

4.805 Storage, handling, and contract files.

(a) Agencies *must* prescribe procedures for the handling, storing, and disposing of contract files, in accordance with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) General Records Schedule 1.1, Financial Management and Reporting Records. The Financial Management and Reporting Records can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/grs.html>. These procedures *must* take into account documents held in all types of media, including microfilm and various electronic media. Agencies *may* change the original medium to facilitate storage as long as the requirements of the part, law, and other regulations are satisfied. The process used to create and store records *must* record and reproduce the original document, including *signatures* and other written and graphic images completely, accurately, and clearly. Data transfer, storage, and retrieval procedures *must* protect the original data from alteration. Unless law or other regulations require signed originals to be kept, they *may* be destroyed after the responsible agency official verifies that record copies on *alternate* media and copies reproduced from the record copy are accurate, complete, and clear representations of the originals. When original documents have been converted to *alternate* media for storage, the requirements in Table 4-1 of this section also apply to the record copies in the *alternate* media.

(b) If administrative records are mixed with program records and cannot be economically segregated, the entire file *should* be kept for the period of time approved for the program records. Similarly, if documents described in the following table are part of a subject or case file that documents activities that are not described in the table, they *should* be treated in the same manner as the files of which they are a part.

(c) An agency that requires a shorter retention period than those identified in Table 4-1 *shall* request approval from NARA through the agency's records officer.

Table 4-1 - Retention Periods

| Record | Retention period |
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| (1) Contracts (and related records or documents, including successful and unsuccessful proposals, except see paragraph (c)(2) of this section regarding contractor payrolls submitted under <i>construction</i> contracts). | 6 years after final payment. |
| (2) Contractor's payrolls submitted under <i>construction</i> contracts in accordance with Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR <u>5.5</u> (a)(3)), with related certifications, anti-kickback affidavits, and other related records. | 3 years after contract completion unless contract performance is the subject of an enforcement action on that date (see paragraph (c)(8) of this section). |
| (3) <i>Unsolicited proposals</i> not accepted by a department or agency. | Retain in accordance with agency procedures. |
| (4) Files for canceled <i>solicitations</i> . | 6 years after cancellation. |

Record

Retention period

(5) Other copies of *procurement* file records used for administrative purposes.

When business use ceases.

(6) Documents pertaining generally to the contractor as described at [4.801\(c\)\(3\)](#).

Until superseded or obsolete.

(7) Data submitted to the Federal *Procurement* Data System (FPDS). Electronic data file maintained by fiscal year, containing unclassified records of all *procurements* exceeding the *micro-purchase threshold*, and information required under [4.603](#).

6 years after submittal to FPDS.

(8) Investigations, cases pending or in litigation (including protests), or similar matters (including enforcement actions).

Until final clearance or settlement, or, if related to a document identified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (7) of this section, for the retention period specified for the related document, whichever is later.

Parent topic: [Subpart 4.8 - Government Contract Files](#)