

**VA101-12-R-0058, Project 691-406, Building 209 Seismic Upgrade and
Renovations, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, West Los Angeles
Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA**

**Request for Information (RFI) Questions and VA Responses
Group 1 - July 24, 2012**

1. **RFI Question:** We determine that the present scheduled calendar days to complete may be unrealistic. Is the VA willing to extend the project schedule if it is found to be insufficient?

VA Response: The period of performance 365 calendar days is unchanged.

2. Question: After reviewing the Information Letter (IL), provided as an attachment to this solicitation as a contract document, it is apparent that this project could be, inevitably, awarded to a SDVOSB with a large business partner. Also, it seems that section 8b is allowing the use of a larger business's technical expertise without disclosing that fact until after award. Also in sections 8b it states that a joint venture may be taken into consideration to determine the responsibility of the SDVOSB. Is this paragraph allowing a SDVOSB to bid this project utilizing any other business's technical ability and personnel without disclosure until after award if it is not bid as a joint venture? Also in section 8a it appears that the bonding, including bid bonding, must be in the name of the joint venture, the SDVOSB, or a separate business that may be large or small. Please comment on Paragraph 8a to that respect.

VA Response: The IL on Joint Venturing does not allow for a large business to be a joint venture partner. A large business can be a sub-contractor. Bonds must be in the name of the offeror. Please comply with the Information Letter "Joint Ventures and Teaming Arrangements for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is the point of contact for Joint Ventures and Teaming Arrangements at (202) 461-4300 or OSDBU@va.gov.

3. **RFI Question:** Please provide clarification regarding the following contradicting Spec Sections:

080251.1 Restoration of Steel Windows

Section 2.1 Materials

C. Glazing Compound: Silicone glazing type sealant, compatibility of glazing compound and laminated glass interlayer to be verified by glazing compound manufacturer, laminated glass fabricator and installer prior to commencement of work.

Section 3.1 Steel Window Restoration

F. Install new laminated, ¼-inch thick low-E glass in sealant formulated to be compatible with laminated glazing to match historic putty installation.

Section 088000 Glazing

Section 3.3 Installation – General

G. Laminated Glass:

2. Do not use putty or glazing compounds

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We are not aware of a glazing compound that is compatible with laminated glaze. Please either provide a product and manufacturer or confirm that glazing compound is not to be used with the laminated glass.

VA Response: Specifications were intentionally left open to allow the contractor to select the best combination of interlayer and glazing compound/ sealant and installation method.

Based on our research, several options are available. Some polymer based glazing compounds, namely, acrylics, urethanes, and hybrids are compatible with a PVB interlayer or only visually affect only a very small portion of the edge of the glazing which will be covered by the glazing compound and not be visible.

Primarily, it is acetic acid-curing type silicone sealants that cause bubbling and clouding of the PVB interlayer

This information is published by Saflex, one of the largest interlayer manufacturers. The information is available on their website here:

<http://www.saflex.com/en/DownloadLibrary.aspx?f1=archi&>

Polymer based glazing compounds that can replicate the look of historic window glazing putty are manufactured by Maaco/ ICI ("Liquid Nails" brand), Tremco ("Putty Glazing System") and Advanced Repair Technologies ("Glaze-Ease") along with other companies.

Alternately, a plastic channel or vinyl tape or urethane paint barrier can be applied to the glass to protect the edge of the interlayer.

Finally, DuPont makes an interlayer product called SentryGlas that has been tested for exposure to most common sealants, moisture, and weathering with no visible effect. Using this interlayer would allow the use of any glazing compound or sealant.

http://www2.dupont.com/SafetyGlass/en_US/assets/pdfs/sentryglas_sealant_compatibility.pdf

The proposed combination of glazing compound, interlayer and installation method should be submitted to the Architect for review and approved by the Glazing Fabricator and Interlayer Manufacturer and glazing compound Manufacturer.