

Q. The RFP specifies Custom Plus paper and has specific standards relating to weight, brightness, and opacity. Do we have to follow those standards exactly? Would Nexfor Fraser 30# Custom Plus Opaque at 866 PPI-80 Brightness-85 Opacity or Nexfor Fraser Snowbright Opaque--866 PPI, 86 Brightness and 87 Opacity be acceptable?

A. To be really honest, without access to specific samples, it is hard for us to judge whether they are acceptable or not. What we are looking for is a good quality recycled paper that is reasonably comparable to what we have been using in the past because these new volumes will be sent to our users and added to their collection of prior Codes and Acts. We do want something that is fairly opaque, heavy enough, and durable enough to avoid too much bleed through on the pages and to stand up to the kind of use that our Code volumes get. We also are looking for something that is creamy in color, because bright white pages are hard to read over time. Minor variations from the standard set in the RFP are probably likely to be acceptable, provided that they compare well with what we have used in the past. If you request and receive samples you should be able make a fair comparison.

Q. The RFP does not mention blanking on the covers of the Acts or the Code plus the Index, but the samples show that blanking has been done. Is blanking required or not?

A. The goal is to match to previous editions of the Code, Index, and Acts. This is the reason that the RFP states under IV. GENERAL PRODUCTION SPECIFICATIONS: The 2004 Acts must at least match the appearance and be of the same quality as the 2003 Acts. The 2005 Code must at least match the appearance and be of the same quality as the 2003 Code of Iowa.

Q. Is there a "contract renewal" option from a previous contract, as there was for the 2003 printing?

A. The answer may be found on page 3, item II, E, entitled Renewal Option. The Agency reserves the right to renew the contract or request new bids.

Q. Did the vendor produce 7,188 copies of the Index as well as the Code, or just the Code?

A. The vendor produced complete sets, so 7,188 copies of the four volumes of the Code and 7,188 copies of the Index were produced. We have generally been selling the Code as a complete set.

Q. Did the prices you supplied in a previous answer include whatever shipping charges applied?

A. Yes. Those were the total prices that we paid.

Q. Were the copies of the Acts, Code, and Index distributed as they will be pursuant to this year's RFP?

A. The Code was. The distribution of the Acts has varied from year to year. Last year it was delivered to the Capitol Complex for distribution to our users.