Jacket: 415-004

Title: Instructions for Forms 1040 & 1040-SR (2020 rev) --- Direct Ship

**Agency:** Department of the Treasury

**Bid Opening:** November 30, 2020 at 11:00am

Contractor Name	Bid	Terms		Discounted Total	
NPC Inc.	\$326,123.00	2.0%	20 days	\$319,600.54	
Advantage Mailing LLC - Anaheim	\$405,263.16	5.0%	20 days	\$385,000.00	
Signature Graphics	\$415,534.11	5.0%	20 days	\$394,757.40	
Colonial Press Int'l	\$425,433.00	1.0%	20 days	\$421,178.67	
LSC Communications	\$481,725.00	0.00%	30 days	\$481,725.00	
Gray Graphics	\$817,600.00	2.0%	20 days	\$801,248.00	
International Publications Media Group	\$3,061,403.00	3.0%	15 days	\$3,061,403.00	
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BID OPENING: Bids shall be opened at 11:00 AM., prevailing Eastern Standard Time (EST), on November 30, 2020 by the U.S. Government Publishing Office, in Washington, DC 20401. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this will NOT be a public bid opening

BID SUBMISSION: NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the physical office will NOT be open. Based on this, vendors MUST submit e-mail bids to bidsapsdc@gpo.gov for this solicitation. No other method of bid submission will be accepted at this time.

The Jacket Number 415-004 and bid opening date must be specified in the subject line of the e-mailed bid submission. Bids received after 11:00 AM EST on the bid opening date specified above will not be considered for award.

For information regarding the solicitation requirements prior to award, email <a href="mankourous@gpo.gov">mankourous@gpo.gov</a>. For contract administration after award, contact APS DC at 202-512-0307.

Additional e-mailed Bid Submission Provisions:

The Government will not be responsible for any failure attributable to the transmission or receipt of the e-mailed bid including, but not limited to, the following—

- (1) Emails over 75 MB may not be received by GPO due to size limitations for receiving emails.
- (2) The vendor's email provider may have different size limitations for sending e-mail, however vendors are advised not to exceed GPO's stated limit.
- (3) Illegibility of bid.
- (4) When the email bid is received by GPO it will remain unopened until the specified bid opening time. Government personnel will not validate receipt of the e-mailed bid prior to bid opening. GPO will use the prevailing time (specified as the local time zone) and the exact time that the e-mail is received by GPO's email server as the official time stamp for bid receipt at the specified location.

GPO CONTRACT TERMS: Any contract which results from this Invitation for Bid will be subject to the applicable provisions, clauses, and supplemental specifications of GPO Contract Terms (GPO Publication 310.2, effective December 1, 1987 (Rev. 01-18)) and GPO Contract Terms, Quality Assurance Through Attributes Program for Printing and Binding (GPO Publication 310.1, effective May 1979 (revised 9-19)).

Offers must include the cost of all materials and operations for the total quantity ordered in accordance with these specifications.

# SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONTRACT PRINTING OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORMS 1040 AND 1040-SR FULL CARTONS SHIPPING/MAILING DIRECTLY TO TAC/POD AND TFOP DESTINATIONS FOR TAX YEAR 2020

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# CAUTION: The instructions printed under this contract must not be mixed with instructions printed under any other contract.

**SCOPE:** These specifications cover the printing and binding of approx. 1,800,260 (includes 200 Blue Labels) self-covered pamphlets containing approx. 124 pages. These pamphlets will mail/ship to approx. 4,672 destinations that will require packing into approx. 23,685 cartons, and include creating mailing and shipping labels, addressing, labeling and packing cartons, staging, palletizing and mailing/shipping via Parcel Select, Small Package Carrier, Motor Freight (if req'd), or Air Freight (if req'd).

**NOTE:** Due to the numerous exhibit pages in this specification, the exhibits will not be accessible via the Internet. A complete copy of the specifications including exhibit pages may be obtained by contacting rmankourous@gpo.gov.

CHANGES IN QUANTITY: The Government, for the FINAL IRS QUANTITY, may submit increases or decreases of up to 30% of the total estimated quantity until the date specified in the schedule listed below under "Government Furnished Materials". These quantity adjustments may be made via email and will be the FINAL quantity. These adjustments will not change the scheduled turnover dates. Billing adjustments for scheduled quantity changes (+ or -) will be at the contractor's quoted "ADDITIONAL RATE". If no changes have been received by the scheduled date for final quantity adjustments, the bid quantities will stand as the FINAL contract quantity.

**CHANGES IN PAGE COUNTS:** Pages counts may vary when the print files are received. The contractor must submit a price per thousand that the Government can increase/decrease the purchase order price by based on the final page counts and final quantities. See Offers Sections 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.2.3, and 8.2.4

**NOTE:** <u>Must be full **Final** Quantity to all consignees.</u> **No** shortages will be allowed. However, the Government reserves the right to accept or reject overages.

TITLE: Instructions for Forms 1040 & 1040-SR (2020 rev) --- Direct Ship

# **Section 1 - SCHEDULE**

Date Event

11-30-2020 Bid Opening

12-03-2020 Purchase Order and camera copy for Blue label.

**NOTE:** Immediately upon award contractor must notify Terri Skyrm at <u>Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</u> to provide two (2) or less email addresses for the IRS electronic files to be furnished.

**Negotiated** If required, Postaward Conference must be held by contractor via telephone conference.

12-23-2020 Pdf print repro for Instruction 1040 and final distribution list (IRS Form 2040) to contractor via email.

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- 01-08-2021 Drop Shipment Plan due from contractor (if req'd).
- 01-19-2021 Start to ship date. Contractor must ship **all TAC/POD** destinations. See "DISTRIBUTION". If authorized by the Government, contractor may start to ship earlier.

"DISTRIBUTION". If authorized by the Government, contractor may ship complete earlier.

- 01-22-2021 Ship complete date. All remaining destinations (TFOP) plus 200 blue labels must ship/mail. See
- 01-27-2021 Drop Shipment Schedule due from contractor (if reg'd)

The Government will attempt to meet the schedules as stated in these specifications. However, uncontrollable circumstances such as Congressional Legislation may delay the furnishing of printing media. In such event, the schedule will be adjusted in accordance with contract terms.

