

F.No.6/18/2019-PPD  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Expenditure  
Public Procurement Division

161, North Block,  
New Delhi  
23rd July, 2020

**Office Memorandum**

**Subject: Insertion of Rule 144 (xi) in the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017**

Rule 144 of the General Financial Rules 2017 entitled 'Fundamental principles of public buying', has been amended by inserting sub-rule (xi) as under:

*Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, Department of Expenditure may, by order in writing, impose restrictions, including prior registration and/or screening, on procurement from bidders from a country or countries, or a class of countries, on grounds of defence of India, or matters directly or indirectly related thereto including national security; no procurement shall be made in violation of such restrictions.*

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- To,
- (1) Secretaries of All Ministries/ Departments of Government of India
  - (2) Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of Union Territories/ National Capital Territory of Delhi

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**Order (Public Procurement No. 1)**

**Subject: Restrictions under Rule 144 (xi) of the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017**

Attention is invited to this office OM no. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 inserting Rule 144 (xi) in GFRs 2017. In this regard, the following is hereby ordered under Rule 144 (xi) on the grounds stated therein:

**Requirement of registration**

1. Any bidder from a country which shares a land border with India will be eligible to bid in any procurement whether of goods, services (including consultancy services and non-consultancy services) or works (including turnkey projects) only if the bidder is registered with the Competent Authority, specified in **Annex I**.
2. This Order shall not apply to (i) cases where orders have been placed or contract has been concluded or letter/notice of award/ acceptance (LoA) has been issued on or before the date of this order; and (ii) cases falling under **Annex II**.

**Transitional cases**

3. Tenders where no contract has been concluded or no LoA has been issued so far shall be handled in the following manner: -
  - a) *In tenders which are yet to be opened, or where evaluation of technical bid or the first exclusionary qualificatory stage (i.e. the first stage at which the qualifications of tenderers are evaluated and unqualified bidders are excluded) has not been completed: No contracts shall be placed on bidders from such countries. Tenders received from bidders from such countries shall be dealt with as if they are non-compliant with the tender conditions and the tender shall be processed accordingly.*
  - b) *If the tendering process has crossed the first exclusionary qualificatory stage: If the qualified bidders include bidders from such countries, the*

entire process shall be scrapped and initiated *de novo*. The *de novo* process shall adhere to the conditions prescribed in this Order.

- c) As far as practicable, and in cases of doubt about whether a bidder falls under paragraph 1, a certificate shall be obtained from the bidder whose bid is proposed to be considered or accepted, in terms of paras 8, 9 and 10 read with para 1 of this Order.

#### Incorporation in tender conditions

4. In tenders to be issued after the date of this order, the provisions of paragraph 1 and of other relevant provisions of this Order shall be incorporated in the tender conditions.

#### Applicability

5. Apart from Ministries / Departments, attached and subordinate bodies, notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 1 of the GFRs 2017, this Order shall also be applicable
  - a. to all Autonomous Bodies;
  - b. to public sector banks and public sector financial institutions; and
  - c. subject to any orders of the Department of Public Enterprises, to all Central Public Sector Enterprises; and
  - d. to procurement in Public Private Partnership projects receiving financial support from the Government or public sector enterprises/ undertakings.
  - e. Union Territories, National Capital Territory of Delhi and all agencies/ undertakings thereof

#### Definitions

6. "Bidder" for the purpose of this Order (including the term 'tenderer', 'consultant' 'vendor' or 'service provider' in certain contexts) means any person or firm or company, including any member of a consortium or joint venture (that is an association of several persons, or firms or companies), every artificial juridical person not falling in any of the descriptions of bidders stated hereinbefore, including any agency, branch or office controlled by such person, participating in a procurement process.
7. "Tender" for the purpose of this Order will include other forms of procurement, except where the context requires otherwise.
8. "Bidder from a country which shares a land border with India" for the purpose of this Order means