



United States  
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Agriculture

Office of the  
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**TO:** Mission Area Senior Contracting Officials (MASCOs)

**FROM:** Tiffany J. Taylor  Senior Procurement Executive (acting)  
USDA

03/16/2020

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Procurement Flexibilities, and New National Interest  
Action Code for COVID-19 2020

Under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”) the President has declared a national emergency regarding the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Therefore, the flexibilities identified in FAR 18.202, “Defense or recovery from certain events,” are available as a result of this emergency declaration for use in supporting response efforts to COVID-19. Flexibilities include increases to the micro-purchase threshold, the simplified acquisition threshold, and the threshold for using simplified procedures for certain commercial items, see [Desk Book](#) 401.201.

As with all contracting, MASCOs and their contracting officers must exercise sound judgement and stewardship of taxpayer dollars for acquisitions supporting response efforts. There will be an updated “frequently asked questions” document provided soon to assist MASCOs with emerging contracting issues.

In addition, GSA added a new National Interest Action (NIA) Code to the NIA field in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) to track acquisition costs of Federal agencies involved in the response to COVID-19. The NIA Code will only be used for reporting purposes related to COVID-19 and involves the exercise of the emergency authorities identified in Federal Acquisition Regulation 18.2. FPDS system details for this NIA Code is as follows:

1. NIA Value Name: COVID-19 2020
  - a. Web Portal/Graphical User Interface (GUI) service users may select the value 'COVID-19 2020' in the NIA drop-down field.
  - b. Contract Writing Systems (CWS) shall use the code of 'P20C' when creating/updating documents associated with the COVID-19 response through Business Services.
2. NIA Start Date: 03/13/2020
3. NIA End Date: 07/01/2020

If you have questions regarding implementation, please contact [procurement.policy@usda.gov](mailto:procurement.policy@usda.gov).