



GLENN A. CUNHA
INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Inspector General

John W. McCormack
State Office Building
One Ashburton Place
Room 1311
Boston, MA 02108
Tel: (617) 727-9140
Fax: (617) 723-2334

July 2018

Dear Local Official:

The Office of the Inspector General (Office) created the following charts for local officials to use as a quick guide on public procurement procedures that must be followed pursuant to the Massachusetts General Laws. Your local rules may establish stricter or additional requirements that you must follow. Contact your chief procurement officer or legal counsel for advice on your local rules and procurement procedures.

The Office updated the charts with changes that are effective June 15, 2018, pursuant to the passage of [Chapter 113 of the Acts of 2018](#), *An Act Providing for Capital Facility Repairs and Improvements for the Commonwealth*. The charts highlight particular compliance requirements depending on the cost or the nature of your procurement. For example, the charts highlight, where applicable, the requirement for a ten-hour course in construction safety and health approved by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The charts are meant to provide a general overview of the principal public procurement statutes, and are not a substitute for reviewing the statute or obtaining the advice of legal counsel.

The charts include:

- M.G.L. c. 149 – BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS
- M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, or M.G.L. c. 30B – PUBLIC WORKS (NON-BUILDING) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS (WITH LABOR)
- M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, or M.G.L. c. 30B – CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PROCUREMENTS (WITHOUT LABOR)
- M.G.L. c. 7C, §§ 44-58 – DESIGN SERVICES FOR PUBLIC BUILDING PROJECTS: Cities, Towns, Regional School Districts and Horace Mann Charter Schools
- M.G.L. c. 30B – PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Any suggestions for the charts or questions concerning Chapter 30B (M.G.L. c. 30B) may be directed to this Office by calling (617) 722-8838. Questions concerning M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, and M.G.L. c. 7C may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General by calling (617) 963-2371 or your legal counsel.

Additional information is available from the following sources:

- Prevailing wage rate sheets may be requested online at <http://www.mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/prevailing-wage-program/> or by calling the Department of Labor Standards at (617) 626-6953.
- *Central Register* advertisements may be submitted to the Secretary of the State's Office online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/sprcentral/infosubmit.htm>. The submission deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday for publication the following Wednesday.
- *Goods and Services Bulletin* advertisements may be submitted the Secretary of the State's Office online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/sprpublicforms/GSSubmissionform.aspx>. The submission deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday for publication the following Monday.
- COMMBUYS postings may be completed at www.commbuys.com.

My Office is committed to helping procurement officials comply with the state's procurement laws and make responsible purchasing decisions. Please do not hesitate to contact our Chapter 30B hotline if we can be of further assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn A. Cunha".

Glenn A. Cunha
Inspector General

M.G.L. c. 149 – BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Estimated Contract Amount	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$50,000	Over \$50,000 to \$150,000	Over \$150,000	Over \$10,000,000
Procurement Procedure	Sound business practices (as defined in M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2). ¹	Use a written scope-of-work statement to solicit written responses from no fewer than 3 persons who customarily perform such work.	Sealed bids (using M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M).	Sealed bids (using M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A – 44J).	Solicit statements of qualifications prior to soliciting sealed bids (using M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A – 44J).
Notice/Advertising Requirements	None.	Post a notice at least two weeks before responses are due on 1) your jurisdiction's website; 2) COMMBUYS; 3) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; and 4) in a conspicuous place near your office. ²	Post a notice 1) in your jurisdiction's office for at least one week before bids are due; and, at least two weeks before bids are due, publish 2) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; 3) in a newspaper; and 4) on COMMBUYS. ³	Post a notice 1) in your jurisdiction's office for at least one week before bids are due; and, at least two weeks before bids are due, publish 2) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; 3) in a newspaper; and 4) on COMMBUYS. ⁴	Advertise the request for qualifications at least two weeks before responses are due (1) in a newspaper; (2) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; and (3) on COMMBUYS. ⁵
DCAMM Certification	No.	No.	No.	Yes. General bidders if more than \$150,000 and filed sub-bidders if more than \$25,000.	Yes. General bidders if more than \$150,000 and filed sub-bidders if more than \$25,000.
OSHA Training	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Prequalification	No.	No.	No.	Optional. ⁶	Yes.
Filed Sub-bids	No.	No.	No.	Yes, if more than \$25,000.	Yes, if more than \$25,000.
Bid Deposit	No.	No.	5% of the value of the total bid.	5% of the value of the total bid or sub-bid.	5% of the value of the total bid or sub-bid.
Payment Bond	No.	50% payment bond if contract is >\$25,000. ⁷	50% payment bond.	100% payment bond.	100% payment bond.
Performance Bond	No.	No.	No.	100% performance bond.	100% performance bond.
Prevailing Wage	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Contractor Evaluation	No.	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.
OSD or Blanket Contract Option	Yes.	Yes.	No.	No.	No.

