditions, including sanctions for noncompliance, provided, that if the Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of any direction, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) Notwithstanding any other clause in this contract, disputes relative to this clause will be governed by the procedures in 41 CFR 60-1.1.

SECTION 5.22

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SPECIAL DISABLED VETERANS, VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA, AND OTHER ELIGIBLE VETERANS (DEC 2001) (FAR 52.222-35)

(a) Definitions. As used in this clause—

“All employment openings” means all positions except executive and top management, those positions that will be filled from within the Contractor’s organization, and positions lasting 3 days or less. This term includes full-time employment, temporary employment of more than 3 days duration, and part-time employment.

“Executive and top management” means any employee—

(1) Whose primary duty consists of the management of the enterprise in which the individual is employed or of a customarily recognized department or subdivision thereof;

(2) Who customarily and regularly directs the work of two or more other employees;

(3) Who has the authority to hire or fire other employees or whose suggestions and recommendations as to the hiring or firing and as to the advancement and promotion or any other change of status of other employees will be given particular weight;

(4) Who customarily and regularly exercises discretionary powers; and

(5) Who does not devote more than 20 percent or, in the case of an employee of a retail or service establishment, who does not devote more than 40 percent of total hours of work in the work week to activities that are not directly and closely related to the performance of the work described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this definition. This paragraph (5) does not apply in the case of an employee who is in sole charge of an establishment or a physically separated branch establishment, or who owns at least a 20 percent interest in the enterprise in which the individual is employed.

“Other eligible veteran” means any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized.

“Positions that will be filled from within the Contractor’s organization” means employment openings for which the Contractor will give no consideration to persons outside the Contractor’s organization (including any affiliates, subsidiaries, and parent companies) and

includes any openings the Contractor proposes to fill from regularly established “recall” lists. The exception does not apply to a particular opening once an employer decides to consider applicants outside of its organization.

“Qualified special disabled veteran” means a special disabled veteran who satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education, and other job-related requirements of the employment position such veteran holds or desires, and who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of such position.

“Special disabled veteran” means—

(1) A veteran who is entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for a disability--

(i) Rated at 30 percent or more; or

(ii) Rated at 10 or 20 percent in the case of a veteran who has been determined under 38 U.S.C. 3106 to have a serious employment handicap (i.e., a significant impairment of the veteran’s ability to prepare for, obtain, or retain employment consistent with the veteran’s abilities, aptitudes, and interests); or

(2) A person who has discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.

“Veteran of the Vietnam era” means a person who—

(1) Served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released from active duty with other than a dishonorable discharge, if any part of such active duty occurred—

(i) In the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975; or

(ii) Between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, in all other cases;

(2) Was discharged or released from active duty for a service-connected disability if any part of the active duty was performed—

(i) In the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975; or

(ii) Between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, in all other cases.

(b) General. (1) The Contractor shall not discriminate against the individual because the individual is a special disabled veteran, a veteran of the Vietnam era, or other eligible veteran, regarding any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The Contractor shall take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and other eligible veterans without discrimination based upon their disability or veterans' status in all employment practices such as --

(i) Recruitment, advertising, and job application procedures;

(ii) Hiring, upgrading, promotion, award of tenure, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, right of return from layoff and rehiring;

(iii) Rate of pay or any other form of compensation and changes in compensation;

(iv) Job assignments, job classifications, organizational structures, position descriptions, lines of progression, and seniority lists;

(v) Leaves of absence, sick leave, or any other leave;

(vi) Fringe benefits available by virtue of employment, whether or not administered by the Contractor;

(viii) Selection and financial support for training, including apprenticeship, and on-the-job training under 38 U.S.C. 3687, professional meetings, conferences, and other related

activities, and selection for leaves of absence to pursue training;

(viii) Activities sponsored by the Contractor including social or recreational programs;
and

(ix) Any other term, condition, or privilege of employment.

(2) The Contractor shall comply with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1972 (the Act), as amended (38 U.S.C. 4211 and 4212).

(c) Listing openings. (1) The Contractor shall immediately list all employment openings that exist at the time of the execution of this contract and those which occur during the performance of this contract, including those not generated by this contract, and including those occurring at an establishment of the Contractor other than the one where the contract is being performed, but excluding those of independently operated corporate affiliates, at an appropriate local public employment service office of the State wherein the opening occurs. Listing employment openings with the U.S. Department of Labor's America's Job Bank shall satisfy the requirement to list jobs with the local employment service office.

(2) The Contractor shall make the listing of employment openings with the local employment service office at least concurrently with using any other recruitment source or effort and shall involve the normal obligations of placing a bona fide job order, including accepting referrals of veterans and nonveterans. The listing of employment openings does not require hiring any particular job applicant or hiring from any particular group of job applicants and is not intended to relieve the Contractor from any requirements of Executive orders or regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment.