Unscheduled material such as shipping documents, receipts or instructions, delivery lists, labels, etc., will be furnished per the "Schedule" or shortly thereafter. In the event such information is not received in due time, the contractor will not be relieved of any responsibility in meeting the shipping schedule because of failure to request such information.

**1.1 POSTAWARD CONFERENCE:** Unless waived by the Contracting Officer, the total requirements of the job as indicated in these specifications will be reviewed by Government representatives with the contractor's representatives via teleconference, as indicated in the schedule previously cited. The purpose of the conference will be to discuss and review all aspects of the contractor's internal and external operations required to complete this contract. The items to be discussed are:

- 1) Processing and sorting electronic distribution files
- 2) Scheduled start-up dates for all phases of production
- 3) Coordination/communication from one production phase to another
- 4) Who will be responsible for each phase
- 5) How will subcontractors be involved and kept informed (if applicable)
- 6) Specific production dates of all subcontractors (if applicable)
- 7) How the product will be staged and mailed/shipped
- 8) Any other special requirements which are specific to this

Attending the conference will be representative(s) from the Internal Revenue Service and possibly representative(s) from the Government Publishing Office. To establish coordination of all required operations, a representative from all subcontractors involved must be present as well as representatives from each involved production area for the primary contractor.

- **1.2 DAILY PRODUCTION REPORT:** Contractor must provide daily production information on Form 9659 "Production and Mailing Report" (**see Exhibit 1**) and email Form 9659 each workday, by 1:00pm (Eastern Standard Time), to <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a>.
- **1.3** ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION/SHIPPING REPORT (Form 2040): Distribution/Shipping List is used for larger shipment address information, shipping verification, updating IRS' databases, and to inform the destination(s) of the shipping and quantity status. See Exhibit 2.

The contractor MUST update the Electronic Form 2040 and transmit via email to IRS, every day the product ships, on a computer using a "full version" of Adobe Acrobat 9.0 Professional (or more recent) software. Any delay or missed input could result in delay of payment. The contractor must update the Shipping Status, Ship Quantity and Date Shipped fields with their information as per instructions included in Form 2040 PDF. If there is any information missing or incorrect, please contact Terri Skyrm at Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov.

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#### **SECTION 2** – MATERIALS

**2.1 FURNISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT:** Print pdf with fonts embedded generated from Adobe Acrobat 9.0 or later via email. DO NOT UNEMBED FONTS. This may result in loss of data. The pdf is backward compatible to Adobe Acrobat 8.0. Contractor is cautioned that furnished fonts are the property of the Government and/or it's originator. Using fonts on any job other than the one for which the fonts were submitted violates copyright law. All furnished fonts are to be eliminated from the contractor's archive immediately after completion of the contract.

Two (2) distribution files (1-TAC/POD; 1-TFOP addresses) created in a comma delimited (.csv) format via email. The contractor must import text from various areas within the files into their own software program to create mailing/shipping address labels required for this contract. The files will contain account number, recipient's name, complete address, telephone number (if furnished) and suggested transportation mode for each destination. The transportation modes will consist of Domestic Mail (DM), Small Package Carrier (SC), Motor Freight (MF---if required), and Air Freight (AF—if required). See Exhibit 3.

IRS fillable pdf Forms 9659 (Production and Mailing Report), Form 13456 (Publishing Postage Report), and Form 6153 (IRS carton label), will be emailed to the contractor shortly after award. **See Exhibits 1, 4, and 6.** 

IRS fillable Form 2040 (Electronic Distribution/Shipping Report) will be emailed to the contractor by the date cited in the "Schedule". See Exhibit 2.

USPS Form 3615 (Mailing Permit Application and Customer Profile) will be furnished if this form is not currently on file with the Post Office the contractor will use.

IRS G-48 "Postage & Fees Paid" mailing indicia via email.

Small Package Carrier (SPC) IRS Account Number will be furnished to the contractor if the contractor does not have an IRS Account Number established and currently active. Contractor must only use this account number for the shipping of IRS copies.

If required, Internal Revenue Bills of Lading (IRBLs) will be furnished to the contractor via email.

IRS Pallet Specifications (see Exhibit 7).

**2.2 <u>FURNISHED BY CONTRACTOR</u>**: All materials and operations, other than those listed under "GOVERNMENT TO FURNISH", necessary to produce the product in accordance with these specifications.

Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb): Contractor must be an approved USPS Full Service Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) provider. Contractor must meet all IMpb preparation and postage documentation requirements as required in the Domestic Mail Manual at time of mailing. All mail must be presented under the contractor obtained Mailer ID (no exceptions). Contractor must sort mail to effectively maximize all USPS eligible discounts.

**Electronic Prepress:** Prior to image processing, the contractor shall perform a basic check (preflight) of the furnished publishing files to assure correct output of the reproduction image. Any errors or data corruption that might interfere with proper file image processing must be reported immediately to Terri Skyrm at <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">This preflight</a> should identify any problem areas with the digital file submission and should include, but not be limited to, missing or damaged fonts, improper trim size and/or margins, only low-resolution files are included for illustrations, and improper color definition.

Contractor must supply all necessary trapping, set proper screen angles and screen frequency, and define file output selection for the imaging device being utilized. Furnished files must be imaged as necessary to meet the assigned quality level.

The contractor is responsible for adjusting copy for trim size and binding style.

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All electronic files generated must be produced on a high-resolution output device producing quality equal to or better than an image resolution of 1200 dpi. Adjustments to the margins and/or images may be required by the contractor to meet required specifications. All halftones are to be 110-line screen or finer.

Contractor is required to have Internet access provided through their Internet Service Provider (ISP) with email and a web browser equivalent to Internet Explorer 6.0. The contractor is also required to have Adobe Acrobat 9.0 Professional (or more recent) software (not Adobe Reader) and the capability to receive and open file attachments compressed into a Zip (.zip) file format. The contractor must furnish no more than two (2) addresses for the IRS to email all electronic files to avoid any lapse in service.

