

Government of Sierra Leone – General Conditions of Contract for Local Purchase Orders

1. Definitions

1.1 The following terms shall be interpreted as indicated:
(a) "The Contract" means the agreement entered into between the Purchaser and the Supplier, including all specifications, plans, drawings or other documents and conditions which may be referred to in the Contract.
(b) "The Contract Price" means the price payable to the Supplier under the Contract for the full and proper performance of its contractual obligations.
(c) "The Goods" means all of the equipment, machinery, commodities and/or other materials which the Supplier is required to supply to the Purchaser under the Contract.
(d) "The Incidental Services" means those services ancillary to the supply of the Goods, such as transportation and insurance, and any other incidental services, such as installation, commissioning, provision of technical assistance, training, and other such obligations of the Supplier covered under the Contract.
(e) "The Services" means the professional, technical, advisory, or maintenance obligations of the Supplier under a Contract for the provision of Services.
(f) "The Works" means the construction, installation, and related activities required under a Contract for the provision of Works as defined in the Contract.
(g) "The Purchaser" means the Government Entity purchasing the Goods, Works or Services, as named in the Contract.
(h) "The Supplier" means the individual or firm supplying the Goods, Works or Services, as named in the Contract.

2. Country of Origin

2.1 All Goods, Works and Services supplied under the Contract shall have their origin in eligible countries and territories. Eligible countries shall include all member states of the United Nations.
2.2 For purposes of this Clause, "origin" means the place where the Goods were mined, grown, or produced, or from which the Works or Services are supplied. Goods are produced when, through manufacturing, processing, or substantial and major assembly of components, a commercially recognised new product results that is substantially different in basic characteristics or in purpose or utility from its components.
2.3 The origin of Goods, Works and Services is distinct from the nationality of the Supplier.

3. Standards

3.1 The Goods, Works and Services supplied under the Contract shall conform to all standards and requirements mentioned in the technical specifications, plans, drawings, terms of reference or other documentation forming part of the Contract.

4. Use of Contract Documents and Information

4.1 The Supplier shall not, without the Purchaser's prior written consent, disclose the Contract, or any provision thereof, or any specification, plan, drawing, pattern, sample, or information furnished by or on behalf of the Purchaser in connection therewith, to any person other than a person employed by the Supplier in the performance of the Contract. Disclosure to any such employed person shall be made in confidence and shall extend only so far as may be necessary for purposes of such performance.
4.2 The Supplier shall not, without the Purchaser's prior written consent, make use of any document or information specified in GCC Clause 4.1, except for purposes of performing the Contract.
4.3 All documents enumerated in GCC Clause 4.1, other than the Contract itself, shall remain the property of the Purchaser and shall be returned (all copies) to the Purchaser on completion of the Supplier's performance under the Contract, if so required by the Purchaser.

5. Patent Rights

5.1 The Supplier shall indemnify the Purchaser against all third-party claims of infringement of patent, trademark, or industrial design rights arising from use of the goods, output of the services, performance of the works, or any part thereof in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

6. Performance Security

6.1 If a Performance Security is specified in the bidding documents, within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the notification of Contract award, the successful Bidder shall furnish to the Purchaser the performance security in the amount specified in the bidding documents.
6.2 The proceeds of the performance security shall be payable to the Purchaser as compensation for any loss resulting from the Supplier's failure to complete its obligations under the Contract.
6.3 The performance security shall be denominated in Leones and shall be in one of the following forms:

(a) a bank guarantee or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank located in the Republic of Sierra Leone or abroad, acceptable to the Purchaser, in the format provided in the bidding documents or another form acceptable to the Purchaser; or
(b) a cashier's or certified check.
6.4 The performance security will be discharged by the Purchaser and returned to the Supplier not later than thirty (30) days following the date of completion of the Supplier's performance obligations under the Contract, including any warranty obligations.

