STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

STANDARD CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I. CONTRACT TERM PROVISIONS:

A. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS. The State of Ohio's funds are contingent upon the availability of lawful appropriations by the Ohio General Assembly. If the Ohio General Assembly fails at any time to continue funding for the payments or obligations due hereunder, the Work under this Contract that is affected by the lack of funding will terminate and the State will have no further obligation to make any payments and will be released from its obligations on the date funding expires.

B. OBM CERTIFICATION. None of the rights, duties, or obligations in this Contract will be binding on the State, and the Contractor will not begin its performance, until all of the following conditions have been met:

1. All statutory provisions under the ORC, including Section 126.07, have been met.
2. All necessary funds are made available by the appropriate state agencies.
3. If required, approval of this Contract is given by the Controlling Board of Ohio; and
4. If the State is relying on Federal or third-party funds for this Contract the State gives the Contractor written notice that such funds have been made available.

C. TERMINATION / SUSPENSION.

1. Contract Termination. If Contractor fails to perform any one of its obligations under this Contract, it will be in default and the State may terminate this Contract in accordance with this section. The termination will be effective on the date delineated by the State.

a. Termination for Default. If Contractor's default is unable to be cured in a reasonable time, the State may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor.

b. Termination for Unremedied Default. If Contractor's default may be cured within a reasonable time, the State will provide written notice to Contractor specifying the default and the time within which Contractor must correct the default. If Contractor fails to cure the specified default within the time required, the State may terminate the Contract. If DAS does not give timely notice of default to Contractor, the State has not waived any of the State's rights or remedies concerning the default.

c. Termination for Persistent Default. The State may terminate this Contract by written notice to Contractor for defaults that are cured, but are persistent. "Persistent" means three or more defaults. After the State has notified Contractor of its third default, the State may terminate this Contract without providing Contractor with an opportunity to cure, if Contractor defaults for a fourth time. The four defaults are not required to be related to each other in any way.

d. Termination for Endangered Performance. The State may terminate this Contract by written notice to the Contractor if the State determines that the performance of the Contract is endangered through no fault of the State.

e. Termination for Financial Instability. The State may terminate this Contract by written notice to the Contractor if a petition in bankruptcy or similar proceeding has been filed by or against the Contractor.

f. Termination for Delinquency, Violation of Law. The State may terminate this Contract by written notice, if it determines that Contractor is delinquent in its payment of federal, state or local taxes, workers' compensation, insurance premiums, unemployment compensation contributions, child support, court costs or any other obligation owed to a state agency or political subdivision. The State also may cancel this Contract, if it determines that Contractor has violated any law during the performance of this Contract. However, the State may not terminate this Contract if the Contractor has entered into a repayment Contract with which the Contractor is current.

g. **Termination for Subcontractor Default.** The State may terminate this Contract for the default of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors. The Contractor will be solely responsible for satisfying any claims of its subcontractors for any suspension or termination and will indemnify the State for any liability to them. Subcontractors will hold the State harmless for any damage caused to them from a suspension or termination. The subcontractors will look solely to the Contractor for any compensation to which they may be entitled.

h. **Termination for Failure to Retain Certification.** Pursuant to ORC Section 125.081, the State may set aside a bid for supplies or services for participation only by minority business enterprises (MBE's) certified by the State of Ohio, Equal Opportunity Coordinator. After award of the Contract, it is the responsibility of the MBE Contractor to maintain certification as a MBE. If the Contractor fails to renew its certification and/or is de-certified by the State of Ohio, Equal Opportunity Coordinator, the State may immediately cancel the Contract.

i. **Termination for Convenience.** The State may terminate this Contract for its convenience after issuing written notice to the Contractor. If the termination is for the convenience of the State, the Contractor will be entitled to compensation for any supplies or products that the Contractor has delivered or services rendered before the termination. Such compensation will be the Contractor's exclusive remedy in the case of termination for convenience and will be available to the Contractor only after the Contractor has submitted a proper invoice for the services, products or supplies, with the invoice reflecting the amount determined by the State to be owing to the Contractor.

