
Procure-to-Pay Capability Summary

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SUBJECT: Purchase Request Data Standard

BACKGROUND: The Purchase Request Data Standard (PRDS) is a system-agnostic data standard that supports the creation, translation, processing, and sharing of procurement requirements. These Purchase Requests (PRs) are often created in local or proprietary data models in a variety of systems; the PRDS is used as an external standard when systems send their PR transactions to other systems. This data standard aligns to and enforces FAR and DFARS rules on PR data structure, and supports all types of PRs. PRDS has also been mapped to the Procurement Data Standard to allow for pre-population of PR data to facilitate the development of contracts.

POLICY: Section 862 of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required DoD to establish enterprise-level standards for contract data. To address this requirement Defense Pricing and Contracting (DPC) developed guidance in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Procedures, Guidance, and Instruction (PGI) 211.7001 requiring DoD procurement organizations to distribute PRs electronically via the Global Exchange (GEX) in PRDS format. In March 2021, the Deputy Comptroller issued a memo¹ that requires PR-sending systems to use PRDS by October 2022.

DATA STANDARDS: The PRDS is an XML-based, non-proprietary data standard available at <https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/ce/ds/prds.html>. DPC developed the first PRDS version in Fiscal Year 2010. Subsequent versions have integrated additional capabilities, such as the ability to create requests for contract modifications, issue telecommunications and construction PRs, and create two-party intragovernmental transactions. PRDS documents the entire PR as discrete data elements, against which data validations and business rules interrogations are performed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE: DPC has partnered with Defense Logistics Agency to use their GEX service to perform business rules validations on each PR's data quality and route PRDS data to receiving systems. Along with validation at the time of issuance, GEX supports validation prior to issuance. The results of these business rules validations are available in the Procurement Business Intelligence System/Advana to users who may then systematically identify and correct common PR data quality issues. Depending on the local infrastructure, PRs may be created by a dedicated PR system, or by an accounting system. Per PGI 211.70, requiring systems and contract writing systems must use either PRDS or a format that can be translated to or from PRDS for their PRs.

IMPACT: The PRDS improves data visibility of requirements and has enabled system owners to improve data integrity and standardization. Use of PRDS has also identified policy and process gaps across the DoD enabling business process re-engineering. Use of this standard has improved the ability to generate more accurate and comprehensive business intelligence on the Department's requirements.

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¹ Deputy Comptroller for Enterprise Data and Business Performance Memo "Use of the Purchase Request Data Standard for Spend Traceability" dated March 19, 2021.