# RFQ's From Ato Z

**2022 Agency Purchasing Conference** 



# Process/Law Changes To Help You

**Secretary of State Contact (2022):** Identified designated point of contact for issues with the Secretary of State registration.

Illegal Terms Law (2021): This change allows the State to enter into contracts more quickly by eliminating the need to negotiate various illegal terms.

Post Contract Awards Electronically (2021): All contract awards are now posted online, reducing the cost associated with distribution of paper copies and responding to FOIA requests.

**Vendor Commodity Registration Report (2020):** The Purchasing Division developed a report that would identify all vendors registered for a certain commodity code so that targeted notice of bidding opportunities could be provided.

Modifies the Disclosure of Interested Parties Form (2018): Increases the limit for the Disclosure of Interested Parties from \$100,000 to \$1 million. Additionally, this form will no longer apply to publicly traded companies.

# **Objectives**

- Define a Request for Quotations (RFQ)
- Review the elements, including attachments, needed to prepare the requisition
- Discuss the advertisement period utilizing the West Virginia Purchasing Bulletin
- Discuss the formal process from the time of bid opening to the award of a contract/purchase order
- Provide an overview of pertinent documents and verification search requirements
- Analyze some of the unique circumstances which require additional attention

# **Request for Quotations**

### What is a Request for Quotation (RFQ)?

- A procurement method containing the specifications or scope of work and all contractual terms and conditions.
- Used to solicit written or electronic bids. Conformity to specifications and price are the only factors used in the evaluation process
- RFQ is the preferred method to acquire all tangible property and most services
- Used when an agency knows exactly what it needs
- Blackout period



## **Request for Quotations**

### An RFQ consists of:

- Detailed description of, or specifications for, an item or service being purchased
- Required delivery or service dates
- Bid price per unit; commodity line type ITEM or SERVICE; catalog, percentage discount or mark-up
- Any applicable maintenance
- Quantities of all items. Each item should be identified by a model number or some other specific identification
- Schedule of Events, including questions, mandatory pre-bid conference, and bid opening
- Master Terms and Conditions

