

**CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/DESIGN CONTRACTS
PROMPT PAY AND PAYMENT REPORTING PROVISIONS**

** FOR USE ON LPA FEDERAL AID PROJECTS **

(07/24/2023)

MEASUREMENTS AND PAYMENT:

(A) Partial Payments:

If satisfactory progress is being made, the contractor shall receive a payment based on the amount of work completed. Progress payments may be made by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office to the contractor on the basis of an approved estimate of the work performed during a preceding period of time. The progress payments will be paid on or before 14 days after the estimate of the work is approved. The estimate of the work will be deemed received by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office on submission to the person designated by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office for the submission, review or approval of the estimate of the work. The LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office by mutual agreement may make progress payments on contracts of less than 90 days and will make monthly progress payments on all other contracts. Payment to the contractor on the basis of a duly certified and approved estimate of the work performed during the preceding calendar month under the contract may include payment for material and equipment.

An estimate of the work submitted will be deemed approved and certified for payment after seven days from the date of submission unless before that time the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office or Designee prepares and issues a specific written finding setting forth those items in detail in the estimate of the work that are not approved for payment under the contract. The contractor shall work with the LPA/Subrecipient or the LPA/Subrecipient Designee to finalize monthly estimate. The progress payments will be paid on or before 14 days after the estimate of the work is certified and approved in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes Section 34-221.

The contractor shall pay to the contractor's subcontractors or material suppliers and each subcontractor shall pay to the subcontractor's subcontractor or material supplier, within seven days of receipt of each progress payment the respective amounts allowed the contractor or subcontractor on account of the work performed by the subcontractors, to the extent of each subcontractor's interest.

No contract for construction services may materially alter the rights of any contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier to receive prompt and timely payment.

A subcontractor may notify the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office in writing requesting that the subcontractor be notified by the Subrecipient Procurement Office in writing within five days from payment of each progress payment made to the contractor.

(B) No Retainage on Progress Payments:

- (1) This is a federally-funded project. Therefore, notwithstanding A.R.S. § 34-221, the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will not withhold retainage from progress payments. Neither the contractor, nor the subcontractor of any tier, may withhold any retainage on progress payments to subcontractors or suppliers of any tier.
- (2) This provision does not prevent the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office from withholding retainage or reducing payments where otherwise provided in the contract. These cases may include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Delayed work;
 - (b) Work that is not satisfactorily performed; or
 - (c) A failure to submit necessary reports, certifications, or documents to the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office.

(C) Subcontractor Payments:

(1) No Retainage:

- (a) This is a federally-funded project. Therefore, notwithstanding A.R.S. § 34-221, neither the contractor, nor the subcontractor of any tier, may withhold any retainage on progress payments to subcontractors or suppliers of any tier.
- (b) Pursuant to Subsection (B)(2) of this Specification, the contract does not prevent the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office from withholding retainage or reducing payments where otherwise provided in the contract. These cases may include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) Delayed work;
 - (ii) Work that is not satisfactorily performed; or
 - (iii) A failure to submit necessary reports, certifications, or documents to the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office.
- (c) When the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office withholds retainage or reduces payments under Subsection (B)(2) of this Specification, the contractor may withhold retainage on progress payments to subcontractors or suppliers of any tier. However, the contractor may only withhold a reasonable amount of retainage.
- (d) For the purpose of this section, a “reasonable amount” of retainage is based on the subcontractor’s involvement or the supplier’s involvement in the cause for the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office’s reduction of payment. The final amount retained from all subcontractors and suppliers shall not be higher than the amount retained by the LPA/Subrecipient. However, tier subcontracts shall include provisions that comply with this section.

(2) No Set-offs Arising from Other Contracts:

If a subcontractor is performing work on multiple contracts for the same contractor or subcontractor of any tier, the contractor or subcontractor of any tier shall not withhold or reduce payment from its subcontractors on the contract because of disputes or claims on another contract.

(3) Partial Payment:

The contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall make prompt partial payments to its subcontractors within seven days of receipt of payment from the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office. Notwithstanding any provision of Arizona Revised Statutes Section 34-221, the parties may not agree otherwise.

(4) Final Payment:

The contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall make prompt final payment to each of its subcontractors. The contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall pay all monies, including retention, due to its subcontractor within seven days of receipt of payment. Notwithstanding any provision of Arizona Revised Statutes Section 34-221, the parties may not agree otherwise.

(5) Payment Reporting:

For the purposes of this subsection "Reportable Contracts" means any subcontract, of any tier, DBE or non-DBE, by which work shall be performed on behalf of the contractor and any contract of any tier with a DBE material supplier.