j. **Termination, Effectiveness, Contractor Responsibilities.** The notice of termination whether for cause or without cause will be effective as soon as Contractor receives it. Upon receipt of the notice of termination, Contractor will immediately cease all work on the Project, if applicable, and refuse any additional orders and take all steps necessary to minimize the costs the Contractor will incur related to this Contract. The Contractor will immediately prepare a report and deliver it to the State. The report must detail either the work completed at the time of termination or the orders received and not processed prior to termination, and if applicable, the percentage of the Project's completion, estimated time for delivery of all orders received prior to termination, any costs incurred by the Contractor in doing the Project to date and any services completed or partially completed but not delivered to the State at the time of termination. Any and all work, whether completed or not, will be delivered to the State along with the specified report. However, if delivery in that manner would not be in the State's interest, then the Contractor will propose a suitable alternate form of delivery.

2. **Contract Suspension.** If Contractor fails to perform any one of its obligations under this Contract, it will be in default and the State may suspend rather than terminate this Contract where the State believes that doing so would better serve its interest.

In the case of a suspension for the State's convenience, the amount of compensation due to the Contractor for work performed before the suspension will be determined in the same manner as provided in this section for termination for the State's convenience or the Contractor may be entitled to compensation for work performed before the suspension, less any damage to the State resulting from the Contractor's breach of this Contract or other fault.

The notice of suspension, whether with or without cause will be effective immediately on the Contractor's receipts of the notice. The Contractor will immediately prepare a report and deliver it to the State as is required in the case of termination.

II. CONTRACT REMEDIES:

A. **ACTUAL DAMAGES.** Contractor is liable to the State of Ohio for all actual and direct damages caused by Contractor's default. The State may buy substitute supplies or services, from a third party, for those that were to be provided by Contractor. The State may recover the costs associated with acquiring substitute supplies or services, less any expenses or costs saved by Contractor's default, from Contractor.

B. **LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**. If actual and direct damages are uncertain or difficult to determine, the State may recover liquidated damages in the amount of 1% of the value of the services, products or supplies that is the subject of the default, for every day that the default is not cured by the Contractor.

C. **DEDUCTION OF DAMAGES FROM CONTRACT PRICE**. The State may deduct all or any part of the damages resulting from Contractor's default from any part of the price still due on the contract, upon prior written notice to being issued to the Contractor by the State.

III. PAYMENT PROVISIONS:

A. **INVOICE REQUIREMENTS.** The Contractor must submit an original invoice to the office designated in the purchase order as the "bill to" address. To be a proper invoice, the invoice must include the following information:

1. The purchase order number authorizing the delivery of products or services.

2. A description of what the Contractor delivered, including, as applicable, the time period, serial number, unit price, quantity, and total price of the products and services. If the invoice is for a lease, the Contractor must also include the payment number (e.g., 1 of 36).

If an authorized dealer has fulfilled the purchase order, then the dealer's information should be supplied in lieu of the Contractor's information.

B. **PAYMENT DUE DATE.** Payments under this Contract will be due on the 30th calendar day after the later of:

1. The date of actual receipt of a proper invoice in the office designated to receive the invoice, or the date the service is delivered and accepted in accordance with the terms of this Contract.

2. The date of the warrant issued in payment will be considered the date payment is made. Interest on late payments will be paid in accordance with ORC Section 126.30.

IV. CONTRACTOR WARRANTY AND LIABILITY PROVISIONS:

A. **CONTRACTOR'S WARRANTY AGAINST AN UNRESOLVED FINDING FOR RECOVERY.** Contractor warrants that it is not subject to an unresolved finding for recovery under ORC Section 9.24. If the warranty was false on the date the parties signed this Contract, the Contract is void *ab initio*.

B. **GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.** The Contractor warrants that the recommendations, guidance, and performance of the Contractor under this Contract will:

1. Be in accordance with the sound professional standards and the requirements of this Contract and without any material defect.

2. No services, products or supplies will infringe on the intellectual property rights of any third party.

3. All warranties are in accordance with Contractor's standard business practices attached.

4. That the products or supplies hereunder are merchantable and fit for the particular purpose described in this contract.

Additionally, with respect to the Contractor's activities under this Contract, the Contractor warrants that:

5. The Contractor has the right to enter into this Contract.

6. The Contractor has not entered into any other contracts or employment relationships that restrict the Contractor's ability to perform under this Contract.