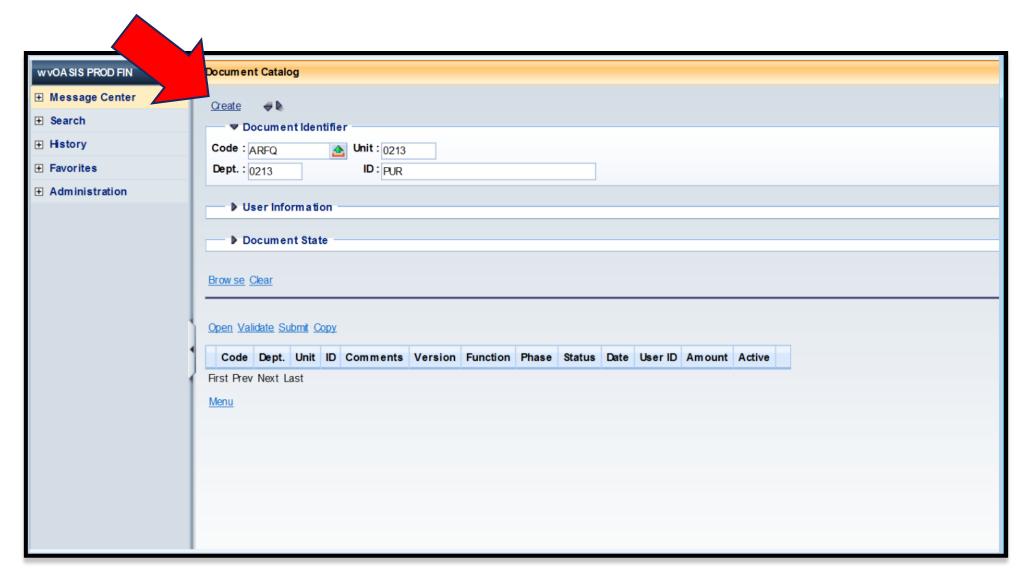
# Preparing the requisition

### For procurements greater than \$25,000

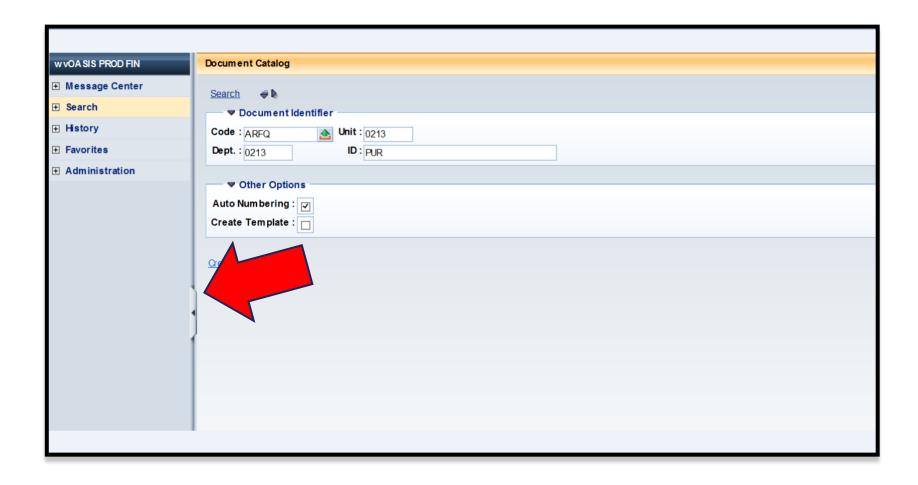
- Types
  - Centralized Standard Requisition (CRQS)
    - Fixed Amount (i.e. for a CCT or CPO final product)
  - Centralized Master Agreement Requisition (CRQM)
    - Open-end/Master agreement (i.e. for a CMA final product)
  - Delivery Orders ADO/CDO
    - Always refer to the ordering instructions prior to issuance
- "A" versus "C" documents



### **To Create a Document**



### **To Create a Document**



# **Preparing the Requisition**

### **Commodity Codes**

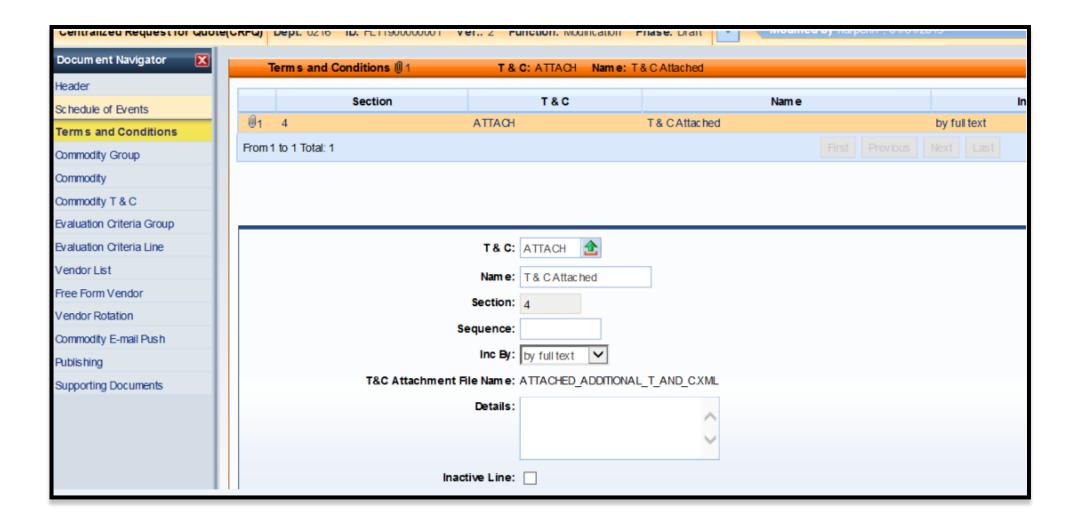
- UNSPSC- <u>UNSPSC.org</u>
- How to know which code to use
- Don't be too specific or you will lose potential vendors



