

Following are the Government's responses to questions received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #1: How many FPR kits are we required to submit for qualification testing?

Response: Please see Section 4.4 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001.

Question #2: Are we expected to give the FPR qualification kits at no cost to the Government?

Response: Please see Section 4.4 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001.

Question #3: Does the NWS just want the kits and the NWS technicians will rebuild the F&P gauge with the FPR kit?

Response: Yes.

Question #4: What is the due date for the qualification kits that you feel is acceptable?

Response: Please reference the sources sought notice, which states, in part, the following:

Applicants which desire to compete for the first award from this QPL (which, as noted above, is anticipated to take place on September 10, 2008) are cautioned to deliver their required FPR kits and documentation sufficiently early to allow the Government at least 60 days to complete the Government Verification portion of qualification testing.

Following are the Government's responses to additional questions received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #5: Will the Government make available as Government-Furnished Equipment (GFE) a set of the calibration weights (described in Section 3.2.2.1 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001) required for the tests in Sections 4.2.2.2.1 and 4.4.1.1 of the specification?

Response: No. Actual NWS calibration weights are not required for Applicant testing. The information necessary to meet all test levels is contained in Sections 3.2.2.1, 4.2.2.1, and 4.2.2.2.1 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001.

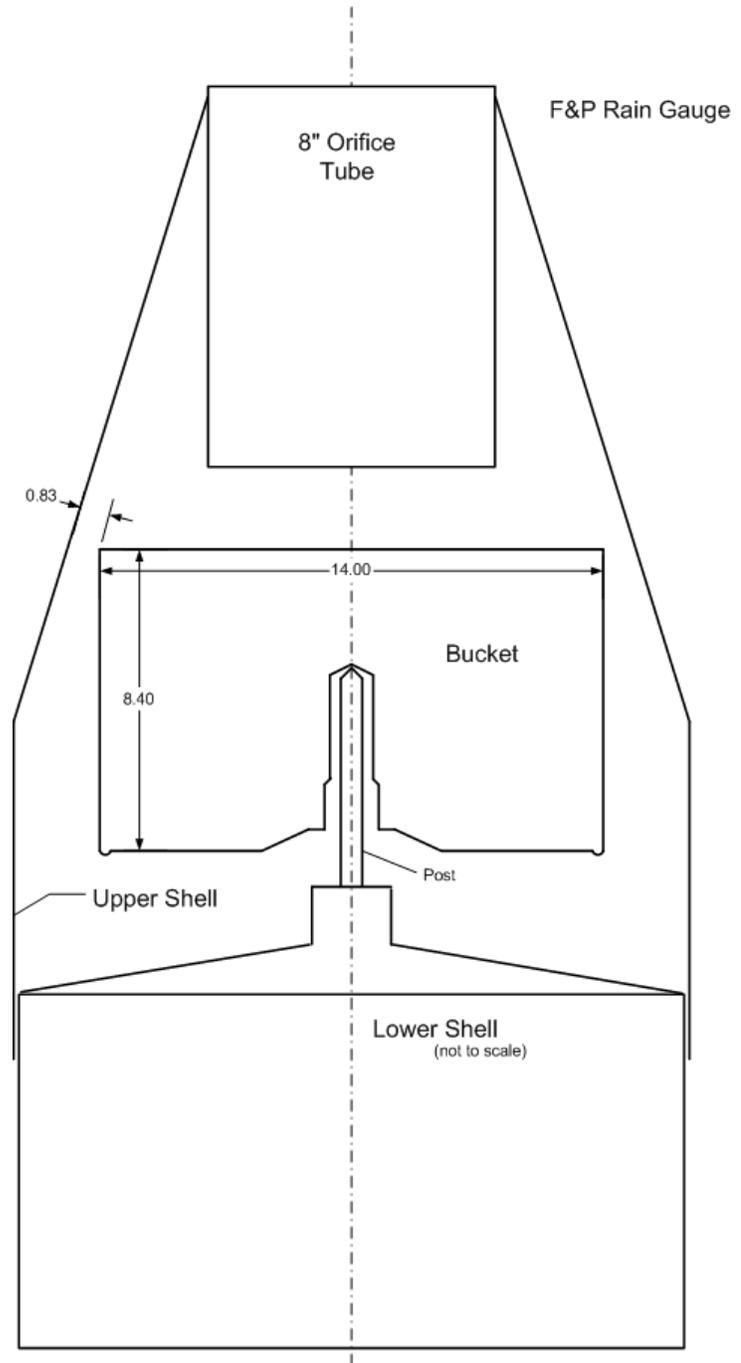
Question #6: Will the Government make available as GFE a Fischer and Porter (F&P) gauge so that qualification tests (called for in Section 4 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001) can be performed on a kit installed in an actual gauge?

Response: No. There is no requirement in Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001 that calls for Applicant Testing to be performed on an FPR kit installed in an actual F&P gauge.

Following are the Government's responses to additional questions received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #7: Could you please send me the inside dimensions (diameter and height in inches or mm) of the collecting bucket, as well as the space between the bucket and the inside wall of the F&P shell (cover)?

Response: Please refer to this picture:



Question #8: Also, I would like to know more about the current procedures of emptying and reinstallation of the empty bucket on the weighing mechanism.