7. Inspections and Tests

7.1 The Purchaser or its representative shall have the right to inspect and/or to test the Goods, Works or Services to confirm their conformity to the Contract at no extra cost to the Purchaser. The Contract shall specify any inspections and tests the Purchaser requires and where they are to be conducted. The Purchaser shall notify the Supplier in writing of the identity of any representatives retained for these purposes.
7.2 Inspections and tests may be conducted on the premises of the Supplier or its subcontractor(s), at point of delivery, and/or at the project site. If conducted on the premises of the Supplier or its subcontractor(s), all reasonable facilities and assistance, including access to drawings and production data, shall be furnished to the inspectors at no charge to the Purchaser.
7.3 Should any inspected or tested goods, works or services fail to conform to the Specifications, the Purchaser may reject the Goods, Works or Services and the Supplier shall either replace or make alterations necessary to meet specification requirements free of cost to the Purchaser.
7.4 The Purchaser's right to inspect, test and, where necessary, reject the Goods, Works or Services shall in no way be limited or waived by reason of having previously been inspected, tested, and passed by the Purchaser or its representative prior to shipment, installation or other performance in the Republic of Sierra Leone.
7.5 Nothing in GCC Clause 7 shall in any way release the Supplier from any warranty or other obligations under this Contract.

8. Packing

8.1 The Supplier shall provide such packing of Goods as is required to prevent damage or deterioration during transit to their final destination, as indicated in the Contract. The packing shall be sufficient to withstand, without limitation, rough handling during transit and exposure to extreme temperatures, salt and precipitation during transit, and open storage. Packing case size and weights shall take into consideration, where appropriate, the remoteness of the final destination and the absence of heavy handling facilities at all points in transit.
8.2 Packing, marking, and documentation within and outside the packages shall comply strictly with such special requirements as shall be expressly provided for in the Contract, including additional requirements specified in the contract documents and through any subsequent instructions issued by the Purchaser.

9. Delivery and Documents

9.1 Delivery of Goods shall be made by the Supplier in accordance with the terms specified in the Schedule of Requirements. The details of shipping and/or other documents to be furnished by the Supplier are specified in the Contract.
9.2 For purposes of the Contract, "EXW," "CIF," "CIP," and other trade terms used to describe the obligations of the parties shall have the meanings assigned to them by the current edition of Incoterms published by the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.
9.3 Documents to be submitted by the Supplier are specified in the Contract and shall include certificates issued by the Purchaser confirming acceptance of the Goods, Works or Services provided by the Supplier

10. Insurance

10.1 Goods supplied under the Contract shall be fully insured in a freely convertible currency against loss or damage incidental to manufacture or acquisition, transportation, storage, and delivery in the manner specified in the contract document.
10.2 Where delivery of Goods is required by the Purchaser on a CIF or CIP basis, the Supplier shall arrange and pay for cargo insurance, naming the Purchaser as beneficiary. The insurance shall be for 110 percent of the CIF or CIP value on a "warehouse to warehouse" All Risks basis including War Risks and Strikes.
10.3 For Works contracts, the Supplier shall provide insurance cover, from the Start Date to the end of the Defects Liability Period, for the following events:

(a) loss of or damage to the Works, Plant, and Materials;
(b) loss of or damage to Equipment;
(c) loss of or damage to property (except the Works, Plant, Materials, and Equipment) in connection with the Contract; and
(d) personal injury or death.
10.4 For Services contracts the Supplier shall provide:
(a) public liability insurance;
(b) third party insurance;
(c) professional liability insurance, where appropriate;
(d) employer's liability and workers' compensation insurance in respect of the personnel of the Supplier and of any sub-consultant.

11. Transportation

11.1 Transportation of Goods shall be in accordance with the general provisions of the Incoterm selected as for GCC Clause 9.2. No restriction shall be placed on the choice of carrier.
11.2 Where the Supplier is required under the Contract to transport Goods to a specified place of destination within the Republic of Sierra Leone, defined as the Project Site, transport, including insurance and storage, shall be arranged by the Supplier, and related costs shall be included in the Contract Price.

