

Date: SEP 12 2016

From Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

Subj: US Government Version 6 (USGv6) Guidance (VAIQ# 7724087)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Official

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) procurement policies that require IPv6 compliant products to be included in all new information technology acquisitions that use Internet Protocol (IP). IPv6 was created over a decade ago and is intended to eventually replace IPv4. The driving purpose for IPv6 is to provide significantly increased IP address space to support the enormous growth in Internet capable devices. As the next generation Internet standard, the plentiful IP addresses provided by IPv6 enable flexibility in design and innovation, supporting the newest technologies and protocols which require IPv6. The Federal intent is to ensure the United States Government (USG) can improve operational efficiencies via IPv6, enable the general public to access citizen services via IPv6, as well as enable the USG to access public services that are only available via IPv6.

2. Suppliers Declaration of Conformity (SDOC), a legal document that specifies and certifies the product's IPv6 capabilities, lays out the requirements for vendors.

3. The following shall be considered when purchasing networked Information Technology (IT):

- a. Specification of IPv6 requirements for each item to be purchased.
- b. A comparison between VA's requirements and the capabilities of the IT product proposed by the vendor.
- c. SDOC, a legal document that specifies and certifies the product's IPv6 capabilities.

4. Please note that an IPv6 requirements specification and obtaining a vendor SDOC should happen as early as possible, preferably in the market analysis phase of the procurement.

5. In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 11.002 (g) and effectively immediately, requestors procuring IT services that use IP must include IPv6 requirements in acquisitions plans and requirements documents. The VA baseline requirements are provided below to assist with the IPv6 requirements specification process:

- a. Must support Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol version 6 (DHCPv6).
- b. Must support Dual Stack (Operates IPv4 and IPv6 simultaneously).
- c. Must support IPv6 only mode (native IPv6).

6. The Contractor solution shall support the latest Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) based upon the directives issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on August 2, 2005 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/memoranda/fy2005/m05-22.pdf>) and September 28, 2010 (<https://cio.gov/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/Transition-to-IPv6.pdf>). IPv6 technology, in accordance with the USGv6 Profile (NIST Special Publication (SP) 500-267 <http://www-x.antd.nist.gov/usgv6/index.html>), the Technical Infrastructure for USGv6 Adoption (<http://www.nist.gov/itl/antd/usgv6.cfm>), and the NIST SP 800 series applicable compliance (<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/PubsSPs.html>) shall be included in all IT infrastructures, application designs, application development, operational systems and sub-systems, and their integration. All public/external facing servers and services (e.g. web, email, DNS, ISP services, etc) shall support native IPv6 users, and all internal infrastructure and applications shall communicate using native IPv6 operations. Information concerning IPv6 transition in addition to OMB/VA memoranda can be found at <https://www.voa.va.gov/>.

7. Unless the VA Chief Information Officer (CIO) waives the requirement, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 11.002 (g) requires Federal agencies to include IPv6 compliance requirements in the requirements documents (e.g., product description or Performance Work Statement) when buying networked IT products. If applicable, the requesting office shall complete the attached waiver template and obtain VA CIO approval.

8. Please disseminate this information within your organizations to ensure IPv6 compliance for IT purchases that use IP. The VA IPv6 point of contact is Robert Green, VA IPv6 Transition Manager, (202) 632-7761, Robert.Green@va.gov. For procurements and acquisitions, please contact Rick Wortman, Business Systems Analyst, at 732-795-1149 or Richard.Wortman2@va.gov.



LaVerne H. Council

Attachment

Date:

From *Name of Requestor*

Subj: Request for Waiver of Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) for *Mode/Requesting Office*

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Official

This request is being submitted for your approval to waive the Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) for the *Mode/Requesting Office* for *compliance, capability or both*.

Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR 11.002(g) states the following – “Unless the agency Chief Information Officer waives the requirement, when acquiring information technology using Internet Protocol, the requirements documents must include reference to the appropriate technical capabilities defined in the USGv6 Profile (NIST Special Publication 500-267) and the corresponding declarations of conformance defined in the USGv6 Test Program. The applicability of IPv6 to the agency networks, infrastructure, and applications specific to individual acquisitions will be in accordance with the agency’s Enterprise Architecture (see OMB Memorandum M-05-22 dated August 2, 2005).”

Impacted Entity: *This is the organization, product, project, or program and its purpose that will be impacted by immediate compliance with the FAR Requirements for IPv6.*

Waiver Justification: *Provide the details that would justify obtaining an IPv6 FAR requirement waiver. This should include information such as:*

- *A brief explanation of the Program, Product, or Project*
- *The specifics of the current status of the effort.*
- *The procurement situation that highlighted the IPv6 issue*
- *The impact immediate compliance would have on the program, product, or project.*
- *Justification for a waiver (why this does not apply or should be delayed)*
- *Roadmap and Schedule to become compliant*

Duration: Expected duration for which this waiver is requested is _____.

Risks: *Provide information on the areas (e.g. security aspects, etc.) affected and associated risks (with and without IPv6 integrated). Describe the risk mitigation plan and activities to be implemented during the waiver period.*

Responsible Program Manager(s):

Name and Title

Organization

Phone:

Email:

Approve: / Disapprove:

LaVerne H. Council Date
Assistant Secretary for
Information and Technology (005)