



DEFENSE PRIORITIES

and Allocations System (DPAS)

Prioritizing National Defense and Emergency Preparedness

Title I of the Defense Production Act (DPA) provides the President authority to require preferential performance on contracts and orders, as necessary, to meet national defense and emergency preparedness program requirements. Executive Order 12919 delegates these authorities to various federal departments and agencies.

The Secretary of Commerce has been delegated the authority to manage industrial resources. To implement its authority, the Department of Commerce (DOC) administers the Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS). The DOC has assigned authority to the Department of Defense (DoD) under the DPAS to:

- 1** Apply priority ratings to contracts and orders supporting national defense programs
- 2** Request the DOC provide Special Priorities Assistance (SPA) to resolve conflicts for industrial resources among both rated and unrated (i.e. non-defense) contracts and orders
- 3** Authorize priority ratings for national defense-related orders in the U.S. from other federal agencies and friendly nations, when such authorization furthers U.S. national defense interests

SPA is typically used to accelerate deliveries of rated orders due to changes in military urgency and to rate foreign defense orders. SPA is also the vehicle used to implement allocation decisions of the Priority Allocation of Industrial Resources (PAIR) task force.



Preference for Rated DoD Orders

Under the DPAS, U.S. suppliers must provide rated DoD orders preference over unrated orders, even if this requires the diversion of items being processed for delivery against unrated orders. Although the DPAS is largely self-executing, if problems arise and/or defense priorities change, DoD can request DOC to direct U.S. suppliers to perform particular rated orders ahead of any or all other rated or unrated orders – even if those other orders previously were designated to be of higher priority.

Serving The National Interest – A Case Study

During Operation Enduring Freedom, after consultation with other affected DoD programs, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Policy) asked the DOC to direct a U.S. company to produce and ship Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems to the Air Force, to support the Predator program in advance of competing DoD orders. The company met the Air Force need date because the directive reprioritized all DoD work in its facility, moving the Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems to the front of the production queue.

The vehicle for providing DoD requests to the DOC is DOC Form BIS-999, "Request for Special Priorities Assistance" (<http://www.bis.doc.gov/DPAS>)

International Partners

The U.S. DoD has similar "DPAS-like" arrangements with several foreign countries. These arrangements establish procedures to provide reciprocal priorities support to request the priority delivery of critical industrial items or services necessary to meet urgent national defense requirements. Participating nations include:

-  Canada
-  United Kingdom
-  Sweden
-  Italy
-  Netherlands

