

July 8, 2002

Dear Carrier:

GSA's Freight Program Management Office (FPMO) has posted the new Request for Offers (RFO) for the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH) Work Centers to our website. You may download the RFO from our website at [www.kc.gsa.gov/fsstt](http://www.kc.gsa.gov/fsstt). Look under our "What's New" header to find the RFO which has a posted date of July 8, 2002.

The Special Filing Instructions (SFI) for this RFO transmits the submission of rate offers for numerous National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH) Work Centers. On behalf of NIB/NISH, the General Services Administration (GSA) is requesting non-alternating Standing Route Order (SRO) rate offers. Rate offers filed in response to this RFO will be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GSA Standard Tender of Service (STOS) and this RFO and its SFI. Please note that in some instances this RFO and its SFI will deviate from and will supersede those published in the STOS No. 1-F. Unless otherwise noted, rate offers accepted in response to this RFO will be for the filing period of November 1, 2002, through October 31, 2003.

All Transportation Service Providers (TSP) who have a met approval requirements per the STOS 1-F Section 2, Participation, may submit rate offers in accordance with this RFO. Tariff Publishing Agents/Rate Filing Service Providers who have a valid Trading Partner Agreement on file with the FPMO and have met all other approval requirements established by GSA may act as a Tariff Publishing Agent/Rate Filing Service Provider on behalf of approved firms. Rate offers submitted in response to this RFO and its SFI must be submitted to GSA in accordance with Section 10 - **NO PAPER RATE OFFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Please note the following significant items:

1. Please be aware that electronic rate offers previously accepted in accordance with the RFO and its SFI dated July 3, 2001, automatically expire on October 31, 2002; consequently, it is imperative that all firms submit new rate offers electronically in accordance with this RFO and its SFI if a firm wants rates effective November 1, 2002 – **NO** paper rate offers will be accepted;

2. If a carrier wants to provide service from a specific NIB/NISH Work Center to an identified GSA Distribution Center and also to the rest of the state in which the Distribution Center is located, the carrier **MUST** file one rate offer to the Work Center and a separate rate offer to cover all other points within the state (please refer to Section 8). State to state rates **WILL NOT** be applicable from the Work Center's to the Distribution Center's;

3. Please pay special attention to Section 6, Terms and Conditions for Bills of Lading Issued for Government Shipments and Section 7, Basis for Determining Applicable Distance/Mileage. These are new additions to the RFO and its SFI and contain information that should be considered when submitting your firm's rate offers;

4. All submitted rate offers for the identified NIB/NISH facilities will be non-alternating;

5. Separate rate offers must be submitted for each NIB/NISH Work Center for which a firm wants to submit a rate offer (please refer to Section 8);

6. When submitting rate offers, only the B2 or B3 rate record may be utilized;

7. Please be aware that electronic rate offers for the GSA Distribution Centers located in Palmetto, GA, Forth Worth, TX, and the Customer Supply Centers in Worth, IL, Springfield, VA, and Auburn, WA have been omitted from this Request for Offer. Due to the closures of these facilities rates will not be accepted to the above GSA Distribution Centers and Customer Supply Centers.

8. If you are a current subscriber to the ITMS CD-Rom and intend to use its capabilities for creation and submission of your rate offer, you should use the current version 6.0a, dated May 1, 2002. To obtain a subscription to the ITMS program , please visit GSA's website at [www.kc.gsa.gov/fsstt/](http://www.kc.gsa.gov/fsstt/), once there follow the link "ITMS ON THE WEB" and then the link, "CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO ITMS". The cost of the subscription is \$150.00 per calendar year.

If you have any questions with regard to this RFO, its SFI, or the STOS, please contact Maria Gutierrez at (415) 522-2846 or by e-mail at [maria.gutierrez@gsa.gov](mailto:maria.gutierrez@gsa.gov). Questions dealing with the submission of electronic rate offers should be directed to Carey DeForest at (816) 823-3646 or e-mail at [carey.deforest@gsa.gov](mailto:carey.deforest@gsa.gov).

Sincerely:

/s/ Ed Hodges

Ed Hodges, Director  
Property & Traffic Management Division