



## U.S. ABILITYONE COMMISSION DIRECTORATE OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

November 4, 2019

**MEMORANDUM: To All Contracting Activities of the Federal Government**

**SUBJECT: Purchasing Mandatory Source Products for Use in Janitorial and Food Service Contracts**

### 1. References.

- a. 41 U.S.C. Chapter 85, Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act
- b. 41 CFR Chapter 51, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
- c. FAR Subpart 8.002, Priorities for Use of Mandatory Government Sources
- d. FAR Subpart 8.7, Acquisition from Nonprofit Agencies Employing People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
- e. FAR Clause 52.208-9, Contractor Use of Mandatory Sources of Supply or Services
- f. Commission Policy 51.541, Requirements to Purchase Products on the Procurement List Instead of "Essential the Same (ETS)" Items

**2. Purpose.** The purpose of this document is to encourage Contracting Officers, consistent with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.002, to include FAR Clause 52.208-9, Contractor Use of Mandatory Sources of Supply or Services, in service contract solicitations. When the clause is included, this memorandum serves to communicate the statutory requirements for prime contractors to purchase AbilityOne® products for use in the performance of service contracts.

**3. General Guidelines.** The AbilityOne Program generates employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities through the delivery of products and services to the Federal Government. Administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission (Commission), the AbilityOne Program is authorized by 41 U.S.C. Chapter 85 and is implemented through 41 CFR Chapter 51 and FAR Subpart 8.7. The use of AbilityOne products is mandatory for Federal Government Agencies.

When FAR Clause 52.208-9 is included, Federal contractors are required to purchase AbilityOne items from the AbilityOne Procurement List (PL) as specified by their contracting office. The PL offers a wide range of products including office, janitorial/sanitation, subsistence/food service, and maintenance/repair/operations products that meet the requirements of the Federal customer. Product categories include but are not limited to:

- Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies
- Food Operating Supplies
- Kitchen Supplies
- Restroom Supplies
- Safety Supplies
- Waste Management Supplies



*The U.S. AbilityOne Commission is the operating name of the  
Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled*



**4. Where to Find AbilityOne Products and Authorized Sources.** AbilityOne products and technical assistance are widely available through multiple ordering channels including:

- [AbilityOne Procurement List](#)
- [AbilityOne Authorized Wholesalers and Distributors](#)
- Directly from Manufacturers
- AbilityOne Customer Care at 877-428-5863

For product-specific technical assistance, please contact [inquiries@nib.org](mailto:inquiries@nib.org) to reach National Industries for the Blind (NIB), one of the Central Nonprofit Agencies which assists the Commission in its administration of the AbilityOne Program.

**5. POC.** For more information about the AbilityOne Program, visit [www.abilityone.gov](http://www.abilityone.gov). The point of contact for the AbilityOne Program and applicability of the mandatory source products within your acquisition is Mike Jurkowski at [mjurkowski@abilityone.gov](mailto:mjurkowski@abilityone.gov) or 703-603-2117.



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