

**Procurement Advisory No. 127**

**Acquiring Information Technology - Recommended Language to Comply with Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6)**

**1. SUMMARY**

This Advisory provides guidance to the acquisition workforce specifying that requirements documents include the appropriate Internet Protocol (IP) compliance language, consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 11.002(g), for all new information technology acquisitions using IP technology are IPv6 compliant to the maximum extent practicable.

**2. REFERENCES**

FAR Subpart 11.002(g): [https://www.acquisition.gov/far/html/Subpart%2011\\_1.html](https://www.acquisition.gov/far/html/Subpart%2011_1.html)

USGv6 Profile (NIST Special Publication 500-267): <http://www.nist.gov/itl/antd/upload/usgv6-v1.pdf>

USGv6 Test program website: <https://www-x.antd.nist.gov/usgv6/index.html>

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memo M-05-22 Transition Planning for Internet Protocol Version 6 (published August 2, 2005): (IPv6)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/memoranda/fy2005/m05-22.pdf>

OMB Transition to IPv6 (published September 28, 2010):

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov\\_docs/transition-to-ipv6.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov_docs/transition-to-ipv6.pdf)

**3. BACKGROUND**

In 2009, the FAR was updated with Subpart 11.002(g) which states that ‘unless the agency Chief Information Officer waives the requirement, when acquiring information technology using Internet Protocol [IP], the requirements documents must include reference to the appropriate technical capabilities defined in the USGv6 Profile (NIST Special Publication 500-267)’. Department policy is also aligned with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memoranda published in 2005 and 2010, detailing the Federal government’s commitment to operational use IPv6.

**4. ACTIONS**

USDA is reaffirming alignment and commitment to policies set forth by OMB, and supported by the USDA Chief Information Officer (CIO), and is providing recommended compliance language to the requirements office to assist the CIO in meeting this requirement. Therefore, it is recommended that the requirements office insert the following compliance language, or its equivalent, tailored appropriately, in the requirements documents (Statements of Work/Performance Work Statements) for all new information technology acquisitions that use IP technology unless the CIO waives the requirement. Any exceptions

must be approved by the CIO in writing in advance of the acquisition and accompany the requirements documents. Effective immediately the requirements office must ensure that the compliance language below is incorporated in the requirements documents for all new IT acquisitions using IP technology be IPv6 compliant.

### **Compliance with Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) in Acquiring Information Technology**

(a) Any system, hardware, software, firmware or networked component (voice, video or data) developed, procured or acquired in support or performance of this contract shall be capable of transmitting, receiving, processing, forwarding and storing digital information across system boundaries utilizing system packets that are formatted in accordance with commercial standards of Internet Protocol (IP) version 6 (IPv6) as set forth in the USGv6 Profile (NIST Special Publication 500-267) and corresponding declarations of conformance defined in the USGv6 Test Program. In addition, this system shall maintain interoperability with IPv4 systems and provide at least the same level of performance and reliability capabilities of IPv4 products:

(b) Specifically, any new IP product or system developed, acquired, or produced must:

- (1) Interoperate with both IPv6 and IPv4 systems and products, and
- (2) Have available contractor/vendor IPv6 technical support for development and implementation and fielded product management.

(c) As IPv6 evolves, the Contractor commits to upgrading or providing an appropriate migration path for each item developed, delivered or utilized at no additional cost to the Government.

(d) The Contractor shall provide technical support for both IPv4 and IPv6.

(e) Any system or software must be able to operate on networks supporting IPv4, IPv6 or one that supports both.

(f) Any product whose non-compliance is discovered and made known to the Contractor within one year after acceptance shall be upgraded, modified or replaced to bring it into compliance at no additional cost to the Government.

[END]

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