

Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: February 13, 2015
From: Chief Veterinary Medical Officer, ORD (508-151V)
Subj: Feed and bedding contracts
To: ACOS and AO

1. On behalf of Dr. Holly Birdsall (Deputy CRADO) and Dr. Ron Przygodski (Director, BLR&D), I am happy to announce the availability of two contract vehicles to streamline the purchase of feed and bedding for our animal research programs. Mike Walsh, the Nashville VAMC AO for R&D, was instrumental in gathering VA usage data and working on a contracting solution that would be as simple as possible for the field to use. ORD appreciates the quality input received from many of you in the field, and could not have completed this process without your assistance. Contracting professionals at the Strategic Acquisition Center were very helpful in working with us to find the best solutions, and provided significant assistance throughout the task.

2. First of all, I want each of you to know that nothing changes in regards to the product(s) you use in your research operation. This should alleviate any apprehensions expressed during the data collection phase of this process. I know many of you were concerned about how our attempt to simplify things or reduce costs may have forced you to change products. There are two contracting vehicles that have been put in place, one is with Harlan/Teklad and the other is with Purina and other major vendors, and there is no need to switch from vendors you currently use for feed or bedding. Some description of how to order is below.

3. This cover memo describes four documents.

a. *Harlan Teklad Blanket BPA VA119-15-A-0035.pdf*. This is a copy of the fully executed VA Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) #VA119-15-A-0035 with Harlan/Teklad. The BPA can be used to order any of the 202 items listed on pages 16-28 without the need for any further sole source justification. Pricing is based upon the zones listed on page 16. Note that the prices for Zone 5 do not include shipping charges. Also keep in mind that the 4% SAC fee must be accommodated for all purchases.

b. *Ordering Guide for the HarlanTeklad BPA.pdf*. The ordering guide for purchasing staff explains how to utilize the BPA in eCMS and when making purchases via Government Purchase Card.

c. *Harlan Teklad J and A.pdf*. This Justification and Approval for Other than Full and Open Competition (J&A) can be used to justify purchases from Harlan of an item listed in Appendix A and B of the J&A to include custom research diets (see page 13-14 of J&A). Your local research administrative and contracting personnel can advise you if additional documents are needed for the purchase.

d. *Class J and A for Purina and Other Vendors.pdf*. If you wish to order common items from Purina LabDiet, Bio-Serve, and Dyets, Incorporated (The Andersons, NEPCO, PJ Murphy, Shepherd Specialty Papers, Biofresh, and Ancare products), this Class J&A serves as the officially sanctioned means by which you can justify sole source purchase from these vendors, for the items listed. Some other documentation of need may be required, but you will not have to complete another J&A.

This Class J&A does not address pricing like the Harlan BPA does because of the decentralized manner in which these products are distributed around the country. As was the case with the Harlan agreement, this J&A will serve to meet requirements associated with any challenge that might exist or surface regarding the propriety of purchasing these items on a sole source basis from the vendors listed above. No SAC fee is collected in conjunction with use of this document.

4. If you have any specific questions, please contact the following individuals:


a. For questions related to proper use of these instruments or the SAC fee, contact Mr. Blake McIlvane, the Contracting Officer, as follows:

Mr. Blake McIlvane, Contract Specialist
Procurement Directorate C-2
Office of Acquisition Operations, Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC)
BB: 202-679-2883
Fax: 540-479-8500
blake.mcilvane@va.gov

b. For practical help with ordering procedures related to these instruments, contact Mr. Mike Walsh as follows:

Mr. Mike Walsh
Administrative Officer for Research and Development
Nashville VA Medical Center
mike.walsh@va.gov
615-873-8066

c. To provide feedback or suggestions, contact Dr. Mike Fallon, using the contact information below.



Michael T. Fallon, DVM, PhD, DAACLAM, CPIA
Chief Veterinary Medical Officer
Office for Research and Development
Atlanta VA Medical Center
michael.fallon@va.gov
404-728-7644