# Preparing the Requisition

- Terms and Conditions Agency and Purchasing versions make sure you have the most current version.
- Initial Contract Term
  - Open-end contracts standard initial one-year term
  - Renewals standard three successive one-year periods
  - Software contracts with maintenance may have an extended initial term up to 5 years
    - One-time purchase generally no term
    - Construction contracts require a time period (may be over one year)approvals
- Insurance Requirements (general liability, workers' compensation, professional liability, automobile coverage, etc.).
- For more information on coverages and limits see Handbook Section, 3.2.5.3, Appendix C or contact BRIM at 304-766-2646 or <a href="https://brim.wv.gov">https://brim.wv.gov</a>
- State of WV must be listed as an additional insured on all mandated insurance policies

# **Attaching Terms and Conditions**



# **Attaching Terms and Conditions**

Choose	e				
Brow se	e <u>Clear</u>				
Terms	and Conditions:	Nam e :			
Attach	ments Group ID :	Attachm entss:			
Attach	ment File Name:				
	Terms and Conditions	Nam e	Attachments Group ID	Attachments	Attachm ent File Name
Select	A1	Agency Terms and Conditions	ADV135242726	1	AGENCY_TERMS_AND_CONDITIONS.XML
Select	A2	Agency A&E Additional T & C	ADV100009105	1	AGENCY_A&E_ADDITIONAL_TERMS_AND_CONDITIONS.XML
Select	A3	Agency Const. Additional T&C	ADV100009106	1	AGENCY_CONSTRUCTION_CONTRACTS_ADDITIONAL_T_AND_C.XML
Select	ATTACH	T & C Attached	ADV100352319	1	ATTACHED_ADDITIONAL_T_AND_CXML
Select	BLANK	Revised Blank	ADV100505475	1	REVISED-BLANK XML
Select	Cl	Central Terms and Conditions	ADV100009107	1	CENTRAL_TERMS_AND_CONDITIONS.XML
Select	C2	Central A&E Additional T & C	ADV100009108	1	CENTRAL_A&E_ADDITIONAL_TERMS_AND_CONDITIONS.XML
<u>Select</u>	C3	Central Constr Additional	ADV100009109	1	CENTRAL_CONSTRUCTION_CONTRACTS_ADDITIONAL_T_AND_C.XML
Select	CONV	Conversion Default		0	
<u>Cancel</u>	First Prev Next Last				

# Preparing the Requisition

### Bid opening date and time -

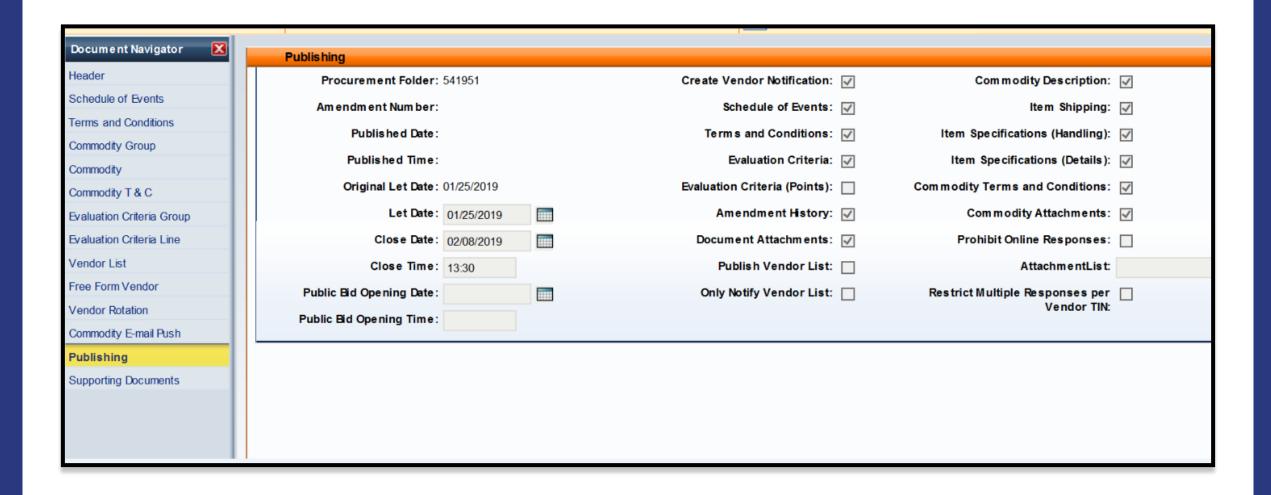
- Purchasing Division offices, Monday Friday at 1:30 p.m.
- Agencies should avoid using this bid opening time
- Be mindful of holidays and allowing vendors ample time to respond to solicitations



