

The policy provisions of this Circular become applicable when a determination has been made that the utilization of ADP equipment is essential. It is assumed that such determinations have been preceded by and are based upon the results of well-documented studies which provide an adequate factual basis for concluding (a) that the functions or processes for which the ADP equipment can be used are essential to perform, and (b) that the systems, procedures, and methods to be employed in performing these functions or processes have been designed to achieve the highest practicable degree of effectiveness with optimum efficiency and operational economy. Guidelines for planning and conducting studies preceding a decision to utilize ADP equipment, for the development of system specifications, and for equipment evaluation and selection are contained in Bureau of the Budget Bulletin No. 60-6, "Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Program of the Executive Branch: Studies preceding the acquisition of ADP equipment," dated March 18, 1960.

4. Policies on equipment selection. The selection of ADP equipment includes the initial selection of ADP equipment, the selection of ADP equipment additional to that on hand, the selection of ADP equipment to replace ADP equipment on hand, the modification of equipment on hand, usually for the purpose of increasing memory capacity, computational capability, or speed of input or output, or combinations of the foregoing. In all these circumstances, the following policies apply:

a. The selection of ADP equipment will not be made until system specifications are available to serve as a basis for selection. For purposes of this Circular, the term "system specifications" means (1) the delineation of the objectives which the system is intended to accomplish; (2) the data processing requirements underlying that accomplishment, i.e., a description of the data input, data files, data output and its intended uses, the data input, data files, volumes of data, processing frequencies and timing; and (3) such ADP equipment capabilities as may need to be identified. System specifications will be designed to insure free competition among equipment manufacturers.

b. The officials responsible for making decisions on the selection of ADP equipment will assure that the selection process accords equal opportunity and appropriate consideration to all manufacturers who offer equipment capable of meeting the system specifications. In this connection, the selection process may be facilitated by written invitations to manufacturers to submit proposals as a means for obtaining information regarding the capabilities of ADP equipment to meet the system specifications.