¹ M.G.L. c. 149, § 44A(2)(A), as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2, defines sound business practices as “ensuring the receipt of favorable prices by periodically soliciting price lists or quotes.”

² M.G.L. c. 149, § 44A(2)(B), as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

³ M.G.L. c. 149, § 44J, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

⁴ M.G.L. c. 149, § 44J, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

⁵ The advertising procedures listed pertain only to the request for qualifications. Within 14 days of the completion of the prequalification process, you are required to post a notice in your jurisdiction and on COMMBUYS listing those general contractors and subcontractors that have been prequalified. A copy of the notice must be sent via first class mail, postage pre-paid, to all prequalified general and subcontractors along with an invitation to bid. The invitation to bid must have a deadline of at least two weeks. Although you may only consider bids from those general and subcontractors who have been prequalified, the advertising requirements for building construction contracts over \$150,000 apply.

⁶ If you decide to use the optional prequalification process for projects over \$100,000, follow the procedures listed in the “Over \$10,000,000” column. (Note: The prequalification threshold was not raised in 2016.)

⁷ M.G.L. c. 149, § 29.

**M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, or M.G.L. c. 30B, § 5 – PUBLIC WORKS (NON-BUILDING) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS
(WITH LABOR)**

Estimated Contract Amount	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 or less	Over \$50,000
	M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M	M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M	M.G.L. c. 30B, § 5 Option ¹	M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M
Procurement Procedure	Sound business practices (as defined in M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2). ²	Use a written scope-of-work statement to solicit written responses from no fewer than 3 persons who customarily perform such work. ³	Sealed bids.	Sealed bids.
Notice/Advertising Requirements	None.	Post a notice at least two weeks before responses are due on 1) your jurisdiction’s website; 2) COMMBUYS; 3) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; and 4) in a conspicuous place near your office. ⁴	Post a notice at least two weeks before bids are due 1) in your jurisdiction’s office, and publish 2) in a newspaper; 3) on COMMBUYS; and 4) in the <i>Central Register</i> . ⁵	Post a notice 1) in your jurisdiction’s office for at least one week before bids are due; and, at least two weeks before bids are due, publish 2) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; 3) in a newspaper; and 4) on COMMBUYS. ⁶
OSHA Training	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Prequalification	No.	No.	No.	Maybe. ⁷
Bid Deposit	No.	No.	No.	5% of the value of the total bid.
Payment Bond	No.	50% payment bond if contract is more than \$25,000. ⁸	50% payment bond if contract is more than \$25,000. ⁹	50% payment bond.
Performance Bond	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prevailing Wage	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
OSD or Blanket Contract Option	Yes.	Yes.	No.	No.

¹ Authorized by M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M(d).

² M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2, defines sound business practices as “ensuring the receipt of favorable prices by periodically soliciting price lists or quotes.”

³ M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

⁴ M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

⁵ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 5, and M.G.L. c. 9, § 20A.

⁶ M.G.L. c. 149, § 44J.

⁷ Although M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, does not mandate a contractor prequalification process, prequalification of bidders by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is required for contracts of \$50,000 or more (1) if the awarding authority receives State Aid funds under M.G.L. c. 90, § 34; or (2) the work is on a state road, regardless of whether the awarding authority receives State Aid funds under M.G.L. c. 90, § 34.

⁸ M.G.L. c. 149, § 29.

⁹ M.G.L. c. 149, § 29.

**M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, or M.G.L. c. 30B, § 5 – CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PROCUREMENTS
(WITHOUT LABOR)**

Estimated Contract Amount	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$50,000	Over \$50,000	Any Amount
	M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M	M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M	M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M	M.G.L. c. 30B, § 5 Option¹
Procurement Procedure	Sound business practices (as defined in M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2). ²	Use a written scope-of-work statement to solicit written responses from no fewer than 3 persons who customarily perform such work.	Sealed bids.	Sealed bids.
Notice/Advertising Requirements	None.	Post a notice at least two weeks before responses are due on 1) your jurisdiction’s website; 2) COMMBUYS; 3) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; and 4) in a conspicuous place near your office. ³	Post a notice 1) in your jurisdiction’s office for at least one week before bids are due; and, at least two weeks before bids are due, publish 2) in the <i>Central Register</i> ; 3) in a newspaper; and 4) on COMMBUYS. ⁴	Post a notice at least two weeks before bids are due 1) in your jurisdiction’s office, and publish 2) in a newspaper; 3) on COMMBUYS; and 4) in the <i>Central Register</i> . ⁵
OSHA Training	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prequalification	No.	No.	No.	No.
Bid Deposit	No.	No.	5% of the value of the total bid.	No.
Payment Bond	No.	50% payment bond if contract is more than \$25,000. ⁶	50% payment bond.	50% payment bond if contract is more than \$25,000. ⁷
Performance Bond	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prevailing Wage	No.	No.	No.	No.
OSD Option	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	No.
Blanket Contract Option	Yes.	Yes.	No.	No.

