

COUNTY OF SARATOGA
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
50 WEST HIGH STREET
BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK 12020
(p) 518-885-2210 (f) 518-885-2220

GENERAL CONDITIONS

(For the purchase of materials, supplies, services, and equipment)

All invitations to bid issued by the County of Saratoga will bind bidders and successful bidders to the conditions and requirements set forth in these general conditions, and such conditions shall form an integral part of each purchase contract awarded by the County.

DEFINITIONS

"County"	- shall be the legal designation of the County of Saratoga.
"Bid"	- an offer to furnish materials, supplies, services, and or equipment in accordance with the invitation to bid, the general conditions, and the specifications.
"Bid Offer"	- the form on which the bidder submits their bid
"Bidder"	- any individual, company, or corporation submitting a bid.
"Business Day"	- any day that the Saratoga County Purchasing Department is open to conduct normal business.
"Successful bidder"	- any bidder to whom an award is made by the County.
"Specification"	- a detailed description of materials, supplies, services, and/or equipment.

BIDS

1. The date and time of all bid openings will be given in the Notice to Bidders, the bid cover page, and in the Instructions to Bidders.

2. Saratoga County distributes bidding documents through the Empire State Purchasing Group website (<http://www.empirestatebidssystem.com/>) or through the Saratoga County Purchasing Office. Only those vendors who obtain bidding documents from either the Saratoga County Purchasing Department or from the Empire State Purchasing Group website are guaranteed to receive addendum information, if such information is issued. If you have obtained this document from any other source you are strongly encouraged to obtain a copy from a source mentioned above.

3. All bids received after the deadline, by any delivery method, will be considered late and will be returned unopened. The bidder assumes the risk of any delay in the mail or in the handling of the mail by employees of the County. The bidder assumes responsibility for having his bid deposited on time at the place specified. The County will not accept facsimile or e- mail bids.

4. All information required by the Instructions to Bidders, Specifications, and Bid Offer, in connection with each item against which a bid is submitted, must be given to constitute a regular bid. The County reserves the right to reject any incomplete bid.

5. The submission of a bid will be construed to mean that the bidder is fully informed as to the extent and character of the supplies, materials, services or equipment required and a representation that the bidder can furnish the supplies, services, materials, or equipment in complete compliance with the specifications.

6. No alteration, erasure, or addition is to be made in the typewritten or printed matter. Deviations from the specifications must be indicated in the space provided on the bid forms or additional sheet of paper.

7. Prices and information required, except signature of bidder, should be typewritten for legibility. Illegible or vague bids may be rejected. **All signatures must be original signatures. Photocopied, facsimile, printed, stamped, or typewritten signatures will not be accepted.**

8. No charge will be allowed for federal, state, or municipal sales and excise taxes since the County is exempt from such taxes. The price bid shall be net and shall not include the amount of any such tax. The County of Saratoga is also exempt from Transportation Tax.

9. In all specifications, the words "or equal" are understood after each article giving a manufacturer's name or catalog reference, or on any patented article, unless, for reasons of efficiency and economy, the Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution "standardizing" certain equipment purchases. The decision of the County as to whether an alternate or substitution is in fact "equal" shall be final. If bidding on items other than those specified, the bidder must in every instance give the trade designation of the item, manufacturer's name, and detailed specification of the item he proposes to furnish. Otherwise, the bid will be construed as submitted on the identical item as specified.

10. Bids on equipment must be standard new equipment, of latest model, and in current production, unless otherwise specified.

11. All regularly manufactured stock electrical items must bear the label of the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.

12. When bids are requested on a lump sum basis, bidder must bid on each item in the lump sum group. A bidder desiring to bid "no charge" on an item in a group must so indicate; otherwise the bid for that group may be rejected.

13. All prices quoted must be "per unit" as specified; do not quote "per case" when "per dozen" is requested; otherwise the bid may be rejected.

14. If indicated in the bid documents, all bidders must insert the price per unit and the extensions against each item in their bid. In the event of a discrepancy between the unit price and the extension, the unit price will govern. Prices shall be extended in decimals, not fractions.