### **Schedule of Events**

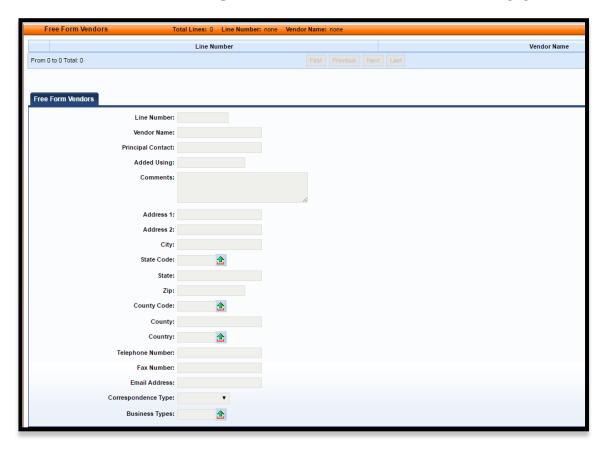


# **Publishing Tab**



# **Preparing the Requisition**

 Should suggest three potential vendors qualified to bid on the solicitation. Gain vendors through market research, supplier's catalogs, internet searches, and wvOASIS



- Free form vendors
  - Allows you to add a vendor to a requisition who may not be registered for a specific commodity code; this ensures they will be notified of the solicitation



# **Preparing the Requisition**

### **Special Forms**

- HIPAA and Business Associate Addendum only applies when the vendor will have access to protected health information
- WV96 agreement addenda utilized to counter a vendor's submission of alternate terms and conditions. Should not be included in the outgoing solicitation, only utilized after it is clear from vendor's bid that alternate terms and conditions have been proposed.
  - May require Purchasing's attorney and Attorney General's office review

# **Blackout Period Begins**

### What is the blackout period?

- Period from which the requisition is submitted to the Purchasing Division until after the award is made whereas the agency should have no contact with the vendor (this includes ALL agency staff, including field office personnel)
- All correspondence with a vendor regarding a current solicitation should go through the agency's designated Purchasing Division buyer



### Advertisement of RFQ in Bulletin

- Purchasing Division buyer will review the requisition and specifications
- Upon satisfactory review, the Purchasing Division buyer will create the solicitation
  - The solicitation will be advertised in the West Virginia Purchasing Bulletin, accessible to vendors through the Vendor Self-Service
  - Language may include:
    - Deadline for technical questions
    - Date for mandatory pre-bid conference
- Vendors suggested by the Agency will be notified of the solicitation

### Advertisement of RFQ in Bulletin

- Purchasing Division may include other required documentation with the solicitation
  - Construction Documents (i.e. Drug Free Workplace Affidavit)
  - Other documents as needed



Lump Sum Pricing

- Exhibit A
  - Total bid amount
  - Usually for a service

	<u>Exhi</u>	bit "A" Pricing She	<u>eet</u>
on the Bathh		ce Building located	s for installing all preformed roofing, at Camp Washington Carver, Clifftop
TOTALBI	D AMOUNT: \$		
Firm Name			_
Address			_
Telephone			
Fax			
Date			
		Signature	
		Title	

Bid Scenario Pricing

- Exhibit A
  - Item # Coincides with wvOASIS commodity line
  - Item description
  - Unit of measure
  - Unit price
  - Estimated quantity
  - Extended price

