
Claims resulting from contract terminations or contract disputes, or both, where additional work may have been done or additional costs incurred, may be resolved through the Contracts Settlement Board. The board acts on behalf of the Minister of Supply and Services and offers a less costly alternative to litigation. The proceedings are informal and rely on bringing a common-sense attitude to problems with a view to finding mutually satisfactory resolutions.

The Free Trade Agreement introduces an additional layer of review in the form of a bid challenge process for contracts falling under the Agreement. The Procurement Review Board of Canada has been established to meet the obligation under the Agreement to provide a mechanism for impartial resolution of complaints that cannot be resolved administratively. The board has the power to receive complaints, carry out enquiries and recommend what remedy be provided by the contracting authority. The board may request a delay in the contract award during the enquiry and can, for example, recommend the re-evaluation of the bid, the termination of a contract and the payment of compensation. The board can also award reimbursement of the complainant's bid preparation costs. More detail on the bid challenge process in Canada can be obtained directly from the board.

United States

Purchasing by the United States federal government can be divided into three broad categories: Department of Defense (DoD) military procurement, General Services Administration procurement, and procurement by other civilian agencies. Generally, each agency of government (military or civilian) purchases those items that are unique to its own needs while the General Services Administration procures, stores, and issues those items that are in general use by government agencies.

All U.S. laws, judicial decisions, administrative rulings and procedures regarding government procurement are codified in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), published as part of the United States Code of Federal Regulations. The FAR and the Federal Information Resources Management Regulations govern purchasing by all agencies, both civilian and defence. As a result, buying policies throughout the U.S. federal government are basically the same.