

Subscription will be accepted on the basis of the Federal Supply Classification for a single class or for as many individual classes as the subscriber chooses. Applicable classes may be determined by referring to the list of *Federal Supply Groups and Classes, Cataloging Handbook H2-1*, which is available free of cost from:

The Director
Navy Publications and Printing Service Office,
700 Robbins Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 1911

The Federal Supply Classification System is the basis for inventory and supply management systems of all U.S. government agencies.

8.2.2 Prime Contracts/Specifications

Canadian companies receiving solicitations from U.S. military agencies, including those received through CCC, will normally find that MILSPECS for components, material, testing, packaging, packing, etc. and federal standards are not provided with the bid package. The procedures outlined above should be followed to obtain all unclassified specifications and standards. To receive classified specifications and bid support documents, a request must be made to CCC. The request must include the solicitation number, the U.S. agency issuing it, the closing date of the bid, and the name and telephone number of the U.S. contracting officer, if known.

It should be noted that statements of work to be performed, drawings, etc. can be obtained only from the agency originating the solicitation. Normally, the name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact at the soliciting agency office is in the bid package.

8.2.3 Subcontracts/Specifications

Drawings, specifications, and other unclassified technical data required to perform the work are normally furnished by the U.S. prime contractor. Standard specifications should be obtained as described in 8.1.

A Canadian firm wishing to obtain classified material from a U.S. defence contractor in connection with subcontract work should seek assistance from CCC which will make the necessary arrangements.

8.3 Quality Assurance

The production of defence supplies in accordance with military quality standards is an essential element of military acquisition. An intergovernmental agreement exists between Canada and the United States, whereby Government Quality Assurance (GQA) of military supplies and services (including, when appropriate, raw materials, components and intermediate assemblies) is provided upon request. This is based upon NATO agreements which call for the provision of host nation quality assurance on a no-cost, reciprocal basis.

8.3.1 Method of Application

By virtue of this arrangement, the Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) will, upon request from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or other U.S. military agencies through DCASMA, Ottawa, arrange for Canadian DND personnel to conduct GQA on behalf of

the U.S. government with respect to contracts placed with either CCC or directly to suppliers and with respect to subcontracts placed in Canada by U.S. defence contractors. DND GQA services are provided on a no-charge basis to the U.S. military procurement agencies. In addition, either DND or the U.S. military acquisition agency may arrange for GQA by its own organization in the other's country in appropriate or exceptional circumstances.

In Canada, the QA function is carried out by the DND Director General Quality Assurance. Complete information or guidance on military requirements for a Contractor's Quality Control/Inspection system may be obtained by application to the Director General Quality Assurance of DND.

8.4 U.S. Product Qualification and Qualified Products List (QPL)

Qualification is defined as the testing of products for compliance with the requirements of a specification, in advance of and independent of any acquisition action. Only a small percentage of commodities are required to be qualified prior to award of a contract. Qualification is made only when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- a) Time required for testing the product after a contract award would unduly delay delivery of the supplies being purchased.
- b) The cost of repetitive testing would be excessive.
- c) Tests require expensive or complicated testing apparatus not commonly available.
- d) Assurance is required, prior to award of contract, that the product is satisfactory for its intended use.
- e) Determination of acceptability would require performance data to supplement technical requirements contained in the specification.

8.4.1 Qualified Products Lists

In such cases, the specification provides for advance testing of products and listing the products which successfully pass these tests, on lists known as Qualified Products Lists (QPL).

An agreement has been negotiated between Canada and the United States, entitled "U.S./Canada Agreement for Qualification of Products of Non-Resident Manufacturers". The agreement allows one country's products to be listed by the other country in its Qualified Products List (QPL).

8.4.2 Procedure For Canadian Manufacturers

When a Canadian manufacturer wishes to supply a product covered by a specification requiring qualification approval, he should first review the specification and determine by actual test whether his product complies with the design and/or performance limits of the specification.

If the product falls into one of the classes covered by the reciprocal agreement the manufacturer should request qualification action from: