

FIRE PROGRAM

Eligibility To Use GSA Sources of Supply & Services - State-Non-Federal Agencies

GSA Order ADM 4800.2E outlines eligibility to use GSA sources of supply and services.

Paragraph 7d(4) of the above order applies to Non-Federal firefighting organizations cooperating with the Forest Service. It states that under section 201 of the Property Act, it has been determined that certain non-federal firefighting organizations may purchase wildfire suppression equipment and supplies from the Federal Supply Service (FSS) (Article V, Agreement No. FSS 87-1, May 26, 1987).

Appendix B to the above order lists other organizations/agencies determined to be eligible to use GSA sources of supply and services. Listed is **“Firefighters, Non-Federal”** (as authorized by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture). Such authorization is granted in the Interagency Agreement between the General Services Administration, Federal Supply Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. **The Office of the Controller, GSA, makes determination of eligibility for activities or organizations not covered by the appendixes to above-mentioned order.** Article V of this agreement and titled “Fire Protection Assistance” reads as follows:

“FSS will furnish wildfire protection equipment and supplies as listed in the current Wildfire Protection Equipment and Supplies Catalog, vehicles specifically designed and/or intended for use in wildfire protection activities, and other items of supply as approved by the USDA-FS as necessary for wildfire protection. **These items of supplies and equipment may be provided to those non-federal organizations that are authorized in writing by the USDA-FS to the FSS.** The Staff Director, Procurement & Property, USDA-FS, shall request an Activity Address Code (FEDSTRIP number) for such organizations from the General Services Administration, Federal Supply Service, Washington, DC 20406. The request shall be in writing and a notice shall be submitted in writing by the Staff Director, Procurement & Policy, upon termination of the cooperative wildfire agreements.”

Authority for the Interagency Agreement between General Services Administration, Federal Supply Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is spelled out in Article II of said agreement and reads as follows:

“This agreement is entered into in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Service Act of 1949, as amended, (40 U.S.C. 481), Economy Act, (31 U.S.C.686), the Agriculture Organic Act of 1944, (U.S.C. 580a), and Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, (16 U.S.C. 2101).”

Only those non-federal organizations that have a **written cooperative agreement** with the USDA Forest Service to furnish wildfire protection may be assigned an Activity Address Code (FEDSTRIP number) to use the GSA Wildfire Protection Equipment & Supplies Catalog. i.e. **the U.S Forest Service has an agreement with the State Forester, who in-turn has an agreement with a local non-federal firefighting organization, that qualifies.** The rationale is that the U.S. Forest Service can request the State Forester to activate a local cooperator for fire support. For this reason a state such as California has had numerous rural & county fire departments authorized and approved to buy from GSA.