12. Incidental Services

12.1 A Supplier may be required to provide any additional services as specified within the Contract.

13. Spare Parts

13.1 If specified in the Contract, the Supplier may be required to provide materials, notifications, and information pertaining to spare parts manufactured or distributed by the Supplier including:
(a) such spare parts as the Purchaser may elect to purchase from the Supplier, provided that this election shall not relieve the Supplier of any warranty obligations under the Contract; and
(b) in the event of termination of production of the spare parts:
(i) advance notification to the Purchaser of the pending termination, in sufficient time to permit the Purchaser to procure needed requirements; and
(ii) following such termination, furnishing at no cost to the Purchaser, blueprints, drawings, and specifications of the spare parts, if requested.

14. Warranty

14.1 The Supplier warrants that goods and materials supplied under the Contract are new, unused, of the most recent or current models, and incorporate all recent improvements in design and materials unless provided otherwise in the Contract. The Supplier further warrants that all Goods supplied under this Contract shall have no defect, arising from design, materials, or workmanship or from any act or omission of the Supplier, which may develop under normal use of the supplied goods in the conditions prevailing in the Republic of Sierra Leone.
14.2 The Supplier warrants that all Works and Services performed under the contract shall be of the highest professional and technical standards.
14.3 Warranties shall remain valid for twelve (12) months after final acceptance of the Goods or Works by the Purchaser, unless specified otherwise in the Contract.
14.4 The Purchaser shall promptly notify the Supplier in writing of any claims arising under this warranty.
14.5 Upon receipt of such notice, the Supplier shall, with all reasonable speed, repair or replace the defective goods, works or parts thereof, without costs to the Purchaser.
14.6 If the Supplier, having been notified, fails to remedy any defect within the period specified in the contract documents, the Purchaser may proceed to take such remedial action as may be necessary, at the Supplier's risk and expense and without prejudice to any other rights which the Purchaser may have against the Supplier under the Contract.

15. Payment

15.1 The method and conditions of payment to be made to the Supplier under this Contract shall be specified in the Contract.
15.2 The Supplier's request(s) for payment shall be made to the Purchaser in writing, accompanied by an invoice describing, as appropriate, the goods delivered, works completed or services performed, and by documents submitted pursuant to GCC Clause 9, and upon fulfilment of other obligations stipulated in the Contract.
15.3 Payments shall be made promptly by the Purchaser, but in no case later than forty-five (45) days after submission of an invoice or claim by the Supplier.
15.4 Payments shall be made in Leones unless otherwise stated in the contract documents.

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16. Prices

16.1 Prices charged by the Supplier for goods delivered and works or services performed under the Contract shall not vary from the prices quoted by the Supplier in its bid except for any price adjustments authorised in the Contract.

17. Change Orders

17.1 The Purchaser may at any time, by a written order given to the Supplier pursuant to GCC Clause 31, make changes within the general scope of the Contract in any one or more of the following:

- (a) drawings, designs, or specifications, where Works or Services are to be performed, or Goods to be furnished under the Contract are to be specifically manufactured for the Purchaser;
- (b) methods of shipment, packing, construction or performance;
- (c) the place of performance or delivery; and/or
- (d) incidental services to be provided by the Supplier.

17.2 If any such change causes an increase or decrease in the cost of, or the time required for, the Supplier's performance of any provisions under the Contract, an equitable adjustment shall be made in the Contract Price or delivery schedule, or both, and the Contract shall accordingly be amended. Any claims by the Supplier for adjustment under this Clause must be asserted within thirty (30) days from the date of the Supplier's receipt of the Purchaser's change order.

18. Contract Amendments

18.1 Subject to GCC Clause 17, no variation in or modification of the terms of the Contract shall be made except by written amendment signed by the parties.

19. Assignment

19.1 The Supplier shall not assign, in whole or in part, its obligations to perform under this Contract, except with the prior written consent of the Purchaser.

20. Sub-contracts

20.1 The Supplier shall notify the Purchaser in writing of all subcontracts awarded under this Contract if not already specified in the bid. Such notification, in the original bid or later, shall not relieve the Supplier from any liability or obligation under the Contract. Subcontracts must comply with the provisions of GCC Clause 2.

