



Comptroller General  
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

## Decision

**Matter Of:** Tennant Company

**File No.:** B-259642

**Date:** January 9, 1995

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### DECISION

Tennant Company protests the specifications of a request for quotations (RFQ) for a rider sweeper issued by the National Guard Bureau. Tennant states that the specifications are written to favor the American Lincoln sweeper issued by Clarke Industries.

We dismiss the protest as untimely filed on December 9, 1994, because it challenges an alleged impropriety in the solicitation that should have been protested before the November 7 closing time for the RFQ.

Our Bid Protest Regulations contain strict rules requiring timely submission of protests. These rules specifically require that protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation which are apparent prior to the closing date for receipt of initial quotations must be filed prior to the closing time. 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(a)(1); Engelhard Corp., B-237824, Mar. 23, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 324.

These timeliness rules reflect the dual requirements of giving parties a fair opportunity to present their cases and resolving protests expeditiously without unduly disrupting or delaying the procurement process. Air Inc.--Request for Recon., B-238220.2, Jan. 29, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 129. In order to prevent these rules from becoming meaningless, exceptions are strictly construed and rarely used. *Id.*

The protest is dismissed.

  
Ronald Berger  
Associate General Counsel