Subject: Amendment in General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017 – Global Tender Enquiry

In pursuance of Prime Minister’s address to the Nation on 12.05.2020, in order to promote self reliance, Make in India and to promote Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), it has been decided to make following amendments in the GFRs:

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<th>Present Rule 161(iv)</th>
<th>Amended Rule 161(iv)</th>
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| Where the Ministry or Department feels that the goods of the required quality, specifications etc., may not be available in the country and it is necessary to also look for suitable competitive offers from abroad, the Ministry or Department may send copies of the tender notice to the Indian Embassies abroad as well as to the Foreign Embassies in India. The selection of the embassies will depend on the possibility of availability of the required goods in such countries. In such cases e-procurement as per Rule 160 may not be insisted. | (a) **Global Tender Enquiry (GTE):** Where the Ministry or Department feels that the goods of the required quality, specifications etc., may not be available in the country and it is necessary to also look for suitable competitive offers from abroad, the Ministry or Department may send copies of the tender notice to the Indian Embassies abroad as well as to the Foreign Embassies in India. The selection of the embassies will depend on the possibility of availability of the required goods in such countries. In such cases e-procurement as per Rule 160 may not be insisted.  
(b) **No Global Tender Enquiry (GTE),** however shall be invited for tenders up to Rs 200 crore or such limit as may be prescribed by the Department of Expenditure from time to time. |
2. Instructions regarding Competent Authority mentioned in Rule 161 (iv) (b) will be issued separately.

(Sanjay Aggarwal)
Director (PPD)
sanjay.aggarwal68@nic.in
011-23094961

To

1. Secretaries of all Ministries/Departments, Govt of India

2. Mr Sailesh, Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Room no 301, Block 14, CGO complex, New Delhi. Tel: 24366171, email: secy-dpe@nic.in with a request to consider issuing similar instructions with respect to Central Public Sector Undertakings.
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Force Majeure Clause (FMC)

Attention is invited to Department of Expenditure’s O.M. No. 18/4/2020-PPD dated 19th February, 2020 on the invocation of Force Majeure Clause (FMC). Vide the O.M., it was clarified that disruption of supply chains due to spread of Coronavirus will be covered under FMC which could be invoked, wherever considered appropriate, following the due procedure as stated in para 9.7.7. of the Manual on Procurement of Goods.

2. Subsequent to issuance of the above referred O.M., further disruptions have affected transportation, manufacturing and distribution of goods and services in the country. Limitations placed on the movement of men and material as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act 2005) and the respective State and UT governments from time to time have severely impaired the fulfilment of contractual obligations for supply of goods, works and consultancy services (including other services), and affected the volume of vehicular traffic.

3. Attention in this regard is invited to para 9.7.7 of the “Manual for Procurement of Goods 2017”, Para 6.4.2 of the “Manual for Procurement of Works 2019” and para 8.14.1 of the “Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and other Services 2017” issued by the Department of Expenditure. The above referred three Manuals recognize extraordinary events or circumstances beyond human control leading to delays in or non-fulfilment of contractual obligations. In a situation of such events happening, and after following due procedure, parties to the contract are allowed flexibility to invoke FMC following prescribed due procedure.

4. It is recognised that in view of the restrictions placed on the movement of goods, services and manpower on account of the lockdown situation prevailing overseas and in the country in terms of the guidelines issued by the MHA under the DM Act 2005 and the respective State and UT Governments, it may not be possible for the parties to the contract to fulfil contractual obligations. In respect of Public-private Partnership (PPP) concession contracts, a period of the contract may have become unremunerative. Therefore, after fulfilling due procedure and wherever applicable, parties to the contract may invoke FMC for all construction/works contracts, goods and services contracts and PPP contracts with Government Agencies and in such event, date for completion of contractual obligations which had to be completed on or after 20th February 2020 shall stand extended for a period not less than
three months and not more than six months without imposition of any cost or penalty on the contractor/concessionaire. Concession period in PPP contracts ending on or after 20th February 2020 shall be extended by not less than three and not more than six months. The period of extension (between three and six months) may be decided based on the specific circumstances of the case and the period for which performance was affected by the *force majeure* events.