Any use of public address or web-based mail servers (i.e. Hotmail, Yahoo, Juno etc.) IS Forbidden.

2.3 STOCK/PAPER: The specifications of all paper furnished must be in accordance with those listed herein or listed for the corresponding JCP Code numbers in the "Government Paper Specification Standards No. 13" dated September 2019. https://www.gpo.gov/docs/default-source/forms-standards-pdf-files/vol 13..PDF.

White or Natural (MUST be light shade) Newsprint, basis weight: 28 - 30lbs. per 500 sheets, "24 x 36", must equal JCP Code A15. All paper used in each copy must be of uniform shade. In addition, the weight of the newsprint paper must remain constant throughout the entire run.

**2.4 POSTAGE STATEMENT/IRS POSTAL FORMS:** The contractor must complete and submit via email a portable document file (PDF) to the IRS within three (3) workdays after the final turnover of mail packages to the USPS. The PDF should be sent in a single email when possible and the total file size of the e-mail must be less than 10 MB. If the email size exceeds 10 MB, then multiple emails must be used. Form 13456 is provided as a fillable PDF file. The IRS will complete the fields, in the "IRS Use Only" section of the form prior to e-mailing the form to the contractor. If there is any information missing or incorrect, please contact Terri Skyrm at <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a>.

The PDF submitted to the IRS must contain Form 13456 and all related postal paperwork that has been combined into a single PDF. Scanning Form 13456 is NOT ALLOWED. Please fill out the provided PDF file for Form 13456, add the postal paperwork (which can be scanned) to the PDF file, save it and submit it to IRS.

The contractor must complete Form 13456 per the supplied instructions on the form and enter accurate information in the following fields: Name of contractor, Contact person at contractor, Telephone number of contact person, e-mail of contact person, Number of pages in the combined email, Date the email was sent, and the Wave/Phase Number (if applicable). The Wave/Phase number is used to show the number of mailings in the event of staggered shipments for one requisition. In addition, the contractor is responsible for capturing six (6) data elements from every postage statement (i.e. USPS Form 3602, 3602-R, 3600) and entering this information in the appropriate places on Form 13456. The six (6) elements are: (1) Zip Code of Post Office used for mailing, (2) Date on Postage Statement, (3) Pieces Mailed, (4) Copies Mailed, (5) Postage Amount, and (6) Postage Statement Type. See Exhibit 4.

Prior to emailing the combined PDF file, the contractor must rename the file. The file must be named using 9 digits of the Requisition Number, Post Office Zip Code, (first) Mailing Date, (last) Mailing Statement Date and .pdf (see below). In the event both mailing statement dates are the same, the first and last dates in the file name can also be the same.

Examples: For requisition number 2010-12345, the file name will be: 2010-12345 16625 01-02-10 01-15-10.pdf

If the file size is 10MB or larger, the contractor must create multiple PDF files and add a suffix to the file name starting with the letter "a" then "b", etc. (i.e. 2017-12345\_16625\_01-02-10\_01-02-17a.pdf). The contractor is also responsible for the accuracy of the information returned to the IRS. Any delay or missing data could result in a delay of payment.

• All Postage Statements (i.e. USPS Forms 3600s, 3602s, 3605s and USPS Form 8125, PVDS) must contain the IRS Agency Cost Code "67039" in the "Federal Agency Cost Code "box. The GPO Jacket Number must be included in the mailer information located in the upper portion of the postage statement. See Exhibit 5.

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The email must contain only Form 13456 and associated postage statements for the designated requisition number. Contractor must not combine postage associated with multiple print order/requisition numbers in a single email transmission. The PDF must be emailed to postage@publish.no.irs.gov., and Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov.

#### <u>SECTION 3 – PAMPHLET SPECIFICATIONS---</u>

- 3.1 ITEM: Instructions for Forms 1040 & 1040-SR (rev 2020)—Direct Ship
- **3.2 QUANTITY (estimated):** Approximately 1,800,260 (incl 200 blue labels) IRS copies.
- **3.3 TRIM SIZE:** 8-3/8 x 10-7/8"
- **3.4 NUMBER OF PAGES:** The page count of 124 pages is approximate and subject to change. See SECTION 8 "OFFERS" (BIDS).
- 3.5 PRINTING: Print head-to-head, in black ink. Halftones may be scattered throughout.
- **3.6 <u>BINDING</u>**: Saddle-wire stitch in two (2) places and trim three (3) sides. Each product must contain complete four-page signatures after trimming. Single leaves connected with a lip (i.e., binding stub) to the left or right side of stitches will be allowed provided the lip does not extend past the bind margins of the adjacent pages. All binding will be on 10-7/8" dimension, as applicable.
- **3.7 MARGINS:** 3/8" head, unless otherwise furnished in electronic file; center left and right.
- **3.8 GPO IMPRINT LINE:** Contractor must set and insert a GPO imprint line on each form, per GPO Pub. 310.2 (page 16). Identification markings such as register marks, commercial identification marks of any kind, etc., except GPO imprint, form number, and revision date, carried in the electronic files, must not print on finished product.
- 3.9 ELECTRONIC PROOFS: Contractor must email a soft proof using the same Raster Image Processor (RIP) that will be used to produce the final product. Proof must be emailed to **Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov** as soon as the contractor deems necessary to comply with the shipping schedule in the contract. Email must include the Jacket and Requisition Number. Proof will be evaluated for image position, margins, pagination, and final trim size. All elements of the product must remain legible. Proof will be withheld not more than two (2) workdays from receipt in the IRS to receipt via email in the contractor's plant. Contractor must not print prior to receiving an "Ok-to-Proceed".

If any contractor's errors are serious enough in the opinion of the GPO to require revised proofs, the revised proofs are to be provided at no expense to the Government. No extra time can be allowed for this reproofing; such operations must be accomplished within the original production schedule allotted in the specifications.

