

Section V. Technical Specifications

Notes for Preparing the Technical Specifications

A set of precise and clear specifications is a prerequisite for bidders to respond realistically and competitively to the requirements of the Procuring agency without qualifying their bids. The specifications must be drafted to permit the widest possible competition and, at the same time, present a clear statement of the required standards of workmanship, materials, and performance of the goods and services to be procured. Only if this is done will the objectives of economy, efficiency, and fairness in procurement be realized, responsiveness of bids be ensured, and the subsequent task of bid evaluation facilitated. The specifications should require that all goods and materials to be incorporated in the goods be new, unused, and of the most recent or current models, and that they incorporate all recent improvements in design and materials unless provided for otherwise in the contract.

Samples of specifications from previous similar procurements in the same country are useful in this respect. The use of metric units is encouraged. Depending on the complexity of the goods and the repetitiveness of the type of procurement, it may be advantageous to standardize the General Technical Specifications and incorporate them in a separate subsection. The General Technical Specifications should cover all classes of workmanship, materials, and equipment commonly involved in manufacturing similar goods, although not necessarily to be used in a particular procurement. Deletions or addenda should then adapt the General Technical Specifications to the particular procurement.

Care must be taken in drafting specifications to ensure that they are not restrictive. In the specification of standards for equipment, materials, and workmanship, recognized international standards should be used as much as possible. Where other particular standards are used, whether national standards of the Borrower's country or other standards, the specifications should state that equipment, materials, and workmanship that meet other authoritative standards, and which ensure at least a substantially equal quality than the standards mentioned, will also be acceptable. The following clause may be inserted in the Special Conditions of Contract or the Technical Specifications.

Sample Clause: Equivalency of Standards and Codes

Wherever reference is made in the Technical Specifications to specific standards and codes to be met by the goods and materials to be furnished or tested, the provisions of the latest current edition or revision of the relevant shall apply, unless otherwise expressly stated in the Contract. Where such standards and codes are national or relate to a particular country or region, other authoritative standards that ensure substantial equivalence to the standards and codes specified will be acceptable.