Response: The bucket includes a flexible drain tube. During normal operation the free end of the drain tube is clipped to the rim of the bucket. To empty the bucket, the free end is unclipped, lowered below water level, and the stream directed into a disposal receptacle. If bugs or debris block the drain tube fitting, the bucket is lifted off, emptied, cleaned out, and re-installed.

Question #9: Is the method of weighing the precipitation quantity in the bucket (H₂O in g) mandatory, or other methods (example: the height of H₂O column) can be proposed too?

Response: Detection of precipitation quantity shall be by weight. Please see Section 3.1.5 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001.

Following are the Government's responses to additional questions received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #10: In 3.3.1.3, it specifies the operational environmental conditions for "precipitation measurement requirements". Does this include the display functionality?

Response: The range of environmental conditions specified in the subsections under Section 3.3.1, *Environmental Conditions*, applies to the entire FPR kit. Even those portions of the FPR kit which Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001 does not specifically require to be tested at the full range of environmental conditions shall be able to function properly within the full range of environmental conditions.

Question #11: In Section 4.1.1 it says "b) an extension of the cross reference that will act as a demonstration plan for Government Inspectors to find the functionality on the actual product." What kind of extension would perform such a task? Can you give an example or some further explanation.

Response: As an example, if the Applicant were to provide the cross reference in tabular form, the Applicant could extend the cross reference table to include a column explaining how a Government inspector can find the functionality on the actual product. As another example, if the Applicant were to provide the cross reference in report format, the Applicant could extend the report to include an explanation of how a Government inspector can find the functionality on the actual product.

Following is the Government's response to an additional question received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #12: Regarding the 7 FPR kits that we must supply to you for qualification tests and demonstrations, do these 7 kits also need to include the solar panels, batteries, and solar regulators, or just the actual instruments themselves?

Response: The Government requires whole kits, not just instruments. The whole kits are necessary to accomplish the testing and evaluations called for by Section 6 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001. The attention of prospective Applicants is directed to the last two sentences of the second paragraph of Section 4.4, which state:

At the conclusion of the Government Verification, the Government will return to the Applicant the seven FPR kits. In the event that the Applicant subsequently receives a contract from the Government for production quantities, the Applicant may tender for acceptance any or all of these seven FPR kits.

Following are the Government's responses to additional questions received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #13: Can the tests specified in 4.4.1.1 be changed to test points that match our calibration weights? Can fewer points be used at each temperature? We cannot duplicate the points in the table without the NWS set of weights.

Response: It is acceptable for the Applicant to provide historical test data that shows that the Applicant's unit meets or exceeds requirements over the range and conditions outlined in Section 4.4.1.1 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001 rather than performing the tests addressed in Section 4.4.1.1. Reference the seventh sentence of the first paragraph of Section 4.4 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001, which states:

If a Applicant has historical test data that shows his COTS item will perform as required, and if the Applicant can augment/explain the test for the Government to determine equivalence, the Government will accept certified historical data collected under the same requirements in lieu of running the tests below.

Recognizing that Section 4.4.1.1 calls for "randomly selected FPR kits" to be tested, it is expected that if an Applicant substitutes historical test data with an augmentation/explanation, the historical test data will encompass the testing of more than one unit.

Question #14: 3.3.4 Availability Requirements asks for availability of 93% without specifying response time and travel time. Availability cannot be computed without this information from the government.

Response: The Fischer and Porter/Belfort Precipitation Gauge is considered to be a remote system without onsite service or parts. The mean-time-to-repair (MTTR) for this system includes failure notification time, response time, part delivery time, and repair time. The MTTR for this system is 2 weeks (336 hours).

Question #15: 4.4.3.1 Storage tests cannot be conducted by vendors in the qualification tests due because of the one year requirement. Is this test waived for the qualification tests?

Response: The Applicant is required to address the Storage Test requirement. If the Applicant does not have historical test data which addresses this requirement, the Applicant may perform the storage test by analysis and address its findings in the report that is required to be submitted by Section 4.4 of Specification No. NWS-D111-5-SP001. In this scenario, the analysis must be based on the conditions of storage stated in Section 4.4.3. The Government realizes that the analysis will be the Applicant's "informed guess." In regards to the storage test requirement, Applicants are cautioned to recognize the ramifications of the final three sentences of Section 4.4.3, which state:

Two units accepted by the Government will be retained in storage for one year to verify the storage test requirements. At one year the units will be installed and examined. Any deficiencies discovered shall be corrected by the Applicant on all units.

Following are the Government's responses to additional questions received concerning Sources Sought Notice No. QPL—FPR-Kits:

Question #16: If the OEM's specification on a particular part is not the same as the Government's specification, but we have tested the part and found that it meets the Government's specification, is an exception to the Government's specification required?

Response: No. The Government will verify performance of the part against the Government's specification.

Question #17: Our kits and most of our documentation are ready to submit, but we are having some difficulty obtaining documentation from one of our suppliers. Should we wait and submit everything at one time or can we submit what we have now and submit the rest later?

Response: It is recommended that you submit what you have available now with the rest to follow; however, you still must submit everything that is required. Should all the material be submitted and the Government verification be completed prior to the award date, your product will be qualified and eligible for award.