15. Prices shall be net F.O.B. to the requesting Saratoga County department. If the award is made on any other basis, transportation charges must be prepaid by the successful bidder and added to the invoice as a separate item. In any case, title shall not pass until items have been delivered and accepted.

16. All bids must be sealed. Bids may be submitted either in plain or opaque envelopes. All bids must be addressed to the Director of Purchasing. Bid envelopes must be clearly marked with the bid name, the date and time of the bid opening, as indicated on the Notice to Bidders. Bids must not be attached to or enclosed in packages containing bid samples. Telephoned quotations or amendments will not be accepted at any time. The County will not accept facsimile or e-mail bids.

17. No interpretation of the meaning of the specifications or other contract document will be made to any bidder orally. Every request for such interpretation should be in writing, addressed to the County, not later than five (5) days prior to the date fixed for the opening of bids. Notice of any and all such interpretations and any supplemental instructions will be sent to all bidders of record by the County in the form of addenda to the specifications. All addenda so issued shall become a part of the contract documents.

SAMPLES

18. All specifications are minimum standards; and accepted bid samples do not supersede specification for quality unless the bid sample is superior, in which case, deliveries must be the same identity and quality as accepted bid sample.

19. The County reserves the right to request a representative sample of the item quoted prior to the award or before shipments are made. If the sample is not in accordance with the requirements of the specification, the County may reject the bid; or, if award has been made, cancel the contract at the expense of the successful bidder.

20. Samples, when required, must be submitted strictly in accordance with the instructions; otherwise, the bid may not be considered. If samples are requested subsequent to bid opening, they shall be delivered within ten (10) business days of the request, or as directed, for the bid to have consideration. Samples must be furnished free of charge and must be accompanied by descriptive memorandum indicating if the bidder desires their return and specifying the address to which they are to be returned provided they have not been used or made useless by tests. Award samples may be held for comparison with deliveries. The County will not be responsible for any samples destroyed or mutilated by examination or testing. Samples shall be removed by the bidder at their expense. Samples not removed within fifteen (15) days after written notice to the bidder will be regarded as abandoned and the County shall have the right to dispose of them as its own property.

21. When a specification indicates that an item to be purchased is to be equal to a sample, such sample will be on display at a designated location in the County. Failure on the part of the bidder to examine sample shall not entitle him to any relief from the conditions imposed in the proposal, specification, etc.

AWARD

22. Awards will be made to the lowest responsible bidder or by Best Value Methodology, as will best promote the public interest, taking into consideration the reliability of the bidder, the quality of the materials, services, equipment, or supplies to be furnished, their conformity with the specifications, the purposes for which required, and the terms of delivery.

23. The County reserves the right to reject all bids. Also reserved to the County is the right to reject, for cause, any bid in whole or in part and to waive technical defects; qualifications; irregularities; and omissions if in the County's judgement the best interests of the County will be served. Also reserved is the right to reject bids and to purchase items on State or County contract or BOCES or other municipal bids if such items can be obtained at a lower price.

24. The County reserves the right to make awards within forty-five (45) days after the date of the bid opening during which period bids may not be withdrawn unless the bidder can prove that their submission has an obvious clerical error or where the enforcement of the bid would impose unconscionable hardship on the bidder.

25. Under NYS General Municipal Law Section (103), subdivision (3), it is the intent of this Request For Bids that all political subdivisions, and districts located in the State of New York, be entitled to make purchases of materials, equipment or supplies from the resulting bid award. Each participating entity shall be billed by and make payment directly to the successful bidder. In the event of a failure or breach in performance of any such bid by a participating entity or the successful bidder, Saratoga County, specifically and expressly disclaims any and all liability for such defective performance or breach, or failure of either party to perform in accordance with its obligations, covenants and the terms and conditions of this bid.

26. Where a bidder is requested to submit a bid on individual items and also on a total sum or sums, the right is reserved to award bids on individual items or on total sums.

