

(109RET, 10/20/22)

**SECTION 109 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT:**

**109.06(A) Partial Payments:** the first paragraph of the Standard Specifications is revised to read:

If satisfactory progress is being made, the contractor will receive a payment each month based on the amount of work completed during the preceding month. The Department will prepare a draft monthly estimate for review by the contractor. The contractor shall work with the Engineer to finalize the monthly estimate. When the Engineer and the contractor have reached agreement, the final monthly estimate will be prepared and signed by the contractor and the Engineer. The contractor's signature constitutes a certification that the work was satisfactorily performed, meets the specifications, and the quantities reported are accurate regardless of whether the work was performed by the contractor or a subcontractor. The Engineer will submit signed monthly estimate for payment.

Except as herein provided, the Department will not retain monies from the monthly payments.

**109.06(B) Subcontractor Payments:** of the Standard Specifications is revised to read:

**(1) Retention:**

If the prime contract does not provide for retention, the contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall not withhold retention on any subcontract. If the prime contract provides for retention, the prime contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall not retain a higher percentage than the Department may retain under the prime contract.

**(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 Department. Notwithstanding any provision of Arizona Revised Statutes Section 28-6924, 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 28-6924, the parties may not agree otherwise.

**(5) Payment Reporting and Sanctions:**

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 Department's web-based DBE System. The DBE System can be accessed from the Department's BECO website. No later than fifteen calendar days after the preconstruction conference, the contractor shall log into the Department's web-based DBE 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 them in the system. Reportable contracts shall be entered into the system no later than five calendar days after approval by the Department.

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. In addition, the contractor shall require that all participants in any Reportable Contract electronically verify receipt of payment on the contract by the last day of the month and the contractor shall actively monitor the Department's DBE System to ensure that the verifications are input. The contractor shall proactively work to resolve any payment discrepancies in the DBE System between payment amounts it reports and payment confirmation amounts reported by others.

The contractor shall ensure that all Reportable Contract activity is reported to the Department. 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 ADOT DBE System.

The contractor shall provide information for payments made on all Reportable Contracts during the previous month by the 15th 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 ADOT DBE System.

For each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to submit timely and complete payment information the Department will retain \$1,000.00 as liquidated damages, from the monies due to the contractor. Liquidated damages will be deducted each month for each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to submit payment information until the contractor provides the required information as described herein. After 90 consecutive days of non-reporting, the liquidated damages will increase to \$2,000.00 for each subsequent month, for each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to report until the information is provided. These liquidated damages shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

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

**(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 Department.

**(7) Disputes:**

If there is a discrepancy between what is reported by the contractor in the ADOT 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 Department's DBE System. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the email address in the DBE System is kept current.

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

The Engineer will determine whether the contractor has acted in good faith concerning any such explanations. The Department 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, as described in Subsection 108.01, 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 Department deems appropriate, which may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Liquidated Damages: These liquidated damages shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

- (i) The Department will withhold two times the disputed dollar amount not paid to each subcontractor.
  - (ii) If full payment is made within 30 days of the Department's payment to the contractor, the amount withheld by the Department will be released.
  - (iii) If full payment is made after 30 days of the Department's payment to the contractor, the Department will release 75 percent of the funds withheld. The Department will retain 25 percent of the monies withheld as liquidated damages.
- (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 Department 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 requirements of paragraph (a) above,
  - (ii) Terminate the contract for default in accordance with Subsection 108.10, and/or
  - (iii) Disqualify the contractor from future bidding, temporarily or permanently, depending on the number and severity of violations.

In determining whether liquidated damages will be assessed, the extent of the liquidated damages, or additional remedies assessed, the State Construction and Materials Engineer 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 State Construction and Materials Engineer, escalate the decision to the State Engineer. If the contractor does not escalate the decision of the State Construction and Materials Engineer, in writing to the State Engineer, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the decision, the contractor will be deemed to have accepted the decision and there will be no further remedy for the contractor. If the contractor escalates the decision to the State Engineer, and the contractor does not agree with the State Engineer's decision, the contractor may initiate litigation, arbitration or mediation pursuant to Subsection 105.21(D) and (E) of the Standard Specifications.

**109.06(C) Payroll Submittals:** of the Standard Specifications is revised to read:

The contractor shall submit payrolls electronically through the internet to the Department's web-based certified payroll tracking system. This requirement shall also apply to every lower-tier subcontractor that is required to provide certified payroll reports.

If, by the 15th of the month, the contractor has not submitted its payrolls for all work performed during the preceding month, the Engineer will provide a written notification of the discrepancies to the contractor. For each payroll document that the contractor fails to submit within 10 days after the written notification, the Department will retain \$2,500.00 from

the progress payment for the current month. The contractor shall submit each complete and correct payroll within 90 days of the date of notification. If the payroll is complete and correct within the 90-day time frame, the Department will release the \$2,500.00 on the next monthly estimate. For each payroll that is not acceptable until after the 90-day time frame, the Department will only release \$2,000.00 of the \$2,500.00 retained. The Department will retain \$500.00 as sanctions. Such \$500.00 retentions will not relieve the contractor of its responsibility to provide each required payroll, complete and correct, as specified above. These sanctions shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

**109.07**                    **Partial Payment for Material on Hand:** the fifth paragraph of the Standard Specifications is hereby deleted.