21. Delays in the Supplier's Performance

21.1 Delivery of goods, performance of works and services shall be made by the Supplier in accordance with the time schedule prescribed by the Purchaser in the Schedule of Requirements.

21.2 If at any time during performance of the Contract, the Supplier or its subcontractor(s) should encounter conditions impeding timely delivery of the Goods or performance of the Works or Services, the Supplier shall promptly notify the Purchaser in writing of the fact of the delay, its likely duration and its cause(s). As soon as practicable after receipt of the Supplier's notice, the Purchaser shall evaluate the situation and may at its discretion extend the Supplier's time for performance, with or without liquidated damages, in which case the extension shall be ratified by the parties by amendment of Contract.

21.3 Except as provided under GCC Clause 24, a delay by the Supplier in the performance of contractual obligations may render the Supplier liable to the imposition of liquidated damages pursuant to GCC Clause 22, unless an extension of time is agreed upon pursuant to GCC Clause 21.2 without the application of liquidated damages.

22. Liquidated Damages

22.1 Subject to GCC Clause 24, if the Supplier fails to deliver any or all of the goods or to perform the works or services within the period(s) specified in the Contract, the Purchaser may, without prejudice to other remedies under the Contract, deduct from the Contract Price as liquidated damages, a percentage of the price of the delayed goods or unperformed works or services for each week or part thereof of delay until actual delivery or performance. The percentage rates shall be as follows:

- 1.0% for the first week of delay or any part thereof;
- 1.5% for the second week of delay or any part thereof;
- 2.0% for the third week of delay or any part thereof;

3.0% for the fourth week of delay or any part thereof;

4.0% for any further month of delay up to a total maximum deduction of 15% of the value of the delayed goods, works or services.

Once the maximum is reached, the Purchaser may consider termination of the Contract pursuant to GCC Clause 23.

23. Termination for Default

23.1 The Purchaser, without prejudice to any other remedy for breach of Contract, by written notice of default sent to the Supplier, may terminate this Contract in whole or in part:

- (a) if the Supplier fails to deliver any or all of the goods or to perform the works or services within the period(s) specified in the Contract, or within any extension thereof granted by the Purchaser pursuant to GCC Clause 21; or
- (b) if the Supplier fails to perform any other obligation(s) under the Contract.
- (c) if the Supplier, in the judgment of the Purchaser, has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing the Contract.

For the purpose of this Clause:

"corrupt practice" means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any thing of value to influence the action of a public official in the procurement process or in contract execution.

"fraudulent practice" means a misrepresentation of facts in order to influence a procurement process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of the Purchaser, and includes collusive practice among Bidders (prior to or after bid submission) designed to establish bid prices at artificial non-competitive levels and to deprive the Purchaser of the benefits of free and open competition.

23.2 In the event the Purchaser terminates the Contract in whole or in part, pursuant to GCC Clause 23.1, the Purchaser may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as it deems appropriate, goods, works or services similar to those undelivered, and the Supplier shall be liable to the Purchaser for any excess costs for such similar goods, works or services. However, the Supplier shall continue performance of the Contract to the extent not terminated.

24. Force Majeure

24.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of GCC Clauses 21, 22, and 23, the Supplier shall not be liable for forfeiture of its performance security, liquidated damages, or termination for default if and to the extent that its delay in performance or other failure to perform its obligations under the Contract is the result of an event of Force Majeure.

24.2 For purposes of this Clause, "Force Majeure" means an event beyond the control of the Supplier and not involving the Supplier's fault or negligence and not foreseeable. Such events may include, but are not restricted to, acts of the Purchaser in its sovereign capacity, wars or revolutions, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, and freight embargoes.

24.3 If a Force Majeure situation arises, the Supplier shall promptly notify the Purchaser in writing of such condition and the cause thereof. Unless otherwise directed by the Purchaser in writing, the Supplier shall continue to perform its obligations under the Contract as far as is reasonably practical, and shall seek all reasonable alternative means for performance not prevented by the Force Majeure event.