#### SECTION 4 – PACKING/CARTONS/LABELING/ADDRESSING/PALLETIZING FOR IRS COPIES:

- **4.1** <u>PACKING:</u> Pack approximately 1,800,260 (incl blue labels) copies into approximately 23,685 shipping containers. Each carton must contain 76 copies and packed in two (2) even stacks of 38 copies each with full size corrugated boards on top and bottom of stacks. **NOTE:** The final page count may increase/decrease the total number of copies per carton. Containers must be packed solid to avoid copies being damaged during transit. Container weight must not exceed 32lbs when fully packed.
- **4.2** <u>CARTONS:</u> Cartons must be corrugated or solid fiber shipping containers, 1380 kPa (200 psi) minimum bursting strength and minimum edge crush strength of 35 psi. Bottom flaps must be glued or sealed with polyester tape 2 to 3" width, minimum 12 kNm (65 lbs./inch) transverse tensile strength). Top flaps of cartons must be securely sealed at top with 2 to 3" paper or polyester tape (not reinforced). Cartons must be packed solid. Cartons must not have excessive air space (dunnage) when fully packed to prevent crushing or deformation. Cartons must not open nor split during transit through the motor freight/airfreight carrier delivery systems.

Stapling of top or bottom flaps on cartons, furnishing cartons with separate lids, overstuffing or crowning cartons, and sealing cartons with plastic strapping is strictly prohibited.

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If carton weight exceeds 32lbs when fully packed, contractor must email Terri Skyrm at <a href="Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a> for resolution prior to packing. Carton filler (if necessary) must be composed of material that can be easily removed without damaging contents. Packing peanuts or beads are strictly prohibited. Contractor must determine exact dimensions of carton in accordance with the trim size and weight of product produced. The exterior dimensions of all cartons must not exceed 17-1/2" (L) x 11-1/2" (W) x 9" (D).

**4.3 LABELING/MARKING:** EACH carton must contain an IRS carton label Form 6153 (**see Exhibit 6**) generated from the provided pdf. Handwritten labels and contractor stream-lined or recreated labels are strictly prohibited. Contractor is required to produce the appropriate number of IRS carton labels needed for this contract on white paper or white adhesive label stock, in black ink, and reproduced the same size as the pdf provided. The completed IRS carton label must be affixed securely to one end of the carton only (never on top, long-side, or bottom). The IRS carton label MUST NEVER be affixed such that it extends over the edge and onto an adjacent side.

For all IRS carton labels (Form 6153), the contractor is required to update/enter the Carton # of # for each address; the "To (Consignee---complete address)"; and the "From---contractor's address," fields electronically in black ink, and minimum 12pt type. If the remaining fields on the furnished IRS carton label are blank, or the quantity stated on the carton label is not the same quantity being packed within the carton, the contractor must notify Terri Skyrm @ Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov to resolve the discrepancy prior to packing.

If pallets are required, and in addition to a completed IRS Form 6153 being applied to each carton, **contractor must securely affix a completed IRS carton label to all four sides of the stretch wrap and to the top of each pallet.** In addition, the labels affixed to cartons on pallets must be facing out to be easily read, once palletized.

**Small Package Carrier (SPC) Labeling:** In addition to the IRS container label (Form 6153), a contractor created SPC label must be securely affixed to EACH carton shipping via SPC. The SPC label must be affixed securely to the TOP of the container. The SPC carton label MUST NEVER be affixed such that it extends over the edge and onto an adjacent side.

Currently, IRS uses UPS as the Small Package Carrier. Contractor MUST generate UPS shipping labels electronically. It is the responsibility of the contractor to be familiar with electronic shipping methods via UPS. There are many ways to generate electronic shipping labels, either through a UPS shipping system (UPS WorldShip System or UPS Internet Shipping), or a 3rd Party Shipping Software (Pitney Bowes Shipping Software, etc.).

From the furnished distribution (.csv) files, the contractor must image/print approximately 10 lines, in black ink, on each SPC label. Imaging/Printing on each SPC label consist of: recipient's account number on first line (i.e. TF 123456A or p123456789); recipient's name, and 10-digit telephone number (if supplied) on second line; recipient's street address on third line; recipient's city and state on fourth line; Bloomington, IL return address in top left-hand corner of all SPC and USPS labels; and two (2) reference lines at bottom of SPC label.

Contractor must image/print in black ink the following return address on all contractor created UPS and USPS labels:

Internal Revenue Service National Distribution Center 2525 Revenue Drive Bloomington, IL 61705-2500.

Imaging/Printing of UPS labels must meet all UPS requirements and regulations at time of shipping.

UPS shipping systems provides two (2) reference fields that are required to be imaged or printed in black ink on each label created by the contractor. Reference fields 1 and 2 below must be imaged or printed in black ink, minimum 12pt type.

- 1. Reference Field 1: IRS requisition number and GPO jacket number (i.e. 1-00569/415-004)
- 2. Reference Field 2: TAC or TFOP (as applicable)

**USPS Parcel Select Labeling:** In addition to the IRS container label (Form 6153), a contractor created Parcel Select mailing label must be securely affixed to the TOP of the carton. The USPS mail label MUST NEVER be affixed such that it extends over the edge and onto an adjacent side

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In addition to the "Postage and Fees" mailing indicia, the contractor must image/print approximately twelve (12) lines from the furnished distribution (.csv) files in black ink, minimum 12pt type, on each USPS label. Imaging/Printing on each USPS label consist of: recipient's account number on first line (i.e. p123456789 or TF123456A); recipient's name, and 10-digit telephone number (if supplied) on second line; recipient's street address on third line; recipient's city and state on fourth line; Intelligent Mail parcel barcode (IMpb) created by the contractor per the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) requirements at time of mailing; Bloomington, IL return address in top left-hand corner of all USPS labels; Penalty for Private Use \$300 under return address; and two (2) reference fields at bottom of USPS label.

The two (2) reference fields required at the bottom of each USPS label are:

- 1. Reference Field 1: IRS requisition number and GPO jacket number (i.e. 1-00569/415-004)
- 2. Reference Field 2: TAC or TFOP (as applicable)

Caution: In the event that cartons are mislabeled, incorrect carton labels and/or incorrect pallets are utilized, cartons are crushing, collapsing, or bursting due to the cartons not being packed per contract, labels are not securely affixed to the cartons/pallets or labels are affixed to the incorrect area of the cartons/pallets, cartons are not layered correctly on the pallets, pallets are not wrapped properly and securely, the shipment will either be returned to the contractor to be corrected/replaced or the contractor will be required to make the corrections/replacements on site, with all costs borne by the contractor. Contractor must make all corrections and/or replace all damaged materials within 24 hours of notification via email. If the corrections and or replacements are not completed by the contractor within 24 hours of notification, the Government will hire an outside vendor to make all corrections and/or replacements (except printed product contained within cartons) and the contractor will borne all costs incurred by the Government.

