

Master Document – Audit Program

Activity Code 17740	Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor Accounting System
Version 6.4, dated August 2012	
B-1	Planning Considerations
Purpose and Scope	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The major objectives of this audit are to obtain an understanding of the accounting system to appropriately complete the Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor Accounting System, SF 1408, and to opine as to whether the design of the contractor’s system is acceptable for the award of a prospective Government contract.• DCAA FLAs have worked with the buying commands to have contractors fill out a checklist asserting they meet the SF 1408 criteria, and providing a narrative describing how they meet each criterion. Once they receive this assertion, they are sending a request to DCAA for audit, with this assertion attached. If the request for audit does not include an assertion from the contractor, contact the CO to determine if one was prepared already. If the CO did not have the contractor prepare the assertion, the auditor should ask the contractor to complete this assertion so that it can be used in Step 1e below (a proforma letter with the checklist is available as an OAG).• This audit involves only the evaluation of the design effectiveness, not the operating effectiveness of the system. Procedures performed to evaluate design effectiveness include a mix of inquiry of appropriate personnel, observation of the entity's operations, and inspection of relevant documentation. Walkthroughs that include a combination of these procedures ordinarily are sufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of the design. Detailed testing of transactions, and reperformance of the controls are not necessary when testing the design effectiveness.• If requested to perform a Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor Accounting System Audit on a contractor that has an active Government contract, the auditor should check the files to determine if prior work has been performed that will provide the contracting officer the information necessary to fill in the SF 1408 without the completion of the preaward audit (e.g., if a prior preaward or post contract award accounting system audit has been performed). If prior information does exist, contact the contracting officer to determine if the prior report will meet their needs. Additionally, if there are known system deficiencies or voucher processing problems, this information should be provided to the contracting officer as well. Auditors should not issue an opinion stating the design is acceptable for award when there are known deficiencies in the operating effectiveness.• If this is a follow up request to a previous preaward accounting system survey, determine whether a follow up is appropriate. If the previous preaward was completed less than 12 months ago, and the contractor’s system has not changed, it would be appropriate to perform a follow up to the previous preaward. The auditor should modify the audit program appropriately, and be sure to issue a follow-up preaward report available as an OAG. If the	

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<p>previous preaward accounting system survey was performed more than 12 months ago, and/or the contractor’s system has changed, a full preaward audit should be performed. Be sure to coordinate with the contracting officer if a determination is made that a follow up is not appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If requested to perform a Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor Accounting System Audit on a contractor that has not yet established their accounting structure, policies and procedures, and a plan for implementation, the auditor should contact the contracting officer to inform them that the SF 1408 cannot be completed because the contractor is unable to demonstrate that the design is capable of accomplishing the criteria. An audit should not be performed in these circumstances. Note: This does not include situations where the contractor has designed it systems but has not purchased or implemented the accounting software package.
References
1. CAM 5-200, “Pre-Award Surveys and Adequacy of Accounting System for Contractual Requirements”
2. FAR 9-105, “Procedures (for determination of contractor’s responsibility)”
3. FAR 9.106, DFARS 209.106, PGI 209.106, “Preaward Surveys”
4. FAR 52.216-16(g), “Quarterly Limitation on Payments Statement” (FPI contracts); and FAR 52.232-20, “Limitation of Cost.”
5. AICPA Attestation Standards AT Section 501.59, Evaluating Design Effectiveness

B-1	Preliminary Steps	WP Reference
Version 6.4, dated August 2012		
1. Research and Planning		
	a. Review the open MRD’s for guidance which may impact the audit and adjust the scope and procedures appropriately. Open MRDs can be identified using the link provided on the DCAA Intranet home page for “MRDs, AGMs, & AMGMs”.	
	b. Review the audit request and contact the Contracting Officer (CO) to ensure that the audit scope addresses any customer concerns that will impact the assessment of audit risk and adjust the audit scope and associated audit procedures accordingly.	
	c. Electronically transmit an acknowledgement/notification to the ACO/Buying Command notifying them of the commencement of	

