

## 9.402 Policy.

(a) Agencies *shall* solicit *offers* from, award contracts to, and *consent to subcontracts* with responsible contractors only. *Debarment* and *suspension* are discretionary actions that, taken in accordance with this subpart, are appropriate means to effectuate this policy.

(b) The serious nature of *debarment* and *suspension* requires that these remedies be imposed only in the public interest for the Government's protection and not for purposes of punishment. Agencies *shall* impose *debarment* or *suspension* to protect the Government's interest and only for the causes and in accordance with the procedures in this subpart.

(c) Agencies are encouraged to establish methods and procedures for coordinating their *debarment* or *suspension* actions.

(d) When more than one agency has an interest in the *debarment* or *suspension* of a contractor, the Interagency *Suspension* and *Debarment* Committee, established under Executive Order 12549, and authorized by section 873 of the *National Defense Authorization Act* for Fiscal Year 2009 (Pub. L. 110-417) ([31 U.S.C.6101](#), note), *shall* resolve the lead agency issue and coordinate such resolution among all interested agencies prior to the initiation of any *suspension*, *debarment*, or related administrative action by any agency.

(e) Agencies *shall* establish appropriate procedures to implement the policies and procedures of this subpart.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 9.4 - Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility](#)