

ANNEXURE-6

No. F.9/4/2020-PPD
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure
Procurement Policy Division

512, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 12th November 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit.

The Government is in receipt of many representations that on account of slowdown in economy due to the pandemic, there is acute financial crunch among many commercial entities and contractors, which in turn is affecting timely execution of the contracts. It has also been represented that this may affect the ability of contractors to bid in tenders and hence reduce competition. Requests are being received for reduction in quantum of Security Deposits in the Government contracts.

2. As per Rule 170 of General Financial Rules (GFRs) 2017, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and the firms registered with concerned Ministries/ Departments are exempted from submission of Bid Security. Further, in lieu of Bid Security, Ministries/ Departments may ask bidders to sign "Bid Security Declaration" accepting that if they withdraw or modify their bids during period of validity etc., they will be suspended for the time specified in the tender documents. Similar provisions also exist in the Manuals for Procurement of Works 2019 and Manual for Procurement of Consultancy & other Services 2017.

3. In this context it is noted that Bid Security (also known as Earnest Money Deposit) is still being taken from the contractors by the various Ministries/ Departments, though the relaxations have already been provided in General Financial Rules (GFRs) 2017.

4. In view of above, it is reiterated that notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 171 of GFRs 2017 or any other Rule or any provision contained in the Procurement Manuals, **no provisions regarding Bid Security should be kept in the Bid Documents in future and only provision for Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid Documents.**

5. Wherever, there are compelling circumstances to ask for Bid Security, the same should be done only with the approval of the next higher authority to the authority competent to finalise the particular tender or the Secretary of the Ministry/ Department, whichever is lower.

6. The above instructions will be applicable for all the tenders issued till 31.12.2021.

7. These instructions will be applicable for all kinds of procurements viz. Goods, Consultancy, Works, non-consulting Services etc and are issued under Rule 6(1) of the GFRs 2017.



(Kotluru Narayana Reddy)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India
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To,

All the Secretaries and Financial Advisers to Government of India

Copy to: Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises with a request to issue the same instructions to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

Form of Bid-Securing Declaration

Date:

Bid No.:

Alternative No.:

To: [insert complete name of the employer]

We, the undersigned, declare that:

We understand that, according to your conditions, Bids must be supported by a Bid-Securing Declaration.

We accept that we will automatically be suspended from being eligible for bidding in any contract with the Employer for the period of time of one year starting on the date that we receive a notification from the Employer, if we are in breach of our obligation(s) under the bid conditions, because we

- (a) have withdrawn our Bid during the period of bid validity specified in the Letter of Bid; or
- (b) do not accept the correction of errors in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders (hereinafter "the ITB"); or
- (c) having been notified of the acceptance of our Bid by the Employer during the period of bid validity, (i) fail or refuse to execute the Contract, if required; or (ii) fail or refuse to furnish the Performance Security, in accordance with the tender conditions; or (iii) fail or refuse to furnish a domestic preference security, if required.

We understand that this Bid-Securing Declaration shall expire if we are not the successful Bidder, upon the earlier of (i) our receipt of your notification to us of the name of the successful Bidder; or (ii) 28 days after the expiration of our Bid.

Signed: [insert signature of person whose name and capacity are shown]

In the capacity of [insert legal capacity of person signing the Bid-Securing Declaration]

Name: [insert complete name of person signing the Bid-Securing Declaration]

Duly authorized to sign the bid for and on behalf of [insert complete name of the bidder]

Dated on _____ day of _____, _____ [insert date of signing]

Corporate Seal [where appropriate]