The requirements of this subsection apply to all Reportable Contracts.

Payment Reporting for all Reportable Contracts shall be done through the LPA DBE System which can be accessed at AZ UTRACS on the Arizona Transportation Business Portal at www.azutracs.com. No later than fifteen calendar days after the preconstruction conference, the contractor shall log into the system and enter or verify the name, contact information, and subcontract amounts for Reportable Contracts on the project. As Reportable Contracts are approved over the course of the contract, the contractor shall enter the subcontractor information in the LPA DBE System. Reportable contracts information shall be entered into the system no later than five calendar days after approval by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office.

The contractor shall report on a monthly basis indicating the amounts actually paid and the dates of each payment under any Reportable Contract on the project. The contractor shall provide information for payments made on all Reportable Contracts during the previous month by the last day of the current month. In the event that no payments were made during a given month, the contractor shall identify that by entering a dollar value of zero. If the contractor does not pay the full amount of any invoice from a subcontractor, the contractor shall note that and provide the reasons in the comment section of the Monthly Payment Audit of the LPA DBE System.

In addition, the contractor shall require that all participants in any Reportable Contract electronically verify receipt of payment on the contract within 15 days of receipt of electronic payment notification and the contractor shall actively monitor the system to ensure that the verifications are input. The contractor shall proactively work to resolve any payment discrepancies in the system between payment amounts it reports and payment confirmation amounts reported by others.

The contractor shall ensure that all Reportable Contract payment activity is in the LPA DBE System. This includes all lower-tier Reportable Contracts.

The contractor shall maintain records for each payment explaining the amount requested by the subcontractor, and the amount actually paid pursuant to the request, which may include but are not limited to, estimates, invoices, pay requests, copies of checks or wire transfers, and lien waivers in support of the monthly payments in the system.

The contractor shall ensure that a copy of this Subsection is included in every Reportable Contract of every tier.

(a) Sanctions for Inadequate Reporting:

For each month that the contractor fails to submit timely and complete payment information the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will retain \$5,000 as sanctions from the monies due to the contractor. After 90 consecutive days of non-reporting, the sanctions will increase to \$10,000 for each subsequent month which the contractor fails to report until the information is provided. These sanctions will be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

(6) Completion of Work:

A subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed when all the tasks called for in the subcontract have been accomplished, documented, and accepted by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office.

(7) Disputes:

If there is a discrepancy between what is reported by the contractor in the LPA DBE System and what the subcontractor indicates, an alert email will automatically be sent to the contractor. The email will be sent to the email address provided by the contractor in the LPA DBE System. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the email address in the system is kept current.

The contractor shall provide a verifiable explanation of the discrepancy in the LPA DBE System as early as practicable but in no case later than seven days after the date of the alert email.

The LPA/Subrecipient will determine whether the contractor has acted in good faith concerning any such explanations. The LPA/Subrecipient and ADOT BECO reserves the right to request and receive documents from the contractor and all subcontractors of any

tier, in order to determine whether prompt payment requirements are met.

The contractor shall implement and use the dispute resolution process outlined in the subcontract or by following the LPA/Subrecipient escalation process, to resolve payment disputes.

(8) Non-compliance:

Failure to make prompt partial payment, or prompt final payment including any retention, within the time frames established above, will result in remedies, as the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office deems appropriate, which may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Sanctions: These sanctions will be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.
 - (i) The LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will withhold two times the disputed dollar amount not paid to each subcontractor.
 - (ii) If full payment is made within 30 days of the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office's payment to the contractor, the amount withheld by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will be released.
 - (iii) If full payment is made after 30 days of the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office's payment to the contractor, the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will release 75 percent of the funds withheld. The LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will retain 25 percent of the monies withheld as sanctions.

- (b) Additional Remedies. If the contractor fails to make prompt payment for three consecutive months, or any four months over the course of one project, or if the contractor fails to make prompt payment on two or more projects within 24 months, the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office may, in addition, invoke the following remedies:
 - (i) Withhold monthly progress payments until the issue is resolved and full payment has been made to all subcontractors, subject to the sanctions described in paragraph (a) above,
 - (ii) Terminate the contract for default,
 - (iii) Disqualify the contractor from future bidding, temporarily or
 - (iv) permanently, depending on the number and severity of violations, if applicable.

In determining whether sanctions will be assessed, the extent of the sanctions, or additional remedies assessed, the LPA/Subrecipient will consider whether there have been other violations on this or other contracts, whether the failure to make prompt payment was due to circumstances beyond the contractor's control, and other circumstances. The contractor may, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the decision of the LPA/Subrecipient, escalate the decision according to the contract's escalation process.