

Issued on: December 15, 1999.

Catherine F. Nicholas,

*Transportation and Environmental Engineer,
FHWA Washington Division.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Best Practices Procurement Manual

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of updates to FTA's Best Practices Procurement Manual.

SUMMARY: FTA periodically updates its Best Practices Procurement Manual. These updates are currently available through the FTA World Wide Web Page and the FTA Office of Procurement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Reginald Lovelace, FTA Office of Procurement, (202) 366-2654. Electronic access to this and other documents concerning FTA's procurement requirements may be obtained through the FTA World Wide Web home page at <http://www.fta.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FTA first published its Best Practices Procurement Manual (BPPM or Manual) in 1996. The purpose of the Manual is to assist FTA grantees and their contractors to better understand and implement the FTA third party procurement requirements, found at FTA Circular 4220.1D. Because the agency views the BPPM as a "living document," it has been continuously updated since 1996.

FTA has added the following subjects to the Manual: Procurement Planning and Organization (indefinite delivery contracts); Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) (comparing the previous and present DBE rules; listing administrative requirements; describing the goals for DBE participation; establishing certification standards and procedures; and discussing exemptions and waivers to the DBE rule); Contract Administration (particularly any changes in a given contract); Closeouts; and Disputes.

FTA intends to publish a fourth edition of the BPPM early next year; that manual will be available through the FTA Office of Procurement, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590; it can also be downloaded through the FTA Web Page, www.fta.dot.gov.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

Nuria I. Fernandez,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-33615 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds: Name Change—General Accident Insurance Company of America

AGENCY: Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is Supplement No. 8 to the Treasury Department Circular 570; 1999 Revision, published July 1, 1999, at 64 FR 35864.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Surety Bond Branch at (202) 874-6507.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: GENERAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, a Pennsylvania corporation, has formerly changed its name to CGU INSURANCE COMPANY, effective August 2, 1999. The Company was last listed as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds at 64 FR 35876, July 1, 1999.

A Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds, dated today, is hereby issued under Sections 9304 to 9308 of Title 31 of the United States Code, to CGU INSURANCE COMPANY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This new Certificate replaces the Certificate of Authority issued to the Company under its former name. The underwriting limitation of \$131,739,000 established for the Company as of July 1, 1999, remains unchanged until June 30, 2000.

Certificates of Authority expire on June 30, each year, unless revoked prior to that date. The Certificates are subject to subsequent annual renewal as long as the Company remains qualified (31 CFR part 223). A list of qualified companies is published annually as of July 1, in the Department Circular 570, which outlines details as to underwriting limitations, areas in which licensed to transact surety business and other information. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1999 Revision, at page 35870 to reflect this change.

The Circular may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet (<http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570/index.html>). A hard copy may be purchased from the

Government Printing Office (GPO), Subscription Service, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 512-1800. When ordering the Circular from GPO, use the following stock number: 048-000-00527-6.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6A04, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Dated: December 17, 1999.

Wanda J. Rogers,

Director, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Financial Management Service.

[FR Doc. 99-33535 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds: Name Change—Pennsylvania General Insurance Company

AGENCY: Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is Supplement No. 7 to the Treasury Department Circular 570; 1999 Revision, published July 1, 1999, at 64 FR 35864.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Surety Bond Branch at (202) 874-6507.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Pennsylvania General Insurance Company, a Pennsylvania corporation, has formally changed its name to GENERAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY, effective August 2, 1999. The Company was last listed as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds at 64 FR 35885, July 1, 1999.

A Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds, dated today, is hereby issued under sections 9304 to 9308 of Title 31 of the United States Code, to GENERAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This new Certificate replaces the Certificate of Authority issued to the Company under its former name. The underwriting limitation of \$18,569,000 established for the Company as of July 1, 1999, remains unchanged until June 30, 2000.

Certificates of Authority expire on June 30, each year, unless revoked prior to that date. The Certificates are subject to subsequent annual renewal as long as the Company remains qualified (31 CFR, part 223). A list of qualified companies

is published annually as of July 1, in the Department Circular 570, which outlines details as to underwriting limitations, areas in which licensed to transact surety business and other information. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1999 Revision, at page 35876 to reflect this change.

