

qualified for award of the tender irrespective of the Order (Public Procurement No. 1) dated 23rd July 2020. In such a case, there is no need to scrap the tender.

Example 3: The facts are as in Example 1, but the bidder from a country which shares a land border with India, though technically qualified, is not eligible for award due to the application of price preference as per other orders/ rules. In such a case, there is no need to scrap the tender.

Example 4: Three bids are received in a tender. One of them is a bidder from a country sharing a land border with India. The bidder from such a country does not meet the technical requirements and hence is not qualified. There is no need to scrap the tender.

(Sanjay Prasad)

Joint Secretary (PPD)

Email ID: js.pfc2.doe@gov.in

Telephone: 011-23093882

To:

- (1) Secretaries of All Ministries/ Departments of Government of India for information and necessary action. They are also requested to inform the clarification to all procuring entities.
- (2) Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises with a request to immediately circulate this clarification among Public Enterprises.
- (3) Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of Union Territories/ National Capital Territory of Delhi

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

161, North Block
New Delhi
23rd July, 2020

Order (Public Procurement No. 2)

Subject: Exclusion from restrictions under Rule 144 (xi) of the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017 –regarding.

In Order (Public Procurement No. 1) dated 23rd July 2020, orders have been issued requiring registration of bidders from a country sharing a land border with India in order to be eligible to bid in public procurement.

2. Notwithstanding anything contained therein, it is hereby clarified that the said Order will not apply to bidders from those countries (even if sharing a land border with India) to which the Government of India has extended lines of credit or in which the Government of India is engaged in development projects.

3. Updated lists of countries to which lines of credit have been extended or in which development projects are undertaken are given in the website of the Ministry of External Affairs.



(Sanjay Prasad)
Joint Secretary (PPD)
Email ID: js.pfc2.doe@gov.in
Telephone: 011-23093882

To,

- (1) Secretaries of All Ministries/ Departments of Government of India for information and necessary action. They are also requested to inform these provisions to all procuring entities.
- (2) Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises with a request to immediately reiterate these orders in respect of Public Enterprises.
- (3) Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of Union Territories/ National Capital Territory of Delhi

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

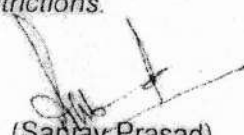
161, North Block,
New Delhi
23rd July, 2020

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.


(Sanjay Prasad)
Joint Secretary (PPD)
Email ID: js.pfc2.doe@gov.in
Telephone: 011-23093882

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

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

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 23rd 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*

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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

- a) An entity incorporated, established or registered in such a country; or
- b) A subsidiary of an entity incorporated, established or registered in such a country; or
- c) An entity substantially controlled through entities incorporated, established or registered in such a country; or
- d) An entity whose *beneficial owner* is situated in such a country; or
- e) An Indian (or other) agent of such an entity; or
- f) A natural person who is a citizen of such a country; or
- g) A consortium or joint venture where any member of the consortium or joint venture falls under any of the above

9 "Beneficial owner" for the purpose of paragraph 8 above will be as under:

- (i) In case of a company or Limited Liability Partnership, the beneficial owner is the natural person(s), who, whether acting alone or together, or through one or more juridical person(s), has a controlling ownership interest or who exercises control through other means.

Explanation—

- a. "Controlling ownership interest" means ownership of, or entitlement to, more than twenty-five per cent of shares or capital or profits of the company;
- b. "Control" shall include the right to appoint the majority of the directors or to control the management or policy decisions, including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholders agreements or voting agreements;

- (ii) In case of a partnership firm, the beneficial owner is the natural person(s) who, whether acting alone or together, or through one or more juridical person, has ownership of entitlement to more than fifteen percent of capital or profits of the partnership;

- (iii) In case of an unincorporated association or body of individuals, the beneficial owner is the natural person(s), who, whether acting alone or together, or through one or more juridical person, has ownership of or entitlement to more than fifteen percent of the property or capital or profits of such association or body of individuals;

- (iv) Where no natural person is identified under (i) or (ii) or (iii) above, the beneficial owner is the relevant natural person who holds the position of senior managing official;

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(v) In case of a trust, the identification of beneficial owner(s) shall include identification of the author of the trust, the trustee, the beneficiaries with fifteen percent or more interest in the trust and any other natural person exercising ultimate effective control over the trust through a chain of control or ownership.

10. "Agent" for the purpose of this Order is a person employed to do any act for another, or to represent another in dealings with third persons.

Sub-contracting in works contracts

- 11 In works contracts, including turnkey contracts, contractors shall not be allowed to sub-contract works to any contractor from a country which shares a land border with India unless such contractor is registered with the Competent Authority. The definition of "contractor from a country which shares a land border with India" shall be as in paragraph 8 above. This shall not apply to sub-contracts already awarded on or before the date of this Order.

Certificate regarding compliance

- 12 A certificate shall be taken from bidders in the tender documents regarding their compliance with this Order. If such certificate given by a bidder whose bid is accepted is found to be false, this would be a ground for immediate termination and further legal action in accordance with law.

Validity of registration

13. In respect of tenders, registration should be valid at the time of submission of bids and at the time of acceptance of bids. In respect of supply otherwise than by tender, registration should be valid at the time of placement of order. If the bidder was validly registered at the time of acceptance / placement of order, registration shall not be a relevant consideration during contract execution.

Government E-Marketplace

14. The Government E-Marketplace shall, as soon as possible, require all vendors/ bidders registered with GeM to give a certificate regarding compliance with this Order, and after the date fixed by it, shall remove non-compliant entities from GeM unless/ until they are registered in accordance with this Order.

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