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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

B-203547

October 5, 1981

Mr. Philip G. Read
Director
Federal Procurement Regulations Directorate
Office of Acquisition Policy
General Services Administration

Dear Mr. Read:

By letter dated June 21, 1981 you requested our comments on a proposed amendment to the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR) regarding standard terminology for use in solicitation documents pertaining to Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS-PUB) and Federal Telecommunications Standards (FED-STD).

We are opposed to FPMR § 101-36.1308-19, FED-STD 1031, General Purpose 37-Position and 9-Position Interface Between Data Terminal Equipment and Data Circuit Terminating Equipment. We believe FED-STD 1031 is obsolete and should not be issued without concurrence of the National Bureau of Standards. Although the standard may have some specialized use, it should not be adopted as a Government-wide standard. The concept of adding a new line for new functions as specified by Electronic Industries Association (EIA) Standard RS 449, is no longer technically justified. New technology using micro-computers will allow the development of interfaces with multifunctions per line. For example, a 15 pin interface with several commands sent over a single line could have more capability than the EIA Standard RS 449 approach with a 37 pin interface.

We also believe a new standard should be developed based on a micro-computer technology to replace the existing EIA standard RS 232-C which is widely used and that the new standard should be a joint FIPS-PUB/FED-STD representing an agreement between the National Bureau of Standards and the National Communications System.

We have no further comments to offer.

Sincerely yours,

Harry R. Van Cleve

Harry R. Van Cleve
Acting General Counsel

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