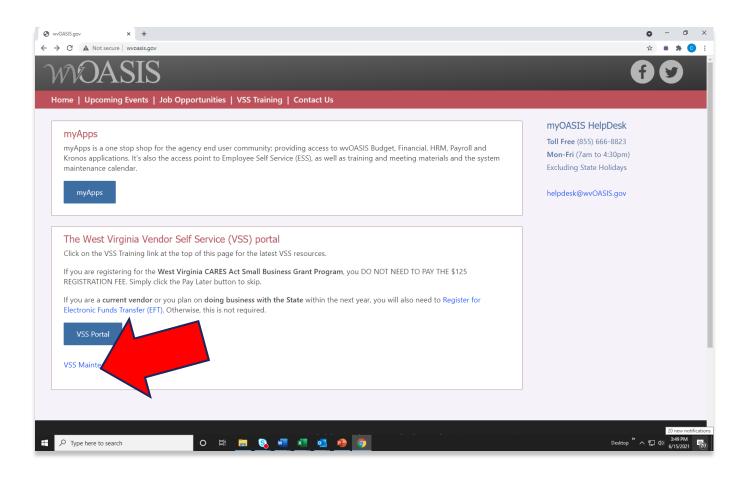
Exhibit A - Pricing Page
Soft Drink Tax Stamps

Item#	Item Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Price	Estimated Qty	Extended Price
3.1.2.6.1	One (1) Cent Stamp - "1¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.2	Two (2) Cent Stamp - "2¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.3	Four (4) Cent Stamp - "4¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.4	Ten (10) Cent Stamp - "10¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.5	Fifteen (15) Cent Stamp - "15¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.6	Twenty (20) Cent Stamp - "20¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.7	Twenty-Four (24) Cent Stamp - "24¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.8	Thirty-two (32) Cent Stamp - "32¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.9	Thirty-six (36) Cent Stamp - "36¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.10	Thirty-eight (38) Cent Stamp - "38¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
3.1.2.6.11	Forty (40) Cent Stamp - "40¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
4.1.2.6.12	Forty-eight (48) Cent Stamp - 48¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
4.1.2.6.13	Sixty (60) Cent Stamp - "60¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
4.1.2.6.14	Eighty (80) Cent Stamp - "80¢"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
4.1.2.6.15	Two (2) Dollar Stamp - "\$2.00"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
4.1.2.6.16	Four (4) Dollar Stamp - "\$4.00"	Per Sheet		100000	\$ -
				Total Bid Amount	\$ -

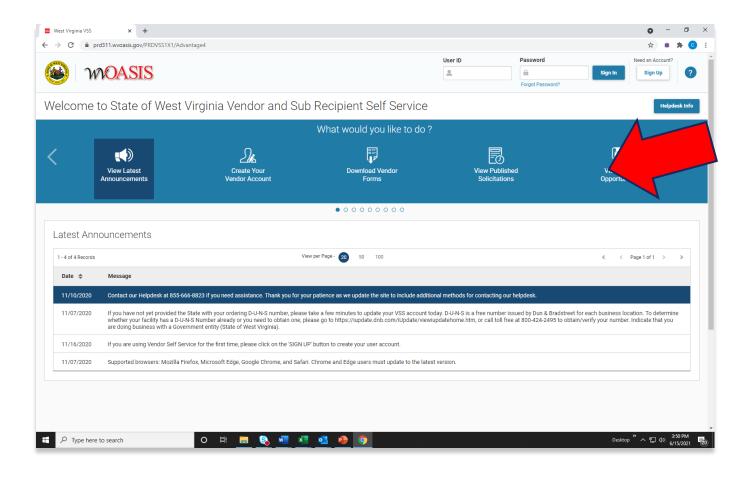
#### **Pre-Bid Conference**

- Meeting between vendors and agency personnel for solicitations that are complex and high dollar in nature
- Explain and clarify critical aspects of a solicitation
- Eliminates misunderstanding and permits vendor input
- Mandatory
  - Only vendors attending the pre-bid may submit a bid
- See Appendix A in Handbook for sign-in sheet or on the Forms page of our website. It is item number 47.

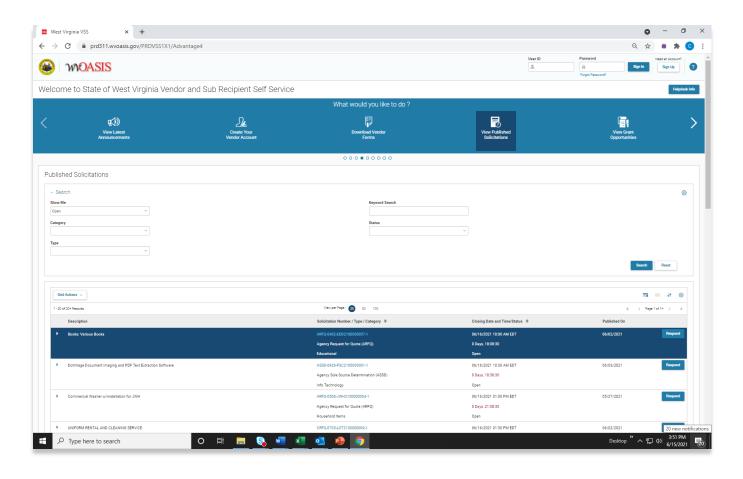
# After the RFQ is Published: How to View Solicitation in VSS