**4.4 <u>COPIES DAMAGED IN TRANSIT:</u>** CONTRACTOR MUST REPLACE AND SHIP ALL COPIES DAMAGED IN TRANSIT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DEFICIENCY NOTIFICATION, VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY. CONTRACTOR WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DEFICIENCY VIA EMAIL. CONTRACTOR WILL INCUR ALL CHARGES TO REPLACE AND SHIP DAMAGED COPIES.

4.5 PALLETS: All shipments to a single destination weighing more than 750lbs., require pallets. Pallets must be type III and must conform to Federal Specifications NN-P-71C, and any amendments applicable except for dimensions and single center stringer. Pallets must be 48" in length, 40" in width, and must not exceed 5" in height. Full entry MUST be on the 40" width. See Exhibit 7. Strict adherence to these dimensions is necessary to accommodate storage requirements as well as ease of packing into freight carrier trailers. Cartons shall be stacked on pallets using a reverse layer pattern, 9 cartons per layer, with a maximum height of 55", including pallet. Each carton contained on a pallet must show the completed IRS label (Form 6153) on the exposed side, once palletized. Cartons must be fastened securely to the pallet in a manner that will prevent movement during transit but permit ready removal, without damage to the cartons, at destinations. The use of metal strapping or pallet caps for securing material on pallets is strictly prohibited. NOTE: More than one partial pallet per destination is strictly prohibited.

**Bill of materials list:** A list must be compiled detailing the items on each truck and the quantities per item. Each pallet must be identified on two sides with a minimum 3" high number in black. The number on the pallet must correspond to the number on the list. The list is to be on a bright color stock and inserted into a minimum 4 x 4" plastic sleeve or on white stock and inserted into a bright colored sleeve and affixed to the last pallet on each truck.

DOUBLE-STACKING PALLETS WHEN LOADING INTO TRUCK/TRAILER FOR SHIPPING IS *STRICTLY PROHIBITED*.

#### SECTION 5 – DISTRIBUTION (MAILING/SMALL PACKAGE CARRIER/MOTOR FREIGHT/AIR FREIGHT):

Approx. 1,800,060 (excludes 200 "Blue Label copies") copies ship/mail f.o.b. contractor city to approx. 4,672 destinations.

Unless otherwise specified in writing from the IRS, the contractor must ship/mail f.o.b. contractor city in the following sequence:

(1st) **TAC/POD** (i.e. accounts appearing in file as "p123456789") destinations must ship/mail complete by January 19, 2021. In addition, destinations furthest from contractor's shipping location must ship first; destinations closest to contractor's shipping location must ship last. Approximately 120,536 copies will ship/mail f.o.b. contractor's city to approximately 322 destinations.

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(2nd) **TFOP** (i.e. accounts appearing in file as "TF123456A") destinations must ship/mail complete by January 22, 2021. In addition, destinations furthest from contractor's shipping location must ship first; destinations closest to contractor's shipping location must ship last. Approximately 1,679,524 copies will ship/mail f.o.b. contractor's city to approximately 4,350 destinations.

Contractor must ship 200 "Blue Label" (included) copies f.o.b. contractor city via IRS furnished SPC account number.

**NOTE:** If there is a discrepancy between the suggested transportation mode indicator in the furnished distribution files and the contract specifications, contractor must immediately notify Terri Skyrm at <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a> for resolution prior to labeling and shipping.

If contractor ships or mails incorrectly, contractor will borne all additional costs incurred by the Government.

All expenses incidental to picking up GPO government furnished materials and furnishing 5 production samples to Lanham, Maryland, must be borne by the contractor.

**5.1 DOMESTIC MAIL (DM)**: Mailings must be made at Parcel Select DNDC/DSCF Presort and Parcel Select postage rates as applicable.

The DM transportation mode applies when:

- An address contains a P.O. Box and a street address is NOT present within the same line in the distribution file.
- An address is an APO, FPO, or U.S. Post Office destination.

The contractor must comply with all U.S. Postal Service regulations/requirements governing the preparation of Drop Ship Parcel Select DNDC/DSCF and/or Parcel Select rate mailings which are in effect at the time of the mailing, including the issuance of the required USPS forms (mailing statements), the weighing of shipments (mail manifests), etc. Mailings which do not qualify for Drop Shipments must be mailed Parcel Select.

Mailings that do not qualify for Parcel Select postage rates must be mailed reimbursable Standard Post. Contractor must create the Standard Post mailing label and the label must contain the same information and format required for the Parcel Select label (excluding the Parcel Select mailing indicia). Contractor must apply the appropriate postage to each mailing. Contractor will be reimbursed for Standard Post postage by submitting a properly completed Postal Service (or equivalent) form with the voucher for billing.

The contractor is cautioned that "Postage and Fees Paid" Parcel Select indicia may only be used for mailing material produced under this contract.

The contractor MUST meet with local postal authorities before the start of production to make arrangements for verification and DNDC/DSCF Parcel Select manifest approvals. The Domestic Mail Manual and other related USPS publications for Parcel Select mailings must be adhered to by all mailers.

The U.S. Postal Service will require that each DNDC/DSCF rate mailing be deposited at a time and location specified through an appointment procedure. The contractor/mailer will be responsible for scheduling the deposit of all DNDC/DSCF rate mailings at least 5 workdays in advance by contacting the manager, logistics and distribution, or designee, at the designated DNDC/DSCF, etc. The contractor/mailer must comply with the scheduled time.

**Mailing Manifests:** Contractor must provide mailing manifests on 2-part NCR paper. Part 1 is the USPS copy, and Part 2 is the contractor copy. Contractor must weigh at least 10 full cartons containing copies to determine the accurate weight for each carton size. This procedure is both necessary and critical for providing an accurate manifest to the Postal Service for verification purposes.