5. It is clarified that invocation of FMC would be held valid only in a situation where the parties to the contract were not in default of the contractual obligations as on 19th February, 2020. It is further clarified that invocation of FMC does not absolve all non-performances of a party to the contract, but only in respect of such non-performance as is attributable to a lockdown situation or restrictions imposed under any Act or executive order of the Government/s on account of COVID-19 global pandemic. It may be noted that, subject to above stated, all contractual obligations shall revive on completion of the period.

(Kotluru Narayana Reddy)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. No.: 24621305
Email: kn.reddy@gov.in

To,
Secretaries of all Central Government Ministries/Departments
F.No.12/17/2019-PPD  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Expenditure  
Public Procurement Division  
**********

Office Memorandum  

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated the 12th May, 2020

Subject: Use of National Regulations or National Standards or Building Codes in case of Public Procurement in terms of Rule 144(iii) of GFR 2017.

Attention is invited to the above Rule, which states that the National Technical Regulations or recognized National Standards or Building Codes needs to be specified in the public procurement, wherever such standards exists. The Rule also provides that wherever such standard exists, if a procuring entity intends to adopt any other technical specification, he shall have to record his reasons in writing for doing so.

2. It has come to the notice of this Department that even in cases where Indian Technical specifications exist; the procuring entities specify foreign Quality Certifications and Accreditations. It is reiterated that wherever Indian Technical specifications and Quality Certifications exists, the procuring entity should prescribe them. In those rare or exceptional cases where, despite the existence of Indian technical specifications, the procuring entity intends to specify foreign Technical Certifications and Accreditations, it must record its reasons in writing for adoption of such other technical specifications. Needless to say, this may also be subject to matter of audit.

3. This issues with the approval of Secretary (Expenditure).

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To

Secretaries of all Ministries/ Departments, Govt of India

Rule 171 of the GFR 2017 prescribes conditions for obtaining performance security for the execution of goods and works contract. The Rule prescribes that performance security is to be obtained from the successful bidder which is awarded the contract amounting to 5% - 10% of the value of contract as specified in the bid documents. The validity of the performance security is for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of all contractual obligations of the supplier including warranty obligation.

2. Attention is drawn to Department of Expenditure’s O.M. No. F.18/4/2020 – PPD dated 19.2.2020 wherein it was clarified that disruption of supply chains due to spread of Corona virus in China or any other country would be considered as extraordinary events or circumstances beyond human control and would be termed as a natural calamity. It was, therefore, advised that wherever considered appropriate, after following due procedure as stated in para 9.7.7 of the Manual for Procurement of Goods 2017, “Force Majeure Clause” (FMC) may be invoked.

3. Since the issue of the said O.M., restrictions have been placed on the movement of goods, services and manpower on account of the lockdown situation prevailing in the country in terms of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in terms of the Disaster Management Act 2005 (D.M. Act 2005) and executive orders of the respective States and U.T. Governments. Under such situations the payment cycle too has got disrupted due to the restrictive measures, on account of which some contractors, who have otherwise fulfilled their contractual obligations, are facing liquidity problems impacting their future performance. In some cases, it may not have been possible for a contractor/supplier to fulfil all his contractual obligations in terms of the contract. Public interest lies in quick resumption of economic activity.

4. Therefore, in the following circumstances:
   (a) where an application is made by a contractor who is not in default of any contractual obligations; or
   (b) where FMC is invoked by a contractor and the requirements of FMC are fulfilled,

the contractee (Government Department/Agency) may return the value of performance security to the contractor/supplier as is proportional to the supplies made/contract work completed to the total contract value.

5. It is clarified that if the contractor/supplier is in violation of the contractual obligation, the contractee shall be under no obligation to take action as per these guidelines. It is further clarified that the guidelines contained in the present OM shall apply only in respect of such non-performance as can be attributable to a lockdown.
situation or restrictions imposed under any Act or executive order of the Government/s on account of COVID-19 global pandemic.
6. These guidelines are issued under Rule 6(1) of GFR 2017.

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To:
Secretaries of all Central Government Ministries/Departments