

11—117.12(8A) Specifications in solicitations. All specifications used in solicitations shall be written in a manner that encourages competition.

117.12(1) *Limitations on brands and models.* Specifications shall be written in general terms without reference to a particular brand or model unless the reference is clearly identified as intending to illustrate the general characteristics of the item and not to limit competition. A specific brand or model may be procured only when necessary to maintain a standard required or authorized by law or rule or for connectivity or compatibility with existing commodities or equipment.

117.12(2) *Recycled content and products.* When appropriate, specifications shall include requirements for the use of recovered materials and products. The specifications shall require, at a minimum, that all responses to a solicitation include a product content statement that describes the percentage of the content of the item that is reclaimed material.

The department shall revise specifications developed by agencies if the specifications restrict the use of alternative materials, exclude recovered materials, or require performance standards that exclude products containing recovered materials unless the agency seeking the product can document that the use of recovered materials will impede the intended use of the product.

Specifications shall support the following procurements:

a. Products containing recovered materials, including but not limited to lubricating oils, retread tires, building insulation materials, and recovered materials from waste tires.

b. Bio-based hydraulic fluids, greases, and other industrial lubricants manufactured from soybeans in accordance with Iowa Code section 8A.316.

117.12(3) *Life cycle cost and energy efficiency.* The department and agencies shall utilize life cycle cost and energy efficiency criteria in developing standards and specifications for procuring energy-consuming products except for passenger vehicles; light, medium-duty, and heavy-duty trucks; passenger and cargo vans; and sport utility vehicles.

117.12(4) *All or none solicitations.* A solicitation may specify whether or not responses will be accepted on an all or none basis. Only when this statement appears on the solicitation may it be included in the response. The department may award either by item or by lot, whichever is to the advantage of the enterprise.

117.12(5) *Financial security.* The department may require bid, litigation, fidelity, and performance security as designated in the solicitation documents. When required, a security may be by certified check, cashier's check, certificate of deposit, irrevocable letter of credit, bond, or other security acceptable to the department.

When required, a security shall not be waived. The security provided by vendors shall be retained until all provisions of the solicitation have been met. The security will then be returned to the vendor.

117.12(6) *Vehicle procurement.*

a. Specifications for procurement of all non-law enforcement, light-duty vehicles, excluding those purchased and used for off-road maintenance work or to pull loaded trailers, shall be for flexible fuel vehicles when an equivalent flexible fuel model is available.

b. Use of specifications for hybrid-electric or other alternative fuel vehicles is encouraged. Procurement of hybrid-electric or other alternative fuel vehicles may be dependent upon whether the cost of the vehicle is equivalent to a non-alternative fuel vehicle or non-flexible fuel vehicle (a vehicle with a gasoline E10 engine).

c. The average fuel efficiency for new passenger vehicles and light trucks that are purchased in a year shall equal or exceed the average fuel economy standard for the vehicles' model years as published by the United States Secretary of Transportation.

117.12(7) *Bulk diesel fuel procurement.* Specifications for procurement of all bulk diesel fuel shall ensure that all bulk diesel procured has at least 5 percent renewable content by 2007, 10 percent renewable content by 2008, and 20 percent renewable content by 2010, provided that fuel that meets the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D-6751 specification is available. Bulk diesel fuel that is used exclusively for emergency generation is exempt from the renewable content requirement.

[ARC 0952C, IAB 8/21/13, effective 9/25/13; ARC 2036C, IAB 6/10/15, effective 7/15/15; ARC 4137C, IAB 11/21/18, effective 12/26/18]