

**52.209-6 PROTECTING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST WHEN  
SUBCONTRACTING WITH CONTRACTORS DEBARRED,  
SUSPENDED, OR PROPOSED FOR DEBARMENT (DEC 2010)**

(a) *Definition.* “Commercially available off-the-shelf (COTS)” item, as used in this clause —

(1) Means any item of supply (including construction material) that is —

(i) A commercial item (as defined in paragraph (1) of the definition in FAR [2.101](#));

(ii) Sold in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace; and

(iii) Offered to the Government, under a contract or subcontract at any tier, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace; and

(2) Does not include bulk cargo, as defined in section 3 of the Shipping Act of 1984 ([46 U.S.C. App. 1702](#)), such as agricultural products and petroleum products.

(b) The Government suspends or debar Contractors to protect the Government’s interests. Other than a subcontract for a commercially available off-the-shelf item, the Contractor shall not enter into any subcontract, in excess of \$30,000 with a Contractor that is debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment by any executive agency unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

(c) The Contractor shall require each proposed subcontractor whose subcontract will exceed \$30,000, other than a subcontractor providing a commercially available off-the-shelf item, to disclose to the Contractor, in writing, whether as of the time of award of the subcontract, the subcontractor, or its principals, is or is not debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment by the Federal Government.

(d) A corporate officer or a designee of the Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer, in writing, before entering into a subcontract with a party (other than a subcontractor providing a commercially available off-the-shelf item) that is debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment (see FAR [9.404](#) for information on the Excluded Parties List System). The notice must include the following:

(e) *Subcontracts.* Unless this is a contract for the acquisition of commercial items, the Contractor shall include the requirements of this clause, including this paragraph (e) (appropriately modified for the identification of the parties), in each subcontract that —

(1) Exceeds \$30,000 in value; and

(2) Is not a subcontract for commercially available off-the-shelf items.