

No.98/ORD/1
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block 'A',
GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi- 110 023
Dated the 2nd July 2004

Office Order No.43/7/04

Subject: Improving Vigilance Administration: Increasing Transparency in procurement/sale etc. – Use of website regarding.

The Central Vigilance Commission has issued a directive on the above subject vide its Order No.98/ORD/1 dated 18th Dec. 2003 making it mandatory to use web-site in all cases where open tender system is resorted to. These instructions have been further extended vide Office Order No.10/2/04 dated 11.2.2004 to tenders of short-term nature (by whatever name it is called in different organizations). Various organizations have been corresponding with the Commission seeking certain clarifications with regard to the above directives. The main issues pointed out by organizations are as follows:

Issue 1 Size of Tender Documents

In cases of works/procurement of highly technical nature, tender documents run into several volumes with large number of drawings and specifications sheets, etc. It may not be possible to place these documents on website.

Clarification: These issues have been discussed with the technical experts and in their opinion, there is no technical and even practical difficulty in doing the same. These days almost all the organizations do their typing work on computers and not on manual typewriters. There is no significant additional effort involved in uploading the material typed on MS Word or any other word processing softwares on the website irrespective of the number of pages. The scanning of drawings is also a routine activity. Moreover if the volume and size of tender document is so large as to make it inconvenient for an intending tendering party to download it, they always have the option of obtaining the tender documents from the organization through traditional channels. The Commission has asked for putting tender documents on web-site in addition to whatever methods are being presently used.

Issue 2 Issues Connected with Data Security, Legality and Authenticity of Bid Documents.

Certain organizations have expressed apprehensions regarding security of data, hacking of websites etc. They have also pointed out that certain

bidding parties may alter the downloaded documents and submit their bids in such altered tender documents which may lead to legal complications.

Clarification: This issue has been examined both from technical and legal angles. Technically a high level of data security can be provided in the websites. The provisions of digital signatures through Certifying Authority can be used to ensure that in case of any forgery or alteration in downloaded documents it is technically feasible to prove what the original document was. There are sufficient legal provisions under IT Act to ensure that e-business can be conducted using the website. A copy of the remarks given by NIC on this issue are enclosed herewith.

Issue 3 Some organizations have sought clarification whether web site is also to be used for proprietary items or items which are sourced from OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) and OESs (Original Equipment Suppliers).

Clarification: It is clarified that Commission's instructions are with regard to goods, services and works procured through open tender system, so these instruction do not apply to proprietary items and items which necessarily need to be procured through OEMs and OESs.

Issue 4 Do the instructions regarding 'short term tenders' given in the CVC Order No.98/ORD/1 dated 11th Feb., 2004 apply to limited tenders also?

Clarification: In many organizations goods, services and works which as per laid down norms are to be procured/executed through open tender system many times due to urgency are done through short term tenders without resorting to wide publicity in newspapers because of time constraint. In all such cases short term tenders (by whatever name it is called) etc. should also be put on the website of the dept. as it does not involve any additional time or cost.

Regarding applicability of these instructions to limited tenders where the number of suppliers/contractors is known to be small and as per the laid down norms limited tender system is to be resorted to through a system of approved/registered vendors/contractors, the clarification is given below.

Issue 5 Some organizations have pointed out that they make their procurement or execute their work through a system of approved/registered vendors and contractors and have sought clarification about the implications of CVC's instructions in such procurements/contracts.

Clarification: The Commission desires that in all such cases there should be wide publicity through the web site as well as through the other traditional channels at regular intervals for registration of contractors/suppliers. All the required proforma for registration, the pre-qualification criteria etc. should be always available on the web-site of the organization and it should be possible to download the same and apply to the organization. There should not be any entry barriers or long gaps in the registration of suppliers/contractors. The intervals on which publicity is to be given through website and traditional means can be decided by each organization based on their own requirements and developments in the market conditions. It is expected

that it should be done atleast once in a year for upgrading the list of registered vendors/contractors.

The concerned organisation should give web based publicity for limited tenders also except for items of minor value. If the organization desires to limit the access of the limited tender documents to only registered contractors/suppliers they can limit the access by issuing passwords to all registered contractors/suppliers. But it should be ensured that password access is given to all the registered contractors/suppliers and not denied to any of the registered suppliers. Any denial of password to a registered supplier/contractor will lead to presumption of malafide intention on the part of the tendering authority.

Sd/-
(Balwinder Singh)
Addl. Secretary

To

- (i) The Secretaries of All Ministries/Departments of Government of India
- (ii) The Chief Secretaries to all Union Territories
- (iii) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India
- (iv) The Chairman, Union Public Service Commission
- (v) The Director, Central Bureau of Investigation
- (vi) The Chief Executives of all PSEs/Public Sector Banks/Insurance Companies/
Autonomous Organisations/Societies
- (vii) The Chief Vigilance Officers in the Ministries/Departments/PSEs/Public Sector
Banks/Insurance Companies/Autonomous Organisations/Societies
- (viii) President's Secretariat/Vice-President's Secretariat/Lok Sabha Secretariat/
Rajya Sabha Secretariat/PMO