25. Termination for Insolvency

25.1 The Purchaser may at any time terminate the Contract by giving written notice to the Supplier if the Supplier becomes bankrupt or otherwise insolvent. In this event, termination will be without compensation to the Supplier, provided that such termination will not prejudice or affect any right of action or remedy which has accrued or will accrue thereafter to the Purchaser.

26. Termination for Convenience

26.1 The Purchaser, by written notice sent to the Supplier, may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, at any time for its convenience. The notice of termination shall specify that termination is for the Purchaser's convenience, the extent to which performance of the Supplier under the Contract is terminated, and the date upon which such termination becomes effective.

26.2 Goods that are complete and ready for shipment within thirty (30) days after the Supplier's receipt of notice of termination shall be accepted by the Purchaser at

the Contract terms and prices. For the remaining goods, the Purchaser may elect:

- (a) to have any portion completed and delivered at the Contract terms and prices; and/or
- (b) to cancel the remainder and pay to the Supplier an agreed amount for partially completed goods, works and services and for materials and parts previously procured by the Supplier.

26.3 For Works contracts, the Purchaser shall issue a payment certificate for the value of work done, materials ordered, the reasonable costs of removal of equipment and securing the site, and relocation of Supplier's personnel.

26.4 For Services contracts, the Purchaser shall pay all time-based fees and reimbursable expenses incurred up to the date of termination and for all stage payments due in addition to reasonable costs of removal of equipment and relocation of Supplier's personnel.

27. Settlement of Disputes

27.1 If any dispute or difference of any kind whatsoever shall arise between the Purchaser and the Supplier in connection with or arising out of the Contract, the parties shall make every effort to resolve amicably such dispute or difference by mutual consultation.

27.2 If, after thirty (30) days, the parties have failed to resolve their dispute or difference by such mutual consultation, then either the Purchaser or the Supplier may give notice to the other party of its intention to commence arbitration proceedings as to the matter in dispute, and no arbitration in respect of this matter may be commenced unless such notice is given.

27.3 Any dispute or difference in respect of which a notice of intention to commence arbitration has been given in accordance with this Clause shall be finally settled by arbitration. Arbitration may be commenced prior to or after delivery of the goods or performance of the works or services under the Contract.

27.4 Arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure of an authorised arbitration service within the Republic of Sierra Leone.

27.5 Notwithstanding any reference to arbitration herein, (a) the parties shall continue to perform their respective obligations under the Contract unless they otherwise agree; and (b) the Purchaser shall pay the Supplier any monies due the Supplier.

28. Limitation of Liability

28.1 Except in cases of criminal negligence or wilful misconduct, and in the case of infringement pursuant to GCC Clause 5,

(a) the Supplier shall not be liable to the Purchaser, whether in contract, tort, or otherwise, for any indirect or consequential loss or damage, loss of use, loss of production, or loss of profits or interest costs, provided that this exclusion shall not apply to any obligation of the Supplier to pay liquidated damages to the Purchaser; and

(b) the aggregate liability of the Supplier to the Purchaser, whether under the Contract, in tort or otherwise, shall not exceed the total Contract Price, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the cost of repairing or replacing defective equipment.

29. Governing Language

29.1 The Governing Language shall be English.

30. Applicable Law

30.1 The Contract shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

31. Notices

31.1 Any notice given by one party to the other pursuant to this Contract shall be sent to the other party in writing or by cable, telex, or facsimile and confirmed in writing to the other party's address specified in the Contract.

31.2 A notice shall be effective when delivered or on the notice's effective date, whichever is later.

32. Taxes and Duties

32.1 A foreign Supplier shall be entirely responsible for all taxes, stamp duties, license fees, and other such levies imposed both inside and outside of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

32.2 A local Supplier shall be entirely responsible for all taxes, duties, license fees, etc., incurred until delivery of the contracted goods to the Purchaser or performance of the works or services.