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United States Department of Agriculture

Departmental  
Management

Office of the Chief  
Information Officer

1400 Independence  
Avenue S.W.  
Washington, DC  
20250

**TO:** Agency CIOs  
OCFO  
OPPM

**FROM:** Jonathan Alboum  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

**SUBJECT:** Policies to Ensure IPv6 Compliance for Information Technology (IT)  
Purchases

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notice that USDA will be establishing Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) procurement policy that requires IPv6 compliant products to be included in all new IT acquisitions that use Internet Protocol (IP). IPv6 was developed more than a decade ago and is intended to replace IPv4. As compared to IPv4, IPv6 provides significantly more IP addresses. The increase in IP addresses will enable flexibility in design and innovation to support the newest technologies and protocols that require IPv6.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum, "Transition to IPv6", dated September 28, 2010, specifies that the Federal Government must transition to IPv6 in order to:

- Enable the successful deployment and expansion of key Federal IT modernization initiatives, such as Cloud Computing, Broadband, and SmartGrid, which rely on robust, scalable Internet networks;
- Reduce complexity and increase transparency of Internet services by eliminating the architectural need to rely on Network Address Translation (NAT) technologies;
- Enable ubiquitous security services for end-to-end network communications that will serve as the foundation for securing future Federal IT systems; and
- Enable the Internet to continue to operate efficiently through an integrated, well-architected networking platform and accommodate the future expansion of Internet-based services.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 11.002 (g) sets the requirements for OMB's goal that federal agencies include IPv6 compliance when buying networked IT products. In addition, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) developed A Profile for IPv6 in the U.S. Government – Version 1.0, which is an acquisition guide for IPV6 capabilities in common network products, and the corresponding declarations of conformance defined in the USGv6 Test Program. USGv6 supports agency plans for IPv4 implementation and helps to ensure the completeness, correctness, interoperability, and security of early IPv6 offerings.

As part of the IPv6 compliance process, OCIO/ENS is developing the compliance policy, creating an IPV6 contract clause that will appear in all agency contracts, and defining baseline IPv6 requirements for current and future guidance to vendors and agencies.

Agencies and staff offices must complete a Policy Waiver Request in the event that they cannot meet the requirements stated in the FAR. Waiver requests can be found at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ipv6-conversion-resources>. Agencies and staff offices should send completed waiver requests and any supplemental documents to ENS at [ens.policy@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:ens.policy@ocio.usda.gov). ENS will review the request for completeness and send it to the CIO for determination. When a decision is made, the CIO will send the waiver request back to ENS. ENS will then notify the requestor of the decision.

If you have any questions, the OCIO point of contact is John Donovan, [John.Donovan@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:John.Donovan@ocio.usda.gov) and the Procurement point of contact is Kelly Moore, [Kelly.L.Moore@ftc.usda.gov](mailto:Kelly.L.Moore@ftc.usda.gov).

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