7. The Contractor will observe and abide by all applicable laws and regulations, including those of the State regarding conduct on any premises under the State's control.

8. The Contractor has good and marketable title to any products or supplies delivered under this Contract and which title passes to the State.

9. The Contractor has the right and ability to grant the license granted in products or supplies in which title does not pass to the State.

If any services of the Contractor or any products or supplies fails to comply with these warranties, and the Contractor is so notified in writing, the Contractor will correct such failure with all due speed or will refund the amount of the compensation paid for the services, products or supplies. The Contractor will also indemnify the State for any direct damages and claims by third parties based on breach of these warranties.

C. **INDEMNITY.** The Contractor will indemnify the State for any and all claims, damages, lawsuits, costs, judgments, expenses, and any other liabilities resulting from bodily injury to any person (including injury resulting in death) or damage to property that may arise out of or are related to Contractors performance under this Contract, providing such bodily injury or property damage is due to the negligence of the Contractor, its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

The Contractor will also indemnify the State against any claim of infringement of a copyright, patent, trade secret, or similar intellectual property rights based on the State's proper use of any products or supplies under this Contract. This obligation of indemnification will not apply where the State has modified or misused the products or supplies and the claim of infringement, is based on the modification or misuse. The state agrees to give the Contractor notice of any such claim as soon as reasonably practicable and to give the Contractor the authority to settle or otherwise defend any such claim upon consultation with and approval by the Office of the State Attorney General. If a successful claim of infringement is made, or if the Contractor reasonably believes that an infringement claim that is pending may actually succeed, the Contractor will take one (1) of the following four (4) actions:

1. Modify the products or supplies so that is no longer infringing.

2. Replace products or supplies with an equivalent or better item.

3. Acquire the right for the State to use the infringing products or supplies as it was intended for the State to use under this Contract; or

4. Remove the products or supplies and refund the fee the State paid for the products or supplies and the fee for any other products or supplies that required the availability of the infringing products or supplies for it to be useful to the State.

D. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.** NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITATION PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS CONTRACT, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. NEITHER PARTY WILL BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOST PROFITS, EVEN IF THE PARTIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED, KNEW, OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

2. THE CONTRACTOR FURTHER AGREES THAT THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ALL DIRECT DAMAGES DUE TO THE FAULT OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE CONTRACTOR.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. **AMENDMENTS.** No amendment or modification of this Contract will be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the State.

B. **ANTITRUST ASSIGNMENT TO THE STATE.** Contractor assigns to the State of Ohio, through DAS-Procurement Services, all of its rights to any claims and causes of action the Contractor now has or may acquire under state or federal antitrust laws if the claims or causes of action relate to the supplies or services provided under this Contract. Additionally, the State of Ohio will not pay excess charges resulting from antitrust violations by Contractor's suppliers and subcontractors.

C. **ASSIGNMENT / DELEGATION.** The Contractor will not assign any of its rights nor delegate any of its duties under this Contract without written consent of the State. Any assignment or delegation not consented to may be deemed void by the State.

D. **AUDITS.** The Contractor must keep all financial records in a manner consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. Additionally, the Contractor must keep separate business records for this Contract, including records of disbursements and obligations incurred that must be supported by contracts, invoices, vouchers and other data as appropriate.

During the period covered by this Contract and until the expiration of three (3) years after final payment under this Contract, the Contractor agrees to provide the State, its duly authorized representatives or any person, agency or instrumentality providing financial support to the work undertaken hereunder, with access to and the right to examine any books, documents, papers and records of the Contractor involving transactions related to this Contract.

The Contractor shall, for each subcontract in excess of two thousand five hundred ($2,500), require its subcontractors to agree to the same provisions of this Article. The Contractor may not artificially divide contracts with its subcontractors to avoid requiring subcontractors to agree to this provision.

The Contractor must provide access to the requested records no later than (5) five business days after the request by the State or any party with audit rights. If an audit reveals any material deviation from the Contract requirements, and misrepresentations or any overcharge to the State or any other provider of funds for the Contract, the State or other party will be entitled to recover damages, as well as the cost of the audit.

E. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** The Contractor may learn of information, documents, data, records, or other material that is confidential in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor may not disclose any information obtained by it as a result of this Contract, without the written permission of the State. The Contractor must assume that all state information, documents, data, records or other material is confidential.

The Contractor's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of the information will not apply where it: (1) was already in the Contractor's possession before disclosure by the State, and it was received by the Contractor without the obligation of confidence; (2) is independently developed by the Contractor; (3) is or becomes publicly available without breach of this Contract; (4) is rightfully received by the Contractor from a third party without an obligation of confidence; (5) is disclosed by the Contractor with the written consent of the State; or (6) is released in accordance with a valid order of a court or governmental agency, provided that the Contractor (a) notifies the State of such order immediately upon receipt of the order and (b) makes a reasonable effort to obtain a protective order from the issuing court or agency limiting disclosure and use of the confidential information solely for the purposes intended to be serviced by the original order of production. The Contractor will return all originals of any information and destroy any copies it has made on termination or expiration of this Contract.

The Contractor will be liable for the disclosure of any confidential information. The parties agree that the disclosure of confidential information of the State's may cause the State irreparable damage for which remedies other than injunctive relief may be inadequate, and the Contractor agrees that in the event of a breach of the obligations hereunder, the State shall be entitled to temporary and permanent injunctive relief to enforce this provision without the necessity of providing actual damages. This provision shall not, however, diminish or alter any right to claim and recover.

F. **CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION.** This Contract will be constructed in accordance with the plain meaning of its language and neither for nor against the drafting party.

G. **CONTRACTOR DISCLOSURE; LOCATION OF SERVICES, DATA.** As part of this Contract, Contractor shall disclose the following:

1. The location (s) where all services will be performed; and
2. The location(s) where any state data applicable to the contract will be maintained or made available; and
3. The principal location of business for the contractor and all subcontractors.

Contractor shall not, during the performance of this Contract, change the location(s) of the country where the services are performed or change the location(s) of the country where the data is maintained or made available without prior written approval of the State.

H. **DRUG FREE WORKPLACE.** The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding drug-free workplace and shall make a good faith effort to ensure that all its employees, while working on state property, will not purchase, transfer, use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol or abuse prescription drugs in any way.

I. **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.** The Contractor will comply with all state and federal laws regarding equal employment opportunity, including ORC Section 125.111 and all related Executive Orders.

Before a contract can be awarded or renewed, an Affirmative Action Program Verification Form must be completed using the Ohio Business Gateway Electronic Filing website http://business.ohio.gov/efiling/. Approved Affirmative Action Plans can be found by going to the Equal Opportunity Division's web site:
http://eodreporting.oit.ohio.gov/searchAffirmativeAction.aspx

J. **FORCE MAJEURE.** If the State or Contractor is unable to perform any part of its obligations under this Contract by reason of force majeure, the party will be excused from its obligations, to the extent that its performance is prevented by force majeure, for the duration of the event. The party must remedy with all reasonable dispatch the cause preventing it from carrying out its obligations under this Contract. The term "force majeure" means without limitation: acts of God; such as epidemics; lightning; earthquakes; fires; storms; hurricanes; tornadoes; floods; washouts; droughts; any other severe weather; explosions; restraint of government and people; war; strikes; and other like events; or any cause that could not be reasonably foreseen in the exercise of ordinary care, and that is beyond the reasonable control of the party.

K. **GOVERNING LAW / SEVERABILITY.** This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, and the venue for any disputes will be exclusively with the appropriate court in Franklin County, Ohio. If any provision of the Contract or the application of any provision is held by that court to be contrary to law, the remaining provisions of the Contract will remain in full force and effect.

L. **HEADINGS.** The headings used in this Contract are for convenience only and will not affect the interpretation of any of the Contract terms and conditions.

M. **NOTICES.** For any notice under this Contract to be effective it must be made in writing and sent to the address of the appropriate contact provided elsewhere in the Contract.

N. **ORDER OF PRIORITY.** If there is any inconsistency or conflict between this document and any provision incorporated by reference, this document will prevail.

O. **PUBLICITY.** The Contractor will not advertise that it is doing business with the State or use this Contract as a marketing or sales tool without prior, written consent of the State.