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<p>the risk assessment and that the expected completion date will be provided in the formal acknowledgement/notification once the risk assessment is complete. (CAM 2-303). The acknowledgement/notification process should be within the timeframe and in accordance with the procedures in CAM 4-104.</p>	
<p>d. Issue a notification letter to the contractor regarding the audit in accordance with CAM 4-302.3.</p>	
<p>e. Review the contractor’s assertion and narrative describing how they meet the SF 1408 criteria. Briefly summarize your understanding of the design of the contractor’s system and internal controls, and document any areas of risk that are identified (the completion of a B-2 is not necessary). These areas of risk should result in detailed steps to be followed up during the performance of the fieldwork in C-1.</p> <p>Note: It is important to remember that a smaller, less complex entity might achieve its control objectives in a different manner from a larger, more complex organization (e.g., they may have less employees which limits their opportunities to segregate duties). In these cases, the auditor should evaluate whether the contractor has implemented alternative controls that are effective (e.g., an outside accountant’s quarterly review, payroll and/or billing invoices prepared by external service).</p>	
<p>f. Obtain information on the proposed Government contract (e.g., type and amount of contract, special contract provisions, etc.).</p>	
<p>g. Review the perm file and any prior audits, and document any issues impacting the current scope of audit. If a perm file does not exist or is not current, provide a list of items (e.g., organizational charts, financial statements, policies and procedures, etc.) to be obtained during the field visit to the contractor in advance of the entrance conference, so the contractor has additional time to gather the information. Update the permanent file (See CAM 4-405.1).</p>	
<p>h. If this audit is being performed as a follow-up, document the procedures performed to determine that continual reliance can be placed on the worked performed under the initial preaward audit (e.g., what was done to ensure no changes have taken place that would impact the areas we are not specifically looking at in the follow-up).</p>	
<p>i. The auditor should consider the risk of fraud and other noncompliances with applicable laws and regulations that could have a material effect on the assertion. If applicable, consideration should include relevant prior audit experience (e.g., questioned cost, relevant reported estimating or accounting system deficiencies), relevant aspects of the contractor’s environment (e.g., the extent of incentives, pressures and opportunities to</p>	

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<p>commit fraud and the propensity to rationalize misstatements), other known risk factors, and the audit team’s understanding of relevant internal controls (Document on W/P B). The auditor should also review the general and other relevant sections of the IG Handbook on Fraud Indicators for Contractors as well as the relevant fraud indicators in CAM Figure 4-7-3. See “Principal Sources of Fraud Indicators” below.</p> <p>The auditor should document on W/P B, the risk factors/indicators identified and design audit procedures to meet the audit objectives and provide reasonable assurance of detecting fraud and other noncompliances with applicable laws and regulations that could have a material effect on the scope of our audit (i.e., tailor (add/delete/modify) the audit steps). GAGAS 6.13(a)</p> <p>Throughout the audit, continue to look for fraud indicators, and weaknesses in the design of the system to identify areas of vulnerability.</p> <p>Principle Sources of Fraud Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbook on Fraud Indicators for Contract Auditors, Sections I and III, (IGDH 7600.3, APO March 31, 1993) located at: http://www.dodig.mil/PUBS/igdh7600.doc. • CAM Figure 4-7-3. <p>(To access the fraud handbook, copy and paste the web address shown above into the address block in Internet Explorer.)</p>	
<p>2. Entrance Conference and Preparation</p>	
<p>Arrange and conduct an entrance conference (see CAM 4-302). Explain to the contractor’s representatives that as issues are developed during the audit, they will be furnished to the contractor for fact-finding and timely resolution. This process should facilitate reduced audit cycle time and efforts to respond to and issue the audit report.</p>	
<p>3. Initial Risk Assessment</p>	
<p>Using the information obtained in steps 1 and 2, prepare an initial risk assessment to determine the scope of the examination (W/P B).</p>	

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C-1	Preaward Survey (SF 1408)	WP Reference
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<p>Prepare “Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor Accounting System” (SF 1408) by completing the following audit steps. The latest version of the SF 1408 can be obtained at: http://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/115778</p> <p>When performing the following audit steps, it is important to remember that procedures performed to evaluate design effectiveness may include a mix of inquiry of appropriate personnel, observation of the entity’s operations, and inspection of relevant documentation (e.g., policies and procedures, prospective reports, and general ledger examples). Transaction testing is not required.</p> <p>If a contractor’s system has been implemented, a documented walkthrough/demonstration of the system is ordinarily sufficient to evaluate design effectiveness.</p> <p>If the contractor has designed the system, but has not yet implemented the system, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the design of the system will need to include a mix of inquiries, observation, and inspection. This may include discussions with responsible personnel, review of written policies and procedures, charts of account, etc. Note: Inquiry alone is not sufficient, observation, and/or inspection of documentation is necessary as well.</p>		
<p>1. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine if the contractor’s accounting system is designed to be in accordance with GAAP (e.g., does the contractor have or intend to have an accrual basis accounting system, dual entry accounting, a general ledger they plan to post costs to, and the ability to generate basic financial reports). (SF 1408, Section II, 1)</p>		
<p>2. Proper segregation of costs. Through inquiry, observation, and or inspection, determine if the system is designed to preclude direct charging of indirect expenses and indirect charging of direct contract costs. (SF 1408, Section II, 2a)</p>		
<p>3. Direct costs by contract. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine that the contractor’s system is designed to produce either a subsidiary job cost ledger or account receivable ledger which accumulates costs by contract at a level of detail consistent with that used by the prospective contractor in its proposal. (SF 1408, Section II, 2b)</p>		

