

Appendix B

Questions and Answers for Suppliers

To what extent will there be an obligation under the Government Procurement Chapter to have similar procurement systems in both countries?

The chapter is based on national treatment in the administration of our respective procurement systems. This implies that, for the commodities subject to the chapter, government purchasers would treat eligible products of the other country no less favourably than those of their own country. This does not mean the adoption of identical procurement systems.

How is the eligibility of goods determined?

All Request for Proposal documents for requirements under the Free Trade Agreement will include a form or "Statement of Eligibility" that the companies will have to fill out. Goods requested will be listed by the bidder who will indicate the value and whether it meets the 50 per cent North American content rule. Bidders will certify this information to be true. Should a supplier fail to fill out this form, it will be assumed that the products do not meet the eligibility criteria.

What will be the implications of the chapter on the Supply and Services Canada solicitation process?

Insofar as the solicitation process is concerned, the chapter specifies that the GATT procedures will apply. Therefore, for the goods covered, the solicitation process will provide for public notice of upcoming requirements as well as a minimum lead time to allow all interested suppliers to bid. The prescribed time limit will be the same as that provided by the GATT Code (40 days as of 1988).

How will bid opportunities be advertised?

Bid opportunities are advertised in the publication entitled *Government Business Opportunities*. The publication can be obtained from the Government Publishing Centre (Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9) by subscription of CDN \$215 annually in Canada and US \$258 outside Canada.