P. **STRICT PERFORMANCE**. The failure of either party at any time to demand strict performance by the other party of any of the terms of this Contract will not be construed as a waiver of any such term, and either party may at any time demand strict and complete performance by the other party.

Q. **SUBCONTRACTING**. The State, through DAS-Procurement Services, recognizes that it may be necessary for the Contractor to use a subcontractor to perform a portion of the work under the Contract. In those circumstances, the Contractor shall submit a list identifying its subcontractors or joint venture partners performing portions of the work under the Contract. If any changes occur during the term of the Contract, the Contractor shall supplement its list of subcontractors or joint venture business partners. In addition, all subcontractors or joint venture business partners agree to be bound by all of the Terms and Conditions and specifications of the Contract. The State, through DAS-Procurement Services, reserves the right to reject any subcontractor submitted by the Contractor. All subcontracts will be at the sole expense of the Contractor and the Contractor will be solely responsible for payment of its subcontractors. The Contractor assumes responsibility for all sub-contracting and third party manufacturer work performed under the Contract. In addition, Contractor will cause all subcontractors to be bound by the Terms and Conditions and specifications of the contract. The Contrac6tor will be the sole point of contact with regard of all contractual matters.

R. **SURVIVORSHIP.** All sections herein relating to payment, confidentiality, license and ownership, indemnification, publicity, construction warranties, limitations of warranties and limitations on damages shall survive the termination of this Contract.

S. **TAXES.** The State is exempt from all state and local taxes and does not agree to pay any taxes.

SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

S-1. Contract Orders. Participating state agencies will order supplies or services under this Contract from the Contractor directly. The Contractor may receive orders made by participating state agencies by telephone, facsimile, electronically, in person, debit order or by State of Ohio payment card or purchase order from authorized employees of the participating agency. The State will not be responsible for orders placed by unauthorized employees. Contractor is not required to fill an order with a delivery date that is more than 30 days beyond the date of Contract expiration, termination or cancellation, unless the Contract provides for quarterly deliveries. Under a Contract that provides for quarterly deliveries, Contractor is not required to fill an order with a delivery date that is more than 90 days beyond the date of Contract expiration, termination or cancellation.

S-2. Compensation. In consideration for Contractor's performance each participating state agency will pay Contractor directly at the rate specified in the Contract. Payments may be made by the Ohio Payment Card, an Auditor of State warrant or by electronic funds transfer (EFT). For all transactions the Contractor must have a valid W-9 form on file with the Office of Budget and Management. Registration in OBM's database requires the Contractor to complete a Vendor Information Form and IRS W-9 Form. The completed original form should be mailed to Vendor Maintenance, Ohio Shared Services. Information on submitting appropriate documents is available at http://www.ohiosharedservices.ohio.gov/VendorsForms.aspx .

S-3. Ohio Payment Card. Participating state agencies purchasing supplies from the Contract may use the Ohio Payment Card. Such purchases may not exceed $2,500 unless the Office of Budget & Management has approved the agency to exceed this limit. In the event that OBM increases the dollar limit for payment cards for all state agencies, notice of such increase will be posted on the DAS-Procurement Services website. Participating state agencies are required to use the Ohio Payment Card in accordance with the Ohio, Office of Budget and Management's current guidelines for the Ohio Payment Card and the participating agency's approved plan filed with the Office of Budget of Management. Contractor may process a payment in the payment card network only upon delivery and acceptance of the supplies or services ordered. For partial deliveries or performance, Contractor may process a payment for the amount delivered or completed only and not for the entire amount ordered by the participating agency. Upon completion of the delivery of remaining supplies or services, Contractor may process a payment request in the payment card network for the remainder of the order. Contractor will receive payment through its merchant bank within the time frame agreed upon between Contractor and its merchant bank. The Contractor should expect normal processing fees from its merchant bank for payment card transaction which may not be passed on to the agency making the purchase.

S-4. Requirements Contract. The quantity of supplies or services to be provided under this Contract is the quantity determined by the actual, good faith, requirements of the participating state agencies. DAS may allow a participating state agency to purchase supplies or services identical to those provided under this Contract from a supplier other than Contractor, if one of the following conditions apply:

(A) The supplies or services to be purchased were not anticipated by DAS at the time this Contract was bid and the supplies or services are required in a large quantity;

(B) The supplies or services to be purchased are unique or unusual from the supplies or services provided under this Contract; or

(C) The agency requires the supplies or services to remedy an emergency and Contractor is not able to provide the supplies or services, as the emergency requires.