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<p>4. Allocation of indirect costs. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine that the system is designed to accumulate indirect costs in logical groupings. Determine that the groupings are allocated based on benefits accrued to intermediate and final cost objectives. Is the cost accounting system formally documented, with a written description of the contents of bases and pools? (SF 1408, Section II, 2c)</p>	
<p>5. Accumulation of costs under general ledger control. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection determine if the contractor’s system is designed to allow the contractor’s job cost ledger, or its equivalent, be reconcilable and routinely posted to the general ledger control accounts (e.g. totals for direct labor, direct material, subcontracts, other direct costs). (SF 1408, Section II, 2d)</p>	
<p>6. Timekeeping system. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine that the system is designed to allow labor charging to intermediate and final cost objectives based on a timekeeping document (paper or electronic timecards). Also ensure that the contractor has policies and procedures that require timesheets be completed and certified by the employees and approved by the employees’ supervisors. (SF 1408, Section II, 2e)</p>	
<p>7. Labor distribution. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine if the system is designed so that labor cost distribution records (i) are reconcilable to payroll records and (ii) can be reconciled to and from the cost accumulation records in labor subsidiary or general ledger accounts. (SF 1408, Section II, 2f)</p>	
<p>8. Interim determination of costs. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine that the contractor posts, or plans to post, contract costs at least monthly to books of account. (SF 1408, Section II, 2g)</p>	
<p>9. Exclusion of Unallowables. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, discuss and document the contractor’s plan to identify and exclude unallowable costs if the contract is awarded. (SF 1408, Section II, 2h)</p>	
<p>10. Costs by Contract Line Item: If the prospective contract requires costs to be reported by CLIN or unit, determine what level is required. Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine if the contractor’s system is designed to be expanded to the requisite level of detail (i.e. costs can be accumulated by sub accounts within the job cost ledger and includes details by multiple contract line items specified by the contract)? (SF 1408, Section II, 2i)</p>	
<p>11. Preproduction Costs (Applies primarily to manufacturing contracts): Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine if the contractor’s system is designed to routinely segregate preproduction</p>	

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<p>from production costs in order to assist in repricing or follow-on contract pricing? (SF 1408, Section II, 2j)</p>	
<p>12. Limitation of Costs: Through inquiry, observation, and/or inspection, determine if the contractor’s system is designed so that interim indirect expense rates can be readily calculated from the books of accounts and are routinely monitored. Who is responsible for monitoring total contract expenditure against contract limitations on price or cost, and how frequently is this reviewed? Are controls in place to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of FAR 52.216-16(g) or FAR 52.232-20? (SF 1408, Section II, 3a)</p>	
<p>13. Billings (e.g. progress payments, public vouchers): Through inquiry, observation, and or inspection, determine if the contractor has procedures to ensure that subcontractor and vendor costs are only included in billings if payment to the subcontractor or vendor will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the subcontract or invoice and ordinarily within 30 days of the contractor’s payment request to the Government? Is the system designed so that billings can be reconciled to the cost accounts for both current and cumulative amounts claimed? (CAM 6-1006) (SF 1408, Section II, 3b and FAR 32.504 and 252.242-7006(c) (16))</p>	
<p>14. Adequate, Reliable Data: Based on the procedures above, summarize on WP C your conclusions on whether the contractor’s system is designed to produce cost information at a sufficient level of detail for use in pricing follow-on contracts? (SF 1408, Section II, 4)</p>	

A-1	Concluding Steps	WP Reference
Version 6.4, dated August 2012		
1. Summary Steps		
a.	If there are open or partially completed items, follow-up and resolve them at this time and summarize audit results.	
b.	Complete, index and cross reference working papers.	
c.	Summarize and document the results of audit. Accounting system in operation. Is the accounting system in full operation? If not, which portions are in operation and what is the status of implementing the full accounting system? (SF 1408, Section II, 5)	
d.	Obtain final supervisory auditor/manager review of the working papers and audit results. After management approval, hold and document an exit conference with the contractor representative in	

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accordance with the procedures specified in CAM 4-304.	
e. Prepare draft report and SF 1408 to be furnished as part of the audit report. The narrative section of the SF 1408 should only include the following statement “See DCAA Audit Report No. <i>(insert audit report number)</i> , dated <i>(insert date)</i> for information supporting this form.”	
f. Prepare or update ICQ, as appropriate, based on the results of this audit. Once complete, file document in Electronic Permanent File for future use.	
g. Update the permanent file.	