

Contractor Questions

The following questions were submitted by in response to RFP: VA101V-17-Q-0128:

Q1. SOW; pg. 17; VA Form 20-0344; Privacy and Information Assurance Training. We believe that this form would not apply to our crews since we would not have access to any patient information. Can this requirement be waived?

Answer: No. This is RO Policy. All contractors to include their employees will conduct Privacy and Information Assurance Training as well as submit a completed VA Form 20-0344.

Q2. SOW; pg. 19; Statement 3.5; Decontamination of surrounding areas. The floor plan on pg. 22 shows a self-contained room with double doors. How much of the adjacent floor area (outside of this room) needs to be decontaminated?

Answer: At this time no floor area is to be remediated. The floor is a raised floor and shows no sign of mold activity.

Q3. SOW; pg. 19; Statement 3.6; requirement for drywall and insulation. Do Spec. Sections 07 21 13 and 09 29 00 of the VA/TIL Master Spec apply here? If so, they will probably need to be edited before including in an Amendment.

Answer: YES, Sections 07 21 13 and 09 29 00 of the VA/TIL Master Spec do apply however the contractor will only be required in this project to replace the drywall and insulation with the same product specifications as removed.

Q4. SOW; pg. 19; Statement 3.7; SECTION 09 91 00; Painting. The section requires that the spec writer make decisions regarding the multiple paint options offered in this section. Can you clarify and release?

Answer: Statement 3.7 will be changed to read "All painting will be in accordance with Section 8, Attachment 1 – Painting in the SOW"

Q5. SOW; pg. 20; Statement 3.8; SECTIONS 09 51 00 and 09 68 00; ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS and CARPET. These sections require that the spec writer make decisions regarding the multiple options offered in these sections. Can you clarify and release?

Answer: Statement 3.8 will be changed to read "Ceiling tiles will be replaced IAW Attachment 2 – Acoustic Ceilings of this SOW". Section 09 68 00 does not apply in the sense for this project all carpet and ceiling tile/grid that is removed will be retained and replaced to original condition.

Q6. SOW; pg. 20; AHU. Will the AHU be turned off during the entire time the mitigation is underway?

Answer: No, the AHU must remain on during non-remediation hours, i.e., when VA employees are working. Contractor must ensure the AHU can pull return air from the plenum when VA employees are working.

Q7. SOW; pg. 20; AHU. Will the AHU be turned off during the entire time all the work is being performed (mitigation and installation of new finishes)?

Answer: No, the AHU must remain on during non-remediation hours, i.e., when VA employees are working. Contractor must ensure the AHU can pull return air from the plenum when VA employees are working.

Q8. SOW, 3.2 Isolate Mech. Room; paragraph five requires that negative air machines exhaust to the exterior of the bldg. Can the glazing be removed in the windows just outside the Mechanical Room and will we be allowed to temporarily remove them?

Answer: YES

Q9. SOW, 3.2 Isolate Mech. Room; paragraph three requires a full containment barrier. Does this barrier need to go to the structural deck above the ceiling or just to the ceiling?

Answer: To the structural ceiling above the ceiling.

Q10. The temporary barrier will reduce the width of the corridor, what is the minimum width of corridor that is required to be left for circulation?

Answer: The corridor must allow sufficient space based on local, federal, and state Life Safety Code for employees to exit the building through the adjacent stairway.

Q11. SOW, 3.2 Isolate Mech. Room; paragraph four requires that a decontamination unit be installed. Does this unit have to be inside the Mech. Room or does it need to go outside the Mechanical Room?

Answer: The Contractors Certified Industrial Hygienist will determine the appropriate location of the decontamination unit.

Q12. There is a diagram on the wall of the Mech. Room; can you provide a pdf of it?

Answer: YES

Q13. There are large number of junction boxes and conduit on the walls of the room, can you provide an electrical plan(s) that shows what they are connected to or what they service?

Answer: Original As Built drawings are available however many new items/equipment have been installed since 1998. It is the contractor's responsibility to verify what/where those items are associated with and ensure they are returned in the same location and function appropriately. The COR will assist in identifying items.

Q14. There is a Johnson Controls panel on one wall, can you provide information on who services that system?

Answer: Yes, Bay Pines VHA HVAC section maintains the JC panel

Q15. In order to remove the drywall, we will have to get everything off the wall while the abatement and restoration work is being performed. a) Do all of these systems need to be temporally moved and re-wired to maintain all systems operational while the work is being done? b) Can they be disconnected for the duration of the work period (several weeks)?

Answer: All systems must continue to be operational. Coordination with the COR for disabling any fire alarms, smoke detectors, etc., must be made prior removal of any Life-Safety equipment.

Q16. Section 1.2 Scope - provide bulk and air sampling prior, during & after the mold remediation / effected drywall is to be removed - what type of "bulk sampling" is needed for mold remediation if the effected drywall is being removed?

Answer: The Contractors Certified Industrial Hygienist will determine type of bulk sampling.

Q17. Section 1.2 Scope - all drywall inside of mechanical room 214A will be removed and as well as the inside drywall along the East & South walls - once drywall is begun to be removed and if no visible mold growth is found beyond a certain height or length of the wall, does the remaining drywall that is unaffected still need to be removed?

Answer: YES, the remaining drywall that is unaffected still needs to be removed.

Q18. 3.5 Decontamination of surrounding work area - does this section only apply to the work area that is being contained or to the surrounding cubicles & furnishings HEPA vacuumed & wet wiped as well?

Answer: The contractor is responsible for ensuring the surrounding area is cleaned according to Section 3.5 of the SOW but that does not mean the 'entire' room.

Q19. 3.8 Replace floor tiles, carpet, ceiling grid, ceiling tiles, etc. - does the drywall need to be removed above the ceiling grid on the East & South walls if the above wall is not effected by mold growth? Also, does the carpet need to be removed along the east & south walls during the drywall removal, or can it be protected in place?

Answer: See answer to question Q17. Carpet as well as floor panels and floor panel support system will need to be removed in order to erect a decontamination barrier from floor to ceiling.

Q20. Per walk-thru - will the VA be responsible to isolate, shut down, and tag-out the existing data, electrical and mechanical lines along the effected drywall to be removed? It appears that all of the electrical boxes and conduits will need to be removed; will the VA be doing that?

Answer: It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure all electrical and mechanical equipment/devices are isolated and/or tagged-out. The COR will assist the Contractor on coordinating those activities with the VHA Bay Pines HVAC/Electrical departments. The Contractor is responsible for removing and replacing electrical box's and conduit.

Q21. Per walk-thru - has the source of the water intrusion/mold growth been identified and repaired?

Answer: YES