S-5. F.O.B. The Place of Destination. Contractor must provide supplies or services under this Contract F.O.B. the place of destination. The place of destination will be specified by the participating state agency on the agency's purchase order or other ordering document. Freight will be prepaid unless otherwise stated.

S-6. Time of Delivery. If Contractor is not able to deliver the supplies or services on the date and time specified by the participating state agency on the agency's ordering document, Contractor must coordinate an acceptable date and time for delivery with the agency. If Contractor is not able to or does not provide the supplies or services to a participating state agency by the date and time provided on the agency's ordering document or by the date and time later agreed upon, the State may obtain any remedy under Section II, "Contract Remedies", as described in the Standard Contract Terms and Conditions or any other remedy at law.

S-7. Minimum Orders-Transportation Charges. For purchase orders placed that are less than the stated minimum order, transportation charges will be prepaid and added to the invoice by the Contractor to the delivery location designated by the ordering agency. Shipment is to be made by private or commercial freight service provider, air, rail, water, parcel post, express or commercial package delivery, whichever is the most economical and expeditious method for proper delivery of the item. Failure of the Contractor to utilize the most economical mode of transportation shall result in the Contractor reimbursing the ordering agency the difference between the most economical mode of transportation and the mode of transportation used by the Contractor. Failure to reimburse the ordering agency shall be considered as a default.

S-8. Workers' Compensation. Workers' compensation insurance, as required by Ohio law or the laws of any other state where work under this Contract will be done. The Contractor will also maintain employer's liability insurance with at least a $1,000,000.00 limit.

S-9. Automobile and General Liability Insurance. During the term of the Contract and any renewal thereto, the Contractor, and any agent of the Contractor, at its sole cost and expense shall maintain a policy of Automobile Liability Insurance in accordance with the State and Federal laws, unless otherwise stated. In addition, Contractor shall carry Commercial General Liability Insurance coverage with a $1,000,000 annual aggregate and a $500,000 per occurrence limit for bodily injury, personal injury, wrongful death and property damage. The defense cost shall be outside the policy limits. Such policy shall designate the State of Ohio as an Additional Insured, as its interest may appear. The policy shall also be endorsed to include a blanket waiver of subrogation and a statement that the Contractor's commercial general liability insurance shall be primary over any other coverage. Umbrella/excess liability insurance may

be used to meet the required limits and the coverage must follow form. DAS-Procurement Services reserves the right to approve all policy deductibles and levels of self-insured retention-captive insurance programs and may require the Contractor to have their policy (ies) endorsed to reflect per project / per location general aggregate limits.

If not submitted with the Bidder's response, copies of the respective insurance certificates shall be filed with DAS- Procurement Services within seven (7) calendar days after notification. Failure to submit the insurance certificates within this time period may result in the bidder being deemed not responsive. Said certificates are subject to the approval of DAS and shall contain a clause or endorsement providing thirty (30) days prior written notice of cancellation, non-renewal or decrease in coverage will be given to DAS. Failure of the Contractor to maintain this coverage for the duration of the Contract, and any renewals thereto, may be considered as a default. All insuring companies shall have and maintain at least an A- (Excellent) rating from A.M. Best unless otherwise approved by DAS..

S-10. Quality Assurance. At the option of DAS or the participating agency, samples may be taken from deliveries made and submitted for laboratory tests. The State will bear the cost of the testing when samples are found to be in compliance with the Contract. If samples do not conform to the Contract, Contractor will bear the costs of testing and the State will apply the terms and conditions of the Termination provision of this Contract.

S-11. Electronic Commerce Program. The State of Ohio is an active participant in E-Commerce to include Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). This program will benefit both the State and the Contractor by reducing time delays in receiving invoices and making payments that are associated with the existing manual processes. The Contractor is encouraged to move toward compliance with electronic commerce technologies, as this will be the preferred method of doing business with the State of Ohio. Information regarding E-Commerce is available on the Office of Budget and Management's website at http://obm.ohio.gov/sectionpages/electroniccommerce/.

