



ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, UNITED STATES CYBER
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(PROCUREMENT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(PROCUREMENT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(CONTRACTING)
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Whistleblower Protections in Defense Contracts

Reference: Audit of DOD Compliance with Whistleblower Protection Requirements in
FY 2020 Contracts (DODIG-2023-101)

The DoD Office of the Inspector General (DoD IG) conducted an audit to assess compliance with whistleblower protection requirements under DoD contracts. The DoD IG found that contracting officers generally included the required whistleblower clause (Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement clause 252.203-7002, Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights) in contracts, but did not verify that contractors informed employees in writing of their whistleblower rights and protections. As a result of these findings, and responsive to the DoD IG recommendations, I request that contracting offices implement the following actions:

1. Review existing contracts to ensure inclusion of the whistleblower clause, and as appropriate, modify contracts to include the required clause.
2. Emphasize to contracting officials the value of the whistleblower program using the information contained in the DoDIG Whistleblower and DoD Hotline website (<https://www.dodig.mil/Components/Administrative-Investigations/DoD-Hotline/>), using initial or refresher training to address the importance of whistleblower compliance, and documenting, as appropriate, in Individual Development Plans during the next training cycle.
3. Contracting officials shall apply a risk-based approach to determine whether contractor compliance with contractual whistleblower requirements should be verified, and as appropriate, address oversight of the requirement in the contract's surveillance plan.

Should you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Grover at osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.asda-dp-c-contractpolicy@mail.mil or by phone 703-380-9783.

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Defense Pricing and Contracting