**USPS Plant-Verified Drop Shipments:** On or before the date in the schedule, the contractor MUST submit its detailed plant-verified drop shipment plan for direct shipments to the DNDC/DSCFs, etc. The contractor must include all costs for preparing and implementing this plan in the total bid price (a separate charge will not be allowed). The detailed plan must be in the format shown in **Exhibit 8** for each shipment. The detailed plan must include the GPO jacket number and must be emailed to: Roy.M.Murdoch@irs.gov, Tamara.M.Franklin@irs.gov, and Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov

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The Government will approve or disapprove the drop shipment plan within three (3) workdays after receipt. NOTE: At Government's option, Internal Revenue bills of lading (IRBLs) may be furnished.

Reimbursement for the actual freight costs for drop shipping will be made from copies of the commercial carrier freight bills that must be submitted with the contractor's invoice, and each freight bill must show the shipping cost and weight of the shipment." If the contractor utilizes a freight consolidator, payment will be made with the submission of the contractor's invoices showing actual charges to the contractor. Reimbursed freight costs will not be subject to any "prompt payment discounts. The contractor must provide the scheduled dates for dropping at the DNDCs/DSCFs. Contractor must include copies of the USPS Form 8125 that have been signed at the recipient destination along with their freight bills and invoices or a Track/Trace report showing the appointment dates and USPS confirmation numbers. Freight charges must not exceed those in the submitted drop shipment plan, except for allowable fuel surcharges. Current allowable fuel surcharges must be included in the drop shipment plan.

The contractor must provide adequate space at the mailing facility for postal employees to perform the necessary verifications. IRS will not apply for plant load authorization or plant verified drop shipment, this will be the contractor's responsibility. It is also the responsibility of the contractor, or their mailer, to ensure that their mailing documentation is completed in a timely manner and submitted to all applicable USPS offices. NOTE: Contractor/Mailer should give at least 72- hour notice for pickup of full truckload shipments.

The postal employee verifying the mail will provide a signed copy of Form 8125 (Plant-Verified Drop Shipment Verification and Clearance (PVDS) document. The CONTRACTOR/MAILER is responsible to ensure that this document travels with the mail and is made available for examination upon the request of the postal service at the destined DNDC/DSCF.

**Drop Shipment Schedule:** Within three (3) workdays of mailing complete, the contractor must email the scheduled dates and volumes for dropping at the DNDC/DSCFs to <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a> Contractor must furnish a completed Drop Shipment Schedule in a similar format as shown in **Exhibit 9.** 

**Priority Mail (if required):** A carton label will be provided for any cartons which must be shipped priority mail. The contractor must print the necessary quantity of priority mail labels required. Priority mail labels must be affixed to the top of each carton. Hand stamping of priority mail cartons is unacceptable. IRS priority mail must be entered into the contractor's local post office for mailing. Contractor will provide manifests for delivered permit mail labels. The contractor must prepare the appropriate postal service forms for turnover to the local postal authorities.

**5.2** SMALL PACKAGE CARRIER (SPC) Contractor's City Shipments: Contractor must ship via SPC Ground services when the SC transportation mode applies. The SC (also known as SPC) transportation mode applies when:

• A street address is a non-expedited (ground) shipment weighing less than 750lbs to one destination within the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, Hawaii, or Puerto Rico.

**NOTE:** When an address contains both a P.O. Box and a street address, and the shipment weighs less than 750lbs but is NOT an APO, FPO, or U.S. Post Office location, contractor must disregard the P.O. Box and utilize the street address. In addition, the SPC label must not contain the P.O. Box.

- International packages (if required) weighing less than 500 lbs to one destination will be sent via small package carrier World Wide Express services.
- Expedited (air) shipments (if required) weighing less than 500 lbs. to one destination within the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico must be sent via small package carrier 2nd Day air services.

The IRS will notify the contractor when expedited shipments are required. Contractor must not use Next Day or Second Day Air options unless authorized by the IRS.

The IRS will provide an IRS small package account number. The Contractor must notify Terri Skyrm at <u>Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</u> at least 10 days prior to the first scheduled ship date to ensure an account number has been established, and/or is valid. If there is any uncertainty concerning the instructions for small package carrier shipments, the contractor must notify Terri Skyrm at least one (1) week prior to the first ship date for clarification.

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If multiple small package carriers are to be used, an account number will be assigned for each carrier. Contractor is required to ship IRS copies using the IRS designated carrier(s) and their assigned account number(s), or the contractor will be responsible for any additional shipping costs incurred by the Government.

Contractors are required to use a two-part manifest shipping report for each carrier that includes both a summary page and detailed shipping pages. The summary page is compiled using the information from the detailed shipping pages. The summary page must include the following information: 1) ship date; 2) shipper name; 3) complete address; 4) account number; 5) requisition number; and 6) totals for number of pieces and weight categorized by zone with grand totals for each.

The detailed shipping pages should include the following information for each package listed: 1) Account Number; 2) consignee's name; 3) complete consignee address; 4) zone; 5) weight; and 6) the matching shipper receipt portion of the traceable label. The original copy of the report should accompany the shipment.

The contractor's must notify UPS of the amount to be picked up to allow for the carrier to provide adequate equipment for the pickup.

**Email Notification:** When an email address is present in the .csv distribution files, the contractor is required to send a same-day email notification of the shipment to the email address listed. All email notifications must include the following: IRS product short title; scheduled delivery date; recipient's name and address; number of packages; type of service; weight; SPC tracking number and a link to the SPC website; and reference numbers (reference field 1 (IRS requisition number and GPO jacket number) and reference field 2 (IRS type of account and account number (i.e. p123456789 or TF123456A). **See Exhibit 10**.

NOTE: All returned emails should be set to automatically forward to: wi.tdfps.upsundelive@irs.gov

Within three (3) workdays of shipping complete, the contractor must email the SPC shipping manifest including a "TRACK IT" link for each destination to <u>Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</u>.

