

OASAM Response

U.S. Department of Labor

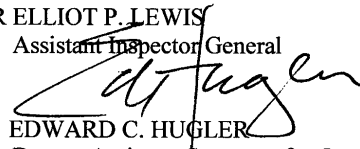
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Administration and Management
Washington, D.C. 20210

FEB - 1 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ELLIOT P. LEWIS

Assistant Inspector General

FROM:


EDWARD C. HUGLER
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations,
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT:

Audit of DOL's Fiscal Year 2008 Procurement Data Reported in the
Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation, Draft Report
(03-10-001-07-711)

This responds to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) January 22, 2010, draft audit report concerning the Department of Labor's (DOL) Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 procurement data reported to the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS-NG). As the DOL agency responsible for overseeing FPDS-NG data and conducting the annual review, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft report.

On the whole, the report makes a broad finding based on a comparison of the DOL FPDS-NG data accuracy rate reported by Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASAM) and an OIG-derived accuracy rate. As we discussed with your staff, in deriving its accuracy rate (93%), the OIG did not apply the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approved plan and methodology utilized by OASAM in calculating its reported accuracy rate (99%). The OIG also utilized a smaller sample set to determine its accuracy rate.

Notwithstanding these observations, OASAM concurs with the OIG's four recommendations, acknowledging there is always room for improvement.

Finding 1: DOL did not accurately report FY 2008 procurement data in the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation.

Response: As noted above, OASAM and the OIG used different methods and sample data to calculate the accuracy rating reported to OMB. OASAM accepts that this produced different outcomes.

Recommendation 1: Provide training to procurement staff on understanding and entering data into the FPDS-NG to ensure it is complete and accurate for all contract actions.

Response: Concur. OASAM will include an FPDS-NG training component in the annual procurement conference scheduled for June 2010. The training will focus on areas of concern identified in the recently completed FY 2009 FPDS-NG review.

Recommendation 2: Establish a mechanism within OASAM by which DOL procurement staff can address questions or problems related to entering procurement data into the FPDS-NG.

Response: Concur. A new contracting officer notice will be prepared and disseminated during the second quarter of FY 2010. The notice will explain the protocol for contacting three sources of FPDS-NG information - the Electronic Procurement System helpdesk, the FPDS-NG helpdesk, and the OASAM procurement policy office.

Recommendation 3: Ensure the contract requirements are specific and include time lines, staff qualifications/key personnel, and schedule of progress reports and other deliverables if DOL plans to use a contractor for future FPDS-NG reviews.

Response: Future FPDS-NG reviews will be performed by federal staff experienced with procurement polices and the FPDS-NG system. In the event a contractor is utilized in the future for this work, this recommendation will be adopted. As we discussed with your staff, we believe the contractor utilized for the audited report did fulfill the requirements of the contract and was entitled to full payment for the work performed.

Recommendation 4: Require the assigned COTR to monitor the contractor to ensure the work complies with the contract requirements if DOL plans to use a contractor for future FPDS-NG reviews.

Response: Future FPDS-NG reviews will be performed by federal staff experienced with procurement polices and the FPDS-NG system. As such, contract monitoring will not be needed. In the event a contractor is utilized in the future for this work, this recommendation will be adopted.

cc: T. Michael Kerr, Assistant Secretary
Al Stewart, Director, Business Operations Center
Val Veatch, Director, Office of Acquisition Management Services