

**SUBPART 236.3—SPECIAL ASPECTS OF SEALED BIDDING IN  
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING**

**236.303 Invitations for bids.**

**236.303-70 Additive or deductive items.**

(a) If it appears that sufficient funds may not be available for all the desired construction features, consider using a bid schedule with—

(1) A first or base bid item covering the work generally as specified; and

(2) A list of priorities that contains one or more additive or deductive bid items which progressively add or omit specified features of the work in a stated order of priority. (Normally, do not mix additive and deductive bid items in the same solicitation.)

(b) Before opening the bids, record in the contract file the amount of funds available for the project.

(c) Determine the low bidder and the bid items to be awarded as follows—

(1) Use the recorded amount of available funds to determine the low bidder, which will be the bidder that—

(i) Is otherwise eligible for award; and

(ii) Offers the lowest aggregate amount for the first or base bid item, plus or minus (in order of listed priority), those additive or deductive bid items that provide the most features within the funds available.

(2) Evaluate all bids, including those using the procedures in 219.7203, on the basis of the same additive or deductive bid items.

(i) If adding another item from the bid schedule list of priorities would make the award exceed the available funds, skip that item and go to the next item from the list of priorities.

(ii) Add the next item if an award can be made that includes the item and is still within the available funds.

(3) Use the list of priorities only to determine the low bidder. After determining the low bidder, an award may be made on any combination if—

(i) It is in the best interests of the Government;

(ii) Funds are available at time of award; and

(iii) The low bidder's price for the combination is less than the price offered by any other responsive, responsible bidder.