

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PRINTING, BINDING,
PACKAGING, AND DELIVERING THE 2009 IOWA ACTS AND
THE 2009 IOWA CODE SUPPLEMENT**

BIDDER QUESTIONS AND AGENCY RESPONSES

09/08/09

Q: We have an initial question regarding what pricing we should provide in Response Box 1. According to II. Standards and Alternatives for Production and Delivery, A. 1. (page 9), vendors can note if they have paper in stock and/or paper that can be ordered. The document also indicates that required paper specifications do not necessarily have to meet the specs outlined in Appendix A for “in-stock” paper.

- a.** We would be able to provide a paper that meets the specs outlined in App. A, and we also have paper in our warehouse that does not necessarily meet the specs, but according to the documentation that would be acceptable, does this sound correct?
- b.** What paper should we use in the pricing for Response Box 1?
- c.** Should we base our pricing on the required text paper as specified in Appendix A?

A: The goal of our specifications is to acquire a good quality, light cream-colored paper for our publications that is of sufficient weight, opacity, and consistency to provide the following:

- 1. Minimal bleed-through.
- 2. Durability.
- 3. Minimal glare.
- 4. Reasonable cost.

We would prefer that the proposal be based on paper that best complies with our specifications regardless of source, but that paper need not be an exact match to the specifications listed in the Appendix. We will need samples of the paper and information on whether the paper is a stock (in house) paper or a custom paper, as well as current availability of that paper for our publications. We would be willing to accept a stock paper if it meets our needs and is readily available. If the bidder believes price or availability is a factor, and the stock paper is not the best paper, the bidder is encouraged to supplement the bid by telling the Agency how much less a particular paper would be or provide information on the availability of the custom paper.

09/09/09

Q: In Part II. Standards and Alternatives for Production and Delivery, Section A. Production, 1. Page Paper (page 9 of the RFP), it indicates that bidders should “attach three samples of paper stock that best satisfies the requirements of this RFP and specify whether the paper stock is (1) in stock or (2) recycled.” If we decide to use only the Custom Plus paper as the basis for our bid response, can we assume that we do not need to attach samples of two other, totally different paper stocks (i.e. we would only submit one paper stock sample in Sample Box A on page 23 (the Custom Plus paper) and no samples would be attached to pages 24 and 25)?

A: The Agency made several assumptions: that Custom Plus may not be available, may be more expensive than in stock (in house) paper, or may take longer to procure than in stock paper. If a bidder has stock paper that is competitive in price to Custom Plus, we would consider it even though it does not meet our specifications. In that case we would need to see a sample to determine if it is reasonably equivalent to Custom Plus. But if the bidder does not have stock paper that is reasonably equivalent to Custom Plus and does not submit pricing for the paper as part of their bid, it is not necessary to attach the sample of that paper.

Q: It appears that the bid amounts you are requesting in Response Box 1 on page 4 would have to be based on nonrecycled paper, even though that is your third preference. The reason we are assuming this is because Response Box 8 on page 10 of the RFP only allows for a change in bid amount for recycled stock (postconsumer or preconsumer). This appears to be the reverse of how the pricing was handled last year in the RFP for the 2008 Acts and 2009 Code, where the bid amount was based on postconsumer paper (your first preference) and adjusted bid amounts were for preconsumer and nonrecycled papers (see Response Box 5, page 11 of last year’s RFP). Is it your intention that the pricing in Response Box 1 of the current RFP be based on nonrecycled paper?

A: Custom Plus and other brands are produced in both nonrecycled and recycled forms, and we may select paper that is not recycled based on the following factors: (1) quality, (2) price, and (3) delivery time. Last year, based on these factors, the Agency selected nonrecycled paper. Given this experience, we assumed that it may be easier for bidders to prepare and the Agency to review bids for nonrecycled paper first. The Agency will still give preference to recycled paper (first to postconsumer and second to preconsumer), when recycled paper is comparable to nonrecycled paper in quality, price, and delivery time.