# After the RFQ is Published: How to View Solicitation in VSS



## After the RFQ is Published: How to View Solicitation in VSS



### **Solicitation Methods**

### **Request for Quotations**

- Low bid meeting all mandatory specifications
  - Most commonly used method by Purchasing Division
  - Mandatory specifications include terms will, shall, and must



- After the bid opening
  - The agency will download bids from the Purchasing Division's website
    - www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/Bids

- Evaluate each vendor's bid submission to ensure they meet all mandatory specifications, cost, and that required documentation has been provided
  - How do you know if a vendor has met the mandatory requirements?



### **Special Circumstances**

- Tie bids (both Agency and Central procurements handled by Purchasing Division)
  - Resolved through any impartial method
    - Best and final offer
    - Flip of a coin
    - Draw of a card
- Erroneous bids
  - A vendor's request to have a bid rejected must be received in writing within five days of the bid opening – procedures for withdrawing a bid found in Legislative Rule §148CSR1

#### **Erroneous Bids**

6.3.f. The Director may reject a bid that a vendor declares to be erroneous after the bid opening, but otherwise appears to be responsive, if all of the following conditions exist: (1) An error was made; (2) The error materially affected the bid; (3) Rejection of the bid would not cause a hardship on the State spending unit involved, other than losing an opportunity to receive commodities, services or printing at a reduced cost; and (4) Enforcement of the part of the bid in error would be unconscionable. In order for the Director to reject a bid under this subsection, the public file must contain documented evidence that all of the conditions set forth in this subdivision exist.

### **Special Circumstances**

- Clarification
  - Purchasing Division handles this
  - Only used to clarify a vendor's proposal, not change it
  - Don't ask for clarification if it's clear the vendor did not meet a specification
  - Poor clarification can hurt instead of help. Use as few words as possible (Example: yes/no)



### Things to Do

- Check the vendor's math
- If there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting, did lowest bidder attend?
- If an addendum was issued for the solicitation, did the vendor provide a signed addendum acknowledgement form with his or her bid?
- Did the vendor use the correct pricing page?
- Did the vendor propose alternate terms and conditions?
  - Only get WV-96 if alternate terms and conditions conflict with state's
- Is there firm, fixed pricing?

### Agency has determined the awarded vendor

- Submit a recommendation for award to the Purchasing Division buyer
- State that the recommended vendor meets all mandatory specifications
- State whether the vendor provided the lowest cost
- If recommended vendor is not the low bid, explain why the low bid did not receive the award (i.e. low bidder missed a mandatory specification)
- Provide a signed Non-Conflict of Interest form
- Failure to timely review bids and recommend an award may result in bid expiration, project delays, longer procurement process and/or cancellation

- Non-Conflict of Interest
  - Applies to all transaction types (CPO, CMA, CCT)
  - Certifies that the evaluator has no conflict of interest with a vendor
  - If the evaluator is not the agency's procurement officer, the procurement officer must also sign the non-conflict form



#### STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA Purchasing Division

#### **CERTIFICATION OF NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

West Virginia Code § 5A-3-31: "It shall be unlawful for any person to corruptly combine, collude or conspire with one or more other persons with respect to the purchasing or supplying of commodities or printing to the state under the provisions of this article if the purpose or effect of such combination, collusion or conspiracy is either to (1) lessen competition among prospective vendors, or (2) cause the state to pay a higher price for such commodities or printing than would be or would have been paid in the absence of such combination, collusion or conspiracy, or (3) cause one prospective vendor or vendors to be preferred over one or more other prospective vendor or vendors. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in the penitentiary not less than one nor more than five years, and be fined not exceeding five thousand dollars."

