

Emergency Procurements (New Regulations)

Excerpts from the Mississippi Procurement Manual

3.110 Emergency Procurements

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this regulation, the Chief Procurement Officer, the head of a purchasing agency, or a designee of either officer may make or authorize others to make emergency procurements under emergency conditions as defined in Section 31-7-1(f), Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated; provided, that such emergency procurements shall be made with such competition as is practicable under the circumstances. A written determination of the basis for the emergency and for the selection of the particular contractor shall be included in the contract file. Such purchases shall be made in compliance with Section 31-7-13(j), Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. Agencies shall notify or seek approval from, where required, the Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management by using the electronic P-1 process.

(1) Emergencies threatening health and safety or property

If such emergency threatens the health or safety of any person, or the preservation or protection of property, then the provisions of competitive bidding shall not apply and any officer or agent of the agency having general or specific authority for making the purchase or repair contract shall approve the bill presented for payment and provide justification and certification in writing detailing from whom the purchase was made or with whom the repair contract was made to the Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management using the electronic P-1 process.

The justification should be written in sufficient detail so that a person not familiar with the situation could be expected to understand the need to forego the normal purchasing procedure. As per Section 31-7-13(j), Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, the certification for an emergency purchase must be submitted on letterhead and signed by the executive head or his/her designee(s) of the requesting agency. Agencies shall address the following when preparing the justification:

- (a) Does it fall under the definition of an emergency set forth in Sections 31-7-1(f), Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated?
- (b) What happened to cause the emergency?
- (c) What would be the negative consequences of following normal purchasing procedures?
- (d) Does it threaten the health or safety of any person, or the preservation or protection of property?
- (e) The total purchases made shall only be for the purpose of meeting the needs created by the emergency situation.

Following the emergency purchase, documentation of the purchase, including a description of the commodity purchased, the purchase price thereof and the nature of the emergency shall be filed with the Department of Finance and Administration when submitting the applicable payment request as more particularly prescribed in the DFA MAAPP Manual. In the case of Institutions of Higher Learning, this can be done by adding an attachment to the university's P1 request.

(2) Emergencies Requiring Approval Prior to Purchase

If the governing board or the executive head, or his designees, of any agency of the state shall determine that an emergency exists in regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive bidding would be detrimental to the interests of the state, then the head of such agency, or his designees, shall seek approval of the Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management using the electronic P-1 process.