

Date: December 15, 2016

From: Acting Deputy Senior Procurement Executive (DSPE)

Subj: Class Deviation from VA Acquisition Regulation(VAAR) 815.303 –
Responsibilities (VAIQ 7759423)

To: VA Head of Contracting Activities (HCAs)

1. **Purpose:** To issue a Class Deviation to VAAR 815.303—Responsibilities
2. **VAAR Section Impacted:** VAAR 815.303.
3. **Effective Date:** Immediately.
4. **Expiration Date:** This class deviation will remain in effect until incorporated into the VAAR or the VA Acquisition Manual (VAAM) or otherwise rescinded.
5. **Applicability:** This deviation applies to all VA contracting activities.
6. **Background:** The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 15.303(a) states, “Agency heads are responsible for source selection. The contracting officer is designated as the Source Selection Authority (SSA), unless the agency head appoints another individual for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions.”

The FAR 15.303 does not prohibit delegating this authority. It is in the Government’s best interest, when permitted by statute, to expedite procurement processes through the flow-down of procurement authority.

7. **Current Policy:** The present VAAR Subpart 815.3, Source Selection, Section 815.303, Responsibilities, states:

“The authority of the Secretary to appoint an individual other than the contracting officer to serve as the source selection authority for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions is delegated to the Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) and is further delegated to the Deputy Senior Procurement Executive (DSPE). If an Head of Contracting Activity (HCA) wishes to designate an individual other than the delegated contracting officer as the SSA for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions, the HCA shall prepare a request and justification and shall submit the request through channels to the DSPE for approval”.

8. Need for Deviation: Based on the current 815.303, Responsibilities, a class deviation to VAAR 815.303 is required to delegate to the HCAs the authority to designate an individual other than the contracting officer as the SSA for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions.

9. New Policy: VAAR Subpart 815.3—Source Selection, Section 815.303—Responsibilities, is changed to read:

“The authority of the Secretary to appoint an individual other than the contracting officer to serve as the SSA (Source Selection Authority) for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions is hereby delegated to the Head of the Contracting Activities (HCAs). If an individual requests someone other than the delegated contracting officer as the source selection authority for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions, the requester shall prepare a request and justification and shall submit the request through channels to the appropriate HCA for approval”.

10. Attachment: VA Class Deviation from VAAR Subpart 815.3—Source Selection, Section 815.303—Responsibilities.

11. Additional Information: Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Office of Acquisition and Logistics (003A), Procurement, Policy and Warrant Management Service (003A2A) at (202) 632-5288 or email: va.procurement.policy@va.gov.

/s/

Phil W. Parker

Distribution:

Under Secretaries for Health, Benefits, and Memorial Affairs; Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management; Head Contracting Activities, Directors, VHA Service Area Offices; Directors and Network Contract Managers, Veterans Integrated Service Networks; Directors, VA Medical Center Activities, Domiciliary, Outpatient Clinics, Medical and Regional Office Centers, and Regional Offices; Directors, Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center, Corporate Franchise Datacenter, Records Management Center, VBA Benefits Delivery Centers, and VA Health Administration Center; and the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, VA National Acquisition Center, National Cemetery Administration

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Class Deviation
Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation 815.303 - Responsibilities

815.303 - Responsibilities

The authority of the Secretary to appoint an individual other than the contracting officer to serve as the SSA (Source Selection Authority) for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions is hereby delegated to the Head of the Contracting Activities (HCAs). If an individual requests someone other than the delegated contracting officer as the source selection authority for a particular acquisition or group of acquisitions, the requester shall prepare a request and justification and shall submit the request through channels to the appropriate HCA for approval.

END