(4) Whenever the Contractor becomes contractually bound to the listing terms of this clause, it shall advise the State employment service system, in each State where it has establishments, of the name and location of each hiring location in the State. As long as the Contractor is contractually bound to these terms and has so advised the State agency, it need not advise the State agency of subsequent contracts. The Contractor may advise the State agency when it is no longer bound by this contract clause.

(d) Applicability. This clause does not apply to the listing of employment openings that occur and are filled outside the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and Wake Island.

(e) Postings. (1) The Contractor shall post employment notices in conspicuous places that are available to employees and applicants for employment.

(2) The employment notices shall—

(i) state the rights of applicants and employees as well as the Contractor's obligation under the law to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified employees and applicants who are special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and other eligible veterans; and

(ii) Be in a form prescribed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor), and provided by or through the Contracting Officer.

(3) The Contractor shall ensure that applicants or employees who are special disabled veterans are informed of the contents of the notice (i.e., the Contractor may have the notice read to a visually disabled veteran, or may lower the posted notice so that it can be read by a person in a wheelchair).

(4) The Contractor shall notify each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract understanding, that the Contractor is bound by the terms of the Act and is committed to take affirmative action to employ, and advance in employment, qualified special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and other eligible veterans.

(f) Noncompliance. If the Contractor does not comply with the requirements of this clause, the Government may take appropriate actions under the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the Act.

(g) Subcontracts. The Contractor shall include the terms of this clause in all subcontracts or purchase orders of \$25,000 or more unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor. The Contractor shall act as specified by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor to enforce the terms, including action for noncompliance.

SECTION 5.33

DISCOUNTS FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (FEB 2002) (FAR 52.232-8)

(a) Discounts for prompt payment will not be considered in the evaluation of offers. However, any offered discount will form a part of the award, and will be taken if payment is made within the discount period indicated in the offer by the offeror. As an alternative to offering a discount for prompt payment in conjunction with the offer, offerors awarded contracts may include discounts for prompt payment on individual invoices.

(b) In connection with any discount offered for prompt payment, time shall be computed from the date of the invoice. If the Contractor has not placed a date on the invoice, the due date shall be calculated from the date the designated billing office receives a proper invoice, provided the agency annotates such invoice with the date of receipt at the time of receipt. For the purpose of computing the discount earned, payment shall be considered to have been made on the date that appears on the payment check or, for an electronic funds transfer, the specified payment date. When the discount date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday when Federal Government offices are closed and Government business is not expected to be conducted, payment may be made on the following business day.

SECTION 5.36

DISPUTES (JUL 2002) (FAR 52.233-1)

(a) This contract is subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, as amended (41 U.S.C. 601-613).

(b) Except as provided in the Act, all disputes arising under or relating to this contract shall be resolved under this clause.

(c) "Claim," as used in this clause, means a written demand or written assertion by one of the contracting parties seeking, as a matter of right, the payment of money in a sum certain, the adjustment or interpretation of contract terms, or other relief arising under or relating to this contract. However, a written demand or written assertion by the Contractor seeking the payment of money exceeding \$100,000 is not a claim under the Act until certified. A voucher, invoice, or other routine request for payment that is not in dispute when submitted is not a claim under the Act. The submission may be converted to a claim under the Act, by complying with the submission and certification requirements of this clause, if it is disputed either as to liability or

amount or is not acted upon in a reasonable time.

(d)(1) A claim by the Contractor shall be made in writing and, unless otherwise stated in this contract, submitted within 6 years after accrual of the claim to the Contracting Officer for a written decision. A claim by the Government against the Contractor shall be subject to a written decision by the Contracting Officer.

(2)(i) The Contractor shall provide the certification specified in paragraph (d)(2)(iii) of this clause when submitting any claim exceeding \$100,000.

(ii) The certification requirement does not apply to issues in controversy that have not been submitted as all or part of a claim.

(iii) The certification shall state as follows: "I certify that the claim is made in good faith; that the supporting data are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief; that the amount requested accurately reflects the contract adjustment for which the Contractor believes the Government is liable; and that I am duly authorized to certify the claim on behalf of the Contractor."

(3) The certification may be executed by any person duly authorized to bind the Contractor with respect to the claim.

(e) For Contractor claims of \$100,000 or less, the Contracting Officer must, if requested in writing by the Contractor, render a decision within 60 days of the request. For Contractor-certified claims over \$100,000, the Contracting Officer must, within 60 days, decide the claim or notify the Contractor of the date by which the decision will be made.

(f) The Contracting Officer's decision shall be final unless the Contractor appeals or files a suit as provided in the Act.