S-12. Usage Reports. At no cost to the State, the Contractor shall be required to provide quarterly, bi-annual or annual usage reports as requested by the DAS-Procurement Services. The reports will include information as to purchase activity under the Contract by all participating agencies and Co-operative Purchasing Program members. Report topics will include, but will not be limited to: customer name, date of purchase, item description, quantity, dollar value, aggregate sales to date for each customer and other such information as requested by the DAS- Procurement Services. Electronic media is the preferred method for these reports. Failure to provide the requested reports will be deemed as an event of default.

S-13. Return Goods Policy. The State will apply the following Return Goods Policy on all purchases made under the Contract. The Bidder acknowledges to have read, understood, and agrees to this Policy.

(A) Return goods, when due to Contractor error (i.e. over-shipment, defective merchandise, unapproved substitution, etc.) shall be returned to the Contractor, at the Contractor's expense. The Contractor shall make arrangements to remove the return goods from the ordering agency premises within seven (7) calendar days after notification. The Contractor shall not apply any restocking or other charges to the ordering agency. At the option of the ordering agency, replacement items may be accepted and will be shipped within seven (7) calendar days of notification. Failure of the Contractor to arrange for return of the items within the specified time will result in the items being deemed as abandoned property and the ordering agency will dispose of accordingly.

(B) For orders of custom manufactured items, the Contractor will provide a production sample of the item to the ordering agency for acceptance. The production sample will be identical to the item to be provided. The ordering agency will provide written acceptance of the item prior to the Contractor continuing with production. Once delivery and acceptance has been completed and the ordering agency determines for any reason that any remaining quantities will not be used, the agency may request the return of the custom manufactured items. Acceptance of the return of custom manufactured items will be at the option of the Contractor. If the Contractor agrees to the return of these items, the agency will be responsible for all costs associated with packaging, shipment and transportation, to include the original shipment to the agency and subsequent return of goods to the location designated by the Contractor. The Contractor may assess restocking fees that are equivalent to restocking fees that are normally assessed to other customers or as published by the Contractor. Failure of the Contractor to provide a production sample and obtain written approval form the ordering agency will result in the Contractor bearing all responsibility and costs associated with the return of these goods.

(C) Return goods of regular catalog stock merchandise, when due to agency error (i.e. over purchase, discontinued use, inventory reduction, etc.) will be accepted by the Contractor if notice is given by the agency within six (6) months of delivery and acceptance. All items to be returned must be unused and in their original containers and in suitable condition for resale. The ordering agency will be responsible for all transportation costs associated with both the original shipment of items to the agency and the subsequent return of the items to the location designated by the Contractor. The Contractor may assess a restocking fee associated with the return of the items to the location designated by the Contractor. The Contractor may assess a restocking fee not to exceed their standard published restocking fee or equivalent restocking fee that is assessed to other customers of the Contractor. Return of regular stock catalog merchandise, when delivery and acceptance exceed six (6) months will be at the option of the Contractor.

S-14. Product Recall. In the event product delivered has been recalled, seized, or embargoed and/or has been determined to be misbranded, adulterated, or found to be unfit for human consumption by the packer, processor, manufacturer or by any State or Federal regulatory agency, the Contractor shall be responsible to notify DAS-Procurement Services and all ordering agencies/entities within two business days after notice has been given. Contractor shall, at the option of the ordering agency, either reimburse the purchase price or provide an equivalent replacement product at no additional cost. Contractor shall be responsible for removal and/or replacement of the affected product within a reasonable time as determined by the ordering agency. At the option of the ordering agency, Contractor may be required to reimburse storage and/or handling fees to be calculated from time of delivery and acceptance to actual removal. Contractor will bear all costs associated with the removal and proper disposal of the affected product. Failure to reimburse the purchase price or provide equivalent replacement product will be considered a default.

S-15. Ohio Ethics. Contractor represent that it and its employees engaged in the administration or performance of the Contract are knowledgeable of and understand the Ohio Ethics and Conflict of Interest laws. Contractor further represents that neither Contractor nor any of its employees will do any act that is inconsistent with such laws.