

(b) [Notwithstanding any other provision of State law, if] SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 21, IF the planning, acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, or operation of any airport facility is financed with federal money, the Administration may contract as required by the federal authorities acting under federal law.

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(a) This section does not apply to contracts for professional services or the services of employees.

(b) (1) The Administration shall advertise and award on sealed bids to the lowest responsible bidder:

(i) Each contract costing over \$10,000 for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of any airport facility; and

(ii) Each contract costing over \$5,000 for the purchase of supplies, equipment, and materials.

(2) For these contracts, a notice requesting sealed bids shall be published:

(i) In a manner reasonably likely to attract prospective bidders;

(ii) At least 10 days before the bids are to be received; and

(iii) In at least two newspapers of general circulation in this State.

(3) In its discretion, the Administration may reject any and all bids and readvertise.

(c) (1) This subsection applies only to advertised contracts for the purchase of supplies, equipment, or materials.

(2) If, after rejecting bids, the Administration determines that, in its opinion, the supplies, equipment, or materials can be purchased at a lower price in the open market, the Administration, without further observing the provisions requiring bids or notice, may:

(i) Give each responsible bidder an opportunity to negotiate a price; and

(ii) Purchase the supplies, equipment, or materials in the open market at a negotiated price that is lower than the lowest rejected bid of a responsible bidder.

(d) The Administration shall adopt rules and regulations to provide for contracting with or purchasing