West Virginia Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1): "A public official or public employee may not knowingly and intentionally use his or her office or the prestige of his or her office for his or her own private gain or that of another person."

West Virginia Code § 6B-2-5(d)(1): "[N]o elected or appointed public official or public employee or member of his or her immediate family or business with which he or she is associated may be a party to or have an interest in the profits or benefits of a contract which the official or employee may have direct authority to enter into, or over which he or she may have control . . . . "

The individual(s) listed below have been charged to evaluate of	or serve as members or advisors of an evaluation committee
for the solicitation as specified [	
By signing this form, each individual acknowledges that:	(1) his or her service on the evaluation committee is not

By signing this form, each individual acknowledges that: (1) his or her service on the evaluation committee is not in violation of West Virginia Code § 54-3-1, § 68-2-5, or any other relevant code section; (2) his or her service on the evaluation committee does not create a conflict of interest with any of the participating vendors; and (3) he or she has not had or will not have contact relating to the solicitation identified above with any participating vendors between the time of the bid opening and the award recommendation without prior approval of the Purchasing Division.

Name/Title	Agency	Signature	Date

Revised February 8, 2016

### **Verification Searches**

### **VCUST** Table

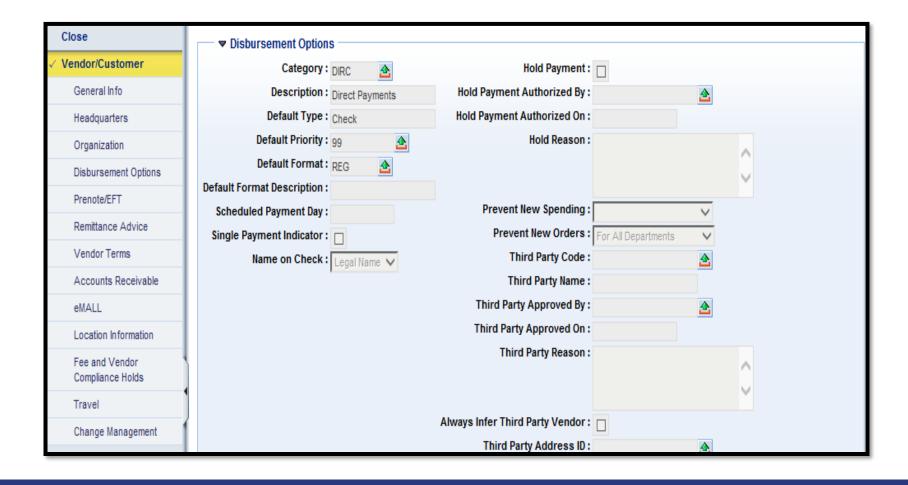
- Fee and Vendor Compliance Holds
  - Search here for Unemployment Insurance and Federal Debarred
  - No checks indicates that there are no Holds for the respective agency

A indicates that the Vendor is out of compliance with that entity.

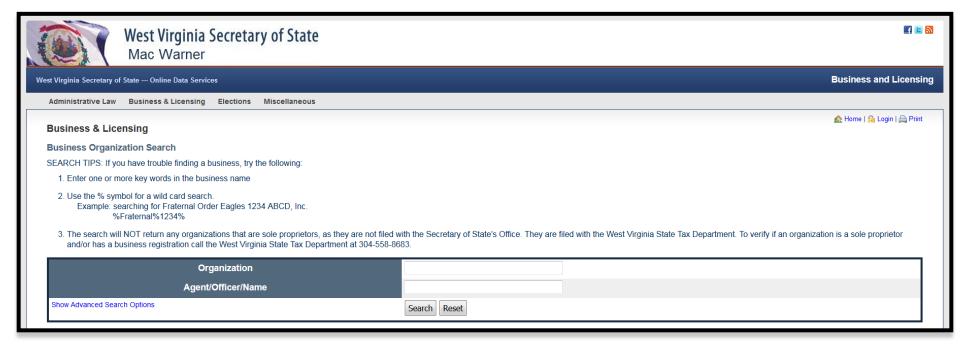
Fee Exempt :		Tax Clearance:
Registration Application Date :		Unemployment Insurance :
Registration Effective Date :		Worker's Compensation :
Registration Expiration Date :	Secretary of State Registration:	
Pre-Registration Code :		Federal Debarred :