**5.3** MOTOR FREIGHT (MF) Contractor's City Shipments: Contractor must ship via Motor Freight when the total shipping weight to a single destination is 750lbs or more, unless otherwise instructed by the Government. All Motor Freight shipments will be completed by an Internal Revenue Bill of Lading. IRBL(s) will be furnished to the contractor electronically by the IRS Postal & Transport Policy Office. If an IRBL(s) is/are not provided at least seven (7) workdays prior to the first shipment date, the contractor must notify Roy Murdoch @ 309-556-5076 or Roy.M.Murdoch@irs.gov, or Tamara Franklin @ 217-201-4303 or Tamara.M.Franklin@irs.gov immediately to make arrangements to receive IRBLs. The contractor will be required to complete information including but not limited to: total weight of shipment; number of cartons; number of pallets on the IRBL(s) prior to shipment.

The IRBL(s) will have designated carriers identified that provide special negotiated freight rates for IRS shipments. Contractor must contact the designated carrier listed on the IRBL at least five (5) days prior to first ship date to schedule a date and time for pickup. If the contractor has any difficulty getting the designated carrier to confirm a scheduled pickup, contractor must immediately contact Roy Murdoch or Joseph Anidiobi between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00PM eastern standard time.

The contractor must not change the designated carrier(s) without prior written approval from the IRS. In the event the designated carrier(s) cannot be utilized, or if the contractor experiences a problem with the designated carrier, the contractor must immediately contact Roy Murdoch @ 309-556-5076 or Roy.M.Murdoch@irs.gov, or Tamara Franklin @ 217-201-4303 or Tamara.M.Franklin@irs.gov to obtain alternate carrier(s) authorization. NOTE: If the contractor uses a carrier other than the designated carrier without prior written approval from the IRS, the contractor will be held responsible for any additional shipping costs incurred.

**Multiple Truckload Shipments:** Whenever possible full truckloads should be utilized (e.g., use a full truckload and a partial truckload rather than two partial truckloads). The contractor will be provided multiple IRBLs for shipments to an individual destination exceeding a truckload. Only one bill of lading should be released for each truckload.

The contractor is accountable to the IRS for all IRBL(s) furnished under this contract. Use of IRBLs for shipments not authorized by the IRS is strictly prohibited.

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Within two (2) workdays of shipping complete, the contractor must email IRBLs containing truckers' signatures and dates copies were picked up from contractor's plant to <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a>

In addition, contractor must notify IRS of all unused IRBL numbers furnished under this contract. Notification of unused IRBL numbers must be emailed to <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a>. Any unused bills of lading must be destroyed by the contractor.

**5.4** <u>AIR FREIGHT SHIPMENTS (if required)</u>: The contractor will be notified by the IRS if Air Freight Shipments are required. Air bills will be provided by the IRS for shipments weighing 500lbs or more to a single destination. Shipments weighing less than 500lbs must be sent via UPS Air Express – Next or Second Day delivery. The contractor must contact the designated air freight carrier to coordinate all air shipments and, verify acceptance of pallets and maximum pallet weight is within that specific carrier's allowable weight limit.

Within two (2) workdays of shipping complete, the contractor must email IRBLs containing air freight carrier signatures and/or UPS manifest including a "TRACK IT" link for each destination to <a href="mailto:Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov">Theresa.L.Skyrm@irs.gov</a>

**5.5 DEPARTMENTAL RANDOM "BLUE LABEL" COPIES:** The contractor MUST submit 200 departmental random copies at the completion of production to test for compliance against specifications. The contractor must divide their total quantity into equal sublots and select 1 copy from a different general area of each sublot. The contractor will be required to execute the "Certificate of Selection of Random Copies", furnished by GPO, certifying that copies were selected as directed.

These randomly selected copies must be packed and identified by a special Government-furnished Blue label, affixed to each affected container. Shipping of blue labels for multiple items in a single container is strictly prohibited. Additional labels, if needed, are to be reproduced by contractor on Blue stock. The container and its contents shall be recorded separately on all shipping documents and sent to Internal Revenue Service, National Distribution Center, 2525 Revenue Drive, Bloomington, IL 61705-2500. Submit a copy of the SPECIFICATIONS and the signed Government-furnished "Certificate of Selection of Random Copies", along with the Departmental Random Copies.

# **SECTION 6** – **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**6.1 QUALITY ASSURANCE LEVELS AND STANDARDS**: The following levels and standards shall apply to these specifications:

**Product Quality Levels:** 

- (a) Printing Attributes -- Level IV.
- (b) Finishing Attributes -- Level IV.

Inspection Levels (from ANSI/ASQC 21.4):

- (a) Non-destructive Tests -- General Inspection Level I.
- (b) Destructive Tests -- Special Inspection Level S-2.

Specified Standards: The specified standards for the attributes requiring them shall be:

**Attribute** 

P-7. Type Quality and Uniformity

P-8. Halftone Match (Single and Double Impression)

P-9. Solid and Screen Tint Color Match

Specified Standard

Furnished electronic files Furnished electronic files

Pantone Matching System

<u>SECTION 7-----PRODUCTION SAMPLES:</u> Contractor must send <u>5</u> production samples within 3 workdays after bindery startup to: IRS, Room C6-446, Attention: Terri Skyrm, 5000 Ellin Road, Lanham, MD 20706. **NOTE:** These copies are to be considered sample copies and WILL NOT be included in the quantity ordered and MUST NOT be included in the quantity billed. Shipping of these samples must be borne by the contractor and sent overnight by traceable means. In addition, contractor must NOT include these copies on IRS Forms 2040 and 9659.

<u>SECTION 8 – OFFERS (BIDS):</u> Offers must include the cost of all materials and operations for the total quantity ordered in accordance with these specifications.

BILLING ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO SCHEDULED QUANTITY CHANGES (+ or -) AND THE SUBTRACTION OF UNDELIVERABLES WILL BE AT THE CONTRACTOR'S "ADDITIONAL RATE". Prices for these "ADDITIONAL RATES" submitted must be based on a continuing run and must be EXCLUSIVE of all preliminary charges and will not be a factor in determining award.

