

Government Contracts Compliance Guidelines Issued

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP has for the last several years participated, along with Ernst & Young, in the generation of an integrated database of guidance providing federal procurement contractors and subcontractors with a clear path to compliance. The Open Compliance and Ethics Group (OCEG) has recently released the public exposure draft of the Government Contracts Domain and will accept comments on the draft through October 15. OCEG, a non-profit organization, provides common governance, risk management and compliance tools in a web based framework on a variety of disciplines, including the specialized area of government contracts, that can be followed to assess risks and then design and evaluate controls to ensure compliance. These compliance metrics help companies with measurements to ensure that performance aligns with company objectives. The Guidelines are all online with a searchable database that provides ready access to key legal requirements, clearly related practices to aid in compliance, and tools to make the process easier.

OCEG worked with MLA as legal editors and Ernst & Young as business editors, with both being the principal authors of the Guidelines. They were supported by an Advisory Group from the government contracts industry in scoping out and commenting on the drafts.

MLA senior partner Ray Pushkar, who authored the legal requirements part of the domain, stated in the OCEG press release on September 5 that billions of federal tax dollars are appropriated each year to fund government contracts and whether companies plan to enter the arena or wish to continue in this arena depends on compliance with numerous statutes, regulations, and policies of the federal government. He related OCEG Guidance offers a clear, concise roadmap to the maze of contracting requirements.

Brian Simmons, National Leader of Ernst & Young's Government Contract Services practice, related that any organization that receives funds from the federal government should be intimately familiar with the nuances of procurement. Companies must have a firm understanding of the regulations and their interpretation. The OCEG Domain was developed to provide companies with a broad understanding of the compliance requirements.

Alan Chvotkin, Senior VP of the Professional Services Council and a member of the Advisory Group, related that there are thousands of companies as primes and subs and that today, each contractor has to search through myriad sources to determine which regulations apply and what steps must be taken to meet those requirements. He further stated that the OCEG Guidelines will be an invaluable tool for any company, regardless of experience level to navigate the federal contracting rules.

MLA has been most pleased to have participated in this worthy effort and encourages all to visit the OCEG web site, www.oceg.org, and to contact MLA for compliance questions and initiatives they are considering.

CONTACTS

If you would like more information, please contact any of the McKenna Long & Aldridge attorneys or public policy advisors with whom you regularly work. You may also contact:

Raymond S.E. Pushkar
202.496.7551

Frederic M. Levy
202.496.7631

About Us

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP is an international law firm composed of lawyers and public-policy advisors with offices in Albany, Atlanta, Brussels, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. The firm provides business solutions in the areas of corporate law, government contracts, intellectual property and technology, complex litigation, public policy and regulatory affairs, international law, real estate, environmental, energy, and finance.

Subscription Info

If you would like others to receive future mailings of the Government Contracts Advisory, please email their contact information to us at information@mckennalong.com

If you would like to be removed from the Government Contracts Advisory mailing list, please email information@mckennalong.com

*This **Government Contracts Advisory** is for informational purposes only and does not constitute specific legal advice or opinions. Such advice and opinions are provided by the firm only upon engagement with respect to specific factual situations. This message is intended as a transactional message for clients of the firm. If you are not a client of the firm, you have received it for informational purposes only and should not consider it an advertisement or solicitation.

© Copyright 2007, [McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP](http://www.mckennalong.com), 1900 K Street, NW, Washington DC, 20006