CONTRACT

27. Each bid will be received with the understanding that the acceptance thereof by the County, approved by the County, to furnish any or all of the items described therein shall constitute a contract between the successful bidder and the County. The Contract shall bind the successful bidder on his part to furnish and deliver at the prices and in accordance with the conditions of the bid. Minimum Orders are not acceptable; the Contract will be for all items actually ordered. The Contract shall bind the County on its part to order from such successful bidder (except in the case of emergency) and to pay for at the contract prices, all items ordered and delivered, unless otherwise specified. Payments will be processed after the receipt of a properly executed Saratoga County voucher and associated invoice from the successful bidder.

28. The placing in the mail of a notice of award or purchase order to a successful bidder, to the address given in the successful bid, will be considered sufficient notice of acceptance of contract.

29. If the successful bidder fails to deliver within the time specified or within a reasonable amount of time as interpreted by the County, or fails to make replacement of rejected articles, when so requested, immediately or as directed by the County, the County may purchase from other sources to take the place of the item rejected or not delivered. The County reserves the right to authorize immediate purchase from other sources against rejections on any contract when necessary. On all such purchases the successful bidder agrees to reimburse the County promptly for excess costs occasioned by such purchases. Should the cost be less, the successful bidder shall have no claim to the difference. Such purchases will be deducted from contract quantity. Whenever the County seeks legal enforcement of the provisions of said contract, the successful bidder shall be liable for payment of the County's legal costs, including reasonable attorney's fees.

30. The County may cancel the contract in writing with 10 days' notice upon non-performance of the contract.

31. If the successful bidder fails to deliver as ordered, the County reserves the right to cancel the contract and purchase the balance from other sources at the successful bidder's expense.

32. Cancellation of a contract for any reason may result in the bidder being found as non-responsive/non-responsible and removal of the successful bidder's name from mailing lists for future proposals until such time that the County has determined the bidder has resolved any issues that caused the initial finding.

33. When materials, equipment, services or supplies *are rejected, they must be removed by the successful bidder* from the premises of the County within five business (5) days of notification. Rejected items left longer than five business (5) days will be regarded as abandoned, and the County shall have the right to dispose of them as its own property.

34. No items are to be shipped or delivered until the successful bidder receives an official order from the County.

35. It is mutually understood and agreed that the successful bidder shall not assign, transfer, convey, sublet, or otherwise dispose of the contract or his right, title, or interest therein, or his power to execute such contract to any other person, company, or corporation, without the previous written consent of the County.

INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT

36. The successful bidder shall clean up and remove all debris and rubbish resulting from his work from time to time as required or directed. Upon completion of the work the premises shall be left in a neat, unobstructed condition, and the buildings broom cleaned, and everything in perfect repair and order.

37. Equipment, supplies, services and materials shall be stored at the site only on the approval of the County and at the successful bidder's risk. In general, such on-site storage should be avoided to prevent possible damage or loss of the material.

38. Work shall be progressed so as to cause the least inconvenience to the County and with proper consideration for the rights of other successful bidders or workmen. The successful bidder shall keep in touch with the entire operation and handle installation work promptly.

39. Bidders shall acquaint themselves with conditions to be found at the project site, or sites, and shall assume all responsibility for placing and installing the equipment in the locations required.

40. Equipment for trade-in shall be dismantled by the successful bidder and removed at his expense. The condition of the trade-in equipment at the time it is turned over to the successful bidder shall be the same as covered in the specifications, except as affected by normal wear and tear from use up to the time of trade-in. All equipment is represented "as is". Equipment is available for inspection only at the delivery point listed unless otherwise specified.