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Bidder MUST submit a price or NC (No Charge) for each line item in Sections 8.1, 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.2.4, 8.2.5, and 8.2.6 on the following page. If an entry of NC is entered it shall be held the bidder intends to furnish those individual items at no charge to the Government.

Transportation charges are NOT a factor in determining award.

Bidder must fill out, initial/sign as indicated on pages 14 and 15 of these specifications.

**PREAWARD SURVEY:** In order to determine the responsibility of the prime contractor or any subcontractor, the Government reserves the right to conduct an on-site preaward survey at the contractor's/subcontractor's facility or to require other evidence of technical, production, managerial, financial, and similar abilities to perform, prior to the award of a contract. As part of the financial determination, the low contractor may be required to provide one or more of the following financial documents:

- 1) Most recent profit and loss statement
- 2) Most recent Balance Sheet
- 3) Statement of cash flows
- 4) Current official bank statement
- 5) Current lines of credit (with amounts available)
- 6) Letter of commitment from paper supplier(s)
- 7) Letter of commitment from any subcontractor

The documents will be reviewed to validate that adequate financial resources are available to perform the contract requirements. Documents submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the determination of responsibility by the Government. Failure to provide the requested information in a timely manner may result in the Contracting Officer not having adequate information to reach an affirmative determination of responsibility.

**PAYMENT**: Submitting invoices for payment via the GPO fax gateway (if no samples are required) utilizing the GPO barcode coversheet program application is the most efficient method of invoicing.

Instruction for using this method can be found at the following web address: <a href="http://winapps.access.gpo.gov/fms/vouchers/barcode/instructions.html">http://winapps.access.gpo.gov/fms/vouchers/barcode/instructions.html</a>.

Invoices may also be mailed to: U.S. Government Publishing Office, Office of Financial Management, Attn: Comptroller, Stop: FMCE, Washington, DC 20401.

For more information about the billing process refer to the General Information of the Office of Finance web page located at <a href="https://www.gpo.gov/how-to-work-with-us/vendors/how-to-get-paid">https://www.gpo.gov/how-to-work-with-us/vendors/how-to-get-paid</a>.

Bidder must state in the bid, the location (city and state) of the plant(s) from which this product will be shipped. Award will be made to the low responsible offeror whose offer is determined to be fair and reasonable.

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Bidder must state the cost of preparing and implementing the drop sh	ipment plans includ	ded in the total b	oid above.
		\$	
<b>8.2</b> Prices for Page Count Changes: The page count may change from print files are received. The contractor must enter a price or NC (no a 8.2.3, and 8.2.4. If contractor fails to enter a price or NC in 8.2.1, 8.2 non-responsive. The appropriate figures listed below in 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8 be used to increase/decrease the purchase order price based on FINAL are not a factor in award. Although these prices are not a factor in award. Although these prices are not a factor in award. <b>8.2.1</b> If page count increases from originally stated in the specifical original Purchase Order price accordingly.	dd'l charge to Gov. 2.2, 8.2.3, and 8.2.4 3.2.3, and 8.2.4 mus L page counts and I vard, the Governme	ernment) below the contractor of st include set-up FINAL quantition ent reserves the	in 8.2.1, 8.2.2, will be deemed charges and will es. These prices right to
4 Pg. Increase		\$	/M
<b>8.2.2</b> If page count decreases from originally stated in the specificatoriginal Purchase Order price accordingly.	ations, the price sub	mitted below w	ill decrease the
4 Pg. Decrease		\$	/M
<b>8.2.3</b> If page count increases from originally stated in the specifica original Purchase Order price accordingly.	tions, the price sub	mitted below w	ill increase the
8 Pg. Increase		\$	/M
<b>8.2.4</b> If page count decreases from originally stated in the specific original Purchase Order price accordingly.	eations, the price su	bmitted below v	vill decrease the
8 Pg. Decrease		\$	/M
<b>8.2.5</b> Prices for Quantity Changes: Regardless of final page count, the original Purchase Order price by the difference between the bid quantity Changes:			ecrease/increase
		<u>"ADD</u>	'L RATE"
Printing and Binding.	per l, 00	00 copies\$	
<b>8.2.6</b> Labeling, addressing, packing and sealing, palletizing, etc.: Price Purchase Order price by the difference between the number of approximations utilized based on the final quantity	nate cartons stated in	n the bid quantity	y and the number of
<b>8.3</b> Company name, address, contact name and telephone number, an will perform on this contract.	d production functi	on of subcontra	ctor(s), if any, who
8.4 Location of shipping point/staging area:			
City	State	Zip Code_	

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<b>8.5</b> Location of Post Office	from which copies will b	be mailed:	
City		State	Zip Code
<b>8.6</b> Name of Contact persons	:	Phone Number:	FAX Number:
Email address (required)			<u>.</u>
8.7 At the same time invoice copy to Theresa.L.Skyrm@		entation is submitted to GP	O for payment, contractor MUST email a
JACKET NUMBER: 415-	004	BID PRICE: \$	
<b>DISCOUNTS:</b> Discounts a See Article 12 "Discount" o	are offered for payment f solicitation Provision i	as follows:Pero n GPO Contract Terms (Pub	ent, calendar days. lication 310.2).
AMENDMENT(S): Bidde	r hereby acknowledges a	amendment(s) number(ed) _	
BID ACCEPTANCE PER	IOD: In compliance wit	h the above, the undersigned	agree, if this bid is accepted
	e specified items at the p		ed by the bidder) from the date for delivered at the designated points(s), in
NOTE: Failure to provide a	60 day bid acceptance p	period may result in expiration	n of the bid prior to award.
submitting a bid, agrees witl	n and accepts responsibi	lity for all certifications and	aken, the bidder, by signing and representations as required by the ax or mail, fill out and return one copy.
Bidder	(Contractor Name)	(GPO	Contractor's Code)
	()	(-5 -	
		(Street Address)	
	(C	ity – State – Zip Code)	
Ву	(Printed Name, and Tit	tle of Person Authorized to S	Sign this Bid)
	(Signature)		(Date)
	(Telephone Number)		(Email)
Contracting Officer Review	7: Date:	Certifier:(Initials	Date: