

February 1, 1999

Dear Carrier:

This Request for Offers (RFO) transmits the Special Filing Instructions (SFI) for the submission of rate offers for the General Services Administration (GSA) Standard Tender of Service (STOS), General Freight Traffic Management Program traffic. Rate offers filed in response to this RFO will be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GSA STOS and this RFO and its SFI. Please note that in some instances this RFO and its SFI will deviate from and will supersede those published in the STOS, General Freight Tender of Service No. 1-F (GSA TOS No. 1-F), supplements and reissues thereto. Rate offers accepted in response to this RFO and its SFI will be for the filing period of May 1, 1999, through April 30, 2000.

Traffic to be included under this RFO and its SFI will be freight-all-kinds (FAK) shipments moving via closed van for all less than truckload (LTL) (0 pounds to 10,000 pounds) shipments and all truckload (TL) (20,000 pounds to 40,000 pounds and over) shipments which fall into one or more of the three categories identified in Section 1 of this RFO and its SFI.

All rate offers submitted in response to this RFO and its SFI must be submitted to GSA in accordance with Section 11 - **NO PAPER RATE OFFERS** will be accepted. In addition, only those common/contract carriers, rail carriers, freight forwarders, and brokers and shippers agents/Intermodal Marketing Companies (including each of their underlying carriers which they represent) who have met the established approval requirements for participation in GSA's Freight Management Program may submit rate offers in accordance with this RFO and its SFI. Only those Rate Filing Service Providers (firms which offer to those approved to participate in GSA's Freight Management Program the service of submitting to GSA rate offers in accordance with this RFO and its SFI) who have a valid Trading Partner Agreement on file with GSA's Freight Program Management Office (FPMO) and have met all other approval requirements established by GSA can submit rate offers in accordance with Section 11 of this RFO and its SFI on behalf of approved firms. Only those Tariff Publishing Agents who have a valid Trading Partner Agreement on file with the FPMO and have met all other approval requirements established by GSA may act as a Tariff Publishing Agent on behalf of approved firms.

Please note the following significant items:

1. Please be aware that all electronic rate offers previously accepted in accordance with the RFO and its SFI dated February 6, 1998, automatically expire on April 30, 1999; consequently, it is imperative that all firms submit new rate offers in accordance with this RFO and its SFI if a firm wants rates effective May 1, 1999;

2. Beginning with this RFO, there are new Billing/Reporting Record formats to be listed once at the beginning of every rate file transmitted to GSA during an open window. Please see Section 10-2 for details;

4. The US Postal Service has some new origins, a CONUS to CONUS truckload rate request, and a request for rates to all states contiguous to each origin point which have been set up in Destination Service Areas relative to each SRO Agency Code. Please see Section 6 for more details;

5. The US Coast Guard facility at Elizabeth City, NC has been eliminated from the Request for Offers. Rates may not be filed for this SRO any longer; and

6. IMPORTANT: If you are a current subscriber to the ITMS CD-Rom and intend to use its capabilities for creation and submission of your rate offer for the identified traffic, you will need to contact the FPMO to request an updated version of ITMS. Your current ITMS CD does not incorporate the changes in the programming for the new features for the US Postal Service, as well as the billing/reporting records. To obtain an updated version of ITMS, please contact Cindy Schardt at (816) 823-3646 or email at Internet cindy.schardt@gsa.gov. If you do not intend to utilize the capabilities of ITMS to create and submit your rate offers, you will not need to obtain a new version of ITMS as nothing else has been changed from your current version except for the programming changes indicated above.

If you have any questions with regard to this RFO, its SFI, or GSA's Freight Management Program in general, please contact Cindy Schardt or Robyn Bennett at (816) 823-3646 or e-mail at Internet cindy.schardt@gsa.gov and robyn.bennett@gsa.gov, respectively. For specific agency/location contacts, please reference Paragraph 1-7.

Sincerely,

Debbie Harms, Director
Property & Traffic Management Division (6FBD)

Enclosure