

6. Cost comparisons. A decision to rely upon a Government activity for reasons involving relative costs must be supported by a comparative cost analysis which will disclose as accurately as possible the difference between the costs which the Government is incurring or will incur under each alternative.

Commercial sources should be relied upon without incurring the delay and expense of conducting cost comparison studies for products or services estimated to cost the Government less than \$50,000 per year. However, if there is reason to believe that inadequate competition or other factors are causing commercial prices to be unreasonable, a cost comparison study will be directed by the agency head or by his designee even if it is estimated that the Government will spend less than \$50,000 per year for the product or service. A Government activity should not be authorized on the basis of such a comparison study, however, unless reasonable efforts to obtain satisfactory prices from existing commercial sources or to develop other commercial sources are unsuccessful.

Cost comparison studies also should be made before deciding to rely upon a commercial source when terms of contracts will cause the Government to finance directly or indirectly more than \$50,000 for costs of facilities and equipment to be constructed to Government specifications.

a. Costs of obtaining products or services from commercial sources should include amounts paid directly to suppliers, transportation charges, and expenses of preparing bid invitations, evaluating bids, and negotiating, awarding, and managing contracts. Costs of materials furnished by the Government to contractors, appropriate charges for Government owned equipment and facilities used by contractors and costs due to incentive or premium provisions in contracts also should be included. If discontinuance of a Government commercial or industrial activity will cause a facility being retained by the Government for mobilization or other reasons to be placed in a standby status, the costs of preparing and maintaining the facility as standby also should be included. Costs of obtaining products or services from commercial sources should be documented and organized for comparison with costs of obtaining the product or service from a Government activity.

b. Costs of obtaining products or services from Government activities should include all costs which would be incurred if a product or service were provided by the Government and which would not be incurred if the product or service were obtained from a commercial source. Under this general principle, the following costs should be included, considering the circumstances of each case:

(1) Personal services and benefits. Include costs of all elements of compensation and allowances for both military and civilian personnel, including costs of retirement for uniformed personnel, contributions to civilian retirement funds, (or for Social Security taxes where