

# 5306.304 Approval of the Justification

(a) Dollar thresholds and approvals levels are reflected in Table 1. For justification values  $> \$15M \leq \$100M$ , the approval authority is:

- (1) The Program Executive Officer (PEO) (including AFPEO/CM) for programs within the PEOs portfolio and the PEO is a General Officer (GO) or civilian member of the Senior Executive Service (SES);
- (2) The Senior Contracting Officer (SCO) if they are a GO/SES; or
- (3) The Commander or Director for the locations listed in 5306.501(a)(1) and (2), when the PEO or SCO is not a GO/SES.

Justification Value	Approval Authority	Delegability
$\leq \$750K$	Chief of the Contracting Office	Delegable to contracting officer, consistent with warrant level
$> \$750K \leq \$15M$	<u>Procuring Activity Competition and Commercial Advocate (CAA)</u>	Not further delegable
$> \$15M \leq \$100M$	PEO or SCO if GO or civilian SES; otherwise, Head of Procuring Activity	Delegable to GO or SES
$> \$100M$	SAF/AQ or SAF/SQ	Not further delegable

(4) J&As for actions exceeding \$100M must be coordinated with the PEO/Head of Procuring Activity and the cognizant HCA prior to SAF/AQ or SAF/SQ approval (See [MP5301.601\(a\)\(i\)](#) for staffing and coordination instructions).

- (i) Changes recommended during the staffing process for SPE approval must be adjudicated by the contracting officer in coordination with the cognizant HCA prior to submitting the J&A to the SPE for approval.
- (ii) The SCO may authorize solicitation release after the justification is reviewed for adequacy and forwarded to the cognizant HCA for coordination to SAF/AQ or SAF/SQ for approval.
- (iii) To support J&A coordination and staffing when SAF/AQ is the approval authority, contracting officers are encouraged to obtain DAF IP Cadre's (SAF/AQCC) feedback on draft J&A before submission for SAF/AQ approval. Request DAF IP Cadre input by completing the Cadre Support Request Intake Form and submit to the DAF IP Cadre Workflow

(e) Changes After J&A Approval: Regardless of dollar value, if a proposed change is for a new work outside the scope of the original J&A, submit a new J&A to the appropriate approving official based

on the value of the new work. New work should not commence until the J&A is approved unless authorized in accordance with [FAR 6.302-2, Unusual and Compelling Urgency](#).

- (1) Before contract award, if the dollar value is expected to exceed the authority of the original J&A approving official, submit an amended J&A to the appropriate approving official. Clearly identify the dollar increase from the approved J&A.
- (2) After contract award, if the dollar value of an in-scope change exceeds the authority of the original J&A approving official, submit an amended J&A to the appropriate approving official. Clearly identify the dollar increase from the approved J&A.
- (3) A new or amended J&A is not required for an increase in the estimated dollar value of in-scope work that does not exceed the authority of the original J&A approving official.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 5306.3 - OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION](#)