(g) If the claim by the Contractor is submitted to the Contracting Officer or a claim by the Government is presented to the Contractor, the parties, by mutual consent, may agree to use alternative dispute resolution (ADR). If the Contractor refuses an offer for ADR, the Contractor shall inform the Contracting Officer, in writing, of the Contractor's specific reasons for rejecting the offer.

(h) The Government shall pay interest on the amount found due and unpaid from (1) the date that the Contracting Officer receives the claim (certified, if required); or (2) the date that payment otherwise would be due, if that date is later, until the date of payment. With regard to claims having defective certifications, as defined in FAR 33.201, interest shall be paid from the date that the Contracting Officer initially receives the claim. Simple interest on claims shall be paid at the rate, fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury as provided in the Act, which is applicable to the period during which the Contracting Officer receives the claim and then at the rate applicable for each 6-month period as fixed by the Treasury Secretary during the pendency of the claim.

(i) The Contractor shall proceed diligently with performance of this contract, pending final resolution of any request for relief, claim, appeal, or action arising under or relating to the contract, and comply with any decision of the Contracting Officer.

SECTION 5.55

EMPLOYMENT REPORTS ON SPECIAL DISABLED VETERANS, VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA, AND OTHER ELIGIBLE VETERANS (DEC 2001) (FAR 52.222-37)

(a) Unless the Contractor is a State or local government agency, the Contractor shall report at least annually, as required by the Secretary of Labor, on--

(1) The number of special disabled veterans, and the number of veterans of the Vietnam era, and other eligible veterans in the workforce of the contractor by job category and hiring location; and

(2) The total number of new employees hired during the period covered by the report, and of the total, the number of special disabled veterans, the number of veterans of the Vietnam era, and the number of other eligible veterans; and

(3) The maximum number and the minimum number of employees of the Contractor during the period covered by the report.

(b) The Contractor shall report the above items by completing the Form VETS-100, entitled "Federal Contractor Veterans' Employment Report (VETS-100 Report)."

(c) The Contractor shall submit VETS-100 Reports no later than September 30 of each year beginning September 30, 1988.

(d) The employment activity report required by paragraph (a)(2) of this clause shall reflect total hires during the most recent 12-month period as of the ending date selected for the employment profile report required by paragraph (a)(1) of this clause. Contractors may select an ending date--

(1) As of the end of any pay period between July 1 and August 31 of the year the report is due; or

(2) As of December 31, if the Contractor has prior written approval from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to do so for purposes of submitting the Employer Information Report EEO-1 (Standard Form 100).

(e) The Contractor shall base the count of veterans reported according to paragraph (a) of this clause on voluntary disclosure. Each Contractor subject to the reporting requirements at 38 U.S.C. 4212 shall invite all special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and other eligible veterans who wish to benefit under the affirmative action program at 38 U.S.C. 4212 to identify themselves to the Contractor. The invitation shall state that—

(1) The information is voluntarily provided;

(2) The information will be kept confidential;

(3) Disclosure or refusal to provide the information will not subject the applicant or employee to any adverse treatment; and

(4) The information will be used only in accordance with the regulations promulgated under 38 U.S.C. 4212.

(f) The Contractor shall insert the terms of this clause in all subcontracts or purchase orders of \$25,000 or more unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor.

SECTION 5.60

SUBCONTRACTS FOR COMMERCIAL ITEMS (MAY 2002) (FAR 52.244-6)

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

"Commercial item" has the meaning contained in the clause at 52.202-1, Definitions.

"Subcontract" includes a transfer of commercial items between divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliates of the Contractor or subcontractor at any tier.

(b) To the maximum extent practicable, the Contractor shall incorporate, and require its subcontractors at all tiers to incorporate, commercial items or nondevelopmental items as components of items to be supplied under this contract.

- (c)(1) The following clauses shall be flowed down to subcontracts for commercial items:
- (i) 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (Oct 2000) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(2) and (3)), in all subcontracts that offer further subcontracting opportunities. If the subcontract (except subcontracts to small business concerns) exceeds \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 for construction of any public facility), the subcontractor must include 52.219-8 in lower tier subcontracts that offer subcontracting opportunities.
 - (ii) 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity ([Apr 2002](#)) (E.O. 11246).
 - (iii) 52.222-35, Affirmative Action for Disabled Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam Era (Apr 1998) (38 U.S.C. 4212(a)).
 - (iv) 52.222-36, Affirmative Action for Workers with Disabilities (Jun 1998) (29 U.S.C. 793).
 - (v) 52.247-64, Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-[Flag](#) Commercial Vessels (Jun 2000) (46 U.S.C. Appx 1241) (flowdown not required for subcontracts awarded beginning May 1, 1996).
- (2) While not required, the Contractor may flow down to subcontracts for commercial items a minimal number of additional clauses necessary to satisfy its contractual obligations.
- (d) The Contractor shall include the terms of this clause, including this paragraph (d), in subcontracts awarded under this contract.