The Circular may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet (<http://www.fms.treas.gov/c570/index.html>). A hard copy may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO), Subscription Service, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 512-1800. When ordering the Circular from GPO, use the following stock number: 048-000-00527-6.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6A04, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Dated: December 17, 1999.

Wanda J. Rogers,

Director, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Financial Management Service.

[FR Doc. 99-33536 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

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U.S. TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION

Notice of Open Hearing

AGENCY: U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of open public hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

Name: Murray Weidenbaum, Chairman of the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

The Commission is mandated to report to the Congress and the President on the causes, consequences, and solutions to the U.S. trade deficit. The purpose of this public hearing is to take testimony on the role played by United States participation in NAFTA and U.S.—Latin American trade in the causes and consequences of the U.S. trade deficit.

Background

In fulfilling its statutory mission, the Commission is holding field hearings to collect input from industry and labor leaders, government officials, leading researchers, other informed witnesses, and the public.

Professor Murray Wiedenbaum of Washington University, St. Louis, who is a former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, chairs the Commission. The Vice Chairman is Professor Dimitri Papadimitriou, President of The Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. The Dallas hearing will be chaired by the Honorable Carla A. Hills, Commissioner.

Purpose of Hearing

In light of the ongoing massive trade and current account deficits incurred by the United States, progress in improving U.S. exporters' access to foreign markets is critically important. The failure of the WTO Ministerial in Seattle to come up with a negotiating agenda for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations highlights how the consensus on reducing barriers to trade has fractured. Rebuilding the consensus on trade issues in the United States is of critical importance in addressing the large U.S. trade deficits. The work of the Commission, by analyzing the U.S. trade deficits in a non-partisan manner with the input of leading experts, will provide a reasoned and informed answer on how to respond to the trade deficit and its consequences. The findings of the Commission, while not binding, will likely form the basis for Congressional consensus building on trade policy as we enter the next century.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for presentations by invited witnesses on their views on the interrelationship between the trade deficit and the topics of the hearing. There will be a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses. Public participation is invited and there will be an open-mike session for public comment at the conclusion of the afternoon session. Sign-up for the open-mike session will take place in the afternoon and will be on a first come first served basis. Each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of 3 minutes. Because of time constraints, parties with common interests are encouraged to designate a single speaker to represent their views.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, January 21, 2000, 8:30 am–5 pm Central Standard Time inclusive.

ADDRESS: The hearing will be held in the 2nd Floor Auditorium of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2200 North Pearl, Dallas, TX 75201. Public seating is limited to 75 to 100 seats and will be

on a first come first served basis. Commercial public parking lots are available within the vicinity of the Bank.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS: The Dallas Federal Reserve Bank is a secure facility and everyone must abide by security procedures. Everyone entering the facility is required to have a picture identification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the hearing or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact Kathy Michels, Administrative Officer for the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 706, Washington, DC 20001; phone 202/624-1409; or via e-mail at: kmichels@sso.org.

Providing Oral or Written comments at the Dallas Hearing

Copies of the draft meeting agenda, when available, may be obtained from the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission by going to the Commission's website at www.ustdrc.gov. The Commission requests that written public statements submitted for the record be brief and concise and limited to two pages in length. Written comments (at least 35 copies) must be received at the USTDRC Headquarters Office in Washington, DC by January 14, 2000. Comments received too close to the hearing date will normally be provided to the Commission Members at its hearing. Written comments may be provided up until the time of the hearing.

Authority: The Trade Deficit Review Commission Act, Pub. L. 105-277, Div. A, section 127, 112 Stat. 2681-547 (1998), established the Commission to study the nature, causes and consequences of the United States merchandise trade and current accounts deficits and report its findings to the President and the Congress. By statute, the Commission must hold at least 4 regional field hearings and 1 hearing in Washington, DC. This is the fourth in a series of field hearings to be conducted. The schedule of hearings is available at the US Trade Deficit Review Commission website <www.ustdrc.gov>.

For the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, December 20, 1999.

Allan I. Mendelowitz,

Executive Director, U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-33576 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

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