



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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SEP 27 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(POLICY AND PROCUREMENT), ASA(ALT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT), ASN(RDA)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(CONTRACTING), SAF/AQC
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

Subject: Micro-purchase and Section 508 Disability Accessibility Requirement

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) micro-purchase exemption to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, will expire on April 1, 2005. Purchase cardholder training to effectively acquire 508 compliant products and services must begin now.

Section 508 requires that Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) acquired by the Federal Government be accessible by people with disabilities. EIT includes fax machines, printers, desktop copiers, cell phones, VCRs, TVs, DVDs, scanners, laptops/desktop computers, conference services, etc.

To prepare for this new requirement agencies must update their purchase card training modules on the 508 requirements and train their personnel. Free, online training developed by GSA, in collaboration with the Section 508 Executive Steering Committee, is available at <http://www.section508.gov> as well as <http://purchasecard.saalt.army.mil>. Additionally, Section 508 training CDs are available, if needed, from the DoD Purchase Card Joint Program Management Office.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was amended in 1998 to include evolving EIT standards and products. Initially, the FAR exempted micropurchases from the 508 requirements until January 1, 2003. Several extensions were granted to allow Agencies to gain more experience on Section 508 and for industry to expand their supply of compliant products available in small quantities. No further exemptions will be considered.



Questions regarding this training should be directed to Mr. Dan Carro in the DoD Purchase Card Joint Program Management Office at 703-681-3417 or dan.carro@saalt.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deidre A. Lee', written in a cursive style.

Deidre A. Lee
Director, Defense Procurement
and Acquisition Policy