### **Verification Searches**

Check "Prevent New Orders" Tab in VCUST



# **Verification Searches Secretary of State**

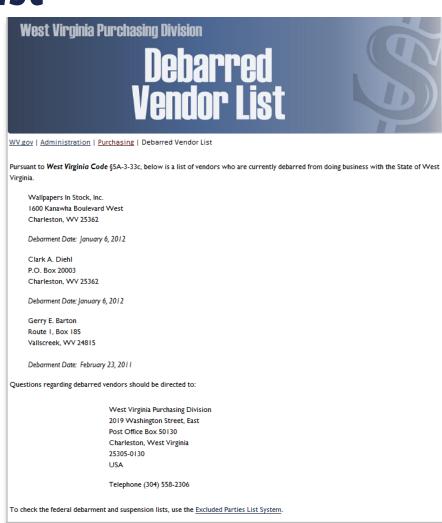


Matching records found: 1. Please note that the results are broken into four results types: Org Name, Doing Business As, Name Change and Name Registrations/Reservations. You may use the following four links to see the results for each View search results by: Org Name | DBA | Name Change | Registrations/Reservations Organization Results **Organization Name** Org Id **Effective Date** Established Date Termination Date **Termination Reason** Charter Class Org Type CARPETING UNLIMITED, INC. 162219 C 12/26/1995 Domestic Profit **Organization Name Established Date** Termination Date Termination Reason Charter Class Org Id Org Type **Effective Date** 

# **Verification Searches West Virginia Debarred Vendor List**

- Purchasing Division maintains a West Virginia Debarred Vendor List
  - Be aware of who these vendors are

 Don't forget to check the Federal debarment site as well, at SAM.gov



### **Protest Period**

- Two Types
  - Specifications
    - Must be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Director at least five days before the bid opening
  - Award
    - Must be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Director within five days of the award of the contract / purchase order

 Protests have not been delegated to the agency. All protests, regardless of dollar amount, should be directed to the Purchasing Division. A protest incorrectly delivered to the spending unit will not be considered received until it reaches the Purchasing Division.

## Purchase Order Approval and Encumbrance

- Approval
  - Document approved through levels in workflow
  - Buyer initials and sends contract file to Buyer Supervisor/Assistant Director/Director for review and approval
  - Purchase Order reviewed by Business and Technical Services (BTS) section to check form and ensures the agency has the appropriate funds to make the specific purchase
  - Purchase Order sent to the Attorney General's Office for review and approval as to form
  - Returned to BTS section for final approval and encumbrance of the contract
- Contract commencement
  - Encumbrance date is the earliest date a vendor may commence work
  - No vendor should begin any work until an encumbered contract has been processed by the Purchasing Division

### **Vendor Performance**

### How to address vendor problems related to contracts?

- When a vendor fails to meet contract requirements satisfactorily, the agency is encouraged to contact that vendor and voice its concerns
- The agency must document all efforts made to resolve the problem
- If multiple attempts to resolve the issue have failed, the agency's designated procurement officer should prepare the Vendor Performance (WV-82) form and submit it to the Purchasing Division buyer with supporting documentation/correspondence
- Agency will be advised of any action or resolution



### Resources

- Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook
  - www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/Handbook
    - Section 3 Acquisition Planning
    - Section 5 Agency Delegated Acquisition Procedures (Purchases \$50,000 or Less)
    - Section 6 Formal Acquisition Procedures (Purchases Exceeding \$50,000)
    - Appendix B The Purchasing Decision Path
    - Appendix A Mandatory Pre-Bid Sign-in sheet
    - Appendix E Agency process checklists
- Agency Resource Modules
  - www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/training/modules.html
- Intranet e-Archive for Notices to Agency-Designated Procurement Officers
  - <a href="http://intranet.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/eArchive.html">http://intranet.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/eArchive.html</a>
- Purchasing Division's wvOASIS page
  - www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/oasis.html



### MELISSA PETTREY, SENIOR BUYER

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