¹ Authorized by M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M(d).

² M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2, defines sound business practices as “ensuring the receipt of favorable prices by periodically soliciting price lists or quotes.”

³ M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

⁴ M.G.L. c. 149, § 44J.

⁵ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 5, and M.G.L. c. 9, § 20A. (Note: If the procurement will exceed \$100,000, and the materials will be purchased for the purpose of stockpiled inventory and will not be used in conjunction with a specific project, at least two weeks before bids or proposals are due, publish in the *Goods and Services Bulletin*.)

⁶ M.G.L. c. 149, § 29.

⁷ M.G.L. c. 149, § 29. (Note: If the materials will be purchased for the purpose of stockpiled inventory and will not be used in conjunction with a specific project, you do not need to obtain a payment bond.)

**M.G.L. c. 7C, §§ 44-58 – DESIGN SERVICES FOR PUBLIC BUILDING PROJECTS:
Cities, Towns, Regional School Districts and Horace Mann Charter Schools¹**

Estimated Design Fee (EDF)/Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	EDF less than \$30,000 or ECC less than \$300,000	EDF \$30,000 or more and ECC \$300,000 or more
Procurement Procedure	None. Recommend soliciting qualifications and prices from at least three designers.	Qualifications-based selection process. Jurisdiction must either (1) set the design fee; or (2) set a not-to-exceed fee limit and then negotiate the fee with the top-ranked designer within the fee limit.
Advertising Required	No.	Advertise in the <i>Central Register</i> and your local newspaper at least two weeks before the deadline for filing applications.
Designer Selection Board¹	No.	No – adopt selection procedure in writing. ^{2,3}
Designer Application	No.	Yes. See Designer Selection Procedures for Municipalities . Use “Standard Designer Application Form for Municipalities and Public Agencies not within DSB Jurisdiction (Updated July 2016)”
Designer Evaluation (Submit to DCAMM and Designer Selection Board)	No.	Yes. See Designer Evaluation Forms & Information for Municipalities and Agencies
Registration	Yes.	Yes.
Insurance	No.	At a minimum, the lesser of \$1 million or 10% of the project’s estimated cost of construction. ⁴
Prevailing Wage	No.	No.

¹ Executive Departments of the Commonwealth and Commonwealth charter schools are subject to the jurisdiction of the Designer Selection Board when the design fee is \$30,000 or more and the estimated construction cost is \$300,000 or more.

² Cities, towns, school districts and Horace Mann charter schools are required to adopt their own procedures for selecting designers for building projects. These procedures must conform to the purposes and intent of the designer selection process as outlined in M.G.L. c. 7C, §§ 44 – 58, and noted herein. See this Office’s [Model Designer Selection Procedures for Municipalities and Other Local Public Agencies](#).

³ Housing Authorities must follow the procedures established by the Department of Housing and Community Development for the design of state-funded housing. Projects requesting funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) are subject to MSBA rules.

⁴ M.G.L. c. 7C, § 51.

M.G.L. c. 30B – PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Estimated Contract Amount	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$50,000	Over \$50,000
Procurement Procedure	Sound business practices. ¹	Use a written purchase description to solicit written quotations from no fewer than 3 persons who customarily provide the supply or service. ²	Sealed bids or proposals (M.G.L. c. 30B, §§ 5 or 6).
Notice/Advertising Requirements	None.	None.	Post a notice 1) in your jurisdiction’s office, and, at least two weeks before bids or proposals are due, publish 2) in a newspaper, and 3) on COMMBUYS. If the procurement will exceed \$100,000, at least two weeks before bids or proposals are due, publish in the <i>Goods and Services Bulletin</i> .
Award contract to:	Responsible person offering the best price.	Responsible person offering the needed quality of supply or service at the lowest price quotation.	Under § 5, the responsible ³ and responsive ⁴ bidder offering the best price. Under § 6, the most advantageous proposal from a responsible and responsive proposer taking into consideration price and non-price proposals.
Written Contract Required⁵	No. Keep written records as a best practice.	Yes.	Yes.
Maximum Contract Term⁶	Three years, unless majority vote authorizes longer.		
OSD Option	Yes.		

¹ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2, defines sound business practices as “ensuring the receipt of favorable prices by periodically soliciting price lists or quotes.”

² M.G.L. c. 30B, § 4, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

³ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2, defines a responsible bidder or offeror as “a person who has the capability to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which assures good faith performance.”

⁴ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2, defines a responsive bidder or offeror as “a person who has submitted a bid or proposal which conforms in all respects to the invitation for bids or request for proposals.”

⁵ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 17(a), states “All contracts in the amount of \$10,000 or more shall be in writing, and the governmental body shall make no payment for a supply or service rendered prior to the execution of such contract.”

⁶ M.G.L. c. 30B, § 12(b), states “Unless authorized by majority vote, a procurement officer shall not award a contract for a term exceeding three years, including any renewal, extension, or option.”