41. The successful bidder guarantees:

- The products against defective material or workmanship and will repair or replace any damages or marring occasioned in transit.
- To furnish adequate protection from damage for all work and to repair damages of any kind for which the successful bidder or its workers are responsible, to the building or equipment, to their own work, or to the work of other successful bidders.
- To carry adequate insurance to protect the County from loss in case of accident, fire, theft, etc.
- That all deliveries will be equal to the accepted bid sample.
- That the equipment or furniture offered is standard, new, latest model of regular stock product or as required by the specifications, with parts regularly used for the type of equipment or furniture offered; also that no attachment or part has been substituted or applied contrary to manufacturer's recommendations and standard practice. Every unit delivered must be guaranteed against faulty material and workmanship for a period of at least one year from date of delivery. If during this period such faults develop, the successful bidder agrees to replace the unit or the part affected without cost to the County.
- Any merchandise provided under the contract, which is or becomes defective during the guarantee period, shall be replaced by the successful bidder free of charge with the specific understanding that all replacements shall carry the same guarantee as the original equipment (one year from the date of acceptance of the replacement). The successful bidder shall make any such replacement immediately upon receiving notice from the County.

DELIVERY

42. Delivery must be made as ordered and in accordance with the proposal and specification. If delivery instructions do not appear in the Instructions or Specification, it will be interpreted to mean prompt delivery (not to exceed 30 calendar days). The decision of the County as to reasonable compliance with delivery terms shall be final. Burden of proof of delay in receipt of order shall rest with the successful bidder. Failure to deliver because of delayed payments or for any other reason except that described in Paragraph 52 will be cause for open market purchase at the expense of the successful bidder.

43. The County will not schedule any deliveries for Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays, except commodities required for daily consumption or where the delivery is an emergency, a replacement, or is overdue, in which event the convenience of the County shall govern.

44. Items shall be securely and properly packed for shipment, storage, and stocking in new shipping containers and according to accepted commercial practice, without extra charge for packing cases, baling, or sacks.

45. The successful bidder shall be responsible for delivery of items in good condition at point of destination. He shall file with the carrier all claims for breakage, imperfections, and other losses, which will be deducted from invoices. The receiving department will note for the benefit of successful bidder when packages are not received in good condition.

46. Unless otherwise stated in the specifications, all items must be delivered into and placed at a point within the building as directed by the shipping instructions or the agent for the County. The successful bidder will be required to furnish proof of delivery in every instance.

47. Unloading and placing of the equipment and furniture is the responsibility of the successful bidder, and the County accepts no responsibility for unloading and placing of equipment. Any costs incurred due to the failure of the successful bidder to comply with this requirement will be charged to him. No help for unloading will be provided by the County, and suppliers should notify their truckers accordingly.

48. All deliveries shall be accompanied by delivery tickets or packing slips. Ticket shall contain the following information for each item delivered:

Contract Number

Purchase Order Number

Name of Article

Item Number

Quantity

Name of the successful bidder

Cartons shall be labeled with purchase order number, successful bidder's name and general statement of contents. Failure to comply with this condition shall be considered sufficient reason for refusal to accept the goods.

PAYMENTS

49. Payment for the used portion of an inferior delivery will be made by the County on an adjusted price basis.

50. Payment will be made only after correct presentation of packing slips, invoices and a properly executed Saratoga County Voucher are provided to the requesting department by the successful bidder.

51. Payments of any claim shall not preclude the County from making claim for adjustment on any item found not to have been in accordance with the general conditions and specifications.

SAVE HARMLESS

52. Successful bidders shall protect, indemnify, defend and save the County harmless from and against any damage, cost or liability, including reasonable attorney's fees, for any or all injuries to persons or property arising from acts or omissions of the successful bidder's company, its officers, employees and agents, including but not limited to claims brought by third parties, employees of the County or employees of the company.

NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

53. The bidder agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment or student because of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or other non-merit factors. Such action shall be taken with reference to, but not be limited to employment practices and provision of services under any contract with the County of Saratoga.

TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

54. The County of Saratoga, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§2000d to 2000d-4, and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act) hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertised bid, that disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. The entire County of Saratoga Title VI Plan can be viewed by going to the Saratoga County website (www.saratogacountyny.gov).

55. All questions regarding this bid should be directed to the Saratoga County Purchasing Department at (518) 885-2210.

56. By submitting a bid you are indicating that you have read and will abide by these General Conditions.